



[By Vigilant.]

The death is announced of Jack Burke, the "Irish Lad," on June 29th, at Cheltenham. Burke, after making a name in America, paid New Zealand a short visit, and then went over to Australia, where he exhibited with Larry Foley before an immense crowd at the Carrington Ground. After that, Slavin, who was just coming into fame, speedily defeated the popular "Irish Lad," and he returned to England and became a respected boniface. Having recently sold his hotel at Islington, he determined upon a cycle tour, and after Ascot he and a friend left for the West of England and Scotland. Travelling by easy stages they arrived at Andoversford, within a few miles of Cheltenham, and after a day or two's stay they went to Cheltenham. Burke was immediately recognised by the landlord, who had met him in Australia. Remarking that he felt "a bit off colour" and that he believed he had caught a chill, Burke had a bath and went to bed. Next morning he was much worse, and Drs. Kirkland and Buckle saw him. Peritonitis set in, and the medical gentlemen performed an operation. The patient grew rapidly worse, and his relatives were sent for. When informed that he had but an hour or so to live, he coolly replied, "What, do you call this dying? I am in no pain whatever, and don't mind it. I have had many a worse experience than this whilst training." He expressed a wish for some champagne, and on the doctor procuring a bottle, and pouring out a glass, he smilingly remarked, "As I have only half an hour to live, doctor, you may as well let me drink the lot." He bade all his friends an affectionate good-bye, and lapsed into unconsciousness. Burke was an Irishman, and only thirty-five years of age.

In London, on July 10, W. J. Sturgess, the amateur champion walker, established a new world's amateur record for the two mile walk, covering that distance in 13min 24 1-5sec. The best American amateur record is 13min 48 3-5sec, by F. P. Murray, Williamsburg, L. I., May 30, 1884, and the best previous English amateur record was 13min 33secs, by Sturgess, at Wembley Park, June 20, 1896.

Included in the events set down for the Australasian Championship Meeting, to be held at Sydney, on October 2nd and 4th will be the following:—Cycle events: Half-mile, one mile, three miles handicaps, and a two miles invitation scratch race. Pedestrian events: Half-mile school boys' race, under twelve; one mile school boys' race, over 12; 75yds, 100yds, 880yds, and one mile inter-club handicaps, 880yds all schools' relay race, teams of four; one mile relay race, teams of four. The Championship events are:—100yds, 220yds, 440yds, 880yds flat races; one mile flat, three miles flat, one mile walk, three mile walk, high and broad jump, pole vault, 120yds hurdles, 440yds hurdles, throwing the hammer (16lb), putting the weight (16lb).

According to coastal files the champion hurdler and sprinter, A. H. Holder, is already training for the Australasian meeting. He will go across the other side sometime before the meeting to get used to the tracks and safely on the other side of mal de mer, which always claims Arthur as a victim. The Auckland Amateur Club hold their annual meeting this month. It is rumoured that one or two of those who have been associated with the management of that popular body for many years past will retire on their laurels. The latest by the English mail says that F. E. Bacon, the ten mile champion, is again on the warpath. He has several opponents in view, and matches may be arranged at any moment. For breaking "Deerfoot's" record his reward totalled the handsome sum of £433.

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CROWN HOTEL PORT AURIRI, NAPIER. CENTRAL AND COMFORTABLE. WINES, SPIRITS, AND ALES OF THE BEST. STEWART CRARER - PROPRIETOR.

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CONVEYANCE MEETS STEAMERS AND TRAINS

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Every convenience, combined with civility and comfort, for country Visitors and Boarders.

ALL LIQUORS OF FIRST BRANDS.

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PIER HOTEL Albert Street, Auckland.

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The above hotel is within two minutes walk of Railway Station and Wharf.

None but the Best Wines and Spirits kept in Stock. Also Dunedin and Local Beer on Tap.

This well-known commodious Hotel has just been thoroughly renovated and Newly Furnished throughout.

Every comfort afforded the Travelling Public.

TERMINUS HOTEL RAILWAY STATION, DUNEDIN.

This Hotel is situated just opposite the Triangle Gardens, and occupies one of the most beautiful positions in Dunedin. There is no pleasanter place at which to live. The Hotel is quite new, and the Rooms are large and lofty. The Baths and Lavatories are all that could be desired. Railway Station and Wharves in close proximity. Wines, Spirits, Ales, etc., of the very best brands only kept. Tariff - Six Shillings per diem.

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DISTRICT ORDERS

Brigade Office, Auckland, August 29, 1897. The VOLUNTEER CORPS (Band and Cadets) in the Auckland Garrison will Parade at the Drill Hall at 2 p.m. on THURSDAY, 26th instant, with Arms and Accoutrements to take part in the Reception of His Excellency the Governor. A Guard of Honour will be furnished by the Auckland, Ponsonby, and Devonport Naval Artillery Volunteers. The Auckland Naval Artillery and Band will Parade at the Drill Hall, at 10 a.m. on FRIDAY, 27th instant, for the purpose of forming a Guard of Honour at Government House. The Officers of the District Staff are requested to attend Parade on THURSDAY, 26th inst. By Order.

J. GRANT, Captain, Acting Adjutant, Auckland District.

THE BANK HOTEL MANNERS ST., WELLINGTON.

Centrally Situated. Excellent Accommodation. Best of Wines and Spirits.

E. F. SCHOLEFIELD - PROPRIETOR.

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First-class Accommodation for Tourists, Families, and Commercial Men.

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Good Accommodation for Travellers.

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BASIN RESERVE, WELLINGTON.

THE RANFURLY HOTEL LAMBTON QUAY, WELLINGTON.

This old-established Hotel has recently been taken over by Mr A. Crossey (late of the Terminus and Poirua Hotels), who has made great alterations and improvements throughout the whole building. The furniture is entirely new. Electric light and the latest modern conveniences. Commodious billiard-room and excellent billiard table. Free Luncheon at public and private bars at noon.

A. CROSSEY - PROPRIETOR.

ROYAL HOTEL THORNDON

(Close to Government and Manawatu Railway Stations), WELLINGTON.

This Hotel (extended in brick) is built on the latest and most approved principles, and is replete with every convenience and luxury. It now offers accommodation not to be surpassed in Wellington. Electric lights throughout. Hot, Cold, and Shower Baths. Table d'hôte 6 p.m.

GEORGE ROSS (late of the Loco Department, Wellington), Proprietor.

Travellers by rail specially attended to.

BAXTER'S LUNG PRESERVER

CURES COUGHS,

COLDS, ASTHMA, BRONCHITIS CONSUMPTION,

AND ALL AFFECTIONS OF THE

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WITHOUT DOUBT THE BEST REMEDY BEFORE THE PUBLIC.

FEILDING HOTEL KIMBOLTON ROAD, FEILDING.

This favourite hostelry has been renovated and refurnished throughout. Private and Public Drawing Rooms upstairs en suite. First-class Billiard Room. The most commodious Sample Rooms between Wellington and Wangai. The Cuisine is under the supervision of an experienced cook. Noted for best Wines, Spirits, and Beers of any house on the Coast. The Feilding Club have rooms at the above Hotel.

Superior stable accommodation, with groom in charge.

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The Subscription List is Now Open.

Ralph's Taupiri Coal Mines

(LIMITED.)

Incorporated under "The Companies Act, 1882," and the Amendments thereto.

CAPITAL—£20,000, in 80,000 Shares of 5s each.

45,000 Shares are now offered to the Public for Subscription, payable 2s 6d per Share on Application, and 2s 6d Three Months after Allotment. Share will then be fully paid up with no further liability.

15,000 Shares are held by the Company in reserve. 20,000 Shares, fully paid up, are taken by Vendors as payment for the property acquired.

80,000

With a view to obtaining as wide a distribution of the Shares as possible, the Promoters cordially invite applications for small parcels of ten shares and upwards.

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N. ALFRED NATHAN, Esq. (Messrs L. D. Nathan and Co.) Hon. J. A. TOLE.

WILLIAM HELLABY, Esq. (Messrs R. and W. Hellaby).

E. W. ALISON, Esq. (Devonport Steam Ferry Co., Ltd.)

W. J. RALPH, Esq. (Managing).

Bankers:

THE BANK OF NEW ZEALAND.

Solicitors:

MESSRS JACKSON AND RUSSELL.

Secretary and Offices:

MR M. A. PHILLIPS (Morrison and Phillips), Hobson's Buildings, Shortland Street, Auckland.

PROSPECTUS.

THIS Company has been formed for the purpose of acquiring a fifty years' lease of the well-known property at Taupiri, consisting of 2000 acres, known as Ralph's Freehold, and of working the same as a Coal Mine or Coal Mines.

About £10,000 has been spent by the Vendors in opening up and proving the coal measures over an area of 385 acres, and 12,000 tons of the finest quality of coal were actually taken out from the present mine and marketed. As the balance of the property is situated within the coal basin, and contiguous to working coal mines, it is reasonably assumed that the whole property acquired is coal-bearing. Two shafts for winding and ventilating have been sunk to depths of 160ft and 180ft respectively, and are in perfect working order, so that when the new machinery has been erected mining operations can be undertaken without delay.

Boring operations, extending over the 385 acres referred to (vide working plans), have proved—Firstly, that this is the true valley of the Taupiri coal, from which all other coal deposits in the district are outcropping. Secondly, that coal supplies of the very best quality are practically inexhaustible in a solid seam of bright, hard, clean household coal, averaging about 60ft in thickness. Thirdly, that the strata immediately overlying the coal seam is of a very hard nature, forming a perfect natural roof. No timbering will be required, as the coal pillars form more than ample support in the mine.

The convenient position of the main shaft right on the railway at Huntly Station, and the natural advantages above referred to, are especially favourable to economy in working this mine.

The Taupiri Extended Company, owning the adjoining Coal mine, with a total area of about 150 acres, have paid during the past twelve years over £30,000 in dividends to their shareholders. Their largest profits were earned at a time when they were obtaining Coal from Ralph's property on royalty of 1s per ton, and sales of their £1 shares (paid up to 16s) have been recently made at 28s 3d.

The Taupiri Extended and Reserve Coal Companies freed themselves from the competition of Mr Ralph's mine by leasing the property, and holding it unworked for five years, at a rental of £862 per annum and rates. This lease expires in May next, and the Company now being formed will then start its mining operations under conditions most favourable to success, as the Taupiri Coal is rapidly advancing in favour for all household purposes, and the demand is steadily increasing. Government reports quote 14,000 tons as the increase during the year 1895-96, and the consumption of Waikato Coal will, to a certainty, be very largely increased when the railways to Thames and Waihi, which are under construction, have been completed.

It was considered advisable to form the Company at once, so that the purchase of machinery and all necessary preparations for mining may be carefully undertaken in good time.

The Vendors have so much confidence in the results of working this mine that they have agreed to accept the whole of their consideration in the Shares of the Company with a royalty of One Shilling per ton on the Coal taken out, and, as no promotion money is to be paid, the whole of the capital subscribed (less the usual brokerage and expenses of formation) will be available solely for the objects of the Company.

The estimates, which have been obtained for necessary working plant, are well within £2,000, so that the Company will start operations with a working capital largely in excess of all probable requirements.

As a further proof of their confidence the Vendors will pledge themselves not to sell any of their shares below flotation price for a period of 12 months from the registration of the Company.

The promoters wish it to be understood that they are not offering a speculative venture to the public, but a sound investment in a proved Coal mine, which, under proper management, must yield large and regular profits.

The price at which the Shares are offered is sufficient evidence of the desire on the part of the promoters to distribute them as widely as possible amongst householders, and so to create a general interest with consumers in the success of the Company.

It is also hoped that an arrangement may prove practicable under which all Shareholders consuming the Company's Coal will be treated preferentially as customers.

An agreement between the Vendors and W. B. A. Morrison, as Trustee for the Company, dated the 21st day of July, 1897, together with the Memorandum and Articles of Association, and the Plans and Reports, substantiating the foregoing statements in regard to the property, also the Estimates for Plant required, can be seen on application at the office of the Company, Hobson's Buildings, Shortland Street, Auckland.

Prospectuses and Forms of Application may also be obtained from the Company's Bankers and Solicitors, or at the Office of the Company, Hobson's Buildings, Shortland Street, Auckland.

All cheques should be made payable to Ralph's Taupiri Coal Mines, Limited, and crossed Bank of New Zealand, and for cash payments the acknowledgment of the Secretary will be necessary.

Applications for Shares should be made to the Secretary or the Bankers of the Company, together with the amount payable on application. If no allotment is made, the deposit will be returned without deduction, and where the number of Shares allotted is less than the number applied for, the surplus will be credited in reduction of the final amount payable.

Auckland, July 31st, 1897.