

PIO PIO DAIRY FACTORY.

Laying of Foundation Stone.

Wednesday last was a gala day in the Pio Pio township, the occasion being the laying of the foundation stone of the Pio Pio Co-operative Butter Factory. Mr W. T. Jennings, M.P., made a special trip to Pio Pio in order to lay the stone. A number of Te Kuiti residents accompanied Mr Jennings, Mr Hattaway's break being filled, others driving in buggies, and a number rode out.

Shortly after arriving at Pio Pio, Mr P. O'Dwyer and his fellow directors, invited all present to sit down to an appetising lunch laid out in the dining room of Mr Hattaway's new boarding house. Full justice having been done to the many good things so kindly provided by the Pio Pio ladies, the chairman, Mr P. O'Dwyer, proposed the toast of the King, which was enthusiastically honoured. He then extended a hearty welcome to all visitors, and stated that he was delighted to see such a large gathering, which included many distinguished visitors. He was very glad to have their member with them that day, and stated that he had always found Mr Jennings ready and willing to do all he could for the settler.

Mr Jennings expressed thanks for the hearty welcome extended to him. He also wished to thank the ladies for the pleasing repast they had provided, and regretted that the ladies were not sitting round the table with them. He congratulated Mr Hattaway upon the fine boardnig house he had erected, which shewed the faith he must have in the future of the township and district. He thought it was his duty as well as pleasure to accept Mr O'Dwyer's invitation to be present that day and he assured them that he was really

PIO PIO DAIRY FACTORY.

KING COUNTRY CHRONICLE,
VOLUME IV, ISSUE 263, 28 MAY
1910, PAGE 5

Using This Item

Waitomo Investments is the copyright owner for the King Country Chronicle. You can reproduce in-copyright material from this newspaper for non-commercial use under a [Creative Commons BY-NC-SA 3.0](#)

[New Zealand licence](#). This newspaper is not available for commercial use without the consent of Waitomo Investments. For advice on reproduction of out-of-copyright material from this newspaper, please refer to the [Copyright guide](#).

he assured them that he was really glad to be with them and to meet old and new friends. Mr Jennings went on to say that his electorate was a large one to get round, containing 6414 square miles and carrying a population of 12,699. He felt he would like to be with them more often, were it not a physical impossibility. With regard to road matters, Mr Jennings said he was cognisant of the fact that what had been done in the past was not altogether satisfactory, yet large sums had been spent in his electorate. He, as their representative, had always done his best in the matter, and he fully realised that settlers were entitled to first consideration. In a new district, a complete system of roading could not be obtained in a few years and he would like those present to think and realise what had already been done. With regard to school matters and other changes he had seen in the district since he first knew it, he would inform them that when he first knew the district there were some three schools, now there were nearly 50. There was not one church, now there were churches all over the district. Again, there were very few post offices, now post offices and telephone communications were extending everywhere. Mr Jennings paid a tribute to the late Mr Baume, whom, he stated, was always a straight-out freeholder. Referring once again to road matters in his electorate, Mr Jennings asked: Has centralisation, so far as roads and bridges are concerned, been of benefit to the newly-settled districts of the North Island? Replying to his own question he said that so far as his own electorate is concerned, he unhesitatingly said it has been a detriment, and serious at that. The expense involved in correspondence, telegraphy, and interviewing has been increased five times. Then officials and offices

had been increased, which, of course, meant extra expense. That there were undoubted blemishes and blundering under the old system was well known, but with all its disadvantages it was a long way in advance of the present system. What was to be done to save the situation, so far as the Liberal and democratic opinion of this electorate was concerned? Conditions were unsettled and menacing, and it was time some rational plan was established to meet the popular demand for education, telephonic communication, better roading and bridging, and other conveniences. He did not wish to see the Government put to a greater financial strain than it could bear. If that happened then values would be destroyed. He wanted more unionism in regard to the general good, than the sectional combinations that were now going on. When he predicted in Parliament eight years ago that there was a glorious wealth of material equipment in the Rohe Potae district, he had no dream that the people could have used the advantages with such vigour and determination, and that the resources could have been developed so quickly. It has been an achievement worthy of our race, and one of which they, the pioneers, and himself as their representative, have reason to be proud. Population has spread north, south, east, and west, and new communities have been formed, upon which lawyer-constructed statutes could not bind them as to the way they should go. Were these communities to be throttled as some of them were by barriers that should have been removed long ago? A Cabinet Minister came with him to Te Kuiti, Taumarunui, Raetehi and other places three years ago. He asked him to come and hear what the people had to say as to the conditions under which they were suffering. The Minister wrote to him after the trip was over as follows:—

"In a back-block district like yours roads and Maori tenures are questions which are likely to be most prominent for many years to come, and from my experience of them I can sympathise with the settlers and understand the amount of work which it entails on yourself. I will do all I can to assist you." What will the next five years show in this great district? When he first came there were no churches, no ministers, no national or political ideals. Now, all was changing rapidly

—a new and composite civilisation has sprung up. Would it be for God and humanity?

The old order changeth, yielding place to new,
And God fulfils himself in many ways,
Lest one good custom should corrupt the world.

In conclusion, he wished to again tell them of the pleasure it gave him to be present that day and assured

them that so long as they returned him as their member, he would never go back on them. He wished the new factory every success, and stated that from experience he knew the value to the district, as well as to the individuals, of the regular factory cheques.

Mr O'Dwyer read telegrams from Mr Hitchcock, the contractor, expressing regret at his inability to be present, also from Messrs Green and Colebrook, F. Darrow, and J. Boddie Mayor of Te Kuiti, wishing the dairying industry all success.

Mr P. Tarrant proposed the health and prosperity of the "Pio Pio Dairy Factory."

Mr J. B. Young, in response to the toast of "The Visitors," stated that it gave him great pleasure to be present on such an auspicious occasion and to

think that the township was now so firmly established. He congratulated the settlers upon their enterprise in starting the dairying industry, and felt sure it would greatly enhance the prosperity of the district. He wished the factory every success and trusted it would prosper exceedingly.

Mr Shaw also spoke to the toast and stated that he was very pleased to be present. It was his first visit to Pio Pio and he was much impressed with the country he had seen, on his way out from Te Kuiti, he wished the new industry every success.

In response to the toast of the company's solicitors (Messrs Broadfoot and Finlay), Mr Finlay said he was grateful to them for the hearty manner in which they had received the toast. There had been certain difficulties to overcome in connection with the initial steps of the company's business, but he had found the work a pleasure, particularly so on account of the assistance always afforded to him by the directors. In this connection he would like to particularly mention the good work done by Messrs O'Dwyer and Bevege, and he would ask those present to toast those gentlemen, which was done, with musical honours.

Messrs O'Dwyer and Bevege returned thanks for the kind manner in which the toast had been received, each stating that all the directors had pulled well together and to all was the credit due.

Mr Elliott, in responding to the toast of "Our Guests," stated that he looked upon the ceremony that day as not only the laying of the foundation stone of the factory, but also the foundation of the prosperity of the district.

After lunch the assembled company proceeded to the site of the factory.

Mr O'Dwyer called upon Mr Jennings to lay the foundation stone.

Mr Jennings having addressed the assembly, proceeded to lay the stone. Before doing so he wished the suppliers good luck in the future and said he felt sure that under the guidance of Mr O'Dwyer, their chairman of directors, all would go well and that prosperity would attend their efforts. The stone having been declared well and truly laid, three hearty cheers were given for Mr Jennings and three more for the directors.