

The Kiwi



The Official Organ of the NEW ZEALAND SOCIETY of GREAT BRITAIN. Affiliated to: BRITISH PHILATELIC FEDERATION and to NEW ZEALAND PHILATELIC FEDERATION

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VOLUME 37 No. 6

NOVEMBER 1988

WHOLE 212

THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE HELD ON SATURDAY, 26TH NOVEMBER, 1988, AT THE Y.W.C.A. CENTRAL CLUB, 16 - 22, GREAT RUSSELL STREET, LONDON, WC1B 3LR, STARTING AT 11.00 A.M.

IT IS KIWI DAY

AND STARTS AT 11.00 A.M. WITH THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING. THE AUCTION WILL COMMENCE AT 1.45 P.M.

37TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE NEW ZEALAND SOCIETY OF GREAT BRITAIN

Notice is hereby given that the 37th Annual General Meeting of the New Zealand Society of Great Britain will be held at the Y.W.C.A. Central Club, 16 - 22, Great Russell Street, London, WC1B 3LR, on Saturday, 26th November, 1988, commencing at 11.00 a.m.

AGENDA

- 1. Minutes of the 36th Annual General Meeting.
- 2. President's Report and Review of 1988.
- 3. Financial Report from the Hon. Treasurer.
- 4. Report from the Hon. Packet Secretary.
- 5. To elect i) A President. ii) Vice-Presidents.
 - iii) A Chairman. iv) A Vice-Chairman.
 - v) An Hon. General Secretary.
 - vi) An Assistant General Secretary.
 - vii) A Packet Secretary viii) An Hon. Treasurer.
 - ix) Other Officers of the Society.
- 6. To elect a Committee.
- 7. To discuss the possibilty of producing a special edition of 'The Kiwi' to mark the Auckland 1990 Exhibition.
- 8. To discuss the proposal that the Society hold regular postal auctions.
- 9. To discuss the proposal that a charge be made for auction numbers to boost the Society's funds.
- 10. Any other business proper to the Annual General Meeting, of which due notice has been given in writing.

Nominations are invited from Members for the posts of Vice-Presidents and Treasurer, having obtained the agreement of the Member so nominated.

MARGARET FRANKCOM, HON. GENERAL SECRETARY.

EDITORIAL.

It will be obvious to readers that certain regular features are missing from this issue of 'The Kiwi'. There are no changes of Membership published, no Meeting Report, and no notification of Special Datestamps.

The primary reason for this is that the camera-ready art-work for this issue has had to be prepared and presented to the printer before 28th September, 1988, the date on which your Editor departs for a visit to New Zealand, during which Royal 100 will take place.

Thus, there is no Meeting Report as, at the time of writing, the

Meeting has yet to take place!

The other reason is, of course, the industrial action that has stopped mail being delivered. Information from contacts in New Zealand has not arrived, and Membership Changes have not been notified in time for inclusion. All these will appear in the next issue, hopefully.

Perhaps of greater importance is the status of a new variety recently offered from two sources in New Zealand. The 25 cent Queen Elizabeth 11 definitive has turned up in a totally different design from the normal, where the sash over the shoulder is plain, the normal having decorations pinned to it.

The first source states that '2 sheets (200) stamps were recently discovered in the U.S.A. and following enquiries with the New Zealand Post Office it appears that the initial supply of the new 25c definitive was supplied from the printers showing the Queen wearing a plain blue sash'.

The second source states that 'this discovery was reported to have been made in a large deceased estate lot and exists in the form of 2 full sheets of 100. Therefore the total supply available is only 200 copies worldwide. The Post Office has been notified of their existence as is customary with all new discoveries'.

Information has been sought from New Zealand Post Limited concerning the new variety. To date, this information is not to hand. In the meantime, it is suggested that the new variety should be regarded with some suspicion. It may well prove to be of the same status as the two values of the 1985 Christmas issue, which were found with the spelling mistake, 'H' missing from 'CHRISTMAS'. Along with the missing regular features, any information about the variety will be published in 'The Kiwi' as soon as possible.

A Happy Christmas and Prosperous New Year to you all.

ALLAN P. BERRY

AUTUMN STAMPEX / B.P.E.

Congratulations to the following Members who gained awards in this year's Autumn Stampex / B.P.E.:-

Bronze-Silver Medal - E.W.Leppard.

Silver Medals - J.G.Evans, R.T.E.Standing, Mrs.S.Terry.

In the Melville National Youth Stamp Competition, the following awards were made to Members:-

Bronze Medal - J.T.Hill. Silver Medal - D.J.Armitage.

Once again, our congratulations.

WEEKLY PRESS POSTCARDS

LAURIE FRANKS

In 'The Kiwi', Volume 31, pages 61 - 62, July, 1982, there is an article by the Editor on 'The Wonderland of New Zealand'. None of my 'Weekly Press' postcards have this inscription but they are part of a numbered series, with pictures each side, and different colour card each side. The number is on the address side.

FRONT			REVERSE	
No.	Colour	Picture	Colour	Picture
2	yellow	Maori Poi Dancing HB	pink	An Ancient Carved Pataka
3	pink	A Carved Window at Whakarewarewa	yellow	Fernsellers, Mamaku
4	blue	The Hongi, the Maori Greeting	grey	Prow of Maori War Canoe
7	grey	Maori Carved House, Whakarewarewa	grey	A Maori Sister and Brother
8	green	A Carved Doorway, Whakarewarewa	orange	The 'Kick the Boer'
11	yellow	A Modern Maori Warrior	pink	Children in Hot Pool
14	green	The Sunken Pah, Ohinemutu	orange	Train Descending Rimutaka Incline
17	yellow	Maori Cooking at Hot Spring, Rotorua	green	Maoris Migrating Wanganui River

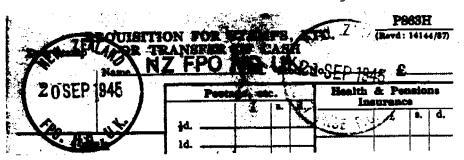
All but one of these scenes relate to Maoris. Is this a different series?

Editor's Note - Way back in 1983, our member LAWRENCE BESTOW was kind enough to report a catalogue entry that referred to the series of cards that was the subject of the original report. This reads:-

"'Weekly Press' Series No. 18. Address side depicts inset of Maggie Papakura. Correspondence side 'Kia Ora' from Whakarewarewa: The Wonderland of New Zealand (across top) with inset of Maggie guiding H.R.H. Prince of Wales (Edward Vl1)."

Following the publication of the article on this subject in 'The Kiwi', Volume 37, pages 23 and 27, ROBIN STARTUP has sent the items illustrated below. These are photocopies of genuine strikes of the circular datestamps used at this Post Office. Members will have to judge whether or not strikes in their collections are genuine.





NEW ZEALAND NATIONAL PARKS

(6) ARTHUR'S PASS NATIONAL PARK

CECIL BRISTOW

Arthur's Pass National Park is unusual in having developed from a highway and reflects to a degree the European settlers determination to find a route over the mountains from the plains of Canterbury to the coast of Westland.

There are many passes through the Southern Alps but all presented many difficulties for the early travellers. The Maori, in their search for Greenstone from Taramakau valley, preferred to use the Hurunui to the north-east of the Park. It was renamed Harper's Pass after Leonard Harper, who crossed it in 1867 under the guidance of four Maori. Harper had been preceded two months earlier by Edward Dobson, engineeer to the Canterbury Provincial Government but he had not completely traversed the pass.

It was through the Dobson family that Arthur's Pass got its name. When gold was discovered in Westland in July, 1863, there began a gold-rush from Canterbury, and Harper's Pass was crowded with caravans of diggers, pack horses and cattle to feed them. It is said that more than 4,400 cattle went over the pass in 1865-66, and this traffic brought its own difficulties.

Edward Dobson, the Canterbury engineer, had three sons, Arthur, George and Edward, and in 1864, Arthur and Edward, aged 23 and 18 respectively, set out to find some other means of crossing. They followed the Waimakariri and Minga Rivers to the Bealey River valley, which had once been the bed of a glacier. Following its upward path their barometer told them they had crossed the pass, the first white men to do so.

Over the pass they found a very precipitous descent into the long narrow gorge of the Otira River which in turn fed into the Taramakau River and on to the west coast.

Among the Dobson family it was constantly referred to as 'Arthur's Pass' in conversation. No alternative route could be found and when the senior Edward decided to put a road through the pass he named it after his son.

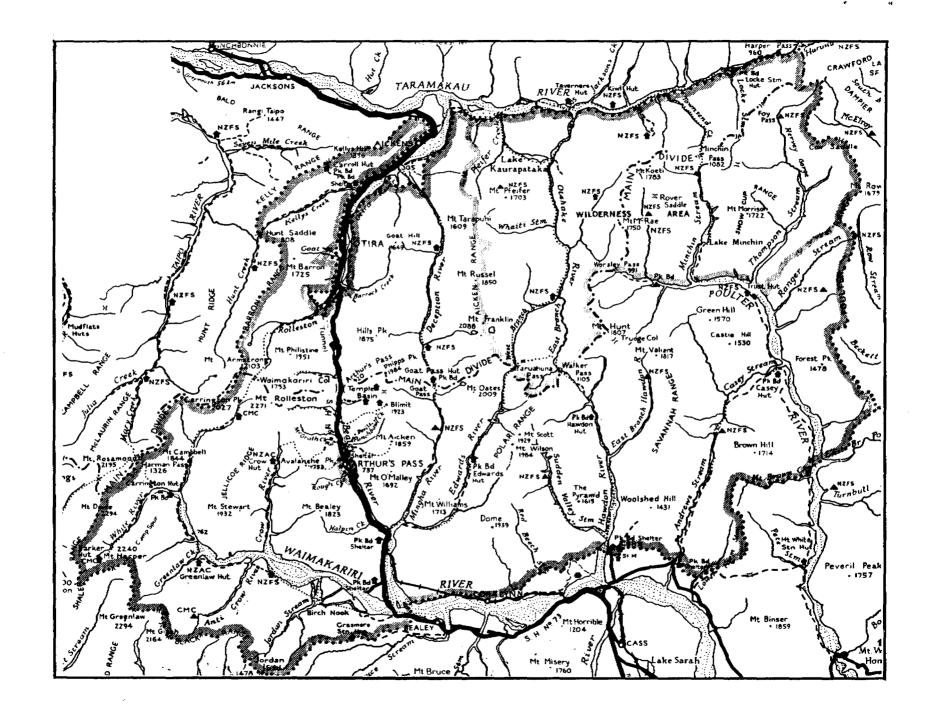
A horse track was put through in 1865 and a metalled road was completed the following year. No mean effort without machinery, only picks, shovels and wheelbarrows.

At 960 metres, it is the lowest of the many other passes and it considerably shortened the distance between Canterbury and the West Coast.

In 1866, a telegraph line was led through and to demonstrate the road's importance, 40,000 sheep and 25,000 cattle were driven through to feed the miners of Westland that year.

A railway tunnel under the pass was begun in 1908 by private enterprise but engineering and financial difficulties caused it to be handed over to the Government and it was finally completed and opened in 1923.

Building the 9.45 km tunnel was a famous engineering feat. Its accuracies were very high - the difference between calculation and final result was 91 cm for length, less than 3 cm for level and less than 2 cm for alignment. It became, at the time, the seventh longest tunnel in the world.



The opening of the tunnel brought to an end the longest-living coaching service in New Zealand, which had begun in 1866. The zig-zag which the road takes in the Otira Gorge gives a breathless ride in a modern motor car, but imagine the ride in a swaying coach with often imperfect brakes, and an inebriated driver, and wind, rain, mist or snow driving in your face, with a fast running river below!

The road and rail links drew attention to the beauty of the Southern Alps and a movement developed to preserve the magnificent scenery in the vicinity of the pass.

In 1901, the Government reserved about 7,000 hectares in the Otira Valley and 20,000 hectares in the Waimakariri Valley. In the 1920's the discoverer of the pass, now Sir Arthur Dobson, and other organisations, stepped up the pressure and the Park was formed in 1929. It was the first National Park in the South Island, now consisting of 100,000 hectares and is ranked fourth largest.

The Main Divide of the Southern Alps bisects the Park with part in Canterbury Province and part in Westland Province. Ten named peaks over 2,100 metres high and twenty over 1,800 metres lie in the Park's boundaries.

Weather is an everlasting topic of conversation at Arthur's Pass. Nearness to the main divide, and its altitude, dictates the daily pattern. The prevailing wind is westerly and has a blustery effect in the pass. Storms are frequent and intense and as much as 25 cm. of rain can fall in 24 hours on the Otira side.

Two entirely different types of vegetation exist according to which side of the divide it grows. Much damage to this vegetation

is caused by 'introduced' animals - the deer, chamois, and opossums.

The ease with which people can reach the Park has resulted in a diversified recreational role. Walking, tramping, skiing and climbing facilities are plentiful, with about 90 huts and shelters spread about the Park.

Summer brings the Park out in a blaze of colour of alpine plants, an aspect which any visitor to the Park should not miss.

The only New Zealand stamp related to Arthur's Pass National Park is the 5d. value of the First Pictorial definitives.



Following the publication of the article on these cards in 'The Kiwi', Volume 35, page 111, November, 1986, and the further note in Volume 36, page 12, January, 1987, our member JOHN HICKS has reported yet another example.

This is a further example of Type 3, sub-type (c), which is also datestamped FIELD POST OFFICE - N.Z + 29 AU 18, the same date as the example already reported.

From New Zealand, ERIC GIBBS reports another example of Type 2. This is datestamped FIELD POST OFFICE - T.59 A 11 AU 18, one day earlier than the report noted previously from the same office.

ERIC GIBBS has also sent in examples of other post cards used by the New Zealand Forces during the First World War which fall into the same category as those under discussion. Continuing the XMAS

POST CARD

ON ACTIVE SERVICE



Please post this card back. The continuance of this Parcel Scheme depends on the acknowledgments we receive from you.

(See other sad)

The Hon. Secretary

Auckland Women's Patriotic

League,

AUCKLAND,

NEW ZEALAND.

Front

DOMINION GIFT PARCELS The Federated Women's Patriotic Societies of New Zealand (PATRONESS: HER EXCELLENCY THE COUNTESS OF LIVERPOOL) DONOR AUCKLAND WOMEN'S PATRIOTIC LEAGUE Name Br. L. & Hace I have received your Parcel in good order. Address Frederick. Ct. leceved with ma Signed: Name. yord Luch. Rank. Date. Sent from Auckland (date). Clark & Matheson, Printers, Auckland.

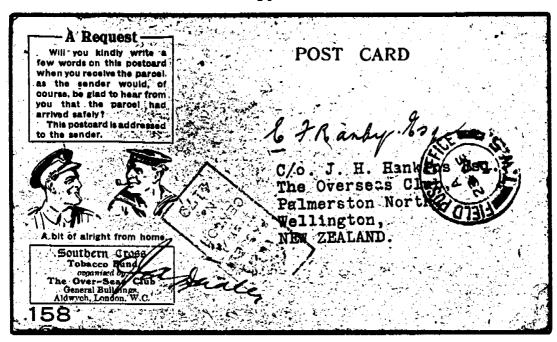
Reverse

	POST CARD.	
ON AC	TIVE SE	RVICE.
An Acknowledgment of receipt of this	MAD Elle	
Parcel would be appreciated by returning this Card.	No 7 Jan	Geland are
See other side.	1 due	bland in g

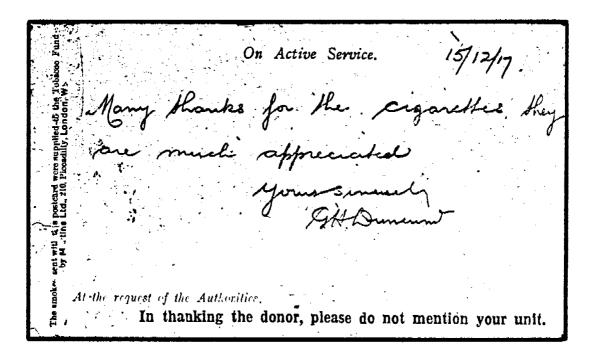
Front

KINGSLAND KN President: MRS. ELLISDON.	ITTING CIRCLE, Hon. Sec.: MRS. MIDDLETON.
MESSAGE FROM DONOR: Svoll Luck Dafe Seturn ev. Z	I have received the Parcel for- warded to me. Name O. G. Manana
53.990 BDD 445TTE	Rank Cfr. 6.

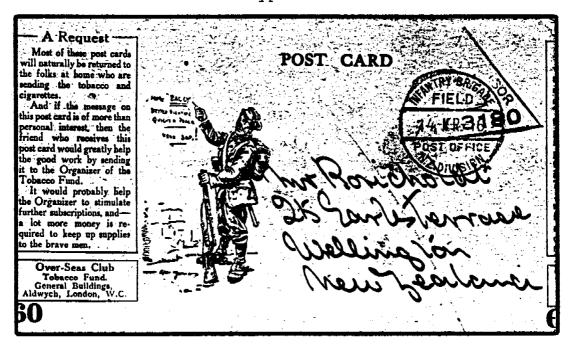
Reverse



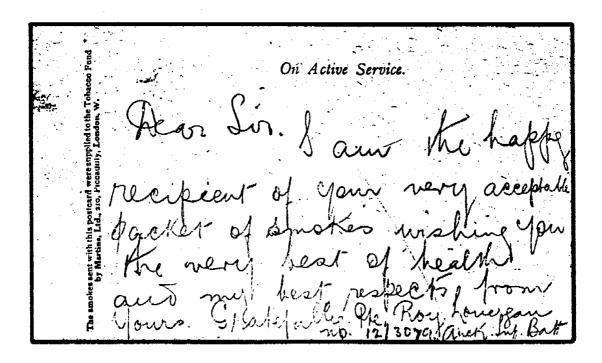
Front



Reverse



Front



Reverse

numbering sequence already started, Type 4, as illustrated, was used from

FIELD POST OFFICE - W.10 A 15 DE 17

Type 5, as illustrated, has not been cancelled, but the date that is written on the section filled in by the recipient is 24/6/18.

Type 6 clearly was produced by the Southern Cross Tobacco Fund, based in London. The particular examples that Eric Gibbs has sent are addressed to New Zealand. They are cancelled

FIELD POST OFFICE - T.W.5 A 18 DE 17

FIELD POST OFFICE - T.W.5 A 23 DE 17

Type 7 was produced by the Over-Seas Club, based in London at the same address as the Southern Cross Tobacco Fund. This example is datestamped

INFANTRY BRIGADE N.Z.DIVISION FIELD POST OFFICE 14-MR-16

and is addressed to Wellington, New Zealand. JOHN HICKS has notified another example of the same card, but this is sent to and address in London. It is cancelled

FIELD POST OFFICE - D.Z + 28 JA 17

which according to the History of the British Army Postal Service, Volume 11, 1903 - 1927, by E.B.Proud, was used by the New Zealand Divisional Headquarters from 30th September, 1916, until about 1st February, 1919.

ERIC GIBBS also sent copies of a number of other post cards that were used by the New Zealand Forces during World War 1, but while these could be used to acknowledge the receipt of gift parcels, the messages on them suggest that they were made available by various organisations in the field, such as the Y.W.C.A., for writing to next of kin and friends. It would appear that these fall outside the scope of the cards under discussion.

Further reports of these cards, particularly of different types, would be greatly appreciated.

FREE FRENCH IN NEW ZEALAND

E.W.LEPPARD

When I sent the piece illustrated in 'The Kiwi', Volume 37, page 84, September, 1988, to our Editor for possible inclusion in our journal, I had assumed that it was an obscure item from a Free French office opened in Wellington, perhaps to look after the interests of the French in the Pacific following the invasions by the Japanese. Coincidentally, our Editor was sent another example of the cachet by COLIN CAPILL, together with an article by BERTRAND SINAIS of the Academy of Postal Studies, published in L'Echo de la Timbrologie, issue 1515 of November, 1980.

I have written to Bertrand Sinais, who has given permission for the whole or part of his article to be reproduced in 'The Kiwi'. It was, of course, written in French, and a free translation of part of it now follows.

From July, 1940, hundreds of 'Committees of the Free French' or 'Committees of Charles de Gaulle' were created amongst Frenchmen

living abroad, the aim of which was to support and publicise the activities of the Free French, becoming the Fighting French in July, 1942. These Committees were most numerous in the Allied Countries, the Middle East and in North and South America. They collected money and mustered volunteers for the Free French, but their most important activity was that of propaganda, by the writing and distribution of circulars, newspapers and brochures such as 'Free France', 'France for Ever', 'France First', 'French Horizons', 'For the Free French', 'Messenger of the Free French', 'Australian Messenger', 'News of the Free French', and so on. In a certain number of capital cities and larger towns, delegations and National Committees of the Free French were active in counteracting the activities of the Ambassadors of the Vichy French State. These were present in Montreal, New York, Ottawa, Washington, San Francisco, Vancouver, Mexico, Havana, Bogota, Managua, Montevideo, Rio de Janeiro, Reykajavic, Bathurst, Freetown, Monrovia, Accra, Lagos, Leopoldville, Saint Helena, Pretoria, Johannesburg, Capetown, Durban, Dar-es-Salaam, Nairobi, Zanzibar, Addis Ababa, Cairo, Istanbul, Teheran, Jerusalem, Jeddah, Moscow, Kabul, Bombay, New Delhi, Calcutta, Perth, Sydney, Hobart and Wellington.

Committees and Delegations were answerable to the Information Commission in London, and became responsible for transmitting the news to be distributed. Whilst certainly having an official title, they did not have a postal franchise, but they often put on the back of their correspondence cachets with the Cross of Lorraine and the initials or the whole name of the leader of the Free French.

Bertrand Sinais states that he has no further information on when the office opened or closed in Wellington, but he feels that they were sustained by public subscription only. He also says that covers are more difficult to find as there were no postal relations other than clandestine ones between the Free French and Metropolitan France. They are rare and often have the merit of not having come to the attention of Philatelists.

We would be glad to hear of any further reports of Free French activity in New Zealand, or any of the other places listed, sent through our Editor.

NEW ZEALAND POST - NAPIER POST OFFICE CHANGES - 1ST AUGUST, 1988.

TONY DODD

In order to give effect to arrangements whereby the New Zealand Post at the Napier Post Office has been divided into two operational components, the following changes have been noted concerning the cancellations employed.

- A. Figures 1 to 12 inclusive. In use in the Mail Room prior to 1st August, 1988. There was also a second roller obliterator.
- B. Figures 13 to 15 inclusive, and similar. In use prior to 1st August, 1988, at the Public Counter.
- C. From 1st August, 1988, at the Process Section, formerly the Mail Room, were the following:
 - a. Five hand cancellers similar to Figure 16.

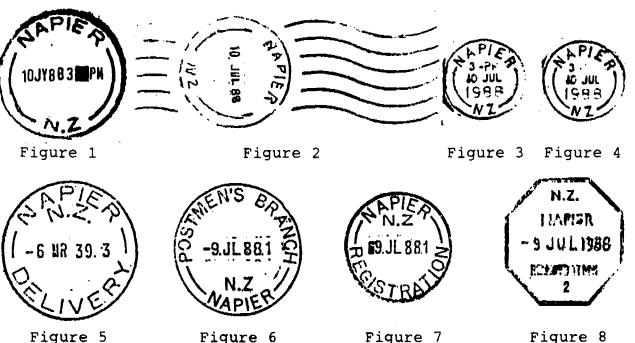
- b. Four machine cancellers similar to Figure 17.
- c. Two roller cancellers similar to Figure 18.

In addition, Figures 5 to 12 inclusive were retained from the previous stock. Figures 1 to 4 inclusive, including the second roller canceller, were returned to Wellington.

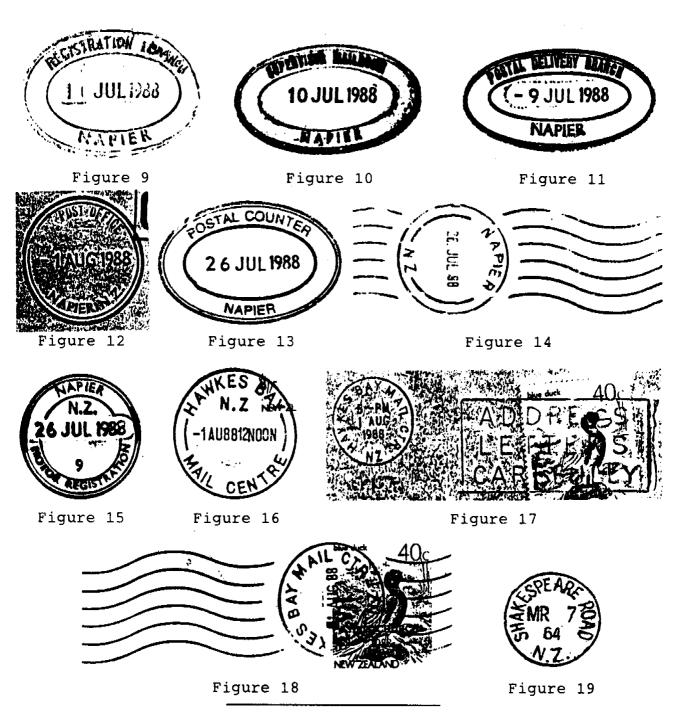
Regarding the Slogan Machine Canceller, it should be noted that the date and time dies have been retained, as well as the slogans themselves. The Hawkes Bay Mail Centre will continue in the same premises in Dalton Street, serving Napier, Hastings, Clive, Taradale, Havelock North and the surrounding rural districts.

D. From 1st August, 1988, in use at the Retail Section, formerly referred to as the Counter, there is no change from Figures 13 to 15 inclusive, as above.

It is curious how history has a habit of repeating itself, for many of the Post Offices other than the Napier Post Office are to a large extent receiving houses for the Mail Centre. On 1st October, 1859, a Receiving House was opened in the general store of Frederick Sutton at the southern end of Shakespeare Road, Napier, about 100 metres from the junction with Hastings Street. Residents could post their letters for the Napier Post Office to arrange onward despatch but they could not collect any mail. The office operated from 1st October, 1859, to 31st March, 1867, and was soon converted to a post office and then moved a short distance down into Hastings Street. From 1st April, 1867, to 30th June, 1868, another Receiving Office was listed, located in Carver's shop in Hastings Street, but this was a grocery with a letter box. A single circle circular datestamp, Figure 19, was used at the Shakespeare Road Receiving Office, with dates of use as backstamps in 1864 - examples are very scarce. No mail markings are known for the Hastings Street Receiving Office. Details of the early operations can be read in the book 'From the Bay to the Bush', by Bruce Marshall and Robin Startup.



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SEDDON NATIONAL MEMORIAL FUND

TOM LATTO

Following the publication of the article by COLIN CAPILL on the Seddon National Memorial Fund in 'The Kiwi', Volume 37, page 59 and pages 67 - 69, there is some further information that I can add, as I once lived in Eccleston, near St. Helens, where 'King Dick' was born.

The cottage where R.J.Seddon was born, on Eccleston Hill, still stands and has a commemorative plaque above the door. The school where his father was Master and his mother a teacher used to adjoin the cottage but has now been demolished.

There is a correction to the article that I would like to make. It is stated that the only inscription on the base of the Memorial is Richard John Seddon - this should read was the only inscription. Apparently in recent years a former Lancashire lad, Geoff Bate, who lives in New Zealand, raised the matter with David Lange and the New Zealand Government with the result that a further plaque was added near the base of the plinth, which reads:-

"Richard John Seddon. Born Eccleston, near St. Helens, Lancashire, England, 1845. Arrived New Zealand 1866. Member of Parliament for HOKITIKA (1879 - 1881), KUMARA (1881 - 1890), WESTLAND (1890 - 1906), Prime Minister 1893 - 1906. Died June, 1906, on board 'Oswestry Grange' while returning to New Zealand from Sydney."

Although Seddon may have been a 'difficult and unpromising pupil' I understand he served a five-year apprenticeship with Robert Daglish and Co., Engineers of St. Helens, before deciding to go to Australia.

WARTIME FREE POSTAGE

E.W.LEPPARD

In 'The Kiwi', Volume 37, page 38, March, 1988, I illustrated a cover with an article entitled 'New Zealand Expeditionary Force British Prisoner', which was passed free through the post.

WARWICK PATERSON from Auckland, New Zealand, has sent a photocopy of a similar cover, also addressed to Lt. H.M.Foreman, postmarked at Gore on 30th June, 1941, predating my cover by eighteen days. Once again, this cover has passed free of postage charges. But exceptionally, it also bears the boxed cachet 'Exempt from postage under / International Convention / regarding Treatment of / Prisoners of War.', as illustrated on page 404, type 94, in Volume 111 of the Postage Stamps of New Zealand. This cachet is more usually associated with mail sent by Internees held on Somes Island in the Wellington Harbour.

The dates of the two covers are during the period following the fall of Crete, when large numbers of New Zealanders were taken prisoner. One would therefore expect there to have been a large number of enquiries regarding Prisoners of War at that time, being sent through the High Commissioner in London to the International Red Cross in Geneva.

GEORGE BRANAM has also reported another cover addressed to the same Lt. H.M.Foreman, dated 9th July, 1941, from Auckland. This has also passed free through the post. GEORGE BRANAM writes:-

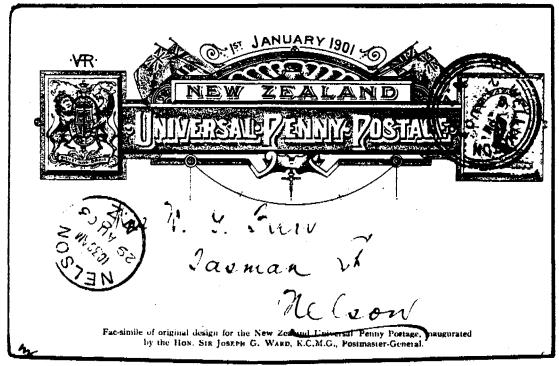
"The Geneva Convention, to which all except Japan subscribed, provided that <u>surface mail</u> to and from Prisoners of War was free of postage, and it also included the activities of organisations like the International Red Cross in pursuit of Prisoner of War business."

Regarding the Somes Island cachet, I have an example on a cover dated 17th August, 1940, addressed to the Aliens Tribunal, P.O.Box 1201, Wellington. WARWICK PATERSON's cover would suggest that this cachet was not applied at Somes Island, but probably in the Censor Department at Wellington.

It is interesting to note that the Geneva Convention permitted free postage on mail to Prisoners of War or to organisations that were concerned with Prisoner of War business. Yet I have several covers dating from October, 1941, addressed to the International Red Cross in Geneva on which the 3d. surface rate postage has been prepaid. I would like to hear from any member who has covers after August, 1941, which are addressed to the International Red Cross and have passed free through the post.

THE PENNY UNIVERSAL FACSIMILE CARD

LAURIE FRANKS



The Postal Stationery Catalogue of New Zealand, by R.D.Samuel, loose-leaf edition, states that no used copies of the Penny Universal Facsimile Card are known. In the recent edition of Part 1, reviewed in 'The Kiwi', Volume 37, page 63, July, 1988, this entry is altered to show that the card has now been reported used. It is illustrated above. It is dated 27 AU 03, addressed from Wellington to Nelson, where is was received two days later, according to the datestamp applied. I recall seeing another used copy some years ago. The Facsimile Card has on the back a tinted photograph of Ward, 'Yours faithfully' and his signature.

The identical photo but without the tint appears on a card dated 19th August, 1904. Below the photo is printed 'Hon Sir Joseph Ward Postmaster General of New Zealand'. There is no printer's imprint, and on the other side the only printing is 'Post Card'. On my copy a Penny Universal has been used for postage. The writer appears to have been a young woman writing to her friend - no political views are expressed.

This card was probably used for electioneering purposes as a General Election was coming up.

LIST OF CONTRIBUTORS TO VOLUME 37.

Very grateful thanks are due to the following:Alan Baker, Allan P. Berry, David Bignell, George Branam,
Cecil Bristow, J.W.Brodie, C.G.Capill, Ann Carter, Ian Carter,
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Robson Lowe, Warwick Paterson, Brian Pratt, G.E.C.Pratt,
Jean Robinson, Ian Samuel, Robert Samuel, Frank Scrivener,
R.M.Startup, John Watts.

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