

IN THE WAIKATO.

Mr. J. W. Warren, F.N.Z.I.A., reports the completion of a handsome new block of shops and offices in Hamilton West, to the order of Messrs. Gavin Wallace & Sons. This splendid addition to the architecture of this pretty town is in the renaissance style, and finished in pressed bricks. On the ground floor is the large shop, occupied by the owners, which measures 28 x 70 feet. There is also a smaller shop, 20 x 50 feet, with a general entrance to the suite of offices, which occupy the first floor. Within the building are two strongrooms and a developing room for sun printing. The whole is finished as a modern structure should be, with latest appliances. The offices are occupied by Messrs. J. W. Warren, architect, Thomson & Ferrier, surveyors, and P. Watts, solicitor. The building was completed last December and cost, with the land on which it stands, £6700.

Last year the same architect supervised the complete erection of a red brick block of shops and offices almost opposite the foregoing in Victoria Street for Mr. Felix McGuire, late M.P. for Egmont. This block contains four shops on the ground floor, with offices above, and is finished in brick and stucco. It is in the Queen Anne style of architecture, and the cost was some £7000.

Mr. J. W. Warren, F.N.Z.I.A., also reports progress in modern buildings, in connection with the dairy industry in Waikato. What is admittedly the largest and most up-to-date factory has recently been completed for the Cambridge Dairy Co. at Hautapu. Built on the level floor system in brick, lined inside with white tiles, the structure contains separator room, cream and manufacturing rooms, and cool chamber. The stages are in solid concrete, and no wood, save window and door frames, has been used. The cost was £3000, exclusive of machinery, which absorbed another £1000. The same gentleman has also seen completed for the Eureka Dairy Company a new butter factory to replace that destroyed by fire. This is on the gravitation principle, and cost £1872, besides machinery, about £700.

In ecclesiastical architecture Mr. Warren is preparing plans for a new Anglican Church in Victoria Street, Hamilton West, which is to replace the existing building. The new Church, which will be cruciform in shape, and will accommodate a congregation of 550, will have a tower and spire rising to a height of 124ft. It will contain a morning chapel, chancel, sanctuary and 2 vestries, and will be built in red brick and stone, at a total cost of £10,000.

IN THE OHINEMURI.

There is not wanting some evidence that progress is being made in this centre for the branch railway to the celebrated Waihi gold mines. The most noticeable advance is manifested in the completion for the Thames Valley Co-operative Dairying Co., Ltd., of the very complete factory which was opened on December 6th last. The building is from the plans of Mr. E. E. Gillman, architect, of Paeroa. It is of brick, with tile roof, and stands on concrete foundations. The butter room is 60ft. x 36ft., the separator room 36ft. x 28ft., engine and boiler rooms respectively measure 28ft. x 18ft. & 20ft., and there are two insulated chambers, each 16ft. x 12ft. 6in., on the coil and pass air systems. Nine

subsidiary creameries act as feeders to this modern factory, which has been equipped with new machinery costing £1600, while the older plant transferred is of the value of £3400. The cost of the building, including machinery foundations only and concrete floors, was £2550. Twelve hands are employed during the season, and nine at the creameries, and the capacity of the factory is equal to six tons of butter daily, a substantial result, and decidedly less uncertain than mining. Tenders are being called for the erection of a six-roomed residence for the manager. Messrs. J. Lye & Sons, of Auckland, were the contractors who erected the factory.

Mr. E. E. Gillman, architect, of Paeroa, reports a number of cottages and private residences being erected in the Ohinemuri district, including Te Aroha, at a cost of £400 and under. At the latter place a printing office is in course of erection, and a block of shops and offices is being reinstated under his supervision. The Presbyterian manse at Paeroa, which is being erected by Mr. J. W. Forrest, is to be completed in April. It is from Mr. Gillman's plans. The contract price is £630.

Although it cannot be said that building operations are other than dead on this well-known goldfield, yet evidences of progress are not wanting in the borough. The civic authorities are to be congratulated on the evident improvements in the highways, and special mention should be made of the splendidly kept full-width asphalt footpaths and concrete water channels. The bare, tunnel-pierced, tip-besprinkled hillsides in the background of the town are pleasantly contrasted by the green parks and beauty spots along the foreshore, and the well-painted churches, schools, and other public buildings dotted here and there, among the shops and residences of the people. But the enquirer after progress was diverted on all hands to the proposed operations for mining development on a large scale at the 1000 feet level.

HAURAKI.

About the year 1896 the Hauraki Goldfields, Ltd., erected a magnificent pumping and winding plant at the head of what is known as the Queen of Beauty shaft. The plant, which is said originally to have cost £45,000 in England, was transported to New Zealand, housed in substantial iron buildings, with permanent foundations, and this work including the sinking of the shaft to a depth of 800ft. is said to have involved the company in a total outlay of £150,000. This splendid property fell into the hands of the Government about the year 1900 or later, and has latterly been operated by the Thames Drainage Board of which the Hon. E. Mitchelson is chairman, the other members being the Mayor of Thames (*ex officio*) an elected representative of the Thames County Council and representatives of various mining companies interested. Pumping is being carried on by this Board, and the May Queen Company, subsidised by the Government, and the Thames County and Borough Councils sank the shaft from the 800 to the 1000 feet level. This work, including the extension of the pumps to the bottom, was completed about June last. Since this time it has been recognised that something more should be done for the development of the field; much controversy has resulted and negotiations have so far progressed

that it is now confidently expected that a vigorous scheme will soon be actively prosecuted. A Board, known as the Thames Deep Level Development Committee, has already been constituted, with Messrs. E. H. Taylor, M.P. (chairman), and A. Bruce as Government nominees, and representatives of the May Queen, Waiotahi, Saxon, Victoria, Moanatairi, and Caledonian Companies. This body will have power to arrange the basis of contributions from those interested companies, who will be benefitted by the suggested large cross-cut tunnel at the 1000 feet level from the Queen of Beauty shaft to the Caledonian shaft, which latter will have to be sunk to the same level. It will also be entitled to receive from the Government the subsidy towards the work to the amount of £5000, the entire cost being estimated at £17,000. The successful carrying out of this work should herald a new era for goldmining on the Thames, and all advocates of progress are anticipating the best results.

Before closing, I will add a brief description of this fine plant. The boilerhouse contains 10 Lancashire boilers, in all 1000 horse power, and capable of working to a depth of 2000 feet. The large compound engine will work up to 400 h.p., and the air compressor plant is good for 100 h.p. A Tangye 2-cylinder first motion winding engine operates two cages, and is equal to a lift of four tons, while a powerful capstan engine will lift up to twenty tons from the bottom at once. The pumps can throw 1400 gallons per minute; besides this, there is an electric lighting plant which can be extended below if desired. The management of this large plant has been under the control of Mr. A. C. MacDiarmid since July, 1809.

AUCKLAND.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

The contract for the rebuilding of the Strand Arcade in Queen Street has been secured by Mr. J. D. Jones at £21,957. Architect, Mr. A. P. Wilson, Victoria Arcade.

Mr. Alex. Wiseman is preparing plans of a bungalow in wood for Mr. E. H. Mitchell, of Tonga. Cost, about £1000.

Mr. Morran, City Chambers, has in hand the erection of a brick shop premises at Devonport for Mr. Watkins. Contract, £1376.

Mr. Cecil Trevithick, Victoria Arcade, reports as follows:—The erection of a ferro-concrete warehouse at Tahiti for Messrs. Donald and Edenborough; contract, about £4000. A two-storey residence at Remuera for Mr. J. W. Shearer, to cost about £750; builder, Mr. W. Thompson. Bungalow at Remuera for Mr. G. B. Winkfield, to cost about £870; builders, Messrs F. Livock & Son. Butter factory at Opatiki for Messrs. Mason, Struthers & Co., Ltd.

Tenders are being called for shortly by the above architect for a bungalow at Mount Eden.

A new theatre is shortly to be erected here for Messrs. Fuller & Son, the successful tenderer being Mr. W. E. Hutchison, at £7777. Mr. E. Bartley is the architect.

Mr. John Routly is preparing plans of a villa at Remuera for Mrs. McElwain.

Mr. B. C. Chilwell is carrying out alterations, in brick and eternit, to Mr. W. Coleman's house in Princes Street. Contract, about £1600. Builder, Mr. James Webster.