PETONE'S
First Hundred Years

A Historical Record
of Petone's Progress
from 1840 to 1940

Compiled by a Committee of Citizens on which the Borough was represented by Councillors J. C. Burns, J. R. Gaynor and A. M. Macfarlane.

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The photography in this publication is principally the work of Mr. C. L. Jackson.
The publication of this record of the First Hundred Years of Petone's History has been delayed in order to incorporate, within its pages, the celebration of two important events—the Jubilee of the Borough and the Centennial of the Wellington Province in which Petone played an important part.

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First Bank in New Zealand.

SOMEWHERE in Petone is located the site of the first bank to be established in New Zealand—the Union Bank of Australia. Just where that site is will probably never be known, the only clue is contained in a paragraph in a copy of the New Zealand Gazette, published in May, 1840 (probably May 2nd), which reads:


E. J. Waakefield tells us that the Council House was half-a-mile from Pito-one, i.e., the pa.

The date when the bank opened is fixed by an advertisement in the New Zealand Gazette, establishing the fact that business was commenced on Tuesday, 24th March, 1846. A typical letter in the New Zealand Gazette reads, "The Bank has arrived and will relieve us from the inconvenience of barter trade."

In regard to the location, half-a-mile along the beach would give the end of Nelson Street, but it is more than likely that the bank was situated nearer Victoria Street. Elsewhere, reasons are given for believing that Clyde Terrace was somewhere in this locality. We do know that the Rev. J. Macfarlane lived in Clyde Terrace, and that a letter states that "the houses are the best in the colony."

On the arrival of the Glenbervie, by which the "bank" arrived, Captain Mein Smith was living in "a large tent," so that the building of his house must have been after the bank was established.

First Newspaper.

IN addition to having been the home of the first bank, Petone also was the home of the first newspaper in New Zealand: The New Zealand Gazette, of which the second number (the first number was issued in England) was printed in Petone, on April 18th, 1840, by Mr. Samuel Revans, the plant also arriving by the Glenbervie.

The Bay of Islands lays claim to being the site of the first bank, and also the first newspaper; but the bank which opened there did not commence till September, 1840, and the first issue of a paper in the Bay of Islands was June, 1840, some two months after the Petone paper.