

## The Brick Industry.

### Exploration of Wairarapa.

#### A Mauriceville Discovery.

Some weeks ago Mr. A. Neighbours, of the well-known Westport brickmaking and pottery firm of Neighbours Bros., visited Masterton, and made a survey of the surrounding country, in the hope of discovering a deposit of clay which would warrant the establishment of brickworks in the district. Mr. Neighbours was somewhat disappointed. The only part of the district in which he found suitable clay was Matahiwi, and this, he considered would be too expensive to work. He then visited Mauriceville East, where he discovered a magnificent deposit in close proximity to the railway station, on the property of Mr. R. Brooks. A sample of a quarter of a ton was taken to Westport, where it was submitted to the severest tests. Mr. Neighbours is of opinion that the Mauriceville clay, of which there is an unlimited supply, is second to none in New Zealand for brick-making purposes. He brought a specimen brick to Masterton which had shown absolutely no shrinkage from the raw material. It was of an excellent dark red colour, solid throughout, and perfectly smooth in surface. Mr. Neighbours states that the clay is remarkable for its fire-resisting qualities. He has never before handled material of such high class. He intends taking immediate steps in the direction of forming a company to develop the industry.

### Personal.

Mr. Will Prouse, of the firm of Hoggard, Prouse, and W. H. Gummer, Wellington and Auckland, has arrived in London according to cable advice received recently.

Mr. F. Peck, of Nelson, architect for the new Anglican Cathedral, Wellington, left about six weeks ago on a visit to the Old Country.

Mr. James Fletcher, of Fletcher Bros., Dunedin, states that conditions in the building trade in the North Island are beginning to move, and it is anticipated that within a few months quite a boom will take place.

Mr. Gray Young, architect, of Wellington, has taken Mr. Fearn into partnership, and the firm will in future be known as Young and Fearn.

Messrs Swan and Gray Young have been appointed joint architects for the new £70,000 Technical School job, which is about to be erected in Wellington.

Mr. and Mrs. Hurst Seager are leaving shortly for a visit to England.

## Here and There.

Raetihi must be a prosperous place at the present time. It is stated that the building trade in that township is booming, and that there are double the amount of buildings under erection or in contemplation than in any other township of its size in the Dominion. There is also a proposal to form a racing club in the district.

At a recent meeting of the Christchurch City Council, a plan prepared by Mr. S. Hurst Seager in connection with the Council's proposals for town planning was submitted. The plans dealt with an area on Buckley's road, where 28 houses could be erected.

A Christchurch man, Mr. A. D. Ford, has put forward a housing scheme to be worked by municipalities based on loans from the Government free of interest totalling two million pounds. To meet the loss of letting the houses at 15s per week and provide necessary interest and sinking fund he proposes that Parliament should put an extra duty of 20 per cent. on tobacco and cigarettes. It would mean an increased price of three-fifths of a penny per plug of tobacco, but he thinks that consumers would pay it willingly in the knowledge that the payment would make it possible to erect 3000 sanitary homes.

A Woolston (Christchurch), borough councillor recently moved that immediate application be made to the Government for the expenditure of £10,000 for house-building in the borough, and said: "The Government is going to have an election soon, and we may be able to get this done if we ask now, but we won't have much chance later on." "We would get the promise, anyway," supplemented the Mayor. The motion was carried.

Excellent progress is being made with the formation of the Wellington Building Trades Federation, which the organisers hope will eventually embrace carpenters, plumbers, painters, electricians, timber workers, builders, labourers—in fact, all workers connected with the building industry. All the unions to which the idea has been submitted have approved of it (says the "Post"), and the other organisations have arranged meetings to consider the matter. So far the constitution, as originally drawn up, has also met with approval. The objects of the Federation, as set out in the constitution, are: (1) Uniformity of hours; (2) uniformity of working conditions; (3) council of administration re disputes; (4) board of appeal of disputes between unions; (5) common action in consideration of labour laws and their amendments. The Federation shall consist of all unions connected with the building industry in the Wellington industrial district. The government of the Federation is to be vested in a council composed of delegates elected annually from each affiliated union, and the principle of "one union, one vote" is laid down.