

### Government Experimental Farms.

At the meeting of the executive of the Farmers' Union on Thursday the following motion, moved by Major Lusk, was carried: "That the Auckland Farmers' Union desire respectfully to assure the Government that the farmers of this provincial district are seriously hampered through the scarcity of skilled agricultural labour, and are most anxious to secure the help of the Government in subsidising the shipping companies to the extent of £7, as formerly granted, and urgently request the Government to reconsider their resolution not to assist by granting reduced fares." The Government's experimental farms came in for some adverse criticism, and the following motion was carried: "That the union forward to the other provincial executives for their opinions, as to whether a commission of recognised practical farmers to inquire into the management and practical benefits derived from the Government experimental farms should not be set up. The motion will be sent to the various provincial executives, and will come forward at the next annual conference of farmers' unions as an Auckland remit.

### A Big Work.

The Hon. R. McKenzie, Minister for Public Works, on Wednesday turned the first sod in connection with the drainage of the Rangitiki and Tarawera swamps, legislation dealing with which was put through last session. The whole work is estimated to cost £50,000. The estimated expenditure on the two subdivisions balances as nearly as possible, that for Tarawera being £23,100, and for Rangitiki £26,900. The main work on the Tarawera River will cost £11,400, and the big outlet for the Rangitiki River is estimated to cost £11,500. The work of cleaning out the old drains is now in progress, and machinery has been purchased for dredging the new cuts, and will be erected almost immediately.

### Cottage Hospitals.

For some time past the Waitemata Chamber of Commerce has discussed the question of a hospital for the Waitemata district, and with a view to furthering the matter a deputation recently waited on Dr. Valentine and urged upon him the necessity of securing a site in the district at an early date. At the meeting of the Chamber on Thursday evening, the deputation reported that Dr. Valentine would visit the district when he returns to Auckland, with a view to inspecting suitable sites.

Dr. W. G. Guinness (who represents the district on the Hospital and Charitable Aid Board), at the invitation of the Chamber, outlined Dr. Valentine's hospital scheme. He stated that the scheme was a general one for the whole colony, and provided for cottage hospitals in the outer districts, with a resident nurse. In the event of an accident in the outlying districts, the patient would be taken to the cottage hospital, where he would receive first aid and be cared for until able to be moved to the main hospital. The cottage hospitals were primarily receiving buses. Dr. Guinness pointed out that the Board had about 100 acres in the Northcote district, but the deputation had stated that the position was unsuitable for a hospital. He strongly favoured Dr. Valentine's policy, and felt the possibility of getting a main hospital for the Waitemata district very remote. When Dr. Valentine's scheme was in operation he felt sure the Waitemata district would receive its share of attention, and he expected the first cottage hospital to be erected in the Wade district.

After general discussion, the Chamber decided to call together a deputation to wait upon Dr. Valentine, when he again visits Auckland, for the purpose of requesting him to visit the district and inspect suitable sites for a hospital. Dr. Guinness was requested to arrange for the deputation.

### Self Help.

The General Labourers' Union, numerically one of the largest unions of city workers, is to have submitted to it a scheme for the establishment of a benevolent fund (says a telegram from Christchurch.) The scheme, which has been drawn up by the secretary (Mr. A. Paterson), has been discussed by the executive, which has referred it to a general meeting of the members. It is proposed that on the date the fund is established 33 1/3 per cent

of the surplus funds of the union are to be transferred from the union fund to the benevolent fund, and that at each subsequent half-yearly audit 50 per cent of the surplus fund on the half-year's working shall be transferred. In addition, all fines inflicted on members are to be paid into the benevolent fund, which is to be further augmented by voluntary subscriptions, profits from socials and entertainments, and by levies, the last mentioned not to exceed 1/ per member in any one quarter. The objects of the fund are to grant assistance to members in distressed circumstances, through sickness, accident, or unemployment, or to pay members' contributions when unemployed. No benefit is to accrue to any member whose illness or accident arises from intoxication or from the excessive use of alcoholic liquors. The funds are to be managed by a committee of five members, in addition to the president and secretary.

### An M.P. Attacked.

Some excitement was caused in Queen-street last Wednesday, when an angry Maori wahine made a vigorous attack upon Mr. Henare Kaibau, M.P., outside the office where Messrs. Kaihau and Mahuta have now established themselves as land agents. A crowd of at least a couple of hundred people gathered in a few minutes, and witnessed Mr. Kaibau's chastisement. The irate lady made a vigorous onslaught with her fists, and rained a shower of blows on the burly native member. These he stood unresistingly for a little while, and then catching his assailant by the wrists held her in a grip from which she could not escape. Not to be daunted, the wahine threw herself on the ground, and began to use her feet, whereupon Mr. Kaibau's modesty was doubtless overcome. At any rate, he released his hold, and beat a hasty retreat up the street. The wahine was quick on his tracks, and pulled from her hat a formidable-looking batpin. Shriilly denouncing the member for Western Maori, she set out in pursuit, followed by a big crowd. The opportune arrival of a policeman at this stage put a finish to the proceedings just as they appeared likely to develop into something exciting.

### The Fine Arts.

In opening the annual exhibition of the Canterbury Society of Arts on Thursday the president (Mr. William Reece) spoke on several points of interest. The pictures this year, he said, showed a marked advance over previous years, and there were a great number of works of real merit and of a size which should make them much sought after, and in this connection it could scarcely be said, as of old, that it was better to buy a commercial reproduction than the work of the local artists. Whilst they recognised the improvement generally, he hoped to see ere long the leading artists develop greater ingenuity and more audacity in the conception and composition of their pictures. It might be claimed that they had not the same materials in the new world as in the old to inspire the painter's art, but they had human nature, history, and marvellous landscape, and landscape appeared to be the expression of modern art. Here, surely, might be found inexhaustible material and inspiration, but it had been said that to see the wonderful lights in "open air" painting, now so much in vogue, the artist must "look hard and paint what he sees, not see what he paints." And there was no doubt, also, that in the moods of nature the painter must paint the emotional experiences of his own soul. He hoped that in time they would have other branches of fine art better represented at the exhibitions, such as sculpture, architecture, and art as applied to industries. With regard to the progress of the society, there was cause for satisfaction, but they had arrived at the stage when they should consider a forward policy in the way of creating greater public interest in the fine arts generally. They had a large number of members, but not large enough for a city of the size of Christchurch; they had a very creditable nucleus of a permanent gallery, which they must strive to improve and induce the public to make greater use of.

### Livnor in the Kaings.

Taumarunui, or the white portion of it, which is now much the predominant segment of the circle, is ablaze with indignation and a general sense under the waistcoat that can only find expression in words unprintable and explosive. And the word "Kainga" is the big contributor, for under the statutes this growing King

### PERSONAL NOTES.

On the eve of his departure for Northcote, Constable Flavell, of Waikino, was the recipient of a useful travelling bag from the police of Waipi sub-district, as a mark of the esteem in which he is held by them.

Mr. George Totman, of Auckland, left on Tuesday for Wellington in order to catch the Shaw-Savill steamer Corinthic, en route to London. Mr Totman will be away about 12 months on business and pleasure combined.

Mr G. Tisch, in answer to a large deputation, has agreed to stand again for the New Plymouth mayoralty.

A very old resident of Auckland passed away last week in the person of Mr. Jas. Taylor. The deceased, who was 85 years of age at the time of his death, carried on business in Queen-street as an engraver for many years, and was held in very high esteem. He is survived by three sons, and a number of grandchildren and great-grandchildren, his wife, two daughters, and four sons having predeceased him.

Mr and Mrs J. Hooper, of Hamilton, left by the Moldavia last week, en route to England.

Mr Kerr Clark, late private secretary to His Excellency the Governor, left by the Moldavia, en route to London.

Admiral Sir William Kennedy, an English visitor to the Dominion, after a three months' visit, left by the Moldavia last week.

Mr R. E. Williams, manager of the Waipi mine, left by the Moldavia en route to London, to spend a six months' vacation.

Mr. Guy Haskins, middle-distance runner of Christchurch, who goes Home to represent the Dominion at the Empire Sports Festival, left by the Moldavia last week.

Mrs. F. Lomax, wife of Mayor Lomax, of Wangau, and Mrs. and Mrs. J. Stevenson and Miss Stevenson were booked by the Moldavia last week. They intend visiting England to witness the Coronation.

Professor T. W. Hunter has been elected chairman of the Victoria College Professorial Board for the current year.

At a special meeting of the Auckland Hospital Board last week Mr. T. Copeland Savage was re-elected an honorary surgeon for the ensuing three years; Dr. Robertson was elected honorary physician, and Dr. A. Clark honorary radiographer.

Country township on the Main Trunk line is a Maori village, despite the fact that at the present time its population of 1300 odd souls is mostly European. And the statutes, although alterable by legislation, may, while in force, be just as oppressive as were some of the laws of the Medes and Persians. Meanwhile, every townsman and visitor who walks about its streets with a flask of the "creathum" in his pocket is liable to be "run in" and inscribed on the roll of malefactors for all time. Some interesting facts concerning the present position and attendant anomalies came out before the magistrate who presided at the hearing of the test case this week concerning the introduction of liquor into the kainga. It was urged that a place in which three-fourths or more of the population was European could no longer be classified as a Maori kainga, but the magistrate agreed with the prosecution that so long as the boundaries of the kainga had been duly defined by the Maori District Council, approved by the Governor, and gazetted, he was bound to accept that definition as accurately defining the limits of the kainga. The place had been gazetted a kainga before European settlement began there, and they must be deemed to have known the restrictions at the time they settled in the kainga.

A petition has already been circulated and largely signed, requesting the Government either to abolish the kainga restrictions altogether in Taumarunui, or to limit them to the one end of the township which is principally occupied by the Maoris. The grievance of the white population of Taumarunui is that they see no reason why they should be treated differently from Te Kuiti, which is also a borough, but which, though containing more Maori inhabitants than Taumarunui, has never been declared a kainga. The anomaly of the position is that in the northern and western half of the settlement of Taumarunui, namely, in Rongaroa, there are no restrictions about introducing liquor—the railway fence being the boundary, with the extraordinary consequence that if a man is found drunk on the eastern side of the main road he is liable to a fine of £10 or a month's imprisonment, but if he is on the western edge of the road

Mr. Savage was granted six months' leave of absence to enable him to visit England.

Mr Robert Millar of Auckland has been appointed Vice-Counsel for Norway.

Mr J. I. Walker, a member of the Kings College Cadets Corps, who has been gazetted subaltern in the Royal Warwickshire Regiment, left last week for India where his regiment is stationed.

Captain Makgill Maitland, late A.D.C. to His Excellency the Governor, left Wellington for Sydney by Friday's steamer on his return to England via Japan and Siberia.

Mr James Archer, of Napier, and formerly of Auckland, has been appointed to the position of town clerk and engineer of the Borough of Masterton. There were 79 applicants.

Mr W. S. Dingle, who has been choirmaster and organist at Holy Trinity Church, Lyttelton, and who is about to leave for Auckland, received a present of a set of hair brushes from the choir as a token of esteem.

Mr D. H. Holloway, late Deputy Registrar of Deeds and Assistant Land Registrar at Auckland, was last week presented by his brother officers with a gold watch, suitably inscribed, as a token of regard on the occasion of his retirement from the public service. The registrar (Mr Hall) made the presentation, and voiced the high esteem in which the recipient was held by his brother officers, and his own appreciation of Mr Holloway's faithful and conscientious attention to his duties during a long term of office.

A feeling of painful surprise was created in Auckland on Friday when it became known that Mr. Donald Smith, secretary of the Auckland Club, had died suddenly in Sydney, and was buried on Thursday. Mr Smith, who had been suffering some trouble with his eyes, left on a holiday trip to Sydney about a fortnight ago, but though he had complained of pain in the direction mentioned, none of his friends anticipated anything serious, or entertained any fears for his general health. Mr. Smith, who was appointed secretary of the Auckland Club nearly two years since, had held a similar position in the Australian Club, Sydney. He was a quiet, but kindly, courteous gentleman, whose sudden death is much deplored by members of the Club and citizens who knew him.

The Rev. and Mrs. Raine and their daughter left for Sydney by the Wimmera on Monday.

Mr. and Mrs. F. Steele, of Cheltenham, were passengers by the Wimmera on Monday.

he can only be treated as an ordinary, first offender.

In view of the fact that the existence of the kainga is being upheld, at all events for the purposes of the Penal Law concerning the introduction of liquor, there may presently arise several very interesting positions regarding the conflict of the powers given to the Borough Council under the Municipal Corporations Act and the powers vested in the Maori Council under the various Maori Councils Acts, particularly regarding sanitation. One somewhat curious position, and not without its humorous side, is that the borough collects the dog tax from Europeans and the Maori District Council collects it from Maoris. As the European dog is taxed at 10/ per head and the Maori kauri at half-a-crown, it is not difficult to understand that most of the dogs are registered as having Maori owners. Again, whereas the European local fathers have no judicial functions whatever, the Maori patriarchs can inflict fines for all manner of offences, including breaches of the anti-smoking laws, billiard-room laws, liquor introduction laws, and a number of other misdemeanours. It can be understood what a trial the climate of Taumarunui is to the European citizen, who perforce must stand in strictest sobriety on the main road and see his fellow-townsmen enjoy himself without restraint but a few yards distant.

Moreover, the citizens of the borough of Taumarunui, who reside in the Rongaroa portion of the town, and are entitled to introduce liquor into their houses, must, in order to transfer the liquor to their houses, take it some distance along the main road before crossing the railway line at the proper public crossing. And whilst the liquor is between the station and public crossing it is within the kainga, and the owner must thus inevitably break the kainga law. This phase of the matter has not yet been decided in the Police Court, but a test case must come.