

AUCKLAND INSTITUTE.

FIRST MEETING: *4th June, 1894.*

Mr. J. H. Upton, President, in the chair.

The President delivered the anniversary address, taking as his subject "The History of Money."

The President said: In opening a new session of this branch of the work of the Institute, I cannot refrain from inviting you to allow your thoughts to dwell for one moment on the memory of our late President, Professor Pond. Mr. Pond took a warm interest in the progress of this Institute, and by his death we suffer a great loss. His sympathies were, however, not confined to this Institute, but were freely open to every movement for the welfare of the community. His gentle temper and his modest character endeared him to all who had the privilege of his friendship, while his lofty sense of duty and his great abilities marked him out for a career of the widest usefulness amongst us: his loss is one not easily to be repaired. He was ever anxious to do what he could for the general weal, and deeply earnest in the doing of what he undertook. But even when he entered upon what was to prove his last service to this Institute—namely, his year of office as President—already the Silent Shadow stood waiting, and, with all the bright possibilities of a brilliant career opening out before him,

"God's finger touched him, and he slept."

SECOND MEETING: *18th June, 1894.*

Mr. J. H. Upton, President, in the chair.

New Member.—Mr. F. G. Ewington.

Mr. E. Withy gave a popular lecture, illustrated by diagrams, on "The Economic Effects of Various Land-tenures."

Mr. Ewington spoke at some length, arguing that the private ownership of land was not the only cause of the existence of the unemployed classes. There always had been, and always would be, the careless and improvident; and, besides that, famine, fire, floods, changes of fashion, &c., might, and did, create unemployed people. He considered that Mr. Withy had overlooked many social and economic facts of the first order when dealing with his subject.

The President, in moving a vote of thanks, said that Mr. Withy must have forgotten that, if there were no unemployed in primitive times, there was slavery. Now, in civilized countries men were free, and with their freedom came additional responsibilities, one of them being the care of the poor.

Mr. Withy briefly replied.

THIRD MEETING: 2nd July, 1894.

Mr. J. H. Upton, President, in the chair.

New Members.—J. Brown, A. H. Hosking, W. Philcox, Professor Tubbs.

The President said he had much pleasure in announcing that the Council had purchased the celebrated carved house at Maketu. Some years ago it was intimated to them by their esteemed member, Mr. F. D. Fenton, that this famous house could be purchased; but at that time there were difficulties in the way of money matters. A few weeks ago, however, Mr. Fenton obtained an offer of the house at a very reasonable price, and at once placed it before the Council. The Council decided to accept the offer, and asked Mr. Fenton and Mr. Cheeseman to proceed to Maketu to complete the purchase and obtain possession of the house. This had been done, and the carvings would arrive in Auckland during the week. He would now ask Mr. Cheeseman to give a description of the house.

Mr. Cheeseman said: The carved house, which, through the assistance of our friend Mr. Fenton, has just been purchased for the Auckland Museum, was the property of Te Pokiha Taranui, the leading chief of the Ngatipikiao Tribe, a section of the Arawa. Te Pokiha is better known to us by his European *sobriquet* of Major Fox, he having commanded a portion of the Arawa contingent during the chase after Te Kooti. The house stood at Maketu, about eighteen miles south of Tauranga, and was built about 1863. It belongs to the class of carved houses known as *pataka*, or storehouses. These are raised on legs, and have the whole of their carvings and other ornamentation on the outside, thus differing from the *runanga*, or meeting-houses, in which it is the interior which is carved and decorated. The house is without doubt the finest and most complete of its class in existence, as you will probably all admit when it is erected in Auckland. It is about 35ft. long by about 20ft. broad, and has a height of 15ft. to the crown of the roof. The sides and both ends are formed of upright totara slabs, boldly and elaborately carved, the carvings being mainly grotesque representations of the human figure. The ridge-boards are carved to represent a number of *ngarara*, or lizards, running along the roof, and the *maihī*, or gable-boards, have carvings of the mythological animal known as *manaiā*—probably a kind of taniwha. In front of the house is a carved verandah, some 5ft. or 6ft. deep, and it is on the walls of this that the most elaborate carvings in the house are placed, many of the slabs representing well-known ancestors of the Ngatipikiao Tribe. For instance, a large carved figure over the doorway stands for Tama te Kapua, the captain of the "Arawa" canoe, which, it will be remembered, was finally beached at Maketu after its adventurous voyage from Hawaiki to New Zealand. The *tekoteko* on the roof above is Takenga, one of the descendants of Tama te Kapua, and a remote ancestor of Pokiha; another *tekoteko* is Awanui, a son of Takenga; and so on. In fact, the chief figures on the house are evidently intended to illustrate Pokiha's genealogy. The house itself bears two names—one being Tuhua Katoore, the signification of which is "the pit of the taniwha"; the other Puawai o te Arawa, or "the flower of the Arawa." Maketu also possesses two *runanga* houses—one of them, known as Houmatawhiti, being the finest of its kind in New Zealand. As already mentioned, Maketu is noted as being the landing-place of the famed Arawa canoe; and a clump of mingimingi trees, old and hoary, and evidently of great antiquity, is still pointed out as having sprung from the skids which were used in hauling up the canoe on the beach.

On the motion of the President, a cordial vote of thanks was unani-