

Silting Commission.

Continued from "News of the Dominion."

The River Ohinemuri any material that has not been ground in tube mills or other appliances approved by the Department of Mines to a fineness sufficient that 95 per cent of the whole shall be capable of passing through an 80-mesh standard screen.

Effect of Slimes on Rivers.

It is believed that when the rivers are freed from willow growth and are brought by dredging, cleaning and shortening, as recommended herein, to a condition of moderately good discharge, the fine slimes and tailings discharged from Waikino under the conditions of grinding recommended will at times of ordinary flow probably pass out to the sea in a period of about 50 hours.

Repeal of Proclamation.

The Commissioners recommend that the proclamation making the Waikino and its tributaries, other than the Ohinemuri and Komata, a watercourse for the reception of mining debris, tailings and slimes, should be repealed, except in so far as existing mines are now using them; that if any other mines in its watershed should desire to utilise the river or its tributaries, permission be specially given, after careful investigation and on special conditions, particularly as to fine graining.

Stop-Banks.

The Commission recommends that wherever the river banks of the Lower and Upper Waikino as far as Te Aroha, and the river banks of the Lower Ohinemuri, and of all tributary creeks to those rivers, are at any point below a level of 4ft above the level of the highest-known flood, then there should be made artificial stop-banks, having a crest level of not less than 4ft above that of such highest-known flood.

New Steamer Landing.

These proposed diversions in the Waikino will necessitate that the steamers now trading to Te Puke should terminate their run at a new wharf to be built just below the site of the present Nether-ton Ferry, at an increased carrying distance from Paeroa of half a mile. It is suggested that the bridge, which it is understood is about to be erected across the Waikino just below the Junction, should be erected on the site of the present Te Puke-Nether-ton Ferry, and that on the western side of the new cut a road be made out of the material to be excavated from the cuts and forming the stop-bank for that portion of the river.

Suction Dredge.

For the purpose of construction of the Ngaramahi-Opaheke cuts, and the erection of stop-banks, and for the dredging of the beds of the rivers, the Commissioners recommend that there should be purchased two suction dredges, each capable of lifting 500 tons of sand per hour.

Ring-Barking Willows.

The Commission recommends that the willows on the river-banks be ring-barked and treated so as to be killed; that all the branches and twigs be thoroughly removed and disposed of; that, at any rate, for the first few years, the stumps of the willow-trees be left in the soil, so as to assist in retaining the banks and to prevent denudation; and that all roots, stumps, branches, and twigs of willows be thoroughly removed from the bed of all the rivers and tributaries.

Execution of Works.

The Commissioners are satisfied that there is at present no capable body existing in the district to whom could be safely intrusted the duty of carrying out promptly, and in a proper and intelligent manner, the works of dredging, of forming river-diversions, of erecting stop-banks, with their culverts, and flood-gates, of cutting down and removing of willows, and generally of enforcing their recommendations. The Commissioners therefore recommend that the works should be carried out as speedily as possible by the Public Works Department.

Proposed New River Board.

On completion the works should be handed over to a new local body specially constituted for the purpose of the maintenance of the completed works, or of the execution of any additional works which

time may show to be necessary. The Commission recommends that the new Board should consist of eleven members, and be constituted as follows:—Two members to be nominated by the Ohinemuri County Council; one member to be nominated by the Thames County Council; one member to be nominated by the Piako County Council; two members to be nominated by the mining companies; three members to be nominated by the Government; two members to be elected by the rate-payers of the new river district.

Revenue of Board.

The Commission recommends that three-sixths of the annual revenue required to be found by the new River Board should be deducted from the gold duty; that one-sixth should be contributed by those mines and extraction companies which discharge their tailings into the rivers or watercourses, and that the allocation of this special rate should be directly proportional to the tonnage of tailings so discharged; that one-sixth should be derived from rates to be levied in the new river district upon all lands, native or European, excepting Crown lands, and to be leviable in varying proportions dependent on the direct or indirect benefits to be obtained, as is provided for under the River Boards Act; that one-sixth should be contributed by the Dominion out of a special allocation to be authorised by Parliament, in order to provide a contribution in respect to the Crown lands which, whilst benefitting under the proposals, could not otherwise be rated.

Waikoi Borough and Gold Duty.

The Commissioners find that since the Waikoi borough was formed in 1892 it has received up till the 31st March last from the gold duty and goldfields revenue the large sum of £122,151; that for the year ended the 31st March, 1909, there was received from gold duty £20,775, from other sources of goldfields revenue £1553, or, together, £22,328; also that for the corresponding period ending the 31st March, 1910, the similar receipts were £22,153, and that, in addition to these large sums, there were subsidies received from the Government in 1908-9 amounting to some £395.

The Commissioners are satisfied that the existence of the annual income from the gold duty and goldfields revenue has led to municipal extravagance, and that the taxation by rates is far less than in other New Zealand towns of a similar size. In 1908-9 the total rates collected from a population estimated as about 5850 was only some £890 (which included £176 Government subsidy on the rates), being about 2/10 per head of population per annum, or 11/9 per rate-payer.

Annual Expenditure.

Whilst the Commissioners have not been enabled to make estimates in great detail, they have satisfied themselves that the works they recommend, including payment of the compassionate allowances for damage by floods, and including the plant necessary to execute the works, can be carried out probably for £130,000. But, in order that there may be sufficient funds, they recommend that provision should be made for a Government loan to the new Board of the sum of £150,000, which it is presumed can be provided at a rate of 4 1/2 per cent to cover interest and the extinction of the loan.

Charge Per Ton of Ore on Mines.

Upon the present output of about 550,000 tons of ore treated per annum, the proposed charge amounts to less than 2d. per ton—a tax which cannot affect the working of any low-grade ore, and an amount which, it is believed, the mining industry can well afford to contribute towards a solution of the difficulty.

The Commissioners think that the fishing industry at the Thames, as relating to the Hauhaki Gulf, has not been seriously affected by the discharge of tailings into the river.

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Orange Blossoms.

NOTICE TO OCCASIONAL CORRESPONDENTS.

All copy intended for publication in these columns must reach the office, not later than Saturday morning, in order to ensure insertion in the current issue.

COX—LAMBERTON.

A LARGE gathering of relatives and friends assembled in the Presbyterian Church, Hastings, on August 3, to witness the nuptials of Mr Harry Cox of Dannevirke (fifth son of Mr H. Cox, Woodville), and Miss Agnes Lamberton, fifth daughter of Mr J. Lamberton, of Hastings, formerly of Dannevirke and Reefton. The marriage was solemnised by the Rev. P. Ramsay. The bride was tastefully dressed in a becoming tailor-made costume and saucy-blue hat, trimmed with ostrich feathers. The bridesmaids were Miss Isabel Lamberton (white Empire gown and hat of silk ermine), and the little Misses Freda Lamberton and Esnie Watts (white dresses and Mother-Hubbard bonnets), sister and niece of the bride respectively. Mr Andrew Lamberton fulfilled the office of best man.

O'CONNOR—CUTTANCE.

A very pretty wedding took place at Blackburn, Hawke's Bay, on July 27th, at the residence of the bride's parents, Blackburn, when Mr John O'Connor, second son of Mrs O'Connor, of Adam's Flat, was married to Miss Ellen Johanna Cuttance, second daughter of Mr H. Cuttance, of Blackburn. The ceremony was performed in the presence of a large number of friends by the Rev. Father Howard, of Milton. The bride, who was given away by her father, looked charming in a dress of blue cashmere, trimmed with passementerie and silk trimmings. She was attended by her sister, Miss Annie Louisa Cuttance, who wore a cream cashmere dress with insertion trimmings. The bridegroom was attended by his brother, Mr P. O'Connor.

HARROWELL—WILLIS.

An exceedingly pretty wedding, in which considerable interest has been taken was solemnised at Christ Church, Papakura, on August 10th, when Mr Shirley Harrowell, of Papakura, and Miss Ethel May Willis, only daughter of Mr. R. Willis, of Papakura, were married. The ceremony was performed by the Rev. W. C. Wood, and was fully choral. The girl friends of the bride had tastefully decorated the church with white lilies, narcissi and carnations. A beautiful wedding bell was suspended over the chancel steps. The bride, who was given away by her father, looked very dainty in a charming ivory satin gown, with overdress of nylon, effectively trimmed with duchesse point. She wore a veil embroidered with lilies of the valley over the usual wreath of orange blossom, and carried an exquisite bouquet of azaleas, lilies, and hyacinths. Miss and Miss Marjorie Harrowell (sisters of the bridegroom) attended as bridesmaids. They wore pretty cream-silk dresses, burnt straw hats with a wreath of crimson roses, and carried beautiful shower bouquets of violets. The bridegroom was supported by Mr. Mitchell and Mr. S. Willis as groomsmen. The bridegroom's present to his bride was a very handsome gold hangle, also hangle, to each of the bridesmaids. After the ceremony the bride's parents entertained the guests, numbering about sixty, at "Inghamok." Mrs. Willis, mother of the bride, received her guests in a hand some lace brown silk, richly beaded, hat trimmed with brown feathers on suit. The large dining-room, where the refreshments were served, was prettily decorated with soft white ribbon and violets. Later, Mr. and Mrs. Harrowell departed in a taxi-car for Auckland, en route for Wellington and Australia, where the honeymoon is to be spent: the bride wearing a stylish green tailor-made costume, pretty green ermine hat, white fox fur.

Mrs. Harrowell (mother of the bridegroom) wore a charming toilet of mode cloth handsomely beaded, black hat; Miss Willis, unadorned black lace over black silk, pretty black hat; Miss Walter, handsome black paillette costume, smart black hat; Miss C. Willis, navy tailor-made, black hat; Miss Willis, handsome black embroidered lace over black

silk, black hat; Mrs. Shannah, black silk gown, hat to match; Miss Harrowell, purple costume, beaded in black; Mrs. Walters, green costume, black hat; Mrs. A. Willis, cream cloth Russian costume, cream hat with violets; Mrs. Cole, green tailor-made coat and skirt, green hat; Mrs. W. Firth, blue Russian costume, black hat, velvet trimmings; Mrs. H. Walters, black paillette, pretty pattern hat with black velvet and wings; Mrs. G. Willis, amethyst costume, black hat with pink roses; Mrs. Hammond, black silk, black bonnet; Mrs. G. Hammond, black silk, cream lace vest, pretty black hat; Mrs. Cave, black and white foulard, white lace scarf, black and white bonnet; Mrs. E. Hazard, navy tailor-made, blue and grey straw hat; Mrs. Wood, cinnamon brown paillette gown, brown felt hat, trimmed, ribbons and wings to match, brown crepe de chine scarf; Mrs. Jones, black costume, black sequin toque; Mrs. Swears, brown costume, seal fur, black hat; Mrs. Middlemas, brown silk, hat to match; Miss Cave, brown costume with tangerine facings, hat en suite; Miss C. Cave, brown tailor-made, brown and rose hat; Miss H. Morphet, pretty bicorne coloured gown, hat en suite; Miss Mann, grey tweed costume, natter blue hat; Miss G. Cave, cream silk zephyr trimmed Japanese embroidery, black beaver hat, grey body; Miss M. Gibben, pretty cream embroidered, silk, mole and pink hat; Miss D. Cave, navy costume with navy hat to match; Miss M. Wood, pretty cream tulle frock, green hat with silk trimming; Miss E. Harris, cream costume, hat with violets.

HARBOTTLE—MILLS.

The marriage of Miss Olive Mills and Mr. Charles Harbottle (of the Union Company's office staff) was solemnised at St. Peter's Church, Wellington, on August 10, by the Rev. G. P. Doxys. The bride, who was given away by her father, the Hon. C. J. Mills, M.L.C., looked charming in a trained Princess robe of ivory satin, the transparent yoke and sleeves sewn with pearls; her little veil was delicately embroidered, and attached to a coronet of orange blossoms, and she carried a bouquet of white hyacinths and freesias. There were two bridesmaids, Misses Grace Mills and O. Neville, who had graceful dresses of white charmuse, with wide bands of gold embroidery and gold tassels. Their hats were black with pink roses, and pink flowers composed their bouquets. To the bride the bridegroom gave pearl earrings and a turquoise pendant, while her maids received gold and moonstone necklets. Mr. P. Harbottle (Hobart) was best man, and Mr. Chapman, groomsmen. Afterwards a reception was held at the residence of the bride's parents in Kensington-street, the rooms being decorated with white flowers. Sir William Steward proposed the health of the bride and bridegroom, and the Hon. W. Carmichael, M.L.C., that of Mr. and Mrs. Mills. The honeymoon is to be spent in Hobart. Mrs. Harbottle's travelling dress was a heather tweed tailor-made worn with a hat garlanded with roses. Mrs. C. H. Mills wore mode crepe de chine, with applique of lace, black hat with small pink roses; Miss Mills, sapphire cloth princess dress, and black hat with hydrangeas; Mrs. Redward, black chiffon taffetas and black hat; Mrs. Irving Mills, brown cologne and brown hat; Mrs. James (Masterton), black and white chiffon taffetas, and black picture hat; Mrs. W. A. Kennedy, violet cloth dress, and velvet toque; Mrs. J. Whiddell, black and violet crepe de chine, black plumed hat; Mrs. P. P. White, eau de nil chiffon taffetas with bands of a darker shade; Mrs. Watson, green tailor-made and dark green hat; Mrs. Theo. Cooper, navy cloth dress and black hat; Miss Webb (Nelson), mauve cloth and hat with violets; Mrs. Rhodes, black chiffon taffetas, and hat with flowers; Mrs. Carmichael, mode simple cloth, and hat with violets. Among the many beautiful presents, were a piano from the bride's father, a case of cutlery, and silver from the Union Company's staff at Wellington.