

CHAPTER IX.

FROM MOLYNEUX RIVER TO WHAREPA, WAITEPEKA : KAIBIKU : WAIWERA AND ONWARD : S.S. "TUAPEKA" : MAILS AND POSTAL AFFAIRS : SPORTS, PICNICS, &c.

In 1850, Edwin Meredith, a Tasmanian, established a sheep station of 80,000 acres in South Molyneux. His homestead was near Otanomomo, on the south-east side of the Puerua stream. He had also some land in the Te Houka district, but did not retain it for any time, selling the freehold to Thomas Martin. He afterwards owned part of Moa Hill in Kaihiku. He grew very dissatisfied with the returns, so went back to Tasmania, leaving a Mr. Hobbs as manager. The sheep were shorn in 1850, being the first sheep shorn in the district; one of the shearers was Thomas Hastie, still living in Oamaru. In 1853 Meredith took up the Popotunoa Run, No. 24, but held it only for a few months, when he disposed of it to Alfred D. Fuller, who occupied it until 1858, when he sold out to Henry and Frederick Clapcott.

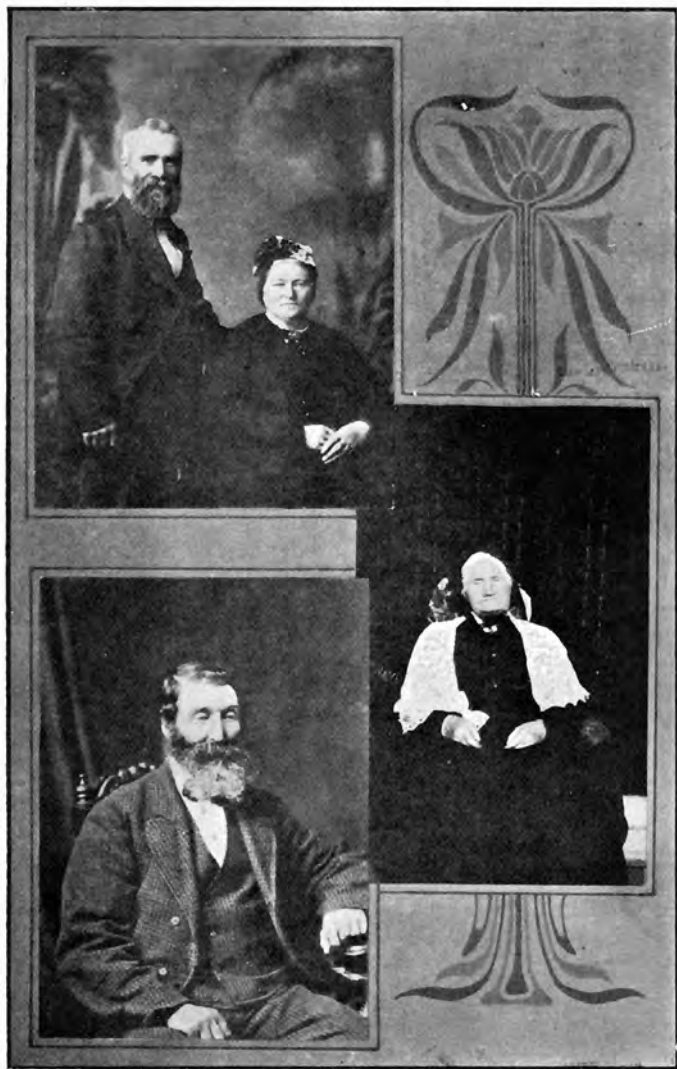
In 1852 John Shaw settled on the south bank of the Molyneux, calling the place Finegand, after his old home in the Highlands of Scotland. Besides the freehold, he shortly afterwards took up Run No. 72, extending to the Wharepa Bush. His first trip to Clutha was in company with Archibald Anderson and a man named Powell. In company with Mr. Pillans, the party went all over South Molyneux, and Shaw took a fancy to Finegand. His first sheep were bought for him from Hyde Harris, of the Taieri, by Mr. Anderson.

Mr. Shaw and his sister were noted for their liberality and hospitality. If both had occasion to leave the homestead together they invariably left a table spread for travellers, the early settlers' houses being more like boarding-houses than anything else, their owners having so many calls on their hospitality. After his sister's death Mr. Shaw married a Miss Taylor, and had a family of two sons and two daughters. Miss Shaw deserves a special place in the History of Otago for the manner in which

she did her life's work, cheering many by her example and loving counsel, but especially by her warm-hearted hospitality and untiring kindness. Her first house was a cabbage-tree one with a background of bush, a large lagoon on one side and the winding Molyneux on the other making the place almost an island. The garden was carefully laid out by Mr. Shaw, and flowers and fruit grew abundantly in the fertile soil. Those who knew Miss Shaw will always hold her in loving remembrance. However many claimed her hospitality, all were welcome; though the table was spread many times in the day, there was always a comfortable meal for the traveller, and rest and shelter provided kindly and generously. Many a time, when the house was full of visitors, she would give up her bed and make a shake-down for herself in the kitchen.

Boats were towed up the river as far as Finegand, where provisions and goods for other settlers were landed. They were then taken to their different destinations by bullock sledge, or across the river in Mr. Shaw's boat, for the convenience of the Island settlers. Large numbers of settlers in the surrounding districts were deeply indebted for assistance to Mr. Shaw, whose advice and aid were always willingly given. Mr. Shaw became famous as a sheep breeder, and his breed of sheep were known all over the province. He took up the run now known as Lochindorb, and held it till March, 1861, when he sold it to Thomas Ord. He also bought part of the Otanomomo Swamp, down the centre of which he and Mr. Telford cut a large ditch to drain the property. Finegand is still owned by the Shaw family, but the greater part has been leased to John Dallas.

In 1853, Peter Ayson, the first small farm settler in the Wharepa District, arrived in the Colony. Before leaving the Home Country he had purchased the right to a property in Otago under the then existing land regulations. This property consisted of fifty acres rural land, ten acres suburban land, and a quarter-acre town section. On his arrival he sold his town and suburban lands, and selected his rural land at Wharepa, calling the place Corydon, after his old home. This original fifty-acre section he afterwards, at irregular intervals, extended, until he finally secured a fine farm of about 800 acres, on which he resided till his death, when the property was sold, D. Murray, the present occupier, being the purchaser.



MR. AND MRS. ROBERT CHRISTIE
1853—"Rajah"
1848—"Blundell."

MR. PETER AYSON
1853—"Royal Albert."

MRS. PETER AYSON
1853—"Royal Albert."

Mr. Ayson had brought with him a complete outfit of carpenter's tools and other implements, which he and his eldest son, Peter, carried on their backs to their new home. They were seven months at Corydon, building a hut, digging ground, and planting potatoes, &c. Once a fortnight on the Saturday they visited Finegand, where the Sunday was spent. They were the first to mark out what is still called Shaw's Track, by sticking up poles at certain distances apart. Mr. Ayson then went to Dunedin for his family. They were all taken on the Monday as far as Mr. Culling's farm on the Taieri by Mr. Culling, the only man in that district who had a dray and a pair of horses. Next day they reached Scrogg's Creek, where they were taken across the Taieri River in Harrold's ferry boat. The third day they reached the head of Waihola Lake, where they were met by Messrs. Salmoud and John Cargill, each with a sledge and a pair of bullocks, and taken to Smith's house at Tokomairiro. Thursday being very wet, they remained there until it cleared up. On Friday night they camped in a shepherd's hut, and it was bitterly cold. Saturday turned out very rough, snow came on, and they did not care about making a start, so Salmoud said if they were not going on he would not stay over Sunday. Leaving in a blinding snowstorm, they had great difficulty in making any progress. Late in the afternoon they reached Balclutha, where James McNeil made them as comfortable as he possibly could. Mr. Shaw then took them to Finegand, where they stayed until the following Wednesday, when John McNeil, with a sledge and four bullocks, took them to Wharepa, so a long and tedious journey, made under great difficulties, was happily terminated.

All their boxes had been sent to Port Molyneux in the "Endeavour," but she was three months in arriving, and during that time they suffered many privations. When she did arrive she managed to get up the river to near Finegand, so the Aysons were the first to get their stuff so far up the river, others having to be content with getting theirs landed on the beach at Port Molyneux, whence it had to be carried over Kaka Point and boated up the river. During his first year's residence, Mr. Ayson bought 100 sheep, but, owing to the whole country being taken up in runs, he did not keep them long, going in instead for cattle. After his land was fenced he again went in for sheep, and became a famous breeder of

merinos. The first land cultivated on Corydon was dug with the grub hoe and spade, the wheat crop yielding eighty bushels an acre. Then John McNeil was engaged to plough a small area, for which he was paid £1 a day, and had to be supplied with a driver. McNeil was thus the first to turn a furrow in the district.

About twelve months after Mr. Ayson's coming to Wharepa, Gordon and Ross took up a section or two in front of the bush, further to the west than Corydon, and now owned by William Ross. For several years previous Gordon had been shepherding for Meredith, and had built a hut, which was the first built by a white man in the district. He was a great character, saying and doing many amusing things. He once stated that he had had an awful row with Job Dabinett, another early settler. "It was a deevil of a row, but not one of us spoke a word." Once when galloping along Shaw's Track he was thrown from his horse. On being asked if he were hurt he cried out: "Oh, yes, my neck is broke; but never mind me, catch the mare." While shepherding at Moa Flat, Gordon was challenged to run a race. The wager was eagerly taken up, but Gordon was much too fast for his rival, who soon gave up. Gordon was the owner of a dog which continually followed him, and during the race it followed so closely that, hearing the patter of its feet, he thought it was his opponent still running, so he kept on to the winning post, where he was much astonished and disgusted to find that he had been racing his dog.

He was the first white man to climb Mount Benger, a very difficult climb, as the ground was covered with "Wild Irishmen." After he had taken up his land at Wharepa, he was rushed by a bull belonging to Job Dabinett, and afterwards, on relating the story, said he was much surprised, as they, i.e., the bull and he, were on the best of terms, as he had known him (the bull) since he was a calf. Sandy was very methodical in his ways and extremely confidential in his manner. On one occasion he went to the sawmill, where he took the manager about a hundred yards away from the other men on the pretext that he had a grand secret to unfold. It turned out that he wanted timber to build a house, as he was thinking of getting married. "Have you asked the lady?" was the query. "No; but just look here now, I know by the glint of her e'en, she'll just shoot (suit) me." was the reply.

He always tied his stacks well down. One day a visitor found him beating them with a long wattle, and on being asked what was the matter, Sandy said: "Just you look here now, Robert, I have control over all the beasts of the field but these cursed fowls," and here another whack dislodged several of these troublesome beasties. Once when branding cattle he was observed to jump back. Giving a bullock a punch in the ribs, he yelled: "Oh, the brute, he put his foot on my hoof!" On another occasion water was very scarce, and the well was visited, when Gordon said: "There is no way unless we put the hole to our mouths." He was the first seab inspector in the Clutha District, and always got Mr. Shaw to write his reports, thanking him by saying: "It is just grand, Mr. Shaw. It will do fine."

The next settlers to arrive were the Somervilles and C. H. Street. The Somervilles took up land at the east end of the bush, John Somerville building his first house just through the bush, but a gale blew the thatch off, and Mr. Brown, a brother-in-law of Mr. Somerville, would not rest until the house was shifted to its present site on Chester Hill. John Somerville was born at Edgehead, in the parish of Cranston, Midlothian, Scotland, on the 6th April, 1828, and came to the Colony in the ship "Blundell," along with his parents and other members of the family, landing at Port Chalmers on September 21st, 1848, the "Blundell" being the fourth ship that came to Otago. On arrival the family took up their residence at Anderson's Bay. Some of the members of the family soon afterwards purchased a pair of flour stones, one foot in diameter, and with these they ground by hand the first flour made in Otago, and for a while supplied the whole of Dunedin. On August 9th, 1855, John married Margaret Oughton, daughter of George Brown, of Milton, and in company with his brother Thomas came to the Clutha in the same year. About 1860 his brother James joined him, and about 1863 the brothers opened a store and flourmill at Waitepeka. In the early days of the Clutha they made Waitepeka a very busy centre. John Somerville took an intelligent interest in public affairs, and was for many years clerk and engineer to the Wharepa Road Board, a member and Chairman of the Wharepa and Waitepeka School Committees; and, on the county system coming into operation, he was returned as one of the first coun-

pillors for the riding, serving a second term. In the fifties he was collector of the poll-tax that was levied for educational purposes. In the course of his long career, Mr. Somerville was often appealed to for advice by the early settlers. He was a man of wide experience, mature judgment, and unimpeachable integrity. Publicly and privately he was held in high esteem by all who knew him; his actions were at all times above reproach, and he was ever actuated by the highest motives—honourable and upright in all his dealings. On one occasion he was engaged by a party to go to the diggings. He had bullocks, but no dray, and a sledge would not do, so he and his brother set to work to make a dray. The wheels were made of wood, a tree being specially selected for the purpose of making them. The axle was a wooden one, and a long pole extended out far enough to yoke the bullocks. The trip was successfully made, and on his return home John unyoked the bullocks near the house. There was plenty tutu on the hill, and next morning two fine animals were found dead, the pecuniary result of the trip being thus a minus quantity, as bullocks were very dear. Somerville's property is still owned by the younger members of the family.

C. H. Street, who arrived by the "Maori" in 1852, selected his land between Gordon and Ross's place and Corydon. This selection was afterwards owned by Job Dabinett, who arrived in 1856 by the "Isabella Hereus," and is now owned by John Gordon. Street was a great land speculator, and, in company with Robt. Gillies, took up land all over the district. Thos. Ballantyne Gillies settled on the Rocklands Farm, at the extreme west of the Wharepa Bush. He disposed of this place to W. W. Waite, the first schoolmaster in Wharepa, and he again disposed of it to Walter Anstruther Bews and Alfred Francis Oswin. Waite, Bews, and Oswin also made selections in addition to their purchases. Rocklands afterwards came into the hands of W. S. Mosley, who sold it to George Smith, who again sold it to Wm. Marshall and Alex. Smith, the latter's place being afterwards owned by Alex. Johnston, who recently sold to one Benson. Both Bews and Oswin were men of good position in England, and highly educated. Mrs. Bews was related to Lord Roberts. Mr. Bews was afterwards appointed Otago Provincial Engineer, and subsequently for some years Town Engineer at Invercargill. About 1886 he went

to Victoria, where he died at Geelong on September 3rd, 1901, aged 68 years, leaving a family of five, his wife having predeceased him. Another account says that he was the brother of Countess Roberts, and was son of Captain John Bews, of the 73rd Highlanders. Alfred Oswin was born in India in 1837, and educated at King's College, London. In 1854 he left London for India, having been appointed to a position in the Indian Navy. In company with W. A. Bews, he came to Otago in 1859, and settled at Wharepa, but later on left to act as Sub-Treasurer to the Otago Government. About the year 1879 he was given a position in the Government service in Wellington, where he died on February 10th, 1900, leaving a family of five daughters and four sons, his wife having predeceased him fourteen years.

During his residence in Wharepa, T. B. Gillies acted as enumerator in the Cultivation and Live Stock Department for the Clutha and southward, his beat extending from Clutha to Riverton. He afterwards became Judge Gillies. Captain Bews, brother of Walter Bews and a retired Indian officer, died in 1863 at Rocklands, being buried in front of the house, but in 1872 his remains were shifted to the Wharepa Cemetery. Here it may be said that the ground for the cemetery was given by Mr. Street, the first person buried in it being a brother of Captain McKenzie.

Other settlers in front of the bush up to about 1857 were Job Dabinett, previously mentioned, and James McNeil, Junr. Dabinett's first house was built of wattle and dab, thatched with rushes, and containing four rooms. The next house was built of pit sawn timber, and contained six rooms. The furniture was all hand made, being shaped with axes and knives. Dabinett's property is now held by John Gordon, and McNeil's by William Ross.

The first settler in the open country was William Blaikie, who about 1862 settled on a farm near where the Wharepa Railway Station now is. This farm is now owned by David Farquhar. Mr. Blaikie built a sod house, and sowed four acres of wheat, which he threshed with the flail. As he was threshing, a man named Bill Rankine asked him if he would sell a bag of oats. When the bag was filled the price was asked, but Blaikie said he did not know. Rankine asked if £1 would do, and that amount was gladly accepted.



DABINETT'S HOUSE AT WHAREPA—1856.

ROSCOE'S HOUSE—EARLY SIXTIES.

About the same time Adam Borthwick took up the Carterhope Estate, where he lived in a little sod whare until the homestead was built. Carterhope has been lately cut up, and the greater part is now owned by neighbouring settlers, Thomas Telford owning a part containing a quarry of good building stone, and a part bordering the lower course of the Kaihiku stream.

On the Wharepa side the settlers in 1862 were James Stewart and David Hudson. Hudson landed in Wellington in 1857 by the "Cresswell," but stayed only three months there. He then walked to Waanganui, but not getting any work returned to Wellington, whence he departed for Christchurch. He was employed at Timaru by the Provincial Government of Canterbury, for five months cutting tussocks to make a track to guide people over the Canterbury Plain; but owing to there being insufficient funds the work was abandoned. Hudson ultimately made his way to Dunedin, where he was employed by Macandrew. On the trip down from Timaru he had the novel experience of being half rowed, half carried across the Waitaki River. The canoe in which he and his mates were crossing grounded amid stream, when one of the Maori women rowing carried them the rest of the distance on her back. For some time Hudson was employed making roads about Dunedin, and working on the Taieri. Towards the end of 1862 he and James Stewart bought land at Wharepa, but, getting the gold fever, both went for a time to the Nokomai rush and other goldfields.

In 1863 John Greig took a farm opposite Hudson's, now owned by Hudson and Russell, and in the next year John Wright settled on the property now held by Jas. E. Russell.

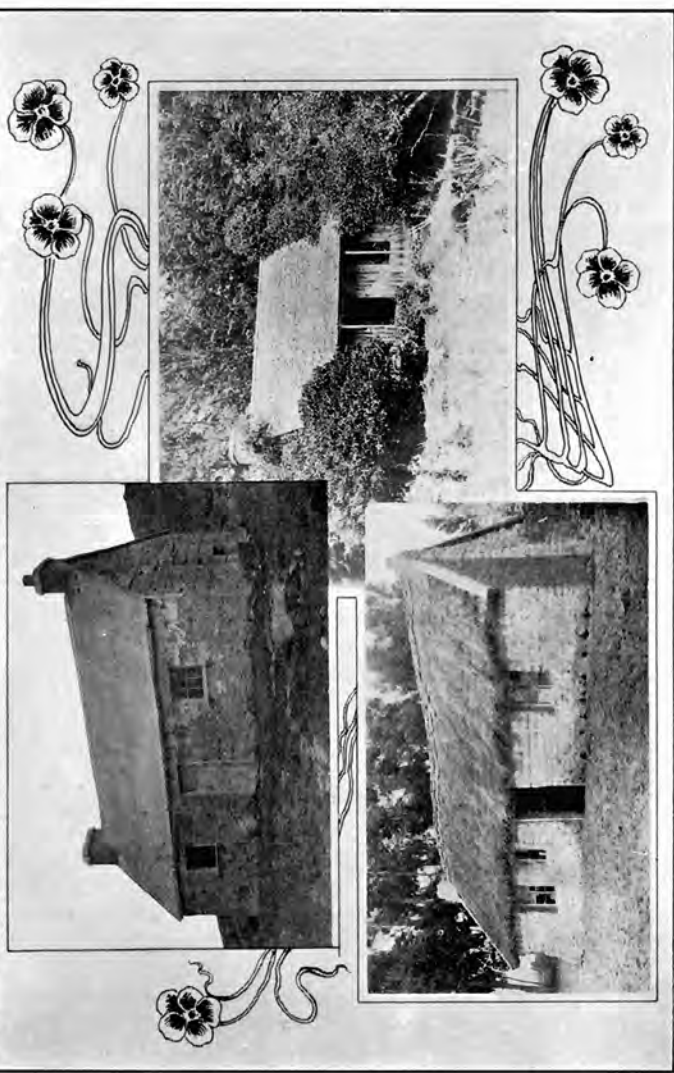
John Wright arrived in Otago in February, 1860, by the ship "Gala," and in 1864 took up land at Wharepa, 150 acres at 10/- per acre. This purchase he made without seeing the land. Shortly afterwards he walked out to see it, but not being much impressed with the look of the ridges, he offered it to Mr. Thomson, of Moa Hill, for what he paid, but could not deal. In the spring of 1864 he moved out from Tokomairiro to Wharepa, where he and his family lived with David Hudson in a sod whare until a good clay "biggin" was erected among the tussocks on the farm. He ring-fenced the whole property with sod fences, being assisted by his younger brothers, George (now of Fiji) and William (now pastor of Columba Church, Oamaru).

He did a lot of contract ploughing, &c., for Adam Borthwick, of Carterhope, the swing plough and two horses in those days constituting the team, and the price for ploughing £1 per acre. From Mr. Borthwick he also bought his butcher meat in the shape of merino sheep at a standard rate for a long time of £1 per head, whether large or small, ewe or wether. Along with many others of the early settlers, he owed a big debt of gratitude to Mr. Borthwick, who was always ready to give work to the settlers at big pay, as well as to stand by them in financial troubles. When the Nokomai Diggings broke out, the gold fever seized Wright, and he set off to try his luck. Mr. Borthwick missed him from the farm, and at once went to Mrs. Wright and made the inquiry, "Whaur's Wricht?" On being told that he was off to the diggings, the old gentleman gave an emphatic "Humph!" and said, "Tell the man tae come back tae me, an' I'll gie him a pund a day tae plew for me." This message was duly sent, and apparently had a greater glamour than the Nokomai, as "Wricht" was soon "plewing" again among the Carterhope tussocks.

He took his share of work going in those days in Road Board, School Committee, and Church. In the latter he took a great interest, being associated as an office-bearer with the Wharepa congregation from the time that the first minister was placed in it.

Mid-way between Wharepa and Toiro in 1862 there were only two settlers, Messrs. D. P. Milligan and Donald Ross, who had both arrived in 1861. They stayed for a short time with Gordon and Ross, and then went to the diggings, where they remained for four months. On their return they settled down. They took out a license costing £5 to cut timber in the bush, and cut sufficient to build two houses. In company with John Crawford, Milligan then cut sufficient timber to build two barns. Shortly after this Milligan married Jane Kerr, the second marriage in the district, the first being John McNeil and Margaret Ayson, a daughter of Peter Ayson, Corydon. Milligan's farm is now in the hands of John Gordon, who married the only daughter of the family. Mr. Milligan was a member of the first Wharepa Road Board, the others being James and John Somerville and Henry Hogg. John Somerville acting as clerk.

The next farm to Milligan's was occupied by George Munro, who had arrived in the early part of 1861. At



STONE HOUSE, CARTERHOPE ESTATE—1862.

WM. SUTHERLAND'S HOUSE AT WAITEPEKA—1858.

SOD HOUSE, WHAREPA, IN SIXTIES.

first Munro lived in a house at Wharepa Bush, belonging to Job Dabinett. Being a stonemason, he built his own residence of stone—the first stone house in the Clutha. Munro paid 25/- an acre for ploughing, and 10/6 a bushel for the first oats he sowed. He sold stooks of oats at 3/6 a stook to John Sinclair, who had bought a farm on the west side of Milligan's place. The land where the Wharepa Church stands was part of Munro's property, being his donation to the building fund. The manse glebe was also his property, and was sold by him to the church authorities for £5 an acre.

When puggeries came into fashion, Munro was strongly opposed to the use of such vanities, as he called them, and one day, seeing the minister wearing one, said: "No wonder the judgment of the Lord is coming upon us when our ministers are knocking about with 'buggeries' on their bonnets."

Opposite Munro's and bordering the manse glebe was Colin McKenzie's farm, afterwards purchased by Munro. This place, as well as Munro's other farm, was purchased by Thomas Riddell, a son of the Riddell who, in 1868 or 1869, had purchased John Sinclair's and Donald Ross's farms, both of which are now occupied by another son, William Riddell. Thomas Riddell recently sold out to Wilson Bros. In about 1857 John Strachan arrived, and up to 1861 or 1862 lived in a hut in front of the bush. Ultimately he settled near Wharepa Railway Station, where he began business as a bootmaker, the second in the district. Strachan was a good tradesman, but was a bit deaf. When he did not want to hear, he pretended to be very much worse than he really was. He was a witty individual, and delighted to take a rise out of his customers. On one occasion a minister told him that he ought to have two prices for his boots—one for the rich squatters and another for the poorer folks, the wealthy man being well able to pay a stiff price. Strachan thought it was a splendid idea, and he would just adopt it. Some time afterwards the minister was getting a pair of boots, but on his asking the price Strachan startled him by asking, "Do you keep sheep?" "Oh, no," was the reply. "Oh, yes you do. You have a good flock, and shear them well; yours is the big price," was the unexpected retort of the worthy shoemaker.

On another occasion, when going to a concert, Strachan was very fidgety about the state of the tyres

on the wheels of his cart, but, after paying a visit to the neighbouring hotel, he, on the return journey, forgot all about them. On being asked how they were lasting, he jovially replied, "Oh, Mr. — (the hotelkeeper) is a grand man for the tyres; get the whup, and let's see how Charlie can gang." Laying on the whup with a vengeance, the party came along at full gallop, but reached home safely, when he said that Chisholm had made the wheels right, he being a very practical man.

The Wharepa Church folk were once hard put to it to get a precentor for the services, when Strachan jokingly said: "James (an old irony) and I could dae it fine. I canna sing, but James is a good singer, but he canna mak' the faces. If he will sing, I'll stand in front and mak' the faces for him."

Towards what is now known as Toiro, the first settlers on the flat were John and Isaac Sarginson, who arrived in 1861, their neighbours in 1862 being George Polson, a retired detective, on the one side, and John Crawford on the other. Most of this land was covered with tussocks and flax, but a great fire swept the country side and exposed great totara logs and various other timbers on Crawford's farm. Sarginson's property as well as Crawford's is now owned by a Mr. Clarke, while part of Polson's belongs to Robert Ayson, the remainder being included in Corydon. Other settlers in the same line of country were William Kerr, now Sarginson's, Hogg Bros., now Fletcher's, Monfries, also Fletcher's, W. and P. Renton, now Paul-Renton's, and D. Lawson, now Tweed Bros., all of whom arrived in about the end of 1862. In 1863, Donald Sutherland took up a small farm where Charles Davis now is. In 1864 Edmund Couston settled at Kent Farm, and about the same time George Slawson took up his residence next to him. Couston and Slawson were both much earlier in the district, but had not settled down. Slawson's place is now owned by James Laing.

Couston arrived in 1858, and was employed by the McNeils for some five or six years. In 1863, while boating on the river with another man, he picked up off Barnego the body of a man who had been drowned opposite White Lea. They took it to Balclutha, where it was buried on the reserve near a large blue gum. In 1864, Couston bought 100 acres of land at £1 an acre, his application being the first to be put in after the rise in land values. The timber for his house came from Dunedin to Finegand, and was sledged to the site.

In these times a good deal of carting went to Port Molyneux, but the roads were in a terrible condition, the axles of the drays often dragging for chains in the mud. Carters had to rise at 4 a.m., and often had to prepare their horse feed before making a start. It was usually nine or ten o'clock at night when they returned. Couston often walked from Balclutha to Dunedin in a day, leaving at 7 a.m., and arriving in Dunedin before the people were in bed. Once he left Balclutha with a Mr. Spooner, who was riding. They crossed the punt at Balclutha together, and again were together crossing the Taieri punt.

About 1862, one Mooney took up the farm which, in 1865, came into the possession of the Sheddans, while further along Sandilands and Hadden settled on the farm known as Annfield, for many years leased by William Munro, an 1860 arrival, and now occupied by George Downie. When they first arrived a snowstorm came on, the snow lying six inches deep. All the time they had to live in a tent. When the snow cleared off they built a sod house, getting the joists for the roof from the Jew's Bush. Half of the house was used as a dwelling, and the other half as a stable. James Hadden was a blacksmith by trade, and was the first to carry on his trade at Wharepa.

Next to Sandilands and Hadden was Martin Fahey, whose family lived in a tent, until one night a gale tore it to ribbons. They then stayed with Sandilands, occupying the stable half of his house, until they got a hut built for themselves.

Above Fahey's the land was taken up by Lewis Bros., Porteous and McCaig, and a little later by James Falconer, who about 1865 purchased a block owned by James Fraser Ayson, now owned by William John Keys. Below Fahey's, towards Balclutha, were Coghill and McAddie, the latter being settled on the top of the Four Mile Creek Hill, while about the same time Dawson took up the Netherby farm. At what is now called Kakapuaka the land was nearly all taken up by a run, owned first by Edwin Rich, then by William Brown, whose manager was one Andrew Melrose. Near the Four Mile Creek, Charles Gordon, who was killed while working a horse-power machine, owned a small farm. Breadalbane, south from Rich's run, was taken up by Duncan Ferguson, who was drowned in the Waitepeka stream, his farm being afterwards purchased by William Brown, and now owned by

Houlistou. Below Breadalbane, but nearer the Puerua, a man named Bishop had a section, and A. C. Begg took up what is now known as Woodburn farm. On Redpath's death his property was purchased by one Bamford, and later on by W. Telford. It now forms part of the Otanomomo Estate. The homestead on this estate is built of stone from Wharepa, being quarried on the Carterhope Estate.

For some years the only settler at the back of the Wharepa Bush was James Ayson, who occupied the Hillside farm, arriving somewhere about 1859. Mr. Ayson arrived in the colony in 1853, and spent most of the intervening years shepherding for various runholders. In 1856 he purchased a farm at Tokomairi River, but sold out to Charles Falconer, shortly afterwards settling, as stated, in Wharepa. Some years later his brother, Alexander Ayson, the first teacher in Tokomairi, took up the property known as Mark Hill, and still later John Ross arrived from Ardmore Station, where he had been shepherding for W. H. S. Roberts, and took up Rosehall farm. Hillside is now owned by Henry Robinson, Mark Hill forms part of the Glenfalloch Estate, and Rosehall is in possession of John Ross, jun. John Ross was engaged by Mr. Roberts at Invercargill in 1861. Mr. Roberts had bought a spring cart and horse to take him and his family to Ardmore. When they reached the Long Ford, the Matuara was in flood, yet they attempted to cross. The water ran in through the horse's collar, and frightened the horse so that he would not move. Ross and Roberts got out, up to the armpits in the river, but could not get him to move, so they carried Mrs. Ross and the children back to the bank, then took out the horse and dragged back the cart themselves. They managed to get a bullock dray to take them over, but had to camp out all night in their wet clothes.

Following the settlement from the Wharepa Bush past Somerville's, and along the front of the hills to the Puerua stream, we find that in 1856 William Young, whose land is now occupied by H. Sandford, settled near Somerville's property. Mr. Young and family arrived in Otago in 1849 in the ship "Mary." He was a carpenter by trade, and assisted to build many of the houses in the Clutha settlement. For a short time he acted as Postmaster in Wharepa, and also opened a small store in the district. His son, Samuel, afterwards in company with George Dabinett carried on business in the Owaka district.

The next settler was Robert Sutherland, who, in 1856, with his wife, walked from Dunedin to Wharepa, taking four days to do the trip. For a year they resided in a small whare, and then shifted to a house built by Sutherland and Thomas Tolmie. This house is still standing, and speaks well for the thoroughness with which the early settlers did their work. Sutherland was the first bootmaker in the district, but failing health compelled him to relinquish his trade, and he turned his attention to farming. He was the first to grow the now famous Sutherland oats. While walking through a field he noticed an oat head, which appeared to him to be much superior to any of the others. Taking it home, he sowed the few grains in his garden, each year increasing the area, until he had secured enough grain to sell some to his neighbours, a bushel being the limit to each purchaser. One day, while talking to Sam Young, Sutherland wondered what he could call the new oats, when Young said, "Why not call them 'The Sutherland oats?'" and Sutherlands they were accordingly named. Mrs. Turner now owns Sutherland's land.

Between Sutherland's and Young's James Brydone, the first teacher at South Clutha, took up a section, right in the bush. He resided on it till his death, when the first auction sale in Wharepa was held. He having died intestate, his property was put up for sale, Mr. D. P. Steel acting as sheriff and auctioneer, and Mr. John Somerville as clerk.

About 1857 Dr. Manning, the "John Wickcliffe" surgeon, settled in Wharepa, not far from Robert Sutherland's. For some years he was the only doctor in the Clutha, his practice extending from the Molyneux to Tapanui. The doctor's first house, erected by some of the neighbours, was known as "Woodend," so called from its situation at the end of the bush. The doctor was a difficult man to deal with, but was a clever physician as well as a good surgeon. He dispensed his own medicines, and some of his prescriptions are still to be had in the district. He was a man of strong likes and dislikes, and often refused to attend particular individuals. Once, when returning from attending a patient, he remarked about a certain individual: "My word, I wish that old rascal would break his leg and give me the chance to set it, when I would put the back part foremost: I don't like him; he is a bad beggar." Being once invited to a

wedding, the doctor was asked to carve a turkey at the breakfast. The officiating minister asked the blessing, but he was so long about it that everybody grew tired. When he had finished, the doctor, rubbing his knife briskly on the steel, remarked, "Capital grace, capital, but, just like my turkey, it wanted carving."

In 1858 Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Sutherland settled at the extreme east end of the Wharepa Bush. William and Adam Sutherland sawed all the timber for Redpath's store, and for Major Richardson's house at Willowmeade, Puerua. In 1857 Thomas Tolmie settled near the Jew's Bush. He was a carpenter, and along with Wm. Young built the first manse at Puerua.

In 1859 James Robertson, who had been shepherding for C. H. Kettle at Totara Island, took up 130 acres of land in the neighbourhood of the Jew's Bush. Next to Robertson's, but nearer the Puerua Stream, were the Roscoës, who sold to one Curtis, who again sold to A. Petrie, who in 1858 bought another section near the bush. In the same year John Geggie purchased land near the Puerua, and in 1859 shifted his family from Waitahuna to his new home. Later on he purchased another farm belonging to Geo. Taylor, who had made his selection in the open land, and had purchased the property of one Dare, an ex-clergyman, who had settled there in 1859. During the next few years, up to about 1862, Messrs. Thos. Chalmers, Gilfillan, Dalgleish, Lamond, and John Grant settled in the vicinity of the Jew's Bush; while nearer Wharepa Edward Todd and Weir and Wilson were settled. Squatted in the bush were several working men—Boswell, Noble, and Hall—who were usually employed sawing, or working with neighbouring farmers. Some years later Hugh Gunn took up land right at the back of the lower end of the bush, while David Smith settled near Robert Sutherland's property.

Mrs. Gunn states that on arriving in Wharepa she had to live in a whare belonging to Robert Sutherland until her husband could get his own house, a wattle and dab one, built. At first there was no track through the bush, and she had to carry her produce, eggs, and butter as best she could through tall flax, and over creeks often swollen with rains. Flour and other heavy goods were left in Sutherland's barn, and carried piecemeal to the house. When her husband was away from home—a frequent occurrence—she had all the carrying to do, as well as

attending to her cows. Her first cow, which cost £13, was poisoned with tutu, and for a long time very considerable loss of stock from the same cause took place. The old wattle and dab house still stands as sound as ever, except that the thatch has given place to iron.

Sometimes in these early days of the settlement provisions ran short, and recourse would be had to a neighbour to supply the necessary article. On one such occasion tea gave out, and Mrs. Geggie went to borrow some from Mrs. Bannerman. She could not cross the stream, which was in flood, but a vigorous coo-ee brought Mrs. Bannerman to the river-side, and the wants of the borrower were made known and gladly acceded to. Unable to pass the tea from hand to hand, it was decided by Mrs. Bannerman to put it in a bag and throw it across. The attempt was made, but the parcel, instead of reaching the expectant hands of the borrower, fell into the water and floated merrily down the stream, closely followed by an anxious lady on either bank. A short distance down the stream the current floated the precious parcel close to the bank, where it was promptly secured, much to the relief of both parties, and none the worse for its untimely immersion.

Towards the end of 1862 William Dalgleish took up land at Waitepeka, and arrived in the district in 1863. He had been in the employ of Gordon Rich, a runholder at Wairuna, from 1857. On arrival he, with his family, lived for nearly twelve months in a sod whare—a simple “but and ben,” thatched with rushes and snow grass tussocks. A larger house of wattle and dab, with shingle roof, and containing four rooms (two upstairs and two down), was then built, and occupied for nearly fourteen years, when the present residence was built.

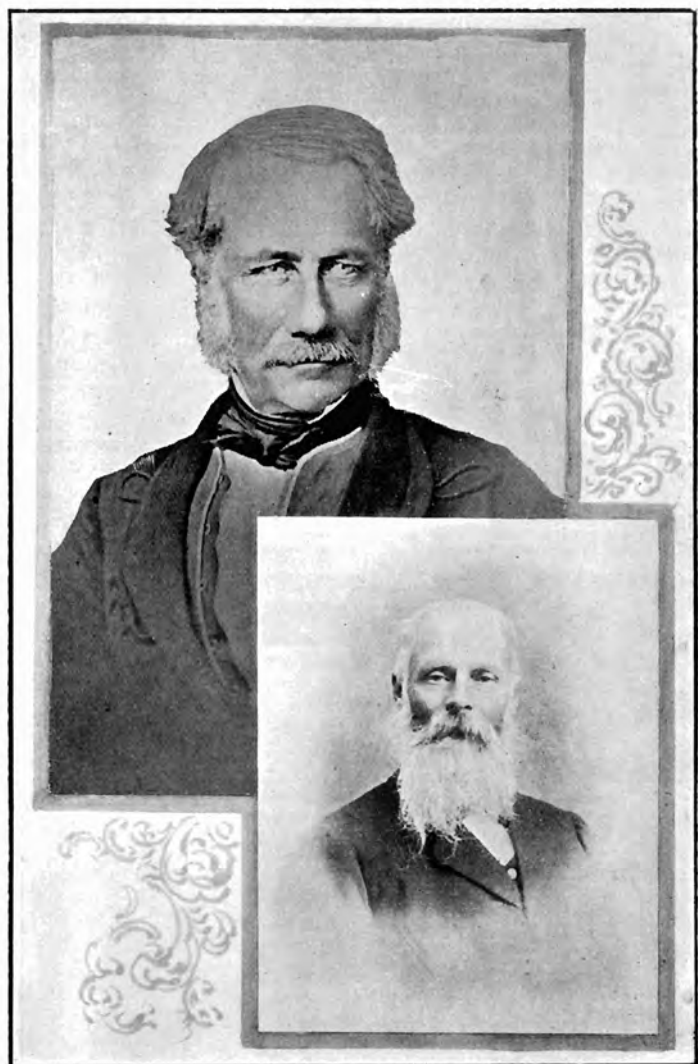
Gilfillan was a passenger by the “Blundell” in 1848, and remained in and about Dunedin, working at his trade as a carpenter, until 1862, when he shifted to Wharepa. His first purchase of land was made at £1 an acre, his farm having an area of 134 acres. He built a wool shed for Campbell at Glenfalloch, the timber having all to be carried out of the Kaihiku Bush.

Weir and Wilson had the first sawmill in the Wharepa Bush, the machinery being erected by John MacFarlane. When the project was spoken about, some of the local bushmen and pit sawyers laughed at the idea, one Hall saying that there was not enough water to drive a mill, as one cow could drink it all. Notwithstanding, a dam was

built and the mill started. So successful was it that the pit sawing was completely outclassed. Weir and Wilson worked the bush, as they thought, thoroughly out, but after they left Begg and Sheddan started another mill a little higher up the bush, and for some years did very well.

As all the timber previous to Weir and Wilson's sawmill was cut by hand, a description of pit sawing may not here be out of place. The bush was first inspected, and wherever the greatest number of trees suitable for timber was found there a pit was built. This was done by cutting a scarf into two trees about twenty feet apart and about six feet from the ground; then the end of a good-sized sapling was placed in the scarf at either end, supported by two or three forked ones let into the ground, care being taken that the forks were wider than the plates (side saplings) so that they would not split. This formed one side of the pit, the other being made in a similar fashion. Two pieces of wood were then placed across the top to hold the log. Two skids or fair-sized trees were put in position to enable the tree which was to be sawn to be rolled to the top of the pit, and stays were put between the sides of the pit to prevent its collapse. Next a suitable tree was felled, cut into lengths, the bark knocked off to make it slide on roots or other obstacles, and by the aid of blocks and tackle each length was dragged to the pit. In later years this was done by bullocks; in the very early days these were not procurable.

After the log had, by much hard work, reached the pit it was rolled up the skids on to the top, leaving about six feet underneath for the pit man to work the saw. After the log had been marked with a worsted thread soaked in charcoal and the top and bottom line got perfectly plumb, a saw seven feet long was used, one man standing on the top of the log and the other in the pit. The man on the top had the harder and more difficult part to perform, as he had not only to lift the saw for each stroke, and regulate the cut by allowing it to descend as lightly as possible from a light hand—otherwise the hooked teeth would catch and no progress be made—but he had to balance himself on the top of the log, no easy matter, especially when cutting through the side lines on the log. When the log had been cut in fitches or squares, it was easy to cut these into boards and scantling.



MAJOR RICHARDSON—1856, "*Strathmore*."

MR. W. H. S. ROBERTS—1855, "*John Phillips*."

After this digression we return to the settlers in the open country bordering the Puerua from Taylor's farm. In 1858, C. and J. Perkins took up land on both sides of the Puerua stream below Murdoch's. This was afterwards bought by Archibald Mercer, and is now owned by John Mercer. In 1863, William Morton bought his farm, and about the same time Messrs. Quertier, William McKenzie, Donald Stewart, Nathan Veitch, William Downie, J. W. Thomson, C. Hayward, William Brown, W. Harry, and James Marshall settled in the district. Morton did a good deal of work contracting, the chief roads in the district being metalled by him. John McKenzie lived for some time near the Puerua, at a small bush, still known as McKenzie's Bush. He had the first flax mill in the Waitepeka district. This mill was a two-horse power one, fitted with wooden strippers, and the flax was split into blades and not scutched as in the present method.

In addition to those who thus early settled on the land, there were a few early arrivals who were employed by the settlers, of whom some are still alive in the district. The chief of these are Mr. and Mrs. Stoddart, Mr. and Mrs. Fahey, and Mrs. Clement Grant. Others there were, no doubt, but nothing definite can be obtained about them.

Mr. and Mrs. Stoddart arrived in the colony in 1863 in the ship "Mataura." Stoddart came straight to Wharepa, where he arrived some six days before his wife. He was first employed by David Monfries, then by John Crawford, his wages being £60 a year. Other employers were James Ayson and Somerville Bros., with the latter of whom he remained for thirteen years. He states that in 1863 flour was £5 per 200lbs., sheep £1 a head, beef 1s. a pound, butter 2s. and 2s. 6d., a pound, and pork 9d.

Patrick Fahey arrived in 1864, and after landing at Dunedin walked out to Balclutha. He was first employed by Dr. Manning at £65 a year, then by Weir and Wilson at the sawmill, and afterwards for about forty years by the Somerville Bros.

Mrs. Grant, nee Catherine Hall, arrived in Dunedin with two shillings in her pocket. She gave one to her cabin mate to enable her to get her box taken to the Barracks, and used the other herself for a similar purpose. After staying three weeks in the Barracks she was engaged by Mr. Telford to go out to Clifton, her wages being £35 a year. On October 2nd, 1863, she was married, and went to live on the Carterhope Estate, where her husband

worked for Mr. Borthwick. They lived in a little hut without windows, the only light being from a hole above the door and from the wide earthen chimney. For three years they lived in this little place, when they shifted to a stone house, built on the property by George Munro. This house was first occupied by Ronald McDonald, father of Angus McDonald, the present clerk of Clutha County Council. After many years of service on the estate, Mr. and Mrs. Grant shifted to Balclutha, where they built the Coffee Palace. Mr. Grant died some years ago, when Mrs. Grant retired into private life, a respected resident of the town.

Charles Henry Kettle, at one time the Chief Surveyor for Otago, occupied all the country from the top of the Kaihiku Ranges to the Clutha River, and from the Kaihiku stream to the Waiwera stream, his run being No. 25. His homestead was built at the Kaihiku Bush, where in 1854 Messrs. Ayson built a large wool shed. It was built of rough timber and thatched with snow grass, the thatching being done by the Maoris.

Mr. Kettle was a very popular employer, and always treated his men well. He was a great breeder of merino sheep, and in 1855 had 2,000, but they were badly infected with scab. In 1854-55, Messrs. John Dalziel, James Hepburn, and Adam Sutherland were his shepherds on the Kaihiku side, while on the Molyneux side James Robertson was employed in 1857 at Totara Island.

James Robertson was a passenger by the "Southern Cross" in 1856, and, along with his eldest son, Alexander, a boy of fourteen years, was engaged by Mr. Kettle in Dunedin, Robertson's wages being £70 a year. The whole family came to Kaihiku, and after a three days' trip reached the Clutha River, where they were crossed by Robert McNeil in his father's boat. Mr. McNeil had just built a new house, and the Robertsons were the first strangers to have a meal in it. John McNeil then drove them in a bullock sledge to Corydon, Wharepa, where they stayed a few weeks before shifting to Totara Island.

Their house at the latter place was a two-roomed one, built of slabs and clay. The nearest neighbours were Mr. Maitland on the opposite side of the Molyneux, the Archibalds at Clydevale, and then the few settlers at the Kaihiku Bush. Mr. Robertson knew nothing of the destructive effects of tutu, and on one occasion drove his sheep into a deep gully for shelter. The gully was full of

tutu, and a great number of sheep were poisoned. However, on the matter being reported to Mr. Kettle, he only said that he (Robertson) was not to be blamed, as he should have been warned, but it would teach him to be more careful in the future.

On many occasions it was necessary to burn the tussocks, and one day, while Robertson was engaged lighting fires, a strong wind sprang up and drove the fire in the direction of the sheep. With very great difficulty Robertson managed to save them from being destroyed, just reaching in time the yards where the only piece of clear ground was. He got such a scare that every night afterwards he carefully scanned the horizon for any signs of fire. In those days, if a fire were lit at Popotunoa, no one knew where it would end, and stories are told of fires sweeping the whole distance from Popotunoa to the Molyneux River.

When shearing time came, all the sheep had to be driven to Kaihiku, and on such occasions Mrs. Robertson was left alone with her young family. One dark night they heard a step outside the house, and all were so frightened that, for a time, no one would move to open the door. At last Mrs. Robertson summoned up courage to do so, when, to her great surprise, their uncle, James Ayson, who had come from Tokomairiro, walked in. On another occasion they saw some Maoris coming, and the children all ran to the hills to hide. While living at Totara Island, the Robertsons felt the first earthquake shock they had experienced in the country. Sandy Robertson was sitting against the wall when he felt it move. The others then felt it, and saw the bark on the roof shake in an unmistakable manner, while Miss Robertson, who was washing the dishes, was so scared that she fainted. Robertson remained with Mr. Kettle until about 1859, when he bought land at Puerua, near the Jew's Bush.

John Dalziel arrived at Kaihiku on the 12th March, 1855, his wages being £60 a year. He worked for Mr. Kettle exactly one year, and then took up a fifty-acre section at Kaihiku Bush. He paid 10s. an acre for the land, and with two cows commenced his farming life. Grass seed was a good price, and soon he was able to buy 300 sheep, for which he paid £1 per head.

The same year (1856) John Barr came to Kaihiku from Half-way Bush and brought a mob of cattle. He

had bought a farm adjoining Dalziel, but remained only a very short time, returning to Dunedin. This same year Robert Campbell settled on the Wharepa side of the Kaihiku, at Glenfalloch. Campbell had first selected land in this quarter in 1854, but it was not till 1856 that he settled on it. The following account of Mr. Campbell's experiences is taken from his reminiscences:—"After four or five days' travelling, with numerous small adventures, I reached my destination. When I arrived I took up my abode with a couple who were not long married, and slept in the loft of their hut. I began to build at once, and the dimensions of my house were: 12ft. x 12ft., 6ft. high, windows 3ft. 8in. x 2ft. 6in., door 6ft. x 2ft. 9in., and a fireplace 4ft. high, 3ft. 6in. wide, and 2ft. deep. I cut my way into the bush to get suitable trees and built the frame according to dimensions. I cut the trees up into slabs for walls, bored holes for the wall plates, using pegs instead of nails. The roof was thatched, and I nailed small wattles over the walls inside to hold the clay. I dug a hole for the clay, and cut the tussocks rather long, so that they would be long enough to roll round the wattle. This made a good plaster. The chimney was made of the same ingredients, and I managed to get some sawn timber for the floor; and when the door and window were fixed I set off to town for my wife.

"The only way to get Mrs. Campbell out to the farm was by means of a horse, and, as our horse was broken in, we decided that she should ride. I got a side saddle from Patterson for £12, and in August, 1856, we got fairly started on our journey. We took many necessaries of life with us; also a cat and a bantam, each in a kit. We pushed on to Balclutha, where we stayed a night, and, by the end of the fourth day, we were at home at Kaihiku. We had sent our cooking utensils round by schooner, but they did not arrive for some days. Meanwhile we had to go a-borrowing. We got a small goblet from a neighbour, in which we had to cook various things—first our butcher meat, then, after washing, boil the water for our tea. We had very little furniture, and no bedstead, so I set to work and made one. After all these improvements were made, our home was really comfortable and cosy.

"I immediately fenced a paddock and began the cultivation of the land. I engaged a man to do some ploughing for me, and his charge was 20s. per day, besides which we had to feed him and the boy who drove the

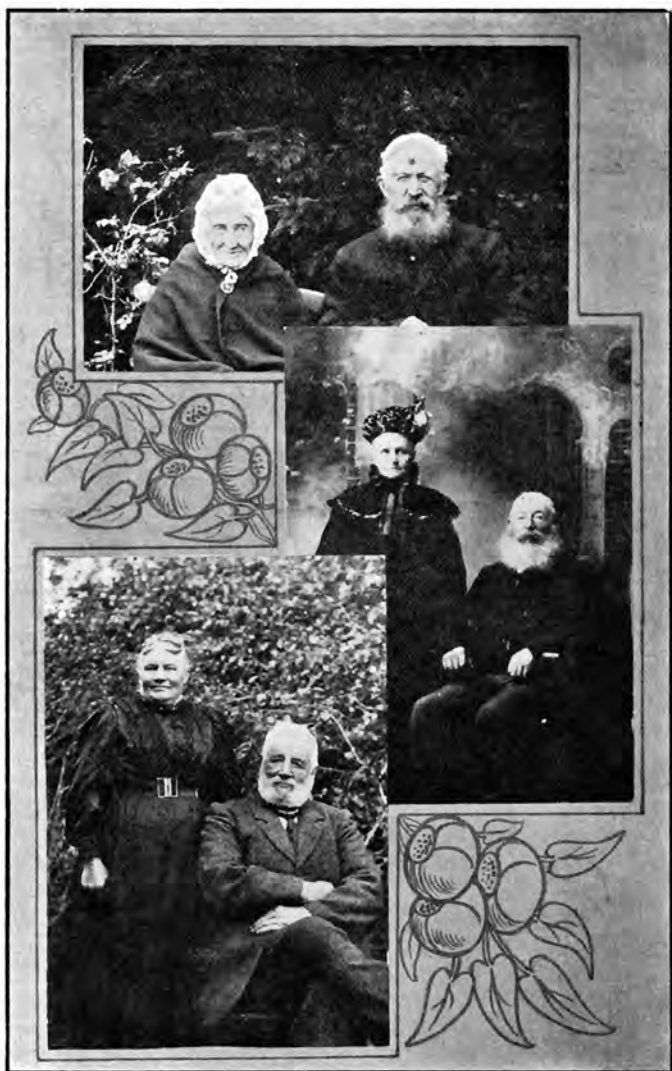
bullocks. We also had to lend him a horse to go and get the animals, which took him till after mid-day; so that, after having him five days or so, we had not three days' decent work. That work cost me £5 per acre. Before long we had a splendid garden, containing vegetables of all kinds. When the season came we sowed wheat and oats, and turned our attention to fruit trees. It was a lucky investment. They throve wonderfully, and as time went on repaid any trouble we had had with them.

"Our cattle throve well, and by and by we added sheep to our live stock. I purchased them from a man in Blueskin, went there for them, and drove them to Kaihiku. The price was 35s. per head. We added another room to our house and built a dairy. Everything throve and flourished, and as an example of our work in 1856 from January to November we churned 346½lbs. butter, and in 1857 we made 659lbs. Of course, we sold sheep and cattle besides. In 1858 our butter amounted to 812lbs., and in 1859 we had 1,117lbs. for the season."

Some years before this, Chalmers Bros. had bought part of Moa Hill, and later bought another part, but they did not settle, and the place passed through several hands, one of whom was a Mr. Healy, a Dunedin grocer, who, in 1859, secured 250 acres, and for whom William Moffat, of North-East Valley, acted as manager. Dairying was the chief occupation when the Moffats were there, butter at first selling at 1s. 6d. a pound, but soon rising to 2s. 6d. Good cows were worth anything from £12 to £20 a piece, and in 1861 rose to £27.

The Moffats remained at Moa Hill for three years, when they shifted to Dalrymple's farm at the Bush. Dalrymple had leased Kettle's place, and had 500 head of cattle running on it, some of these being very wild, especially those that had had two or three calves and had never been handled. The method of breaking in a cow was to rope her and then draw her up to the bai! with a windlass. The Moffats then took up some land for themselves, and afterwards, on Dalrymple selling out, they leased Kettle's farm from the Trustees for seven years, at the end of which term they purchased it.

Everybody had cattle in those days, but when sheep prices became high the settlers sold off their cattle and went in for sheep. Dalziel was the first of these small settlers in Kaihiku to fence off land for sheep, as he found it more profitable to sow grass and eat it off with sheep



MR. AND MRS. JAMES ROBERTSON
1856, "Southern Cross."

MR AND MRS. ALEX. PETRIE
1856, "Strathmore."

MR. AND MRS. J. W. ROBERT
1858, "Jura."

than to follow the more common style in general farming. Grass seed was an expensive item, often costing as much as 10s. per bushel, and this deterred some from beginning the new venture.

Other early settlers in Kaihiku were James Nicol, at Douglas Place, somewhere in the 'fifties; Mackie, J. Hay, John Watt, George Johnston, the first on the Kaihiku Flat, James Main, Glover, and Thomson. Most of these arrived in 1861 and 1862, and a little later D. Dickie, M. Paterson, and W. Chisholm took up selections near the railway line. Near Dalziel's place, in 1858, George McNeil took up a farm, bordering the Kaihiku stream. After his death, A. Youngson bought the farm, also acting as manager for Bews and Oswin at Wharepa.

Barr Bros. took up the Albert Downs Estate, now in possession of J. F. Ayson. Robert Sutherland, for many years a shepherd on the estate, afterwards took up a farm on the flat. In 1865, John Johnston bought 600 acres from the Government, 300 at 10s. an acre and 300 at £1 an acre. When he arrived wages were 4s. a day, beef and mutton 6d. a pound, and flour £2 for a 200lb. bag. Another settler at the Kaihiku Bush was a Mr. Meeking, the first schoolmaster in the district. He called his farm "Holborn Hill," now owned by J. W. Roberts.

Further up, towards the Waiwera, Alexander McNeil owned the Caldervan Estate. He was really the first settler in this particular locality, and went in strongly for dairying. He often made 100lbs. of butter a week, selling it at 2s 6d. per lb. Edmund Couston, now of Toiro, was his stockman, and says that the country was an ideal one for dairying, the cattle thriving extremely well on the succulent native grasses. McNeil had an immense piggery, often having as many as 200 pigs running about. The price of produce may be gauged when it is said that he once sent to the Waiwera Hotel a sledge load of bacon and butter, for which he received £100. As settlement increased, McNeil had to sell off a number of his cattle. At the sale (John McLean, auctioneer) many of the milch cows brought up to £29 each, John Watt being the purchaser to the amount of £400.

For many years the settlers in the Waiwera District were few and far between. Among the earliest were T. Blacklock (now of Oamaru), A. Peat (the first blacksmith in the district, who sold to John Edwards), R. Telford, A. Rutherford, and Girard, who started the first hotel.

George Brown was a partner of Rutherford's, and ultimately started on his own account. John Allan owned land extending from Albert's Cap to the Waiwera stream. This was called the Wharepa Estate, and was held for some time by one Wilson. Between Waiwera and Clydevale, James Wilson settled in 1859 on the Lambourne property, which is now in the hands of J. R. Mitchell. Wilson afterwards purchased the Erlstoke property at Molyneux Bay, lying from Kororo Creek along the beach, a part of which had been owned by Thomas Russell.

In 1862 the Andersons arrived from Tapanui, where Mr. Anderson had, in 1856, leased the Dalvey Station for a term from Thomas Martin. The trip to Tapanui is described by Joseph Anderson in the following words:—
“We were taken in bullock drays driven by my uncles, James and Joseph Allan, who had interests in the Glenkenich Run, afterwards owned by Captain McKenzie. We were eight days in reaching our destination. At Taieri Ferry we crossed the river in a punt, but at Clutha there was only a boat, and consequently the drays had to be unloaded and the bullocks swum across the river. As the weather was good, we did not mind the length of the journey, everything being new and very interesting to us.

“My brother John, who had gone out a few months earlier along with friends, driving cattle to stock the run, had a different experience. They had very wet weather and the streams were in high flood, so they had to swim both cattle and themselves over the Kaihiku, Waiwera, Wairuna, and Waipahi streams. At Waipahi they found a man sitting on the opposite bank, waiting patiently for the going down of the waters. This proved to be Alex. McNab, who was travelling on foot from his run on the Mataura to Dunedin. After getting across on one of the stock horses, they piloted him over, and he went on his way rejoicing.

“Tapanui at this time consisted of large runs varying in size from 25,000 to 100,000 acres. Stock had plenty of scope and did well, but the scourge of the country was the wild dogs, which caused a great deal of havoc among the sheep. Every run had its pack of dogs, bull-dogs, kangaroo dogs, or foxhounds, for hunting them. When I was a lad, two wild dogs came out of the bush close to where a young man and I were cutting rushes. The man left me to watch them and rushed off to give notice to the people at the shearing shed; but, when I was left alone, I also made off, thinking discretion was the better part

of valour. The others soon came with the pack of hounds, but the wild dogs had taken to the bush. The hounds followed, but soon returned, all but one dog, 'Bounder' by name. He was considered the best wild-dog hunter in the pack, and a few days later my uncle heard the bark of a dog at a considerable distance away. On going to the place he found 'Bounder' had bailed up a wild dog in a flax bush, so, while the other dogs kept the animal's attention, he seized it by the tail and soon had his knife in it, the pack finishing it off. After five years of this life we came to Waiwera, settling along the front of the hills, where we now reside."

As previously stated, Popotunoa, as the present Clinton was called, was held in 1853 as a run by Edwin Meredith, who in 1858 sold to Alfred D. Fuller, who again sold to Henry and Frederick Clapcott. Fuller's homestead was at the foot of a detached wooded hill, and was occupied by the manager, George Steel, and his wife. Steel was one of the first men to work on the Wairuna Estate. He arrived in Otago in 1850, and worked about North-East Valley, until in 1854 Rich engaged him to go to what was then the most distant run from Dunedin. It took the family two weeks to get there. They crossed Lake Waihola in boats, and did the rest of the journey in bullock drays. Steel, after working on the Wairuna Run for two years, and on the Popotunoa Run for one year, started the Kuriwao Accommodation House, where Clinton now is. He was one of the first, if not the very first, to cross the Wairuna stream.

The Wairuna Station held by William Gordon Rich was some three miles from Popotunoa at Wairuna. Here William Dalgleish, afterwards a resident of Puerua, was employed shepherding for about five years. Dalgleish had to milk some twenty cows, the milk being made into cheese, which was sold at 1s. per lb. The cheese press was a simple and primitive affair—a notch being cut in a tree, a large sapling was inserted in it, and heavily weighted on the outer end. This acted as a lever, and a fairly effective press was the result. Kakas were plentiful in the bush and acquired a liking for the cheese. They took every opportunity of satisfying their taste for the delicacy, much to the detriment of the cheese cloths, which were not easily obtained.

Other stations in the neighbourhood were the Kuriwao Run, west of Clinton, held by Mr. Spooner, and afterwards

by Fitzclarence Roberts, who sold to Bathgate; the Merrie Creek Run, between Popotunoa and Wairuna, held in 1855 or 1856 by a Mr. White, then by the Land Company, a Mr. Campbell being the manager for the latter; the Ota-raia Run, taken up in 1856 by T. Trumble; the Waipahi Run, also taken up in 1856 by Charles de Vere Teschemaker, who was succeeded by Harry Robison; and the Cairn Station, by one Oliver.

In 1857, Captain Francis William McKenzie took up the Conical Hills and Glenkenich Runs, while the Dalvey Run, which included the land on which the town of Tapanui was afterwards built, was leased to John Anderson and his brother-in-law, John Allan, of the Taieri.

Brooksdale was leased in 1857 by William Pinkerton, and Greenvale in the same year to C. Glendining, who was known as the British Lion. Adjoining Brooksdale were Ardmore and Spylaw, Ardmore being taken up by John S. di C. Baigrie and W. H. S. Roberts. Baigrie sold out to Roberts and left New Zealand. Roberts was succeeded by a Mr. Holmes, George Gunn, and John Herbert. Spylaw was taken up by F. B. Clapcott and sold to Teschemaker, who sub-leased it to W. H. S. Roberts, and then sold to Schlotel Bros.

Captain McKenzie was born in Ross-shire, and entered the Indian Army. On leaving the army he emigrated to New Zealand in 1856, and settled in 1858 on the Glenkenich Run. In 1863, and again in 1867, he was elected a member of the Provincial Council for the Clutha. He died on December 5th, 1892, aged sixty-four years.

Moa Flat was taken up by the Chalmers Bros., who had resided for a time in the South Molyneux District. After securing their run, they visited Victoria in search of capital and sheep. Clarke, the famous squatter and capitalist, supplied both. Two thousand young merinos were shipped on a German barque, and landed on the beach at Kororo Creek, near Port Molyneux. The sheep were boated ashore, and on one of the trips from ship to land the mate and boatswain, frightened by a roller half filling their boat in the surf, jumped overboard on the lee side, and the boat rolling sideways on them crushed both to death. The boat then righted herself and floated ashore. Not a sheep was lost, although two lives had been sacrificed through the men losing their judgment when in the surf. The unfortunate accident was witnessed by some settlers, who soon recovered the bodies, which were

buried alongside the remains of a man named Cook on a spot now marked by a brier bush.

The whole flock of sheep, minus a few that had died on the voyage was landed safely, and then a big mistake was made. Instead of moving them straight away to Moa Flat, they were kept on a small area of cleared land in the vicinity. When a move was made, they were driven in one mob and became jammed in a narrow pass, hundreds being smothered. Tutu killed many more, and finally about 1,100 sheep debouched from the bush on to the clear country about Puerua, leaving about 900 carcasses for the Maori dogs and hawks to devour. This was a calamitous start, as the young sheep had cost about £3 a head when landed in New Zealand. It is not known how many reached Moa Flat, but no doubt tutu, wild dogs, and the swampy creeks accounted for a goodly number, especially as no practical drovers or shepherds accompanied the flock en route.

Clarke carried on the Chalmers for some years, but, finding they were doing no good, came to Otago in the 'sixties and foreclosed on his stock mortgage. He sold the station to a dummy, and ultimately converted the 75,000 acres into a freehold.

One of the finest forests in Otago grew in the early days on the sides of the mountain adjoining Tapanui, but it has now disappeared, having been sawn up into timber or split up for fencing and firewood. John Patterson was the founder of the timber industry in Tapanui. He came in 1860 with Joseph Sherlaw, and cut a good deal of timber by hand in the old-fashioned saw pits. He then put up a water wheel on the banks of the Flodden Creek between Pinkerton's Bush and the Main Bush. In 1865 he removed his sawmill, improving and enlarging it considerably. The first two loads of timber were taken in bullock drays to Lawrence, the price being 20s. per 100ft. at the mill, cartage an extra.

In 1866, Swan, Brand, Smart, and McClelland started a second mill, which they sold to Mr. McColl, who again disposed of it to William McFarlane. This mill was known as the Camperdown Sawmill.

In 1864 the runholders clubbed together and arranged to give £25 each as a stipend to a minister of the Gospel, and the Rev. James Urie, of West Taieri, was asked to take charge of the district. He agreed to do so, and a comfortable manse was erected in the bush close to the

Flodden. He visited the home station of each contributor, somewhere every Sunday, until February, 1866, when, at the urgent request of the settlers, he agreed to hold service in the village of Tapanui. His first sermon there was preached in the carpenter's shop belonging to James Inglis. Mr. Urie continued his good work until April, 1871, when he passed to his rest.

In 1868 a school was established, and Mr. G. S. Neish was appointed teacher. He opened the school with only seven scholars, and from this small beginning has risen the present High School, the teacher of which is Mr. W. W. Mackie.

This briefly is a short sketch of the settlement extending from the Molyneux, including Inch-Clutha and the north side of the river, onward to Tapanui. Of course, changes in the ownership of the various runs and farms frequently took place, but it has been the effort of the writer to give as correctly as he possibly could the names of those who originally took up the land, and where that was not possible the names of those who first settled, and thanks are due to those who so kindly and courteously supplied information.

Many of the early settlers in Clutha firmly believed that, with such a river as the Molyneux close to their hand, it would be only a matter of time when a magnificent fleet of trading craft would open up to them direct communication to the outer world. Unfortunately for their beliefs, the mouth of the river was blocked by a bar, which rendered the entrance extremely dangerous. However, their hopes seemed about to be realised when the schooner "Endeavour" first entered the river, a Maori named Potiki being in charge. Other vessels of moderate draught came in, and Andrew McNeil often towed a boat with his bullocks as far as Finegand. Other boats came to where Griffiths' is now, and some went up the Puerua as far as Redpath's store. On one occasion the "Geelong" went up as far as Archibald Anderson's place at Balmoral, and took the whole family on board for a trip to Dunedin.

On January 17th, 1857, the "Endeavour" was wrecked, and on January 11th, 1861, the p.s. "Ada" was wrecked in attempting to cross the bar. Hopes fell to zero, and it was felt that the difficulties were almost insuperable.

Shortly after the first settlement in the Molyneux, the settlers had petitioned the Government to improve the entrance to the river and remove the snags which were embedded in the sides and bottom of the stream. Captain Cargill, the Superintendent of the Province, anxious to promote settlement, acceded to the request of the petitioners, and, to carry out the project, advertised a date when the Superintendent and party would be at Port Molyneux, and invited all interested to meet there to give the necessary information. Accordingly, the s.s. "Geelong," with Captain Cargill, J. T. Thomson, Chief Surveyor, and other gentlemen on board, duly arrived, got easily over the bar, and was moored at the landing-place near the township. The whistle was blown loud and long, but no one came. The party then proceeded slowly up the Koau branch of the river to Shaw's landing, a distance of some nine miles. They then went down the Matau branch to a landing-place on the Kaitangata side of the Island. After waiting for some time and blowing the whistle, they observed a man running down the riverside and waving his hat. When he reached the landing-place he asked if they would take some bags of potatoes to Dunedin. Captain Cargill replied: "We have not come for cargo. Can you give us any information about the snags in the river, and where, in times of floods, it overflows its banks?" He could not give any, so they departed, taking, however, his potatoes to market.

Some time afterwards Captain Cargill met some of the Clutha settlers in Dunedin, and gave them a severe rebuke, saying: "You have behaved foolishly and lost a golden opportunity to get something done for your district. You are loud in your appeals for help, but you will not do anything to assist the Government or help yourselves. The Government will not be justified in attempting to do any more for the district until some enterprising and energetic settlers reside among you." It was therefore many years before any further attempts were made to deal with the obstruction in the river.

After the advent of the gold diggings, however, it was considered that a lucrative trade might be established between the goldfields and Port Molyneux by having steam communication on the river. About 1863 Captain Murray agreed with the Provincial Council to put a steamer on for a subsidy of £1,400 a year. During that year he launched the stern wheeler "Tuapeka" at Port

Chalmers, and on August 11th, 1863, she was placed on the river.

On her arrival at Balclutha the residents entertained Captain Murray at a dinner, which was held in Barr's bakehouse, which had been suitably fitted up by Alex. Bain and others. Robert Robson was chairman, and called upon Mr. Telford to respond to the toast of "The Agricultural and Pastoral Interests." In responding, Mr. Telford said: "I am no speaker when the subject is such a wide one as the Agricultural and Pastoral Interests, but let me speak about sheep and I'll speak till morning."

The s.s. "Tuapeka" was able to steam as far up the river as Tuapeka Mouth, but the hopes of an inland trade were not realised, the distance between the goldfields and the river being too great. However, the boat was very useful to the settlers, so much so that, when in 1865 it was proposed to remove her, a general outcry took place. After being laid up for some little time, she was again commissioned in November, 1865, and for some years did excellent work. In 1871 another boat, the "Clutha," was launched at Pomahaka, but was not a success. A new boat, the "Balclutha," then took up the trade, the engines from the "Tuapeka" being shifted to the new boat at Port Molyneux. Other boats on the river were the "Iona," the first iron steamer, the "Matau," and the "Clyde." The "Clyde" is at present in commission, and another boat has since been put on the river to overtake the increased traffic.

The first mails from Dunedin to Clutha were carried by an Australian aboriginal, "Black Andy." He could neither read nor write, and, when he came to a settler's house, would say: "I have a letter for you, boy." The letters were then emptied and the people would take out theirs, when the rest would be re-parcelled up and directions given to Andy how to proceed to the next house.

He did the trip to Clutha on foot till about 1856, when Jock Graham offered to carry the mails on horseback for £150 per annum. For a long time the mails to the outlying districts came very irregularly, and were carried to the various post offices, sometimes by some of the settlers, at other times by regularly appointed mail carriers. John Dalziel once took the mail out to the Popotunoa district, when, to his surprise, the shepherd showed signs of fight. He thought he was in for a bad time, until they saw the mail bag, when it turned out that

they thought he was the dog tax collector, and they intended to resent his coming amongst them. Other mail carriers were R. Mills, A. Kelly, Joe Collins, H. Lewis, W. Renton, D. Cunninghame, R. Barr, J. Morton, Joe Robertson, J. Mercer, and James Johnston, who was the last to carry on the business.

So far as can be ascertained, the first Postmaster for Port Molyneux and neighbourhood was C. V. Brewer; at Puerua, Robert Christie; at Wharepa, Peter Ayson; at Kaihiku, D. Dickie; at Waiwera, W. Chisholm; and at Waitepeka, Thomas Somerville. It was difficult to get anyone to keep the offices for any lengthy period. Wharepa may be taken as a sample of the continual changes, which were as follows:—Corydon (Mr. Ayson), The Bush (W. Young), Hogg's Bridge (J. Hogg), Waitepeka (T. Somerville), Wharepa School (Mr. Ings), Wharepa Store (J. Crawford). After the railway was opened another Post Office was opened near the Wharepa Station, and was put in charge of Robert Farquhar.

The Volunteer movement early received enthusiastic support in the Clutha, the first recorded meeting to form a corps being held in the Alexandra Hotel, Port Molyneux, in 1864, when about a hundred persons were present. It was agreed to form a corps, and more than eighty young fellows signed the memorial praying for enrolment. In the same year a meeting was held at Balclutha with the same object, and from these meetings arose the first Volunteer corps in the Clutha district.

The early settlers, too, found time for various sports, and we find an account of a cricket match in 1864 at the residence of John Barr, Te Houka, between Balclutha and Kaitangata teams. The stern-wheel steamer "Tuapeka" was chartered for the occasion, and the players were accompanied by a number of friends. On their arrival the ladies and children were hospitably entertained by Mr. and Mrs. Barr, and after the game, which resulted in a win for the Clutha team on the first innings, the players and their friends were treated to a sumptuous repast of geese, ducks, turkeys, and rabbits, with other luxuries in abundance. After dinner the usual loyal toasts were honoured, and bumpers drunk to the health of Mr. and Mrs. Barr.

During the game the superior play of Dr. Gibson Smith, Hawkins, Clapcott, Twiss, and Cobden was much admired. Messrs. Dunnett and Millar acted as umpires,

with Messrs. Barr and Bain as scorers. The following are the scores made:—

KAITANGATA.—First Innings.

Twiss, lbw, b Jowett	1
G. Maitland, b Clapcott	1
J. P. Maitland, c George, b Jowett	0
W. Maitland, st Cobden, b Clapcott	4
Hunter, b Jowett	12
Dr. Smith, b Jowett	6
Dalrymple, c Barr, b Clapcott	1
Stewart, st Cobden, b Jowett	0
Pillans, st Cobden, b Clapcott	0
Latta, b Jowett	0
D. Maitland, b George	5
Leg byes	2
Byes	3
Total	35

BALCLUTHA.—First Innings.

Clapcott	5
Cobden	9
Audry, b Twiss	0
George, b G. Maitland	12
McEwen, b Twiss	2
Rattray, b G. Maitland	1
Jowett, b Twiss	0
Jeffers, lbw, b D. Maitland	0
Cormack, b Twiss	2
Dowal, b Twiss	1
Hawkins, b D. Maitland	0
Byes and leg byes	4
Wides	4
Total	40

The return match was played on the Clutha Ferry Reserve, and resulted in a win for Kaitangata by several wickets.

BALCLUTHA.

First Innings.			Second Innings.		
Cobden, b G. Maitland	37	b J. P. Maitland	0		
George, b J. P. Maitland	16	(Cobden, sub.) c G. Maitland	15		
R. Barr, c D. Maitland, b G. Maitland... ..	0	not out	0		
Jowett, run out, b G. Maitland	1	st Hunter, b D. Maitland	1		
McEwen, c Jowett, b D. Maitland	0	b J. Maitland	0		
J. Barr, run out, b J. P. Maitland	5	c Jowett	5		
Cormack, lbw, c Hunter	0	st Hunter... ..	0		
Dunnett, b D. Maitland	0	c J. Maitland	4		
Rattray, c Richardson, b J. Maitland	2	c J. Maitland	0		
Bain, not out	0	c Jowett	1		
Latta, b D. Maitland... ..	3	c J. Maitland	1		
Byes, 2; wides, 2	4	Byes, 2; wides, 6	8		
Total	68	Total	35		

KAITANGATA.

First Innings.			Second Innings.			
Hunter, c Cobden	0	b Cobden	...	3
D. Maitland, b Cobden	6	b Jowett	...	10
Richardson, b Jowett	28	b Cobden	...	10
G. H. Maitland, c and b Cobden	3	b Cobden	...	5
A. Jowett, b Cobden	0	b Cobden	...	0
J. P. Maitland, b Jowett	0			
Robson, b Cobden	1	b Jowett	...	2
W. Maitland, b Jowett	4			
J. G. Smith, b Jowett	0	not out	...	3
De Costa, b Cobden	7			
J. P. Maitland (sub. for Jeffers)	14			
Wides, 2; byes, 1	3	Wides, 1; byes, 4	...	5
			—			—
		Total	...	Total for 6 wkts.	...	38

The first recorded sports meeting at Port Molyneux was held in 1864, in front of the Alexandra Hotel, when £30 was given in prizes. A large number of people were present and a most enjoyable day was spent, the sports ending up with a grand ball held in the hotel. As to the class of sport indulged in in those times the following list of events will show:—

Quoiting.—James Mailer, 1.

Tilting.—Alex. Begg, jun, 1.

Foot Race.—George Hay, jun., 1.

Hop, Step, and Leap.—Neil Colquhoun, 1.

High Leap.—W. Hay and Mooni, 1.

Sack Race.—W. Hay, 1.

Blindfold Wheelbarrow Race.—Andrew Chapman, 1.

Long before these dates the people of Wharepa had instituted picnics at which sports were held. The Wharepa Bush, an ideal spot, was usually the rendezvous of the people. There was a natural circle in the dense bush, with a flooring of grass, and here all and sundry laid out their viands on snowy white cloths. Then the company sat down and was helped. Every one contributed to the general provision, and the biggest pots that could be requisitioned in the district were slung on poles to boil the water for the tea.

At first the sports were started for the children and juniors, but soon events for adults were added. Messrs. Gordon, Dabinett, and Crawford were the leading spirits in directing the games, while in later years Wm. Christie and others took a leading part. The fiddles were kept going, and dancing was kept up steadily on the green turf.

Everyone knew everyone, and there was a homely, hearty feeling.

When the picnics attracted strangers from all quarters, and it is said on several occasions several hundreds were present, they gradually developed into proper sports meetings. The first of these was held behind the church on a site belonging to Mrs. Christie, in the centre of the district, then in Doull's Mill Paddock at Kaihiku. As settlement increased, evening entertainments, which took the form of singing and dancing classes, lectures, and balls, came into vogue. The first dancing class in the district was held by Alfred B. Cook, early in the 'sixties, in J. Crawford's barn, the class winding up with a grand ball, tickets 10s. each. Sixpenny Readings were then started, and took so well that they were instituted in most of the surrounding districts. Lectures, too, were highly esteemed—much more so than in the present day. The earliest lecturers were the Revs. W. Bannerman and J. Waters, Robert Gillies, Major Richardson, J. W. Thomson, W. S. Mosley, and Robert Campbell.

The first Benevolent Ball in the Clutha District was held in Wharepa in Campbell's woolshed, Glenfalloch, J. Crawford being the secretary. The evening was extremely wintry, snow falling heavily, still a large number of people turned out, many being taken to the place of entertainment in tilted drays. Samuel Young says that girls were scarce, but he did his share in providing them, as he took no less than five in his dray. The proceeds of the ball, amounting to £36, were sent to the institution in Dunedin, Mr. Crawford, the secretary, being elected a Life Governor of that body. These balls were kept up year in year out till the Government took over the institution, the last being held in 1886.

In the surrounding districts social evenings were common, and helped to while away the long dreary evenings. It was long a boast that distance was no object to many enthusiasts whenever a ball was held anywhere between Popotunoa and Port Molyneux.

The first singing class was held in 1859 in John Somerville's house at the Wharepa Bush, the conductor being Thomas Somerville, and among the pupils were Misses Ayson, Young, and Messrs. Ayson, S. Young, C. Dabinett, and J. Somerville, the last of whom was the second conductor. A Mr. Todd, of Balclutha, later on conducted a class at the school, but this class was not a

very successful one. Other classes were conducted by John Reid, Robert Ayson, and David Thomas. At the first sacred concert given in the church several anthems were for the first time sung. Mr. Munro, a strong advocate of all the old Paraphrases and Psalms, expressed grave dissatisfaction at the change, saying that he could not compare the singing to anything but the yowling of dogs.

When the Provincial Council was opened in 1853, Clutha was included in Country Districts, the whole of which boasted of only 275 electors. These returned six members, one of whom was Archibald Anderson, who polled 97 votes, and who was regarded as being the Clutha representative. In 1855 the districts were slightly altered, Clutha being called the Southern District, which was entitled to two members. Mr. Anderson was again elected, and had for his colleague Mr. Shaw, of Finegand. These gentlemen walked to and from Dunedin, staying usually three weeks for the session, and paying their own expenses—a marked contrast to the present-day representatives, who have £300 a year, and are desirous of more.

In 1859 the Council increased its numbers to 25, and at the election in January, 1860, Major Richardson and D. P. Steel were elected for Clutha, which, for the first time, was created a separate constituency. It is said that when the Major and Steel addressed a meeting of the electors at Wharepa School, only about six individuals were present. The Major was the better speaker, and, standing on an old barrel, he explained Steel's views for him. Before the speech was concluded the barrel caved in, which caused considerable merriment. In 1861 Major Richardson was elected Superintendent of the Province, and his place in the Council was taken by A. F. Oswin, of Wharepa.

By 1863 Clutha became entitled to three members, and at the election on May 22nd, Messrs. Richardson, Steel, and McKenzie were elected; but in 1864 Steel resigned, and in October of that year J. W. Thomson was elected in his place by a majority of five votes, polling 62 to his opponent's 57. Mr. Thomson was elected each succeeding election until 1873, when he was defeated by Messrs. Richardson and McNeil. The representatives of the Clutha at the election of 1867 were Messrs. Thomson, Henderson,

and McKenzie, and in 1871 Messrs. Thomson and Henderson. In this year Mr. Thomson was elected a member of the House of Representatives, and was continuously re-elected until 1885, when he was defeated by Mr. Mackenzie, now the Hon. T. Mackenzie, Minister of Agriculture in the Ward Government. When Mr. Mackenzie retired to take up a position in the Home Country, Mr. Thomson was again elected; but when the elections came on in 1905, owing to failing health, he retired, and Mr. A. S. Malcolm, the present member, was elected.