

Cross Creek: 1883-1953 A School built because of the isolation of the Railway workers, as the engines had to be changed from ordinary to Fell engines to take the trains up to the Summit on the Rimutaka Incline. The weather at the mouth of a valley in a windy wet area was tough. About 12 Kilometres South from Featherston

1881

28th September 1881 Mr. Bunny, Wellington Education Board member moved that the Government be asked to give children living at Cross Creek free passes to Featherston, so that they might attend the School there. He said that if this were done it would probably obviate the necessity of erecting a school in the district named, and paying the salary of a master. PP

26th October. Another letter was read from the Government stating that they could not grant free passes to the children at Cross Creek to enable them to attend School at Featherston, as the fares were already very low PP

1883

27th June 1883 Mr. Bunny brought under the notice of the Board the fact that the residents of Cross Creek did not possess a school, and suggested that he should be empowered to make enquiries as to the cost of erecting a suitable building. This was agreed to. PP

25th July 1883 Mr. Bunny reported that he had ascertained a suitable building for a school at Cross Creek could be purchased for £80. (\$14,610.89 in June 2010.) A committee, consisting of the Chairman,

Dr. Newman and Mr. Bunny were appointed to report on the matter PP

29th August 1883 Mr. Bunny, on behalf of the committee, reported that suitable premises for a school at Cross's Creek could be purchased for £80. It was agreed to accept the offer, subject to the Government giving a title to the land. PP

2nd July Letter from Geo Ashcroft Petone Station to Railways Head Office

The children of the employees at Cross Creek about 29 in number are unable to get to any school in time

The Wellington Education Board is willing to give them a school if any suitable building can be found.

Our men are in want of a reading room where they could meet of an evening as their cottages are very small.

If you can see your way to our Department subsidising £50 the Education Department would give another £50

For £100 a very comfortable room could be built and if used for the double purpose of a reading room and school could not fail to be of service to the men and their families.

4th July 1883. Minister of public Works agrees.

1st September Chairman of Wellington Education Board to the Hon Minister of Public Works

I have this honour by direction of the Wellington Education Board to bring under your notice the application for a school at Cross Creek. Included

The board considers that in consideration of the exceptional situation of the school the Railways Department should aid the Education Department

The Board is prepared to purchase a building

Would ask that Railway Department to permit its employees to effect the necessary inside alterations

To Paint the same

Fence off the suitable piece of ground for a playground

Clearing the same give a title to the land so enclosed

All other changes hereafter will be borne by the Wellington Education Board

18th October 1883 Education Board, Wellington, 15th October, 1883. APPLICATIONS for the following appointments should be sent to me not later than Saturday, the 27th instant Master, Cross Creek School. Salaries, from. £100 to .£140, (*Valued at \$16,829.09 to \$23,560.73 in July 2011*) according to classification, PP

31st October Mr Vincent appointed to Cross Creek School PP

1884

31st January 1884 Cross Creek the Southern portion of the Featherston Riding; bounded on the North by the Featherston school District 31st January 1884 PP

24th June 1884 It was resolved that the Chairman should arrange for the immediate retirement of the teacher of Cross Creek School PP

17th December It was decided that the chairman wait on the Government with reference to granting free passes to certain pupils attending the Cross Creek School. PP

1886

25th August 1886 an application for a vote of £5 for erecting a porch at the Cross Creek School was granted. PP

1890

26th February 1890 Mrs. Allen was appointed sewing teacher at Ohariu, and Mrs. Blade to a similar position at Dreyerton. A vote of £5 was made to the Cross Creek Committee for the same purpose PP

30th April 1890 at the meeting of Cross Creek householders, the balance-sheet for the past twelve months showed that the outgoing Committee was in a financially sound position. The old Committee was re-elected, consisting of Messrs. T. Kirby, R. Hope, T. Cannon, T. Hutchens, A. Allan (fitter), A. Allan (fire-man), and M. A. Benney. Mr. Benney was re-elected chairman, secretary, and treasurer a vote of thanks was unanimously passed to the teacher, Mr .Delany, for the satisfactory manner in which the school had been conducted during the past twelve months. PP

1891

25th March 1891 The resignation of Mrs Benney, sewing teacher at Cross Creek, was accepted PP

27th May 1891 An application for new closets at Kaiwaiwai was referred to the Chairman, with power to act, as was also an application for a new chimney at Cross Creek PP

7th October 1891 The Cross Creek School has been for a week, owing to the prevalence of whooping cough amongst the Children. PP

14th December 1891. Lot Cross, of Cross Creek, died yesterday afternoon at the age of 55. A short time ago he was seized with influenza, which eventually culminated in bronchitis. Deceased was an old settler, and highly respected. He leaves a widow, but no family PP

1892

. 26th August 1892 the following appointments have been made by the Board of Education: — Head teacher at Mauriceville, Mr. John McKenzie, transferred from Mangaone. Teacher at Mangaone, Mr. Rich. Delany, transferred from Cross Creek PP

New teacher at Cross Creek, Mr. Samuel Turkington, formerly of Tenui PP

21 August 1892 Mr. Turkington, the newly - appointed teacher at Cross' Creek, asked that the residence should be enlarged. The Board decided to inform him that the request could not be granted PP

28th September 1892 No sewing teacher was appointed to the Cross Creek School, the local Committee not having sent any name for approval. Mr. Buchanan was deputed to see the Committee of Cross Creek School with reference to the selection of a suitable site for a new school. PP

26th October 1892 With regard to an application for a new school site at Cross Creek, the Chairman stated that nothing could be done until the Board heard from the Railway Commissioners, who had been asked to make over the ground to the Board. PP

1893

School erected 341 sq feet Land area 2 Acres 1 rood 28 feet. Sections 1 and 2 Block 5 Wairarapa SD

In 1897 489 Sq feet added

1957 Transferred to crown

Residence Erected 1896 6 rooms

1934 4 room house erected 750 Square feet

1957 Removed

Old House Sold in 1922 for £220

25th March 1893 the new schoolhouse (*Classroom*) recently erected at Cross Creek by Mr. Benton, of Featherston, for the Board of Education, was opened with an entertainment last night. There was a largo attendance, and the affair passed off in a very successful manner. Mr. M. Benney was in the chair, and delivered an interesting address. A varied programme was gone through, the principal contributors being Messrs. Hutchings, O'Connor, Cronin, Ingram, and Harland. Dancing took place in the intervals. PP

1894

31st January 1894 a grant for a new chimney at Cross Creek was made PP

1895

26th June 1895 The Board resolved to grant a subsidy on an amount to be raised by the Cross Creek Committee for laying on water to the local school PP

1897

31st March 1897 Mr. W. Heywood, Chairman of the Cross's Creek School Committee, attended, and pointed out the necessity for additions being made to the school and the teacher's residence. The extensions were authorised to be made, and the Inspector was requested to report as to the necessity for the appointment of a pupil teacher PP

30th June 1897 Miss Allan was appointed pupil teacher at the Cross Creek School

27th November 1897 two scholarships, in addition to those already mentioned, have been awarded by the Board of Education. One falls to Rose Waite, of the Masterton School, and the other to James Allan, of the Cross's Creek School Each is worth £35 a year for two years PP (*\$6,206.13 in June 2011 terms. A not inconsiderable sum even today*)

Mr. Samuel Turkington, Master in charge of Cross Creek Public School, who holds a D3 certificate, was born in County Down, Ireland. He was first educated at the National School, and afterwards at an Academy in Belfast, and finally in Dublin. In 1881 he married the eldest daughter of Mr. Moses Matthews, of Dromore, County Down, and sister of Dr. James Nelson Matthews, of London. They travelled through Ireland, England, and the Continent, and in 1882 sailed by the Orient Line of mail steamers via Melbourne for New Zealand. His first teaching appointment in New Zealand was at Tenui School, where he spent six years. Resigning in 1890 he entered the Otago College, and returning after two years, he was appointed to the Cross Creek School in 1893.

Cross Creek Public School —a wooden building of two rooms—has thirty-four children on the roll, the average attendance being about thirty

NZETC. Cyclopedia of NZ Wellington Provincial 1897

1898

23rd February 1898 Wellington Education Board to take legal advice as to the removal of old buildings at Cross Creek PP

27th April 1898 Mr. (Sic) Wellsted was appointed pupil teacher at Cross Creek PP

8th September Letter from Mr S Turkington Cross Creek to T R Ronayne Esq.

Sir I bring to your notice a matter that gave the commissioners before my time some trouble. At that time the average had fallen below 25 and the Board gave notice that it could no longer maintain the Creek School with the assistance of Mr Buchannan and Dr Newman having children sent here to keep the school open.

At the present time there are 18 children of The Creek on the books and three of these will leave soon with Mr Smith. So at the end of December the Board will deal with the attendance

I expect to be losing the pupil teacher at the end of next week and hope to be out of this before she goes

The roll number as at November was 49 and when I took charge 6 years ago the school roll was 34

It will be a drawback to the children of The Creek and the Summit if the teacher is withdrawn and no other appointed.

14th September. The only traffic man removed from Cross Creek during a long period is Guard Benney who has two children only.

1st December It was resolved that the carpenter do necessary repairs at Tawa Flat and to the school bridge at Cross's Creek PP

1899

2nd March 1899 The wind blew so fiercely at Cross Creek last night that the large shed in which the break vans of the "Fell " engines are housed was blown over and two of the vans were derailed PP

1st June 1899 Mr. A. Anderson, teacher of the Ballance School, and Mr. Turkington, Cross's Creek should exchange positions. PP

27th September 1899 the resignations of, Miss B. Welstead (Cross Creek), was accepted 27th September 1899

15th February Reply from Official. I regret the delay in reply- papers inadvertently mislaid. Then said nothing of importance

Later Loco Engineer Petrie has reported that he does not see he is able to report on this. It does not seem to be any part of the Departments business. It is unfortunate if the children do not get proper advantage from the Educational System

16th February Reply from Mr Ronayne General Manger to Mr S Turkington. I have the honour to inform you the desirability of maintaining the requisite number of children at the creek is fully recognised and will be considered as hard as the Government Railways Department Classification Act 1896 will permit

The delay in replying to your letters, which I reject is owing the papers being inadvertently mislaid.

13th September No appointment of a pupil teacher will be made.

Miss Welstead leaves on September 27th PP

15th September Letter from Mr Turkington to Mr Ronayne

Took charge 7 years ago and there were a lot more railway employee's children then than now

8 new houses have been built

The locals tell me that the Railways agreed to replace families leaving with children to be replaced with like

But when you have removed men with families you have replaced them with single men

The Board has declined the commissioner's request for more families

Your servants thought you might be displeased if they would write to you on this matter. So I wrote and you would consider married men when making appointments

At present there are 18 children attending in the Creek while 34 were attending in 1892

As some of these children have passed Standard 6 and 7 they are liable to leave at any time.

The people are to meet next week to consider this important matter but as they are forbidden or rather as they are direct under you they do not wish to write.

A platelayer who was sending 5 children to school was removed and a single man put in his place.

Out of the 17 houses in the Creek only 7 houses have children attending the school.

I trust you will be kindly good enough to consider the matter 28th September Mr Ronayne replies that under the Railways Classification Act of 1896 they cannot always oblige

1900

27th July Letter from Mr Hornsby MP to Mr G Shand Minister for Railways. Requesting married men be appointed to Cross Creek .This was after a letter from Mr Turkington to Mr Hornsby detailed as above

2nd August Letter from Mr Ronayne to 3 departments, Maintenance, Locomotive and Traffic requesting numbers of married or unmarried workers at Cross Creek

2nd August Mr turkington Restating the facts to Mr Hornsby and pleading further as more families with children are being removed.

11th August List of Maintenance members stationed at Cross Creek Ganger Luff wife and 6 children aged 13, 9, and 7,5,3,1.

Platelayer Butler. Wife and 3 children 3, 2, 1

Junior Platelayer Hope single. Boards

22nd August Traffic

C E Bernard Single

W J Ingram Married (none)

J Johnston Single

D Melrose Married 2, 8 and 9

W C Allan Married 3,14 ,16

A Kinross Married 3, 5

Guard Allen's children reside at Wellington with their mother.

Mr Bernard Station Master is provided with a house but Guard Johnston lodges with some other member of staff at Cross Creek Guard Allan who is married does not occupy a house but lives in a small hut. But if Johnstone or Allan were transferred and replaced by married men additional accommodation would be required.

25 Locomotive staff were listed.

1	Running Shed Foreman
4	Enginemen
8	Firemen
2	Fitters
2	Coal Men
7	Cleaner
1	Train Examiner

No houses being available a sleeping van had to be sent up for these cleaners

18th September. To Mr Ward Minister of Railways Included

There is a Mr Williamson of Hawkes Bay platelayer who was once at the summit where a single man occupies his house. His wife could not stand the Hawkes Bay climate so she is now in Upper Hutt. They have four children of school age and if at the summit

or Cross Creek they would come to this school He is asking to be sent to the Summit or Cross Creek

1901

29th August 1901 Technical education that at present the committee cannot recommend the establishment of classes in wool scouring; at Wellington or shoe-making at Cross Creek PP

1902

These long notes of life in the district are from the pen of Mr J H Kirby, teacher at Cross Creek and previously at Whakataki, bankrupted at least twice, his life in New Zealand is detailed in an appendix to the Whakataki Castlepoint notes.

FEATHERSTON AND DISTRICT NOTES.

(From an Occasional Correspondent),

The annual meeting of householders was held last week at Cross Creek to hear the report and financial statement of the retiring School Committee, and elect a new one for the ensuing year. There was a fairly good attendance, and Mr Seaton, the retiring Chairman, read his statement and " budget," both of which were satisfactory. Then came a desultory argument, mostly of a personal nature totally at variance with the work in hand. Next we were treated to volumous extracts from Acts of Parliament and references to numerous dictionaries as to the meaning of the word " permanent," it being argued that the "huts" in which the men dwell and have their being and for which they pay rent were not dwellings within the meaning of the Act and that occupiers, therefore, were not entitled to vote.

Now, in a community like the " Creek" (some 140 souls), where, with the exception of some half-a-dozen, are all children belonging to railway men, such logic as was adduced in favour of excluding these residential holders from was mere twaddle." Much heated discussion having been brought to a finish, the voting took place, when the majority of the old members were re-elected, Mr Hullan, a new resident, heading the poll. Mr Seaton was again elected Chairman, while Mr H Wilkinson was appointed Secretary. After a vote of thanks to the Chairman had been carried *neni con*, the proceedings terminated.

I regret to have to state that Mr I Gooding, who met with an accident last week, through being thrown from his horse, and who was taken to Wellington, has lost the use of one eye. Much sympathy is expressed for the young fellow. Engine-driver Kirby, one of the " old identities" here, who is at present in the Greytown Hospital, suffering from the effects of an accident, is, I am pleased to learn, progressing favourably towards recovery.

Sportsmen are having a good time of it, and even the Seventh Day is not held in much respect by knights of the trigger. A large "house-party" of shooters have been having good sport in the Wairongomai preserves. Mr A. Matthews, who is at home at present, I am happy to say, seems slightly better. He leaves for Nelson at an early date. If sheep are low in price, cattle seem to be steadily rising, if one may judge from the mobs of bovine which pass frequently, en route to Wellington, to delight the hearts of the big buyers; and the splendid condition of some of the droves I have lately seen speaks volumes for the pasturage in the Lake District.

It is to be hoped the County Council, those in whose hands the matter rests, will see their way to bridge Wilkinson's and Pigeon

Bush creeks, which are, both at this and the coming season, dangerous in the extreme to both pedestrian and vehicular traffic. I hear on all sides grumblings both loud at times, not quite classical, owing to the great jump in the price of bread. It is therefore most pleasing to record the fact that the Featherston bakers are not of the avaricious order, in that here the "staff of life" still remains the same price; nay even more, they run three times a week to Greytown to give that township the benefit of an opportunity of obtaining a cheap loaf. The weather at present is cold and raw, but just right for those inclined to follow dog and gun. WTPP

21 June 1902 FEATHERSTON AND DISTRICT.

(From an Occasional Correspondent).

A brief visit to Cross Creek proved to me that the amount of traffic passing through was certainly not on the decline. I was, however, pleased to see that the "Hotel Ward" was near completion, and that by Coronation Day the battlers of the Creek might reasonably expect to be in a home of their own, and that the "dog-kennels" will be a thing of the past. I have, for a considerable period, been using my feeble efforts for the better housing of the railway unmarried officials, and also for the improvement in the sanitary arrangements, which, up till now, have been perfectly disgraceful. Sir Joseph Ward is to be congratulated on having had these improvements put through without further delay. Our small community here has suffered a great loss, owing to the removal of engine-driver Kirby (*Not related to author*) and family to Gisborne. Mr Kirby was one of the oldest residents here, but ill-health has necessitated the change. The removal of Mr Kirby was so sudden, that the inhabitants of the "town 'Neath the hill" had not time to show their esteem and regard for himself and family in a tangible form. However, before Mrs Kirby and family left

for their new home, they were the recipients of a handsome address and testimonial. Both Mrs Kirby and Both Mrs Kirby and her daughters will be greatly missed during the coming season from the musical and social circles here. I wish them every good luck in their new home WTPP

30th October 1902 A letter was received from the Cross Creek School Committee threatening to resign in a body if an inquiry were not held into school matters there. It was decided that a sub-committee of the Board should go to the district and hold an inquiry on the 23rd November, the day before the next Board meeting WTPP

30th October 1902 It was resolved to hold an enquiry into matters 'in dispute between the master and committee at Cross's Creek on the 23rd November PP

27th November 1902 The report of the Education Board's Committee on the dispute between the committee of the Cross Creek School and the schoolmaster, was referred back to the committee, copies of the evidence taken at the enquiry to be supplied to members of the Board before next' meeting PP

1903

17th March Mr Edward G. McDougall, one of the refrigerating engineers at the Wanganui works (son of Mr J. W. McDougall, editor of the Napier Daily Telegraph) was married in Wellington yesterday afternoon to Miss Plassy Kirby (Edith Placida daughter of Mr J. H. Kirby, headmaster of the Cross Creek School). The ceremony was performed by the Rev. C. Bond. The bride was attended by her two sisters, and Mr E. McDougall was best man. WTPP

14th April 1903 We understand that a memorial has been forwarded to the Postmaster-General (through Ah , W. C. Buchanan, MHR. for the district) urging the desire of the residents of Cross Creek to have a fully equipped Post Office established in that locality. WTPP

25th May 1903 The celebration of Empire Day was carried out at the Cross Creek School in accordance with the request of the Education Board. The scholars were formed up, the flag hoisted, saluted, and three cheers loyally given for His Majesty the King. PP

Mr Wilkinson, the chairman of the Committee, made an interesting and appropriate speech, recalling the admirable career of the late Queen, and with a few remarks from the teacher the proceedings terminated WTPP

28th May 1903 Mr S. Turkington's claim for refund of his expenses in removing from Cross Creek to Ohariu was not agreed to WTPP

10th June 1903 BY HILL AND LAKE.

(By Our Cross Creek Correspondent.) ,

Two railway employee's, residents of Cross Creek (Messrs Jones and Gardiner), gave a preliminary exhibition with then- newly purchased magic lantern, in the Reading Room, on a recent Saturday evening. A modest charge of 1 shilling for admission was made, and the firm were rewarded with a bumper house, the audience being thoroughly appreciative. The views of London were especially good. Some 100 views of London, the Boer war, etc., were shown. Anyone who affords us entertainment in this region of isolation mid hard work is sure of a cordial reception, and the next exhibition of views will probably attract a still larger audience. I may mention that acetylene gas was employed, with the very best results.

The .spiritual needs of the locality are well attended to. The Rev. Mr Goodbehere, of Featherston, arranges fortnightly Wesleyan services

9

in the schoolroom, and last Sunday the Rev. Father Cahill said Mass before an excellent congregation. One cannot but be interested in the gradual development of the forces of Labour in New Zealand, and here, in the midst of probably one of the largest local sections of railway men in the colony, one is forcibly reminded of it. WTPP

15th June 1903 Writes our Cross Creek correspondent

As an intense lover of Shakespeare and an opponent of the Baconian theory, I read Dr. Findlay's admirable address with much pleasure. Let me offer my felicitations to the new Shakespearian Society, which, under such enlightened direction as it enjoys, should have a successful career. The years and the centuries roll on, but never so fast, never bringing so many changes, that Shakespeare grows old. " Time cannot wither, nor custom stale, his infinite variety."

24th June 1903

BY HILL AND LAKE.

(By Our Cross Creek Correspondent.)

My remarks about the healthfulness of this place partly amused some people, and called forth several jocular allusions to the " sanatorium of the future " though the jokers themselves say that "come to think of it, it is a healthy place." In spite of a terribly uninviting appearance (which must be confessed) the fact remains that it is really one of the healthiest places imaginable. Day after day one hears parents rejoicing at the astonishing healthiness of their children and certainly if " medical attention " is to be Ink in as the measure (in inverse ratio) of the public health, the place is absolutely free from sickness. I don't believe even a herbalist would make a day's expenses if he hawked his preparations round the settlement for a week. There are numbers of people, men, women and children, who came here n year or two ago, apparently on their last legs, who are

now aggressively healthy and only consumptive at the dinner hour. Ah I said, pure air and water are the source of this blessedness.

At the same time, the winter is horribly severe. I am bound to say, and I repeat it, that the place is a most remarkable illustration of the truth that pure air and water are prime necessities, and that, given these, life becomes a physical joy. I am inclined to suggest that an establishment should be instituted for the purpose of trying experiments in the prolongation of human life. Given active employment and regular living, and bar accidents, your Cross' Crceker should be a centenarian at least.

The place has its limitations, though, and one cannot help sympathising with the young fellows of the railway staff, who would gladly have a less salubrious atmosphere and more lively surroundings. I suppose it is a good training ground, a sort of Railway Algiers— though most of the fellows compare it with Siberia. It is rough on them, without doubt!

I should like to bring under the notice of the Minister of Railways (for whom I entertain a very high and respectful regard) the lack of a Public Hall here, and to urge upon him that his Department might provide something of the sort. He is interested in the welfare of the community, and it would contribute very considerably to their social happiness if there were a Public Hall in which friendly societies, unions, or other association's might meet; where dances, entertainments, public or amateur performances, religious services, etc., might be held. At present, the school and the library are the only available meetinghouses ; and not merely is neither quite suitable for the purposes indicated, but it is not desirable that either should be constantly used for purposes other than those for which they were put

up. More than one travelling "show" would have halted here if there had been a suitable hall.

This is by way of humble petition, on philanthropic grounds. But I have another suggestion to make to the Minister on more utilitarian lines. At this station, shunting goes on practically all night, as well as all day, and, owing to the proximity to the "Incline," the large number of engines constantly in action, and the growing volume of the goods traffic, this shunting is on a pretty big scale. And it is all done by lantern light. A stranger, spending a night here, would be almost frightened at the scene—two or three trains, half a dozen engines, all moving about into sidings and loops and over points, the men having no light to work by but that of the engine furnaces and their own lamps. And yet there is flowing through the place a rapid creek that would, I am sure, supply all the power needed for fully lighting the station by electricity. Why not add an electric lighting plant to the establishment? A similar station in America would have been so lighted long ago. The question I am confident, must sooner or later be considered, for as close settlement of the land increases, the traffic over the Rimutaka will soon treble itself. At present, the station is not merely ill-lighted—it is abominably, dangerously dark. A problem that has exercised the spiritualists for a long time past has been solved—and at Featherston we have it on the authority of the "Leader" that some days ago, a "son of the late Colonel Hume " was married, and that among those present " at the ceremony was Colonel Hume !!!

Your contemporary has surely had a remarkable experience, and one that deserves the widest publicity; for he has been privileged to record an actual case of re-appearance or re-incarnation. Of course there is just a doubt whether the Colonel was really dead, though the

well known love of accuracy that characterises the Leader forbids one entertaining any doubt. The death of Dr. Alexander Morison, of the Scotch College, Melbourne, recalls to my mind a veteran who, if he were talking of the history of Australia, might well have added "enjus magnus par fui." Half the public men and 'the gilded youth,' and the professional men of eminence in Victoria had been through his educational hands. There was no superfluous sentiment about Dr. Morison, but there was a rugged determination, an unerring commercial instinct about him. He opened the familiar institution in the golden days, and ran it persistently and consistently on pay. And pay it did handsomely. In its early days the college stood alone as a harbour of learned refuge for rich diggers' sons, and helped in no small degree to restore the social equilibrium which the bizarre life of the 'sixties had much disturbed, and to infuse learning into the community. Perhaps the most remarkable feature of Dr. Morison's regime was the superb scale on which he officered his ship. Not a strikingly able teacher himself, he was a phenomenal administrator, and a manager without equal in the Australian. He was ever on the lookout for talent, and canny enough to pay handsomely for it. And in those days there used to drift to Australia scores of young fellows from the public schools and universities, remittance-men with the birth, tastes and education of English gentlemen, and occasionally one of these discovered a hidden vein of teaching power, which, fortified with the best public school traditions, made him highly eligible for a class-room with the old doctor. His way with a tyro was peculiar. He first put him into a class-room and left him to exhibit his powers, never worrying him with vexatious discipline, and letting him alone to make his way. He would watch and listen, and if the man was competent and earnest, the doctor would be quite satisfied. "

He'll do," he would say, and close the door. From that moment till the new man's future was in his own hands. But he had to know his subject and be quite independent of book. By the way, if I am not mistaken, Mr Petrie, the Chief Inspector of Schools in Auckland, was one of Dr. Morison's protégés,

The doctor had nothing picturesque or idealistic about him, but he early recognised the commercial value of making a display on the list of "matriculated students, , ' and he was not backward in advertising his wares. Good old Dr. Bromby, of the Church of England Grammar School, who was a very pundit of learning, an Oriental scholar and cyclopedist all round, was a sucking-babe in administration compared with the principal of the famous "Scotch College." I met lately a frowsy old dead-beat who, with engaging and slightly wearisome frankness, opened his heart to me. The occasion was a request for a match, which I was able to supply, and the little flame seemed to kindle the tinder, of his reminiscences.

"Things is altered guvnor," he remarked, with a prodigious sigh, to which self-evident proposition one could make no reply. "A cove now-a-days never gets no fun travelling'. Everybody's so bloomin sober and starchy like. Yer never sees a drop o' whisky or a pack o' cards or a friendly rubber. They has a cup o' tea in the winter and lemonade and raspberry in summer. The world's getting a bloomin sight too good to live in now—blowed if it aint! "

There was a world of philosophy in this, but to pursue the subject without asking the pilgrim what he'd take to drink would have seemed to me hardly fair, and I shook hands with him fervently and left him to mourn alone over the decadence of things.

Mr Seddon has had another birthday, and there have been more demonstrations in his honour! Did ever a public man get himself so

slobbered over, and did ever public man so enjoy the process? Isn't it really becoming tiresome? WTPP

8th July 1903 Writes our correspondent:—Last week was remarkable for furious gusty winds and heavy rain. A result of the latter was a heavy landslip at the dam which interrupted the water supply of the settlement for a day or two—On Friday evening a social gathering and dance were held in the Coronation Hall. The floor had been well prepared for dancing, and about twenty couples " chased the glowing hours." The re-union was a most successful function, and made an agreeable break in the monotony of the long winter nights here. WTPP

9th July 1903 A social was held last evening in the schoolroom, Cross Creek under the auspices of the Wesleyan community of the place. The Rev. W. Godbehere," the popular Minister of the district, drew up an excellent programme consisting chiefly of musical items; and a committee of ladies prepared refreshments. There was a very large attendance of the public, and all the items were received with hearty applause, encores being frequent. The entertainment was, from first to last, a splendid success; and the hope was universally expressed that similar gatherings would be held at frequent intervals. WTPP

7th August 1903 A plea for the better lighting of Cross Creek railway station was put before the House on Wednesday, by Mr Buchanan, who urged such a step was necessary to minimise the risk of life to railway employees in shunting operations at the station. The Minister for railways said there was no more danger in outlining at, Cross Creek than at any other station. The necessary facilities were made to enable the work to be carried on at a minimum risk to the employees. As far as the General Manager knew, not a single accident had

occurred at Cross Creek that would have been prevented by lighting the yard at night. The experience of the Department was that the great percentage of shunting accidents was due to the men recklessly exposing themselves to risks which they were not expected to expose themselves to. WTPP

A most successful entertainment was held in the schoolroom, Cross Creek, on Wednesday evening, writes our correspondent. A splendid programme of varied selections was gone through with much spirit, and the audience testified the keenest delight. A few of the pupils gave recitations, and a capital orchestra rendered a number of popular and operatic airs. The second part consisted of an exhibition of views illustrative of Cooper's " Deerslayer." This portion of the entertainment was kindly given by Messrs Gardner and Jones, whose magnificent lantern, by the aid of acetylene gas, contributed materially to the success of the affair. The room was crowded, and the proceeds were devoted to the school picnic fund. Mr Wilkinson, Chairman of the School Committee presided. A couple of hours dancing brought a most enjoyable evening to a close; WTPP

17th August 1903 BY HILL AND LAKE.

(By Our Cross Creek Correspondent)

The Hon. J. Marshall, M.L.C, who paid the Creek a flying visit the other day, was one of the " Mapourika " excursionists, and enjoyed himself thoroughly. He thinks Parliament will sit on till November.

Mr Marshall's purpose in visiting the Creek was to foregather with an old and valued friend of his, our present Stationmaster (Mr Michael Millar), and to hand him a magnificently-illuminated address from the residents of Totara Flat, between Greymouth and Reefton. On Mr Millar's leaving that locality to undertake the charge of Cross Creek the residents testified their appreciation of his excellent

qualities by entertaining him at a banquet, and presenting him with a purse of sovereigns, and a silver tea and coffee service for Mrs Millar, also an address, which was subsequently engrossed and framed. The address really deserves special mention as a work of art. One does not generally pay much attention to these things, but this is uncommonly handsome. Within a delightful border of jonquils, azaleas and marguerites is apparently hung a scroll, two of the corners of which are turned up with gold edging. The address, beautifully engrossed and illuminated with much taste, sets forth the regret of the donors at losing their friend, and their earnest wishes for his future success.

The community here, I am sure, are pleased to have their own estimate of their new Station-master thus endorsed. Mr Millar is a tireless worker, and a model of activity and vigilance, as the officer in charge of Cross Creek must needs be. Long may he reign

Had some malevolent eomp. been "biding his time" to pay off an old score on Sir W. J. Steward? I saw the following the other day in a Southern paper: Sir W. Jukes—Steward on board the Mapourika—Imagine the poet's anguish I very much appreciated Mr McMorrans' thoughtful paper on educational matters, of which I read a report. One subject on which he touched interests me particularly—i.e., the teaching of history in our schools. He urges that King John's differences with the Church should receive attention. May I add a further suggestion, that the greatest lesson in this connection that the history of England teaches should be given particular prominence in any scheme of history-teaching? That lesson is that Englishmen have from the earliest days been determinedly opposed to any interference with politics on the part of Churchmen. If there is one thing that has helped to build up our constitution and make it the glorious thing it

is—a model for all time—it is this stern, unswerving refusal to allow priests or parsons to meddle with secular affairs. It would be well that colonial youth should imbibe this spirit, and shape the policy of the future in these new lands by its guidance. The English mind resists the interference of Churchmen in affairs of State—whether it is a Conclave of Cardinals or a Methodist Conference. May that healthy resentment never die I WTPP

2nd September 1903 BY HILL AND LAKE.

'By Our Cross Creek Correspondent)

The past fortnight has been a time of dullness and inactivity at the Creek This is so unusual, that it is likely to be remembered for a long while to come. Had the weather been more favourable some enjoyment might have been got out of the temporary suspension of business, but pretty nearly every day was cold and rainy. . The residents were invited on Friday evening to a pleasing entertainment in the Reading Room. Mr Card, who is engaged in some painting operations for the Railway Department, possesses a gramophone, with no fewer than 60 selections, and the working off of these filled in a couple of hours. For this the Creek cordially thanks Mr Card. Whooping cough and other ills to which childhood is heir, have kept most of the children from school during the past two or three weeks, and I suppose until the sunshine re-appears things will not mend very much. After a fortnight's spell, the word (received here on Friday), that through traffic would be resumed next day, caused quite a pleasant excitement. As soon as the mail came in to time next day, operations began in earnest; and strenuous efforts were made to dispose of the arrears of freight, hundreds of tons of which were

standing in the sidings all along the line. The loss of revenue to the Department must have been very serious.

That paragraph about the wild boar shot near Wbakataki has whetted the appetite of our local sportsmen, who are determined to bag a quarter-ton porker before long. There is plenty of game in this district—wild pigs, wild goats and rabbits, but the chase is a difficult matter, for the hills are as nearly perpendicular as possible. A big-boar story is more entertaining than a big gooseberry yarn or the snake story, and we ought to produce some respectable ones here. Young New Zealanders, accustomed to scorn the Judicial Bench dependent on the humours of a Cabinet, to hear the eminent dispensers of justice from the highest Courts of the land talked about and dissected in Parliament, can hardly conceive the sacredness that attaches to a British Judge, or the inflexible rules and solemn traditions of the Law Courts at Home. Imagine' Chancery Judge Kedewich presiding at a colonial Court

The other day a barrister appeared before him to support a motion, and the Judge, observing that he was wearing a light grey suit under his robes, said: "I cannot hear you, sir, in that costume." In vain counsel pleaded that he had just come from a journey. The Judge was adamant, and the motion had to stand over. Fancy what would have happened if the motion had been brought forward on behalf of Mr Seddon! It is appalling to think of the ruptured Ministerial blood vessels, and the flight of indignant cablegrams across the world, that would have followed.

26th September (By Our Cross Creek Correspondent) With the advent of milder weather, whooping cough, chicken-pox and such small ills are disappearing -but the recent epidemic has seriously affected the

School attendance. Several transfers in the service are spoken of. Evidently Cross Creek is a good training-ground for railway men, as all who are transferred from here obtain promotion by the move. Naturally enough, the younger men are devoutly thankful to be sent to livelier quarters, but the married men find the place has many advantages, and are not so keen on getting transferred. I think the Department might very well do a little to improve the conditions of life here, and I take leave to point out in what direction some very useful reform might be carried out. If it meets the approval of the members for Wairarapa and Masterton, perhaps they will cooperate to induce the Minister to give effect to my suggestion. In the first place, I would urge that the existing Library should have added to it a Hall, which might be handed over to the Library Committee to be let for purposes approved by them. This is much needed, and the position is central. It ought to be remembered that a number of young people are here without any source of amusement or relaxation but such as they make for themselves. Another thing that could be constructed at a very small cost is a wire bridge over the creek to give the residents access to the natural bush on the other side. This would be indeed a boon to the women and children of the place. I know departments are bowel less as a rule, but in this instance I hope the Minister of Railways will try and cultivate feelings of compassion. The State is well and faithfully served here, and it would be but fair and in accordance with the high humanitarian principles of socialism that some effort should be made to improve the lot of these exiles. Your fair correspondent, "Cambria," contributed a very pleasing column the other day, which I read with interest; but on behalf of "the true and the beautiful," I respectfully protest against her reference to Wellington as "a city by the sea." When one recalls all

that phrase conveys, and remembers Venice, or even Dunedin, one's sense of proportion is offended on seeing Wellington, decorated with such a rich rhetorical mantle. Who can pretend that Wellington has one beautiful feature about it'? Personally, I think the first glimpse one gets of the capital when entering the harbour, is supremely depressing, WTPP

5th January 1905 Our Cross Creek correspondent writes: I am rather reluctant to make any reference to railway matters here, but I think it is incumbent upon me to place on record the remarkable efficiency of the work during the holidays. The staff have been on duty night and day, and have been called upon to cope with quite an abnormal amount of traffic (there have been from eight to 12 engines working in the yard simultaneously on more than one occasion), yet so excellent has been the administration by the Station-master and the local foreman, and by loyal the service of the staff, that everything has passed off without mishaps of any kind. Several persons passing through have remarked the special difficulties that this station presents. WTPP

1904

23rd January 1904 BY HILL AND LAKE.

(From Our Cross Creek Correspondent).

Things are resuming their normal condition here, after the huge traffic of the holidays. It is satisfactory to know that, so far at least as this locality is concerned, everything went off smoothly and without accident.

A number of new books (carefully selected) have just been procured for our local library. The committee of management (who take the

keenest interest in the welfare of the institution) are very anxious that all the residents of the Creek who have not yet joined may do so forthwith. The fee of membership is small enough, goodness and the benefits are undeniable. WTPP

30th January 1904 Our Cross Creek Correspondent writes : The smoke of bush fires has hung about the valley for the last 48 hours, and last night the light of burning areas about Featherston was plainly visible. From Kaitoke came news of fiercely burning fires; and the work of the railway was much hampered, owing to the impossibility of getting goods and live stock through. Old residents of the Creek crept out of their cabins to entertain us with moving stories of the fires of earlier days when the hills were clad with bush, and trains ran through burning forests, and enginemen's eyebrows were singed as they tore along the track. And now and then these stories of those good old days gone by received confirmation from rumours that floated in to us from North and South. One such, last night, was that the platform at was " in flames." "Gam! what are ye given us?" exclaimed an unbeliever contemptuously, •• Why the platform there is concrete ! " And then somebody else said he didn't know about concrete platforms being in flames, but he knew several truck-loads of sheep had been roasted, for the smell of roast mutton was everywhere. It seemed to me the odour .was of " stuffing " rather than meat. WTPP

4th February Our Cross Creek correspondent writes ; —Fire has broken out again in the Rimutakas, to the southward. A gentle wind fanning the flames, the fire spread through the hillside bush, and soon made its appearance on the hills overlooking the Creek. About three o'clock in the afternoon of Wednesday it worked down to the side of the line, and dense volumes of smoke hung in the air, the flames

creeping gradually along to the left of the Creek. The dry grass, scrub, and rotten timber on one isolated mound-like hill were soon aflame, and after dark it presented a really beautiful appearance, which we could have admired more if it had been more remote. Fallen logs and old stumps and decaying trees were all mantled with flames from top to bottom of the elevation, which began to look by night an illuminated hill in a crowded city. The spectacle was really very fine, though one's admiration was a good deal qualified by apprehension, for it seemed as though the fire would work still further north, and if there was no actual danger, it appeared likely that there would be a disagreeable accumulation of smoke in the township. —The pressure of traffic just now is tremendous. Trains of sheep-trucks, merchandise, etc., are passing over the Incline day and night, and the rolling stock and the staff have their resources strained to the utmost. WTPP

20th February 1904 BY HILL AND LAKE.

(From our Cross Creek Correspondent)

Two subjects are under discussion in the Creek—the origin of bush fires and the Russo-Japanese war, I am bound to say we know a great deal more about the latter than the former. Now and then an outsider happens along, and declares with many strange oaths that the "sparks from the engine" are the source of trouble. And then he waves his stick wildly, as if he were threatening the Minister in person, and declares that he will bring an action against the Department for loss of stock, timber, and fencing in his particular locality. But the "sparks" theory gets no confirmation from railway men, and I fancy a litigant would find it hard to prove his case. The fate of innumerable suitors and petitioners to Parliament ought to warn off all intending "

pursuers." The line is being re-laid along the whole of the Incline. The work has, of course, to be done in sections, on Sundays when there is no traffic. It is extremely hard work too, for the centre rails and their massive sleepers are tremendously heavy. Good progress has been made. I suppose it will take two or three weeks more to complete the job, which, however, will not have to be done again for about an eighth of a century. A school picnic is to be held on the 27th inst. in the pleasant shaded paddock lent by Mr Wilkinson for the recent railway festival. The residents and some outside friends have taken the keenest interest in the affair, which, given fine weather, should prove a most successful function.

Of late the number of sheep taken over the Incline has been quite abnormal, no doubt owing to the drought. No want of water was felt here, for the mountain springs are perennial; but in the Featherston district great distress has been felt, especially by milk-vendors who have had to take their stock miles away for water.

Judging by appearances, the Railway Department will have to construct an additional siding here. The accommodation is inadequate; besides the "yard" is anything but convenient. It has a bend, and the view is obstructed by a huge tank stand, so that the work of the shunters is rather interfered with. When the moon is in her last quarter, the want of light is severely felt, but evidently there is no probability of this being remedied. The late Mr Donald Ross was well known to many in the Wairarapa, and the news of his death under such startling circumstances seems to have added a touch of tragedy to his short life. He was quite a young man of free and genial and kindly nature, a champion piper and a worshipper of Burns. After all there is no need to expend pity on anyone so suddenly cut off. The

survivors have all the suffering in most cases, and sudden death seems to me to be the most desirable.

Society (more particularly the juvenile section) in Cross Creek has been much exercised by the tantalising report of a "Ranfurly Riding Gallery " that was to have made its appearance amongst us. The name conjured up a gorgeous vision of delight, when translated into the vernacular idiom as a Merrygoround." The divine music of a mouth organ, the swift silent cyclonic procession of stately horses, glorious with warm colours, and caparisoned, fixed in showy attitudes, and of open carriages inflamed the imagination, and made the drays drag heavily and the nights wear slowly away till this peripatetic wonder should arrive. And after all, it never came !

The fire has left sad traces on the hills, and in fact even the late heavy rains have not entirely extinguished it. The hill sides are bare and blackened, and some delightful clumps of bush have been destroyed. One hardly realises the beauty of these clumps of natural bush until they have been reduced to mere charred fragments, and all the ground about them is black. The track of fire in the Australian bush is not so mournful and sombre, and does not cause you such dejection as the track of fire in the New Zealand bush. Fern, of which there is so much here, burns away so steadily and looks so utterly and finally ruined that it appeals to you and throws a shadow over your spirit. I had a letter the other day from a gentleman in New York, who said : " I cannot find out anything about the position of Cross Creek. No maps, guidebooks or any ordinary book of reference mentions it, and the carriers and transit agents don't believe there is any such a place in the wide world." This must be remedied. We must no longer dwell in obscurity ; we must be known from " Greenland's icy mountains to India's coral strand." The Railway and Tourist Departments should

take note of this, and commission me to supply them with a leaflet on the history, natural features and beauties of this little known but interesting spot. If the tourists knew the resources of our fine trout-stream, for example, there would be a rush for accommodation. But there are all sorts of things to see, all sorts of yarns to hear, and there's gold in the Creek—the Taniwha lives " close handy," and the lake is but a short way off. To reach it you go through a part of the " rest primeval."

Presumably it is quite unnecessary to remind the dear charmers, who in diaphanous blouses and monstrosity hats, relieve the tedium of the streets, that they have now entered upon Leap Year. The emancipated electress knows the privileges of her sex in matters, matrimonial as well as political. Therefore let the youth who has hardened his heart against matrimony remember that this is a year of peril for him. Artful darlings ! If one of them makes up her mind to bring down a particular bird in nine cases out of ten it comes fluttering to her feet. " Odious creatures, men ! " exclaims the haughty girl of Girton, but she doesn't forget to arrange a coquettish curl. And all the wan and drooping maids with one foot on the shelf prepare 0: a last desperate sally—a forlorn hope. To a goodly proportion every year is a " Leap Year." Let us look out for the filling up of the hitherto shrunken marriage column of the colony's papers, during 1904. WTPP

1st March School Picnic at Cross Creek

Our Cross Creek correspondent writes: —The school picnic on Saturday was an unqualified success, on an ideal camping ground—a lovely glade surrounded by luxuriant native bush, with a stream close at hand. Elaborate preparations had been made for the festival, and there was an excellent and varied programme of sports. The children mustered in force, and numbers of the parents assisted in promoting

the enjoyment of the young folks. The prizes were exceedingly well chosen, and comprised some very handsome and valuable articles. The spread provided was of a most gorgeous character, comprising quantities of excellent fruit and the most recherche products of the confectioner's art, as well as more solid nutriment for the older children and their friends. Several visitors from Wellington were on the ground, and lent their aid in carrying out the programme, the official positions being ably filled by parents and friends. Mr Wilkinson, Chairman of the School Committee, distributed the prizes at the close of the proceedings, and in doing so took occasion to thank the residents whose liberality and co-operation had enabled the pleasing function to be held, and Mr Kirby for his earnest and unwearied exertions in the direction of affairs. Three hearty cheers were given for those referred to, and the gathering dispersed, everybody thoroughly tired out with enjoyment. It is needless to particularise the local residents who assisted, for all rendered the most loyal service : but mention should be made of the outsiders who, in various ways, contributed to the success of the gathering — viz., Messrs W. C. Buchanan, M.H.R., Aitken (news agent), Allen (Cross Creek), Saunders (Featherston), I S. And W. Mackay (Wellington). These gentlemen have the warm thanks of the community and the gratification of knowing that they have assisted in securing for the children a thoroughly enjoyable outing

WTPP
31st March 1904 CROSS CREEK SCHOOL

Mr Inspector Fleming, yesterday, held the annual examination with the following results :—Standard VII, presented 1 passed 1; Standard VI., presented 1, passed 1; Standard V., presented 4, passed 3; Standard IV., presented 2, passed 2; Standard III., presented 4,

passed 4; Standard II., presented 2, passed 2; Standard I., presented 5, passed 5 ; Standard Primer, presented 9, passed 9. ,

The names of the pupils who passed standards are:—

Standard VII., Aubrey Godfrey

Standard VI., George Melrose;

Standard V., Ethel Churchouse, Eunice Taylor, May Wilkinson ;

Standard IV., Alfred Herbert Kirby, Walter Melrose ;

Standard III., Helina Godfrey, Mary Wilson, Mabel Wilson, Joseph Wills;

Standard II., Thos. Ruane, Amy Hunter;

Standard I., Dorothy Heslop, Gladys Holt, May Kinross, Julia Ruane, Keith Hunter.

WTPP

23rd April 1904 THE PASTIMES OF "THE CREEK."

(From our Cross Creek Correspondent).

The traveller passing through here, has perforce to spend five minutes or longer, which he usually devotes to stretching his legs outside while the engines are being changed, or to staring at us out of a window. I observe him daily, and the wondering stare that he bestows upon us. He doubtless wonders what we are like, and how we "put in our time," and how we exist without those elegancies and refinements that he enjoys. The Wellingtonian is even supercilious. I notice this more particularly since electric trams and Belle Vue Gardens and widened streets have made him believe his dismal-looking collection of dwellings a beautiful city.

But sometimes there happens along a citizen of the world. Our heart warms to him, and we take him to our collective bosom, and he has a good time. But the Creek is critical. A monocle, or a lisp, or the mere suggestion of affected speech, or "superior" manner, causes us to

retreat into the shell of reserve. We have our enjoyments with which "the stranger doth not." It was on a recent Sunday afternoon that I shook oil that "dull sloth" that Dr. Watts, of pious memory, and other moralists, so often castigated, but which besets one here on Sunday, and wandered forth along the lines, now so strangely silent and still. "Repose" everywhere, was the prevailing note. They are strenuous workers in the Creek and nowhere in the Colony is the day of rest better earned, or more thoroughly enjoyed. If the weather is fine, whole households turn out in holiday-trim, and negotiate the crossing of the Creek (which the projected bridge will make easy), and repair to the pretty clumps of natural bush on the Lake-road. Bikes make their appearance here, and books and papers there. One resident holds a Sunday school which many of the children attend. Sometimes a full-Hedged minister or an inspired "local preacher" holds forth to a small gathering. The wisest of the Creekers, as well as the most vigorous, stroll up the Incline, whence delightful ever-changing views may be had. Sunday is spent rationally, wholesomely and profitably. And when "comes still evening on," you may hear music from various cottages. We are strong in phonographs. One of our young men possesses a very fine phonographic apparatus, and he is enthusiast enough to keep it well up-to-date by buying the newest records. like Souza's band, the newest operas, national songs, and great soloists afford us pleasure by proxy. Sounds begin to die away about nine o'clock, and long before midnight the stillness is unbroken except by the wind or the flowing creek

All in the glory of now paint, with her masts stepped, and her rig nearly completed, stands, behind the Bachelor's "Coronation Hall," the little yacht "Waitangi," the pride and joy of her designer and builder, Jack "Stone," a conspicuously energetic railway man, and an

authority on yachting. One may compliment him upon the appearance of his little craft without hesitation. Her lines are perfect, 18ft 6 inches long, whaleboat shape, with a beam of 6 and a substantial look about her. She will be an ornament to the Lake surface. She was built by Mr Scone with a very incomplete set of apparatus and tools, and this fact makes the skill of the constructor the more apparent. She is cutter-rigged, and everybody looks forward to the "Waitangi" having a prosperous career, and wishes luck to her popular owner. She is to be launched on the Lake at an early date, but the work of getting her to the shore will not be light.

And after a close inspection of the little craft we retrace our steps, stopping to admire the premier garden of the Creek venture to bestow this title upon it, because it is facile principle among the Creek gardens. A walk round it, and a close examination yields one a great deal of pleasure and some surprise. For it is all the work of the lady of the house, whose taste and horticultural knowledge are surprising. I have not the least hesitation in saying that some results have been obtained by this lady, that are not equalled in any garden in the Wairarapa. In fuchsias alone there is an endless variety of shades, and altogether uncommon sized flowers; and their bloom is more remarkable than anything. I have never seen fuchsias brought to such perfection of size and bloom. The training and nurture of all the plants are quite exceptional. And the vegetable garden is equally creditable. There are several gardens in the Creek that reflect credit upon their owners; but this is easily first—the very model centre of the gardening industry. Is it not Bacon who says that "Gardening is the purest of human pleasures"? Certainly, such a garden as this is calculated to enhance one's respect for the pastime. Asking the indefatigable lady-gardener whether she does not sometimes exhibit

blooms at the Shows, she replies with a very natural sense of injury that she has had one experience of Flower Shows, and that has sufficed. She once exhibited some blooms at a show further North, and though her flowers were quite the best, the judges, in their wisdom, ruled that they were disqualified, as they had evidently been "bought for the occasion from some nursery ! " This kindled the enthusiastic and indefatigable lady's indignation, and she registered a vow never again to run the risk of such an unmerited insult, and certainly I think she has some justification for her resolve.

But behold on the other side of the Creek on this fine Sunday, there are mushrooming parties enjoying the beauty and freshness of the day. And thus pleasantly passes Sunday in Cross Creek. WTPP

28th April 1904 The Cross Creek School Committee consists of the following : —Messrs H. C. Wilkinson (chairman), Bryan, Allen, Veitch, Godfrey, Gordon, and Hunter. WTPP

All these correspondent pieces are written by Mr J H Kirby an ex newspaper correspondent. To follow his life in new Zealand see Whakataki review

5th September Letter to Sir Joseph Ward. from Mr Kirby
Roll is 38

Average attendance depending on the season from 28 to 33

This is just a little lower than a pupil teacher is allowed

The special character of this school should allow for a pupil teacher to be added

A rather unusual number of very young children besides 7 standards and of course the school monitor

As the children all belong to railway employees it occurred to me that you might come to our assistance with the Department making up the small difference

I may add that my results and my relations with the people are of the best and I am personally as well as professionally gracious to see the school assisted in this way.

5th September 1904 Cover letter to Mr Hogg MP from Mr Kirby. Will you be so kind as to peruse the enclosed letter and hand it to Sir Joseph Ward (if he mentions the matter) corroborate as may confidently do, my statements. I have a slim idea that he will listen to this very reasonable suggestion

I hope you are keeping fit under the strain of office and with your kind regards J H Kirby

10th October. A strong letter from Mr Ronayne to Minister stating don't start giving these sort of subsidies

10th October. Letter from NZR approving use of their carpenter to attend to repairs of Cross Creek School.

17th Letter to NZR Engineer from NZR head office , stating that Wellington Education Board would have to pay for carpenter

1905

1st March 1905 CROSS CREEK.

(From Our Own Correspondent). The annual picnic of the Cross Creek School was held on 26th inst., on the splendid ground kindly lent for the occasion by Mr H. C. Wilkinson, Chairman of the

Committee. There was a full muster of scholars and a very large attendance of parents and friends, besides several visitors from outlying districts. Sumptuous repasts were prepared, and an excellent programme of sports was carried out with much spirit. At the conclusion of the sports a large number of valuable prizes- were distributed. The weather throughout was delightful. The parents and other residents of the Creek had contributed readily and generously towards the picnic fund, and several outsiders, notably Mr Buchanan, M.H.R., Messrs Vincent Allan, Saunders and Te Aro House, assisted in promoting the affair, which was a genuine success throughout. During the afternoon the clever artist whose recent " Incline " picture was referred to in your columns a few days ago, " took " the school children in a group. A picnic of the railway employees at Cross Creek, to take place at an early date, is projected. WTPP

20th March 1905 (From Our Cross Creek Correspondent.)

The annual picnic of the railway employees of Cross Creek was held yesterday, on the fine property of Mr H. E. Wilkinson (Chairman of the School Committee) who, with his usual kindness, placed a most suitable paddock at the service of the Picnic Committee. Contrary to many gloomy predictions, the weather was all that could be desired, and the Sports and Ground Committees had laid out the course and prepared everything for the carrying out of the programme, and the comfort of visitors. Marquees, seats and booths, gave the place a most animated appearance, and the supply of creature comforts was practically inexhaustible. A number of ladies afforded the Committee most valuable assistance, and the popular cup of tea from their hands was really refreshing and fragrant. A contingent of visitors came in by, coach from Carterton and another from Featherston, while equipages, from wagonette to bike, brought in friends from all parts.

21

A varied programme of sports was gone through, and a number of valuable prizes were handed to successive winners. The picnic was from first to last a thorough success, and the completeness of the arrangements reflected the utmost credit upon the promoters. When the afternoon drew on towards evening, the holiday-makers reluctantly dispersed, and it was the unanimous verdict that no more successful function had ever been held in connection with the Creek. I may add that I have never seen any gatherings anywhere that were marked by more harmony or genuine hilarity than those which are occasionally held by the Creek, community. From the peculiar circumstances of the Creek people, their opportunities-for festivity are few and far between, and when they present themselves they are taken advantage of in right good style. The number of people on the grounds was fully 200. WTPP

28th March Cross Creek

[Special to Daily Times)

The School Committee met on Friday evening, 24th inst., and passed several accounts and prepared an estimate of repairs needed to the teacher's residence. The balance-sheet of the School picnic fund was submitted, and a vote of thanks passed to Mr Kirby (*Article written by Mr Kirby*) for his successful conduct of the gathering.

The Railway Picnic Committee met in the Liberal Hall, on Sunday afternoon, and it was found, after all accounts had been paid, that a small balance to credit remained in the hands of the treasurer. The opinion was unanimously expressed that the affair had been highly successful. Considerable indignation was expressed at some unwarrantable comments that had been made in certain quarters on the holding of the picnic on Sunday, and particularly at the disgraceful personalities which had appeared in a certain newspaper,

and the following resolution was ordered to be minuted, on the motion of Mr Lewin, seconded by Mr E Bull, " This Committee regrets that exception has been taken in some quarters to the holding of the picnic on Sunday, and desires to place on record the fact that the gathering was necessarily held on Sunday owing to the special conditions of the railway service; that the picnic was in every way successful, and- that nothing in connection with it called for any such gratuitous comment."

I may add that intense indignation is felt in the Creek at the scandalous and untrue statements that have been made, and at the libellous and defamatory references to individuals, and it is much regretted that outside interference should have thrown even a passing cloud over one of the pleasantist gatherings ever held in the Creek. In fact, it was proposed to hold another Sunday picnic by way of reply to the objectors, and this would undoubtedly be done if the season were not so far advanced, and members unable at so short notice to undertake the work required in connection with these outings. It is understood that a mighty locomotive is shortly to be placed in commission here to work the Incline, and the wildest rumours are afloat as to its size and power. Already it has been represented to me as equal to three Fells, and if it does not come to light soon it will grow, in the popular imagination, to dimensions. At present it is a " whopper," and grows bigger.

Already the country is beginning to put on "sober livery,"—the days are drawing in, and summer, which has been all too brief and unsettled this year, is fading. There is a perceptibly "nipping and, an eager air" in the early mornings, and the seven o'clock evening train that has hitherto been arriving in broad daylight now comes down the Incline through the shadows. This must have been an excellent year

for stock, for feed has been remarkably plentiful. I mentioned this casually to a droverlike person, who sat beside me in a railway. He answered me with a gloomy and hollow voice: "Ho ! I couldn't say. There's been a lot of feed, but Lord it's been too watery. Here was a pessimist in humble life. After all, most of the happiness or misery of life has its origin in one's temperament WTPP

18th May A request was also made to the Hon. Sir Joseph Ward that, for the convenience of school teachers and pupils, a carriage be attached to. the, evening train from Wellington to Masterton..', Mr, Ward said he would make enquiry, and the request would be acceded to if possible. WTPP

27th May 1905 Monthly Meeting.

It was reported by the Works and Finance Committee that the following tenders among others had been accepted since last Board meeting:- £_3 4s 6d-;Cross Creek residence (W 'Benton), £37 10s; Cross Creek (F. : Benton), WTPP

27th October 1905 At the teacher's request (writes our Cross Creek correspondent): the School Committee intend erecting permanent seating accommodation in the spacious grounds surrounding the school,, in order that during the summer months, class work may be conducted at times- in the open air. WTPP

1906

25th July 1906 ENTERTAINMENT.

(From Our Cross Creek Correspondent) A most enjoyable re-union took place on Monday evening, in the school, comprising a musical and literary entertainment lasting exactly an hour ; a children's

festival, lasting another hour; and a dance, which was kept up till just after eleven. The entertainment consisted of songs, choruses and recitations by the pupils, and a Shakespearean Scene, in which some young amateurs of the Creek took part. The orchestral accompaniment was supplied by Mrs Jones (who presided at the organ), and Messrs Godfrey (violin) and A. Bryan (banjo). All the items were received with demonstrative applause, and the whole affair went off most successfully, the schoolroom being crowded. Subsequently, the children were invited into a class-room, where a most inviting repast audited them; and their wants were attended to by Mrs Wilson, who very kindly volunteered to superintend the arrangement. When the youngsters had thoroughly enjoyed themselves, the large room was cleared for dancing, and the remainder of the evening was spent in social enjoyment.

The residents contributed with characteristic liberality to the organisation of the combined function; and, with equally characteristic heartiness, they entered into the spirit of it, so that success was assured. One special proof of considerateness and loyalty was afforded by the Permanent Way Staff, who, without being asked and without saying a word of their intention, placed lamps at intervals along the path and across the bridge, so that although the night was dark and rainy, those who were present were enabled to make their way in security towards the school. For this considerate act, the Creek generally, and the school in particular, heartily thank them. The hope was universally expressed that similar entertainments would be given in the near future. WTPP

1907

3rd December 1907 SCHOOL EXCURSION.

TRIP TO WONDERLAND.

(From Our Cross Creek Correspondent.)

In pursuance of the School Committee's object in holding two recent entertainments, the proceeds (amounting to a substantial sum) were devoted to giving the children an outing on Friday last, and owing to excellent management the affair was an unqualified success. Mr Jas. Churchouse, Chairman of the Committee, took the entire burden of the arrangements upon himself, and the result was a record day of enjoyment for all. "Wonderland," was selected as the place where the youngsters would get the maximum amount of enjoyment, combined with an entire and diverting change of scene. The Railway Department granted the use of a special car at a nominal fare for each excursionist, and a special electric car was engaged to convey the party from the Wellington railway station, to Miramar. This portion of the proceedings was in itself a journey of delight. At "Wonderland" the officials received the visitors with the utmost kindness, and did everything possible to promote their enjoyment. The kindly interest taken in the youngsters by the two clowns, not less than the wonderful acrobatic feats of those versatile gentlemen, will be long remembered by all. Katzenjammer Castle, the Laughing Gallery, and other mysteries were explored with delight; and the trial of the waterchute was a delirium of joy. Probably no party of visitors to this arena of marvels ever enjoyed the visit more thoroughly. Outbursts of hearty laughter and gay romping filled in two of the pleasantest hours of the young lives, and it was a delighted party that betook itself homeward by the four o'clock train that

evening. I understand the Cross Creek School is the first Wellington country school that has so far paid a collective visit to "Wonderland," and the example should be followed by others. The Committee and parents who assisted in looking after the youngsters and providing for their comfort deserve the thanks of the community for their efforts, to which much of the remarkable success of the outing is certainly due. Not the least among the delights of the day was the abundant commissariat provided by the caterer, to which it need hardly be said the youngsters did full justice. _ The superiority of such a trip as this to a local picnic was amply demonstrated, and I have no doubt Friday's outing will be the forerunner of many excursions WTPP

1908

24th January 1908 Cross Creek Correspondent

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

The close of Anniversary Day was marked, at Cross Creek by a very spectacular bush-fire. These exciting episodes occur here at intervals of a year or two. And no special notice is taken of them; but, on this occasion, the affair was on a very big scale, and the fact that most of the dwellings were more or less threatened added to the excitement. For days past, isolated fires were burning in the remoter gullies, but on the morning of the 22nd it was observed that these had joined forces, and that the hills around us were surrounded with fire; the smoke grew denser every hour, and the crackling sounds all round became more and more ominous and frequent. As the afternoon passed on towards evening, the wind increased to a gale, and the fire now burned fiercely. Showers of sparks arose in every direction, the

smoke-pall cleared away, and when evening set in a magnificent spectacle presented itself. The fire that had licked up the grass, and with more difficulty, but not less surely, was devouring the scrub, now fastened on the trees, which, when night came on, presented a striking appearance; every hillside was adorned with glowing fiery columns, spreading out blazing arms, as if arising out of a sea of fire. Faster the fire advanced, until there was an amphitheatre of flame. The dilapidated old house known as "Bonny Glen" was swept out of existence. Down in the flat where it stood, there was now a lake of fire. The school, standing on a hill-side and overlooking the valley, was seriously threatened. The fire advanced upon it from two or three directions, and had there been any very inflammable growth in its immediate vicinity nothing could have saved it. The store and dwelling of Mr J. Allen, and a small house near it, were in considerable danger, and a very anxious night was spent by the proprietor and his family. The place stands in a bend of the creek, and at the foot of a rather precipitous hill, tolerably well timbered. The fire had abundant material to feed upon, and the hill wore a superb appearance. It was robed in flame from foot to summit, and as burning branches came hurtling down, and showers of sparks and burning flakes were carried by the high wind in every direction, it was expected that, in spite of vigilance and preparation, the place would get into the grip of the firefiend. On the other side of the line the hills were swept, and the furious wind carried the flames (fortunately at a high level) right on in the direction of the engine-shed and the numerous dwellings in its immediate neighbourhood. Every householder mustered his friends, his buckets and tubs, and "stood by," watching the sparks and anxiously eyeing the flames as they advanced. Nobody thought of sleep 'till daylight, when grateful

moisture appeared, and the wind had subsided. When morning came, the air was still, the flames had ceased their march, and the blackened hills bore testimony to the fierce character of the night's fire. Here and there all round, there still rose the smoke of unextinguished fires, and a scene of desolation succeeded the spectacle of the night. Regarded as an entertainment, the fire was very grand, but the fear of losing one's home and belongings tended to qualify our enjoyment.

1st August 1908 Died Kirby On August 1st, at her residence, Cross Creek, Jane, beloved wife of J. H. Kirby; 56 years

4th August 1908 Mrs Kirby, wife of Mr Kirby, schoolmaster, of Cross Creek, died on Saturday at her residence after a lingering illness. The interment took place yesterday in Wellington. WTPP

23rd November 1908 Cross Creek

(Special to Daily Times.)

The annual excursion, originated by the Chairman of Committee (Mr Jas. Churchouse), has now become an institution in connection with the Cross Creek School. On Friday the entire body of scholars were conveyed in a special carriage to Wellington, thence by special tramcar to Miramar; where luncheon and a succession of wonders and delights awaited them: The youngsters plunged into it with an ardour delightful to witness, and the outing was a splendid success. Several adult friends and many parents joined the party, and everybody had "a day out". The ample funds in hand for the purposes of the excursion were derived mainly from two concerts in the Creek library, and partly from donations by residents. 'The Creek never fails when its liberality is called upon for a worthy object, and hardly any object more worthy can be conceived than that: Of giving the youngsters; a glimpse at the sea and of the busy world beyond the Rimutakas. I understand that a movement is on foot among the

Creek residents to present Mr Hornsby with a substantial token of regard in consideration of his services while representing this district. "The" matter is being taken up with much enthusiasm. WTPP

1909

14th January 1909 A meeting of householders was held at Cross Creek on Saturday evening to decide in what way the residents should show their appreciation of the services of Mr Kirby as schoolmaster for a number of years past. Mr Kirby has resigned his position as schoolmaster, and leaves Cross Creek in a few weeks' time, so it was decided to make him a presentation on Saturday evening next. WTPP

19th January 1909 AT Cross Creek. A most successful social was held last evening in the Library, at Cross Creek, the occasion being, a valedictory to Mr. Kirby, the schoolmaster, who recently resigned his position to take other work under the direction of the Education Board, the room was crowded, and the ladies mustered in great force. Valuable and handsome souvenirs were handed to Mr. Kirby and Miss Lily Kirby, on behalf of the community. Mr. Duncan, stationmaster, made the presentations, and in doing so, eulogised the work done by Mr. Kirby, both in the school, and in promoting the intellectual welfare of the community. Mr. Churchouse (chairman, of the committee) followed, and bore emphatic testimony to their departing friend's usefulness and capabilities. Mr. Frank Golder, as an old friend of their guest, said he, too, had profited much by his intercourse with Mr. Kirby, and Mr. Bryan (a member of the school committee) expressed his high personal regard for their friend. Mr. W. Hunter, who was in the chair, testified to his sense of the loss

sustained by the community in Mr. Kirby's departure. Mr. Kirby, in reply expressed his regret at leaving such a loyal and generous community as that of the Creek, and took occasion also to expound his theory of education. He thanked them for their uniform kindness to himself and his family, as well as for the handsome gifts bestowed upon him. His remarks were received with applause. Miss Lily Kirby also thanked the people for the token, of their regard, which had been given to her, and was heartily cheered. The remainder of the evening was devoted to music, vocal and instrumental. On the suggestion of the chairman, "Auld Lang Syne" was sung by all present, and cheers given for Mr. and Miss Kirby PP

7th April Cross Creek, sole teacher, J T Fieldhouse PP *From Pukehinau near Horoeka near Pongaroa*

3rd May 1909 Mr J. H. Kirby, who has been relieving at Cross Creek School for some time past, has now been sent to Pukehinau, near Makuri, Hawke's Bay. PP *(It appears that Mr Kirby went to Coonoor rather than Pukehinau. This was way out in the backblocks on the Rising Sun Road. The Western foothills of the Puketoi Ranges. There must be a reason for this demotion but I haven't found any rationale for one)*

1910

27th July 1910 Improvement Cross Creek, groin in stream PP
Mr Fieldhouse went to South Featherston School

1911

25th July 1911 the clerk of works is to arrange for residence repairs at Cross Creek PP

12th May R S Warwick appointed Cross Creek PP

29th November 1911 Cross Creek, washhouse, drainage, etc., W. Benton and Son, £27 10s; PP

1912

30th January the new schoolmaster and his wife, Mr and Mrs Warwick, from Cross Creek, arrived early in the week, ready for the opening of the. Local school on Monday. Early next month a local couple— Miss Ivy Jamieson and Mr E. Loader —are to be married. Taueru School WTPP

Mr Robert Warwick taught in a lot of Wairarapa Bush schools

29th May Cross Creek, new site, glazing, £1 10s PP

1st July Letter from Mr Meachen School Committee Chairman to Head Office NZR asking for timber to erect swings at the school. "We approach you because it is a railway settlement practically and our capitation monies from Wellington Education Board are small" Required 3 uprights 16 feet long 6 4 inches and 1 cross piece Approved by NZR,

Returned letter included phrase I have the honour to inform you that the instructions have been given for the material asked for to be provided.

12th September Letter from Mr Meachen "The swings are now erected and we shall doubly esteem your kindness.

1913

26th February 1913 Wellington Education Board foreman was directed to visit and report regarding the condition of the residence Cross Creek School PP

11th June Mr F. Rockel (Cross Creek); appointed WTPP

1914

11th September 1914. The following donations have been made by State school children in the (Wellington education district towards a fund of £2000 for an ambulance equipment for the Expeditionary Force:—: — Dalefield 18s 3d, Konini £1 Is, Whakataki 2s 6d, Cross Creek 10 shillings, PP

1915

27th January 1915 Mr C. M. Blake, for a number of .years in charge of the Pleckville School, has received an appointment under the Education Board at Cross Creek

1916

17th March 1916 Miss W E. Evans; Cross Creek assistant, PP

9th May Letter from Wellington Education Board to director of Education asking that they have permission to dispose of residence at Cross Creek

The house was built by a Mr Allen in 1882 who transferred it to the Wellington Education Board in 1883

At that time the difficulties in obtaining a teacher that the board was glad to acquire it.

But lengthy experience shows that a married man cannot be persuaded to live in it for any length of time and maintain his family in health owing to the fact that for several months in the winter the hill overshadows the direct light of the sun and never reaches the building.

The Board thinks that perhaps something could be got for the building. As there is growing pressure of railway work here The Wellington Education Board would like to build a small residence on the school site which for Cross Creek is good and sunny.

The board has endeavoured and failed to get a single teacher to occupy the house permanently and the above course is the only one consistent with proper efficiency.

The school has recently entered grade 3

Application to sell house

Rooms	Size
2	12' 6 x 12' 6'
2	11'6 x 10'
1	10' 2 x 10'
1	10'2" x 10'
1	8' x 10'7
Scullery	8' x 2'

Value £ 250

16th May 1916 on the invitation of the Hon, James Allen. Minister of Defence, a large Parliamentary party visited the Featherston Training Camp, yesterday. The visitors included politicians and their wives and members of their families, also several members of the Parliamentary Press Gallery, who went up to Featherston the previous night. Included in yesterday's contingent were the Hons. Messrs. James Aden, J. A. Hannan, W H. Herries, and W. D. S. Mac Donald. the Mayor (Mr. J. P. Luke), Brigadier-General Robin, Colonel Gibbon (Chief of Staff), Colonel Coriins (Auditor-General), Colonel H. R. Potter (Commandant. Of Trentham Camp), and Mr. E. H. Hiley (General Manager of New Zealand Railways) The party, proceeded to the-camp by special tram, which arrived at its destination about 11.30 a.m..... At Cross Creek the local school children had assembled under their master and sang patriotic airs and gave a demonstration of physical drill in honour of the occasion. The train "then resumed its journey", and town was reached just on 6.30 p.m.
PP

18th May 1916 Scholars and teachers of the Cross Creek School were awarded a holiday yesterday by the' Minister for Education for the patriotic entertainment they gave on Monday to the Parliamentary Party en route. Last year Cross Creek School contributed £150 (\$19,229.92 in June 2011 terms. A staggering amount for a small community) towards patriotic funds by entertainments, averaging £3 per child
PP

20th July from Wellington Education Board to Secretary of Education

The land is owned by railways and building by Wellington Education Board

The Railways have never charged rental

The Foreman thinks it may be worth £250 as the front two rooms are newer than the original building purchased for £20

We know that the Railways might be interested (*A sarcastic note in margin "Good enough for a railway employee but not for teacher?"*)

In the winter the residence would not get some sun as it gets none for several months

Mr Kirby's wife was always in unsatisfactory health there

Mr Fieldhouse had to establish his home in Featherston

The present teacher is anxious about the health of his family.

31st July Mr Blake head teacher of the Cross Creek School, has received two photographs of his scholars at physical drill from Mr. Alsushi Matsumoto, an officer on the Japanese warship Azuma. These were "snapped" while the Japanese party were en route. A letter accompanied the photographs, thanking the school for their welcome. Mr. Matsumoto, on behalf of the "middies." has presented sixty Japanese' national flags to the Cross Creek School
PP

19th September. Urgent note from Wellington Education Board to Secretary of Education. "Will you kindly favour a reply to its memorandum of the 20th June. Since the time of previous writing the Master has been laid aside with throat infection and has had to remove his family temporarily to Greytown

29th September. Note From Secretary of Education to Senior Inspector asking what he thinks.

Only options are

- a) To sell house to railways
- b) Build a new house for a sum of £ 40
- c) Pay teacher a housing allowance.

25th October Letter from T R Fleming senior inspector to Secretary of Education

The unhealthiness of the position of the residence at Cross Creek has always been a source of trouble to the Board

The description by the Secretary of the Board is quite accurate

I may give you the cases of the last 4 teachers there

Mr Kirby after being there some time had to send his wife away on account of illness which was ascribed largely to the damp, cold and sunless position of the house

Mr Fieldhouse who followed was eventually compelled to take his family to Featherston

Mr Rockel who came next was compelled to send his wife away and finally obtained a transfer to Kaitawa

Mr Blake the present teacher has frequently complained to the Secretary of the situation of the building.

Three of these cases came under my own notice and I think the action of the teacher in each case was justified.

In the event of the sale of the residence I do not think a teacher would be able to find accommodation at Cross Creek

The only building beside railway buildings is the general store

The teacher would have to live in Featherston and even there (because of the camp) it would be difficult or almost impossible to find accommodation.

Moreover the only trains to and from would be the morning and evening expresses. This means leaving Featherston at 8.28 am and Cross Creek at 7.12 pm, rather a long day for any teacher more especially a married man as it means leaving his house before 8 and not returning until 8 at night

The Wellington Education Board made a suggestion that the residence should be in a sunnier position in the school grounds , however there is not much ground around the school and some of the ground now used would have to be taken.

The buildings themselves are almost at the mouth of a gorge with very high hills on each side.. At the station the hills widen At any place from $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$ of a Mile north of the station a much more suitable level, dry and sunnier site could easily be obtained at a very small cost.

6th September Letter from Secretary of Education to Wellington Education Board . investigate new site before any action can take place.

20th November 1916 Featherston Flower Show

There was a special display of brush and pencil work by the pupils .of Cross Creek School, and the scholars also made-a-good showing with their penmanship, there are about sixty or seventy children at this school and the headmaster, Mr. C M. Blake, was congratulated upon the success of the exhibit.. PP

30th November 1916 The Education. Department advised in regard to the Cross Creek School and residence that the question of removal of buildings would be considered PP

24th November. Railways offered £240 for house. Wellington Education Board recommended offer be accepted.

14th December. From Secretary. Where is teacher to reside if house is sold?. According to Mr Fleming there is no alternative housing

1917

28th June 1917 Advice was received from the General Manager for Railways that provision had now been made for the conveyance of; children from Pigeon Bush' to Cross Creek PP

12th October Letter from Mr Baird to NZR asking could they have a half inch pipe to supply the school water needs to the water main which supplies the tanks at the South End of Cross Creek yards.

"There is always an abundant supply of water at the dam.

2nd November There is no objection states Chief Engineer to granting the Cross Creek School a half inch water supply. I recommend a peppercorn rental the department to have the right to shut off the water should a shortage occur.

17th October Paperwork done for water supply at peppercorn rental.

1918

15th July Letter from Mr Geo Devenport Secretary School Committee to Mr Herries Minister of Education.

The school has been closed for 2 weeks owing to not being able to find accommodation for an assistant

Word from Wellington Education Board that the school will probably be closed altogether

The Wellington Education Board suggested sending the Cross Creek and Pigeon Bush children to Featherston and the Summit Children to Kaitoke. But the parents at Cross Creek don't want their children to go to Featherston while there is a school at Cross Creek

Letter from Railways General manager 22nd July to Wellington Education Board Asking about position

26th July Reply from Wellington Education Board

Staffing should be a Headmaster and a lady assistant

The position at Cross Creek is not attractive to young women and there has recently been difficulty in obtaining lodging.

The school was necessarily closed as the Head Teacher has a relaxed throat

If the School Committee would endeavour to make the living conditions of an assistant such as a young women of the standing of a teacher might reasonably look for then the difficulty would be easier of solution

The Board does not wish to close Cross Creek School if it can be avoided

Then a postscript

This is quite foreign to the question and yet not so. Could your Department not carry without charge the milk required by the teacher. ... I understand no charge is made to railwaymen

18th July Reply that it is a matter for Wellington Education Board communicate with them.

28th October 1918

COUNTRY SCHOOLS. ARE THEY STARVED?

What would be thought of a boss tailor approving of the shape and size of a suit of clothes and then giving his apprentice half the quantity of material required to make it with? That seems to be the process adopted by the Education Department. Tenders were recently invited by the Education Board for the new school at Cole Street, but none could be accepted because they were a long way beyond the estimate, and the amount voted was quite inadequate. Now the work, which is one of extreme urgency, is suspended until the rival engineers of the Board and the head office can jam their heads together, modify their scheme, or get more money voted. A similar condition of affairs exists at Saunders Road, in the Alfredton district. Here there are a number of sheep farmers, nearly all married people, but their homes are widely apart, and as there is no accommodation for a teacher, the difficulty for over thirty years has been to find a youth or certificated persons who will teach the seven standards for £100 a year and sleep in the porch! One school building was destroyed, after school hours, owing to a defective chimney. A bucket of water would have extinguished the fire, but when, it broke

out the teacher was some miles away, looking for lodgings. After tearfully pleading for years, the Education Board has induced the Department to provide some money for a teacher's residence, but the vote is so small that a builder cannot be found, and now it is proposed to hand the money over to the school committee to see if they can build a whare. In the meantime the finding of a well-trained, certificated teacher that will sleep in the porch has been relegated by the Board to the senior inspector and secretary. After two or three years of vigorous agitation, and the assistance of Mr Hornsby, M.P., and some of his colleagues the settlers of Pukenui, in the wilds behind Martinborough, have got a small but presentable school erected. The Minister provided the money, but the vote had to be supplemented, and it took months, if not years, of solicitation before sufficient for the Board's architect and clerk of works could be extracted. A school at Solway, on a central and commanding site near the Government cottages between Masterton and Carterton, has been under way for between five and six years. The married ladies, who have clung tenaciously to the demand for a school convenient to their homes, emphasised their claims by producing far more than the regulation number of children of school age, but they have had to exercise Job's virtue with a vengeance. Over two years elapsed, and visits of inspection by the Director of Education, members of the Board, chief inspector and engineer, had to be made before the site was approved of. Two years more were spent in huckstoring over the price of the site, under £200 for five acres. Over a year ago a temporary school was opened to appease the married ladies of Solway. It was opened in a hired building, the little church which the devout of Solway erected. For a long time the church has been stuffed with young children to bursting point, and now, to prevent the

fathers and mothers from petitioning Parliament, the Committee is asked to divert themselves by erecting a fence round their playground. Whether money will be provided for the erection of the long-promised building at Solway before next show day is extremely problematical. Other schools might be mentioned. At Poroporo the settlers have had to make a stout fight for a school. Now they are getting one manufactured after the manner of Mother Eve, out or a rib from the school at Taueru, which appears to be on the decline. The idea is being forced upon the country settlers that their schools are receiving scant attention, lint for the resignation of teachers, which is frequent, and the occasional visit of an inspector, many of our small country schools would be nonexistent. The proposed closing of schools such as those at Cross Creek, Belvedere, Parkvale, Te Ore Ore and Newman, indicates a desire on the part of the Department to get rid of the small country school The manifest reluctance to provide- a little money for the erection of schools where new settlements demand them proves incontestably that the importance of the. country school is not fairly recognised. The decadence of what were, only a few years ago, promising schools in the country, is not due to the scarcity of well qualified teachers. The fault is due to the unwise and reprehensible starvation policy of the Education Department If our lands — front blocks as well as back blocks are too be properly improved and occupied by families, good schools, and reasonable accommodation for the teachers, must be provided. Downright and suicidal stinginess on the part of Cabinets in refusing , to help the pioneers with their roads and other public works has cleared the settlers out of their homesteads, and now a further clearance is threatened by neglect of proper education.

11th November 1918 There recently appeared in The Post a paragraph stating that a moth of enormous size and great beauty had been found by a resident of Fitzherbert West. It was described as being of a bright green colour, with brown markings on the wings. From wing to wing it measured six inches, while the wings were one. and a-half inches long, and the body two inches. Mr. C. M, Blake, head teacher of the Cross Creek School has written to, The Post, saying that he has a moth of similar size and colour to the one caught at Fitzherbert. It was captured at Pigeon Bush by. a school boy named Clarence Davenport, who is a keen naturalist, and who asserts that it laid over 300 eggs in twenty minutes. From appearances it belongs to a tropical family. PP

1919

5th April Application for a new teachers residence from Wellington Education Board

2 teachers

Roll 1915, 37. 1916, 38 .1917, 36 Last quarter 37

Means of travelling by train : Present Service unsuitable

Featherston 7 Miles South Featherston 9 Miles Tauherenikau 10 Miles (*No Wairongomai*)

The proposal is to replace existing residence of 5 living rooms Wood with concrete piles asbestos slate roofing 2 brick chimneys Five chain of boarded fencing

Cost £ 738 : 4 : 0 Plus Fencing £ 50 Metalling £5 Plans etc £20

Bedroom	12' x 12'	3.66 meters x 3 .66 m	13.37 m ²
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Bedroom	13' x12'		
Sitting Room	13' x 12'		
Living Room	17' X 12'		
Kitchen	14' X 12'		
Hall	13'x 4' 6"		

With Bathroom pantry sink cupboards wardrobe at al
Washhouse with copper Tubs WC &c

5th April Letter to Secretary of Education

This matter has been in abeyance cannot make any alternative suggestions.

Since 14th December 1914 diligent enquiries have been made at Featherston, Pigeon Bush and Cross Creek

Apart from the fact that the position of the residence is sunless in winter it is said that increased traffic over the Rimutakas has made the position of the residence most undesirable.

Stock Trains are backed right alongside the house and the smoke nuisance arising from the engines which here begin the ascent of the Hill, which in itself most intolerable is a sufficient reason to give favourable consideration of the matter.

I may mention that the Master recently suggested to the Board for special hours of schooling to enable him to live At Upper Hutt. To which request however the board cannot see its way to accede

2nd May Letter from Wellington Education Board to Secretary of Education Stating that teacher had applied for transfer but would have stayed if residence was all right.

18th June. Letter from Secretary of Education Does the Railways still want to purchase old house?

18th June Letter from Mr A Brown at the Summit to Secretary of Education

Resident at the summit children attend Cross Creek

The children leave home at 9.30 and do not reach school until after 10.00

They have to wait about the station in the wet and cold at night for one and a half hours and sometimes two for a train home.

I want to know if you will arrange with the Master at Cross Creek to Open School at 10 and close at 3.30 or 4

Secretary responds it is a Wellington Education Board matter

14th July If the old maxim, "Like begets like," is true, then, judging, by the attainments of the Cross Creek School the General Manager of railways is supported "by keen officials". For the last four and a half years this railway school has produced no failures. During the years it raised £300 for patriotic purposes by entertainments, and was awarded a special holiday by the Minister of Education for its patriotic work., At the recent examination Inspector Stuckey congratulated the pupils and the master, Mr C. M. Blake, on the excellent results obtained. During the last twelve months this school, owing to war contingencies, has been working short of an assistant, to which it is entitled. PP

24th January 1920. From Wellington Education Board to Secretary of Education,.

Railways would still purchase house at £240

Since the last letter a gale at residence blew in several windows and caused considerable damage to the teachers' household effects
The amount spent on the residence maintenance during the ten years was £140 18 6d

1921

18th February Letter from District Officer of Health
a) The house is a six roomed old building. The roof is leaking badly and certain timbers are decaying and the building appears to be damp. Also the house is becoming ancient and only one side can be used in the winter time owing to dampness; the piles are decaying.

Our inspector understands your inspector condemned the building some time ago.

Signed I E Paris Medical Officer of Health.

23rd March. Letter from Wellington Education Board to Director of Education

Letter from Medical Officer of Health received.

He recommends the plans should be hastened.

Never at any time in the last 20 years has the residence satisfied the teacher and the dissatisfaction is easily understood

The official action of the Health Department forces us to proceed

Roll 1917, 36 1918, 37 1919, 33

31st March 1921 Letter from Director of Education to Wellington Education Board

It was noted that if the residence was shifted the removal of the school might be regarded as necessary and if a suitable site was found in an open situation it would be doubtful if the school would then be in a central position.

The question arose whether the children at Cross Creek could be conveyed to Featherston and the Children at the Summit go to Kaitoke.

The question arises therefore whether an unmarried teacher could be placed in charge of the school.

10th June 1921 Reply by Wellington Education Board

Transport possibly could be done from Pigeon Bush

There would be strong objection from Parents at Cross Creek if children transported to Featherston

The question of lodgings for a single man could be accommodated but the question of lodgings has always been a difficult one indeed the cottages at Cross Creek are practically all of the smallest

7th July Letter from Wellington Education Board Housing allowance of £40 per annum is impossible as there is no house in Cross Creek and he will have to travel from Featherston by train.

I may mention the Cross Creek residence was built in 1882 and is therefore 39 years old.

26th July Education Board to Minister Mr Caughley who signs as to recommend the proposal

In 1912 the Department granted £50 for a bathroom and washhouse

The Board is now proposing to change teachers at Cross Creek and a single teacher will be appointed. He will live in Featherston

The board urges the residence be sold and that a house allowance be paid at £40 per annum

23rd September Detailed correspondence between over Department of Education and Wellington Education Board over who keeps the £240

18th November. Railways would only take over house for £220 (5 years after original offer) and wouldn't pay until after 31st March.

.27th September 1921 Mr. C. M. Blake, who has been headmaster of the Cross Creek School for some years, has accepted a similar position at the Hawera School PP

12th November 1921 Cross Creek, Mrs. K. A. Howard appointed Head teacher PP

16th November 1921 The question of the teacher's residence at Cross Creek was left in the hands of the chairman and the secretary of Wellington Education Board PP

1922

1st February Department accepts offer of railways

22nd February 1922 Resignation of R Blair

17th March 1922 Miss Ruby Blair married Included, in the number of presents received was one from the children of Cross Creek School where the bride was stationed .prior to her .marriage PP

15th December 1922 Arrangements are being made to hold the annual picnic of the Cross Creek railway staff at the Tauherenikau race

course this year. The school picnic will be held on the Petone beach PP

1923

23rd June 1923 The first community sing at Cross Creek was held on Wednesday evening, and proved a great success. The song leaders were Messrs. H. Abrahams and- S. Worthington PP

1925

Mrs M Howard Head Teacher

15th April School reopened today. Standard 6 pupils have left to attend Featherston School. Roll now 32 Several families have left the Creek and the roll number is much lower than at the end of 1924

Standard 2 have been promoted to the Senior Room as there is no Standard 6 at present

Correspondence Classes were held during the epidemic and the children worked well.

21st April Douglas Slack and Hector Gooding very weak in spelling and reading

Arthur Thompson very weak in number Doing Standard 1 Arithmetic

22nd April Poppies sold for Anzac Day. Floral tributes to be sent to Featherston for soldiers graves. Suitable lesson on Gallipoli to be given

23rd April Children gathered ferns and moss etc for wreaths and crosses to be sent to Featherston by 12 am train for cenotaph tomorrow

4th May Very wet days pupils other side of creek can't attend school as creek is in flood

11th May. School closed at 12 pm Death of Mr Massey (*Prime Minister of New Zealand*). Lesson on life and character of Mr Massey given to all school. A newspaper article read to them.

Inspectors Report included

Mrs Howard Standard 2 to Standard 5 Roll 18

The teaching and pupils work is very satisfactory

Composition is not strong

Primers Standard 1 Miss M C Wilson Roll 15

School will probably drop to Grade 2 shortly

14th May School closed today in memory of the funeral of the Hon W F Massey

19th June 2 children absent all week as the Creek was flooded. They live 5 miles away by Lake Wairarapa Attendance falling roll 31

7th July Intelligence Tests and General Knowledge given

29th July Received word from Wellington Education Board that no teacher is to be appointed to the infant room in Miss Wilson's position.

31st July Miss Wilson leaves today to take up a position in Wellington

Last night a children's evening was given by the social club. Songs and Dances were enjoyed until 11 pm. Mr Edwards Chairman of School Committee presented Miss Wilson with a leather handbag on behalf of the children and spoke in appreciation of her work. A senior (Standard 5) girl also made a presentation.

13th August Finished raffia work in Standard 1 and Garments in senior room

14th August Very wet this week several absent from school

22nd October. Dr Barclay and Nurse visited school (Medical examination)

10th November. Dr Barclay and Nurse Dully visited school measurements and weights taken

11th November Received Inspectors report
Roll 30

Accommodation in excess of requirements

The rooms are clean and tidy

Report of Instructor in Agriculture H W Lawton

Practically all the work is done indoors

An effort has been made to prepare a few flower plots but the results are disappointing

Note books are all well used and generally kept neat

Clouds and Leaves of Native Trees. I found the answering free and good

13th November Cleared cupboards this afternoon. Packed school libraries for Featherston

20th November. I am retiring at Xmas. Mrs Engstrom has been appointed to take up duties on February 1st 1926

Pahautanui Mrs E Engstrom appointed 1923

The school is in good working order. One boy in Standard 1 failed at the examination. He has been in hospital and is a nervous case. Dr Barclay says he should still be under medical attention. He is very backward (Walter Gooding Standard 1)

27th November Sent out school reports today.

At 11 am school assembled after play A short account of the Late Queen Alexandria's life was given. Pictures were shown to the children. Auckland Weekly and Free Lance. (*These two papers were*

often the only papers received in early houses. Often when they had been read were used as toilet paper) Great Interest was shown.

4th December. Received word from Department that an “attainment test” was to be taken in the school on Wednesday 9th December

1st -4th December Very Boisterous Weather,. Wind great velocity. Last week one of the ventilators blew out and the glass was broken

4th December . Received “Red Cross Outfit” to be in charge of Head Teacher and to be replenished when things are used from it.

14th December Mrs Engstrom the teacher appointed visited the school

16th December. A farewell and send off and presentation was made to Mrs Howard the retiring teacher by the School Committee and the Social Committee combined. A very enjoyable evening was spent in the social hall. The School Committee granted a days holiday in appreciation of Mrs Howards work during the last 4 years. PP

17th December. Children and Teacher had a picnic up the creek from 2.00 to 4.00 today.

School closed today for summer holiday. Lollie scramble and peanut scramble were held. The children enjoyed themselves very much.

I am retiring from the Wellington Education Board today with many happy recollections of this school I am leaving bright intelligent and loving children who have always worked conscientiously well.

Kate A Howard

1926

E M Engstrom

3rd February Wrote to School Committee suggesting a 9.30 start rather than 9.00 as at present

4th February Roll 31 10 Boys and 21 Girls

5th February Have tested the children and find most of them backward

17th February Received from School Committee Foolscap, blotting paper and letter paper

19th February Annual Picnic at Petone

1st March. Received supply of library books from Featherston school library.

15th March Roll 28

16th April Received form Featherston Mayoress a supply of poppies to be sold by the children

26th Roll 34, Sent 15/- to Featherston for poppies in aid of funds to assist unemployed returned soldiers

3rd May. Very stormy day. Slips on line near summit Only 22 present. Received 9 pairs small scissors from School Committee A bottle of mucilage (glue) arrived a few days ago

10th May Roll now 35

13th May Surprise visit by Senior Inspector Bird. Wrote out term reports and entered pupils marks in examination register

31st May 22 girls and 10 boys present out of roll of 35.

22nd June Three children who live several miles from Cross Creek have left to attend an aided school (*See Western Lake School*)

6th July. For some weeks an epidemic of chicken pox and severe colds has depleted the attendance

14th September Readmitted Walter Gooding

17th September. Bitterly cold weather with frequent snowstorms during the last two days has brought down attendance

28th October. School closed people’s day at Carterton Show

1st December. School closed Standard 6 examination in Featherston Gwen Woodward only candidate from this school passed a

proficiency certificate with credit. The examining inspector congratulating her for efficiency in English. This pupil was almost hopelessly backward at the beginning of the year though she had spent two years in Standard 5.

7th December. Received a grateful acknowledgement of this school's donation to the Oran Fund of Jubilee Institute for the Blind Auckland
15th Inspectors Report

The fence will not keep out the sheep so that it is impossible to have a garden

1927

1st February School Reopened. Standard 6 pupils has entered a secondary school (*Either Wairarapa College or Featherston District High School*) Roll number is now 22. 7 Boys and 15 girls. And an aided school having been opened up at Western Lake the roll number is considerably less than for the greater part of last year.

3rd February A Tourist from Australia called at the school and addressed the children about his native land

16th February School closed for Masterton Show

26th February 1927

THE CHILDREN

HOLIDAYS AND TRANSPORT TRAIN ARRANGEMENTS In honour of the Royal visit the Education Board announces the following holidays for schools under its control — Schools north of Otaki, Friday, 4th March. " . Otaki and Kaitoke to Wellington, inclusive, Monday and Tuesday, 7th and 8th March. Schools Wairarapa (all), Monday, 7th March. •" . Schools Marlborough (all), "Wednesday, 9th March. The board also, announces the following

detail arrangements:— Transport.—Free by rail for school parties of standard three upwards with teacher or teachers in charge, or with a committeeman in charge in the unavoidable absence of the teacher. _ Refreshment.—With the same limitation of standard 3, one free meal will be supplied, where the local authorities can so arrange, to school parties who come from a distance to the centre.

Control.—Each train will be in charge of a marshal, who will take control of those travelling both in the train and until the return journey is begun. At each centre will be a chief marshal with such deputies as ho may require. All teachers will throughout the day co-operate to ensure safety, order, discipline, enjoyment, and honour. CHILDREN'S TRAINS. „, Friday, 4th March—Palmerston North centre, schools Manakau to Tokomaru, inclusive: Special train leaves Manakau 0 a.m., Ohau 6.8, Levin 6.22, Koputaroa 6.35, Shannon 6.48, Tokomaru 7.26, Linton 7.35, Palmerston North arrive 8 a.m. Return special leaves Palmerston North at 1.18 p.m., Tokomaru 1.47, Shannon 2.5, Koputaroa ". 2.15,' Levin 2.40, Manakau arrive 2.55 p.m.

Saturday, 5th March—"Woodville centre, schools Newman to Mangatainoka, inclusive: Special train leaves Eketahuna 8.17 a.m., Hukanui 8.35, Pahiatua 9.13, Mangatainoka 9.26, Woodville arrive 9.43 a.m. Return train leaves Woodville 2.30 p.m., Mangatainoka 2.50, Pahiatua 3.2, Mangamaire 3.18, Hukanui 3.30, Eketahuna arrive 3.50 p.m. Masterton Centre —Southward train, schools Eketahuna to Opaki inclusive: Train leaves Eketahuna 8.22 a.m., Mauriceville 8.57, Masterton arrives 9.28 a.m. ' Return train leaves Masterton 3.40 p.m., Mauriceville 4.25 p.m., Eketahuna arrives 5.2 p.m Northward Train—Schools Cross Creek to Solway inclusive: Train leaves Cross Creek 8.55 a.m., Pigeon Bush 9.5 a.m., Featherston 9.21, Woodside

9.36, Carterton 9.58, • Waingawa 10.10, Masterton arrives 10.26 a.m. Return train leaves Masterton 4.10 p.m., Carterton 4.34, Woodside 4.53, Featherston 5.6, Pigeon Bush 5.16, Cross Creek arrives 5.25 p.m.

Children from Greytown—Train leaves Greytown 9.20 a.m., connecting at Woodside with Cross Creek -Masterton train, which leaves Woodside at 9.30 a.m. These children will return by the train leaving Masterton at 4.10 p.m., and connect at Woodside with the train leaving that station at 5.0 p.m. for Greytown PP

9th March. School was closed on Monday and Tuesday in honour of the visit of the Duke and Duchess of York

The roll number has fallen to 21. Walter Gooding whose attendance has been very irregular is now attending Western Lake Aided School.

1st April School closed for a week's Easter Holidays, the extra days being given this year in accordance with a special request from the Duke and Duchess of York

22nd April School to be Closed on 25th April (First Mention of a holiday)

2nd May Only 4 elected to School Committee J Traill, F Hare, V Rasmussen and A Hill

23rd June. The Smoke nuisance at this school is still very trying.

Whenever fires are lit the rooms are generally full of smoke whilst everything therein is frequently covered with layers of soot and ashes.

I have complained to the committee several times but their efforts have not yet made any appreciable improvements in the trying conditions under which school is carried out in cold weather.

3rd October. Admitted two primer boys who reside at Pigeon Bush and attend in the morning only owing to the inconvenience of trains

7th October. Received from Agriculture Instructor 2 spades, 2 rakes, 2 hoes 2 trowels and 2 weeding forks

27th October. School Closed Carterton Show

7th November Dr. Helen Bakewell visited the school

Inspectors Report of 21st October Included.

Mrs Engstrum ranked 156 Roll 26

Each class should have its own spelling list.

The buildings are in very fair order but appear to need some buttressing against the winds

A chimney cowl shaped to prevent the winds from blowing in would also be appreciated. As on stormy days smoke and soot fill the room.

I suggest the School Committee have a working bee or take other steps to stop the tauhini (*A native plant that covers pasture first to allow other plants with a cover*) which is spreading over the grounds

The pupils have begun gardening and appear interested.

D A Strachan Inspector

15th December. Not withstanding the serious handicap of exceptionally poor attendance together with other special circumstances general progress has been very marked. One pupil was promoted three times, three pupils twice whilst nearly 100% of the rest qualified for promotion at the end of the third term. Primer 4 were promoted to Standard 1 at the beginning of November. Only one pupil Annie Edwards gained an attendance certificate though several were successful last year.

1928

1st February Attendance 15 Several children away with whooping cough. Two boys have left to attend a convent school at Carterton

2nd March School closed Parents, pupils and teacher visited Wellington Zoo

27th March Have been offered and accepted a grade 3b school under another Education Board. My resignation to take place at the end of April

24th April Special Talks appropriate to Anzac Day. There being no train from Masterton tomorrow I shall be prevented from accompanying pupils who have been invited to attend memorial service at Featherston.

30th April A King Temporary Sole Teacher Arrived at 10.08 a.m. by the first train possible.

26th May 1928 Mr A King appointed Sole Teacher Cross Creek PP

25th May School opened at 9.00 and Closed at 3.00

28th May School opened at 10.15 and closed at 4.15 pm

8th June. Mrs King commenced duty as sewing teacher

20th September Report of Physical Inspector and Instructor. Very Good. The children are working with a remarkable keenness. So far the London Education Board syllabus has been followed.

14th November School closed for General Election.

26th November A marked success was achieved on Saturday 24th by the girls of the Upper Standard's at "Fernside" (*Fernside is a large house just north of Featherston originally owned by the Elgars. Some of the furniture from this house was in the old Dominion Museum in Buckle Street, Wellington. Later on owned by American Government as an Embassy Home*) where they gave an exhibition of English Folk Dancing before Her Excellency Lady Alice Fergusson and a huge crowd of spectators.

19th December

School Prize Betty Traill

40

Captain and Team Leader Thirza Cook

Sewing Prizes (Given by Mrs King) Mary O'Brien and Gwen Wainscott

Attendance Certificate Mabel Traill and Betty Traill

Proficiency Certificate Thirza Cook

The Committee also made a presentation to Mr and Mrs King

The remainder of the afternoon was spent in singing Christmas Carols and playing games

1929

4th February Roll 23. All instruction based on new syllabus

26th February School visited by Mr Longworth Director of Physical Education NZ. Mr Longworth spoke on posture. He paid a very high compliment to the Physical Training, Dancing and Singing performed by the children and commented on the good tone of the school

17th June. School rocked by big earthquake at 10.18 am No damage was done to the premises or district nearby,

19th July School closed to allow 16 children to attend the Winter Show in Wellington.

22nd July A Box of tools, work benches and timber received to enable boys Standard 4-6 to commence light woodwork as a national handwork subject.

30th September Inspector Burns report included

This school is capably managed and very good order prevails

There is special excellence in physical instruction, light woodwork and gardening

The building is in need of repairs to spouting and downpipes.

Boards in one of the sheds have rotted away
The lighting in the room in use is poor and the walls need painting
22nd November Proficiency exam held in this school under supervision of Head Teacher
Report of Mr Brockett Instructor in Agriculture
Work since my last visit has almost entirely been in the gardens
To make the plots large quantities of boulders have had to be removed and soil carried to the plot
The garden enclosure is neat and tidy
Flower and vegetable seeds have been sown and the plants have made very good progress
A pipe line has been carried for about 5 chains to provide water in dry weather.
23rd December. Drew Buchanan and Colin Morton passed proficiency
In the afternoon children acted charades, played games and sang Xmas carols.

1930

31st March Sent resignation to the Board and School Committee, having obtained another school with house.
15th April Woodwork tools packed and locked. Key handed to Chairman of school committee with list of tools. Copy of same list sent to Wellington Education Board according to instructions
16th April Children sold poppies for Anzac Day. Money sent to Miss Card, Featherston.
16th April Mrs King and I have been given beautiful writing cases today by the children of the school The presentation was made by

Doreen Thomas who made a very sweet and kind speech on behalf of the children.

17th April Mrs King and I are very sorry to leave the Children of Cross Creek The work we have fond so enjoyable and interesting. The team system has been gradually developed during the two years. A high standard of training in self discipline has been reached and can be felt in tone and spirit of the school children especially those who have been under the system for two years.

The children are very keen and enthusiastic. The team on duty clean and dust the school daily during the week, they keep a constant supply of fresh flowers for decorations. They also supply dusters and with the aid of Mrs King all the first aid bandages iodine etc. For the greater part of last winter the boys found fuel for heating the school These and many other similar duties willingly and happily performed by the children added to their keenness for work and games have made my stay here most enjoyable and it is with a good deal of regret that we say goodbye to hem all

28th April A K Hamilton Relieving

8th May. Received a visit from Mr Brockett, agriculture instructor.

Made several recommendations for the flower plots and gardens

27th May 1930 Mr K B McClellan Appointed Sole Teacher PP

30th June A K Hamilton finished

1st July. K McClellan 20 children present. Very backward in all subjects. Received tools from Wellington Education Board

25th July Snow storm in Cross Creek A most unusual happening. No Summit children present.

8th July. School closed today I was ill in bed.

29th July Bad weather prevails. More snow fell yesterday and today a howling southerly was blowing. Only 3 children away

6th August Commenced Standard 6 exams today. Spelling Writing and Essay

8th September. School started. School has been exceptionally cleaned by Mrs Hare.

1931

2nd February. School recommenced Roll 26 plus 3 refugee children

17th February School closed as teacher ill. Bad cold.

No more entries in log book until

1932

1st August Alex Malcolm arrived to carry on until the appointed teacher is available.

19th August School closes for vacation. A Malcolm leaves

5th September L M Farrant Starts

Opened school for first day at 9.15 Present 23 children

Found all records correct except for some copies of gazette missing.

Checked garden implements and found them correct

29th September Several children treated at Dental Clinic Featherston

Yearly account of 5/- issued for the above treatments

14th October. Annual School Concert tonight, summit children dismissed at 1 pm to enable them to attend

21st October. All days this week have been excepted days as one third of children are away with whooping cough. (*Excepted days are where school close early*)

28th October. Attendance affected as for precious week. With epidemic of whooping cough

22nd November. Epidemic of whooping cough at an end. All except one having returned to school.

1st December. Synchronous proficiency exam for the 4 sixth standard boys. Holiday observed for all other pupils.

16th December

The annual prize giving and break up ceremony was held in the social hall at 2 pm

The four proficiency candidates all successful Philip Fox, Robert Stevenson, Joe Long and Dan Long

Attendance certificates were presented to Vera Rasmussen, Robert Stevenson and Philip Fox

Dux Prize Christopher Long

Neatness Prize Pat Smith and Janet Fox

After all the other pupils had been presented with a prize songs were sung and afternoon tea was served

1933

1st February Roll 23

24th February School closed for annual picnic held at Petone Beach

7th March Application for a new House

1930 Roll 23 1931, 25 1932, 25

Teacher married Appointed 5th September 1932. Married 22nd December 1932

4 roomed Residence with bathroom washhouse etc

Cost 7th March Application for a new House

£575 applied for

Four room residence with bathroom and washhouse etc

No accommodation available in Featherston or Cross Creek

The newly married couple live in Featherston in accommodation, the owner living with them.

There is no suitable accommodation in Cross Creek

Even under present conditions it is a pressing case

25th March letter from NZR saying they have no surplus accommodation

1st May Transport for teacher is good in morning but can't get back to Featherston until 7 pm.

18th September Approval for erection of residence approved by Minister.

2nd September 1933 At. Cross's Creek judging from statements made this morning at the Education Board meeting, must be a somewhat gloomy place in which to dwell. The proposed purchase of a building for school purposes was being discussed, and some members expressed themselves in favour of a sunnier site. Mr. Bunny thereupon jumped on his feet and declared that Cross's Creek was a place where the sun was not seen at all for four months of the year. If they took these children out to a sunny place and then sent them back to Cross's Creek to catch cold, it would be a most infamous transaction. This argument apparently convinced the board, since it was decided to purchase the gloom-enveloped building PP

15th October 1933 Miss Maud Farrant, accompanied by three pupils, Misses May Hyam, Jean Irvin and Violet-Potter, left last evening for the Wairarapa, to take part in a production in aid of the Cross Creek School PP

24th October Quote from Mr G R Norman for £668.16 this was over by £93.16. The new sum was approved on 21st November 1933 by Education Department

27th October School closed for Labour Day and Thursday 26th for Carterton Show.

13th November 1933 Dance at Cross Creek The Cross Creek Women's Institute held a very successful card and dance evening recently. Although weather conditions were adverse, many visitors from surrounding districts were present. The hall was gaily decorated with the institute's colours, green and gold, and also with golden broom, their floral emblem. Te Tau's orchestra supplied the music, and Mrs. Fly and Miss Seager organised the dancing, which included Monte Carlo dances and spot and statue waltzes. An exhibition of tap dancing was given by Miss Eileen Garry, of Wellington, and Mr. Jones, Petone. A box of chocolates, donated by Mrs. Rice in aid of the Health Camp, was won by Mr. Jones. A dainty supper was served by the ladies. .PP

24th November Children examined by medical nurse. Three families affected by measles

1934

5th February 21 children present. Opened at 9.15

5th March School residence completed except for odd work by painter and now occupied by myself

30th April Householders Meeting Mr Rasmussen Chairman

Moved by Mr Hills Seconded by Mrs Hills that a vote of thanks be given to the past school committee

That a vote of thanks be given to Mr Farrant congratulating him on the good work being done and the position the school has obtained.

That the School Committee be asked to buy a jug to be used for making cocoa during the cold weather.

That this committee strongly protest to the Government against their action in excluding 5 year olds from school.

Committee Mr L Rasmussen, G A Waghorn, E W Stockley, Mr H Seagar, J Fielding

That a vote of thanks be passed to the summit people for their attendance and the interest shown by them

School Committee meeting followed

That we get 5/- worth of cane for raffia work and also an enamel jug be purchased for cocoa.

29th May. School visited by Architect and Mrs and Colonel Macdonald. Residence inspected.

3rd August. Arbour Day. Planted 30 pine trees. Every child in the school planted a tree and is to be responsible for its care.

17th September School closed to enable teacher to attend refresher course in Masterton

15th October . School closed all day because of illness of teacher.

25th October. School closed for Carterton Show. The majority of children attended the show.

16th November. In response to certain information received concerning immoral conduct among the children I questioned most of the boys and Mrs Farrant the girls. The investigation revealed such a state of affairs that I reported the matter to the chairman of the committee and suggested that a meeting of parents be called.

None of the conduct referred to above took place among the children at any time whatsoever when under my charge.

13th December Interviewed by 2 parents on the subject of conduct marks on school reports

18th December. Breaking up ceremony held at 2 pm before a representative gathering of parents. Merit prizes awarded to all pupils. Janet Fox gained Proficiency and also Dux prize.

1935

5th February School reopened at 9 a.m. Roll 21

10th May. School closed on 6th for King's Jubilee Holiday. Children were given a talk about the Jubilee. The day was unsuitable for outdoor sports so the children were given a free day inside and treated to sweets, biscuits and cordials which were thoroughly enjoyed

27th May 20 Pupils. Classroom looking much brighter as I painted it during the holidays.

31st May. Permission given from Wellington Education Board for commissioners to spend £3 on additional books for the library.

Thirty young Ngaio Trees were collected from the bush and planted at the school today. This completes the planting during the last two years of over 200 trees for shelter and ornamentation purposes

24th June £3 of library books purchased. The books have been bought with the idea of increasing the amount of home reading during the winter months.

23rd July Arbour Day celebrated by planting 22 Ngaio Trees in the children's new playground near the station. A Number of parents being present

23rd August This afternoon was parents day when parents viewed the children at work and were shown samples of the children's work and exam papers. The afternoon concluded with a football match after which school was closed for the holidays.

21st October Meeting held in the social hall.

That we run 2 euchre evenings. Prizes not to exceed 6/- . Price for admission 1/6 Double and 1/- Single.. The raffle for 10/- be drawn on the first evening.

That the Secretary apply to use the hall on these evenings

4th November. That 2 more euchre evenings be held.

6th November School visited by Dr Anderson and Nurse Hodges who made a very adverse report on the bodily cleanliness of some of the pupils who had been previously warned,

I passed on the Doctor's remark to the children as the examination was completed when children had left for lunch.

Later on in the day I was visited by Mrs Stockley and Mrs Brown two parents seeking an explanation of the Doctor's remarks. I explained the remarks and they left both saying that they were quite satisfied with the situation.

15th November took delivery of and unloaded one truck (*Rail*) of Hutt River Valley soil supplied free of charge by Railway Department. To improve the soil of the school gardens

25th November A letter was received from the Secretary of householders stating that a lack of confidence motion in the School Committee had been passed and the School Committee be asked to resign

After considerable discussion that the School Committee resign and comply with the wishes of the householders. , although we consider that all householders should have been notified in a proper manner by having notices posted.

6th December. Took delivery of a complete cricket set, purchased with funds from a raffle of a Christmas cake given by Mrs R Fly

2nd December No mention of resignation.

45

All members present . That we give all children a book. That there be only one special prize for dux of school.

9th December That the teachers request for materials be held over for incoming committee

That the prizes be given out by the teacher on the breaking up day.

16th December That the School Committee write to Mr Farrant and inform him that the complaint received by the School Committee had been withdrawn

1936

3rd February Roll 23

18th February Interviewed by Mr Scahill re conduct during previous weekend of certain Summit pupils and wrote to the Wellington Education Board accordingly for advice.

7th April School visited by Mr Goodwin of the child welfare department who investigated trouble at the Summit.

14th April During vacation shelter trees at the garden were cut down by Railway linesmen without my being consulted. Writing to Wellington Education Board this week drawing their attention to this matter

11th May Meeting called to elect a School Committee.. That nominating papers were received from Mr Seagar, Mr Golder, Mr Long, Mr Surrey and Mr Brown and these become the new School Committee

At meeting following

Mr Golder appointed Chairman

Discussion was held on fuel at the school and also for the schoolmaster. The Secretary was instructed to write to Railways to

ask if supply of coal could be made on same lines as to railway employees.

That tenders be called for cleaning the school.

That letters be sent to Mr Smith and Mr Burdan who acted as commissioners for the school.

12th May That Miss E Foot's tender of 7/- per week be accepted for school cleaning

Secretary instructed to write to Mr Farrant inviting him to attend School Committee meetings when he had matters to discuss.

1st June Three children admitted Roll No 21. The total admission and withdrawals for the year has now reached 17

21st July Summit children again very late owing to a train delay. Conveyance allowance approved for the Brandon Children

28th July 1936 Mr. L. M. Farrant, formerly sole teacher at Cross Creek , assistant, Upper Hutt. PP

5th August. Coal is now supplied to the school at 3/7 per sack and this with wood collected by the committee is keeping the school well supplied with heating

Arbor day celebrated at the school by planting 10 trees by juniors assisted by seniors. Six trees planted in the gap which was cut in the shelter belt.

20th August Employee of railway Department arrived to plant 4 trees in break cut in garden shelter belt.

21st August School closed today at 3 pm after a surprise visit of parents who served afternoon tea while the children made a presentation after my four years teaching here. Inspector's general report again grades the school as Very Good. While special commendation is given for written expression, arithmetic verse speaking drawing and handwork

46

23rd August That no more be made in the appointment of a lady teacher..

That meetings be held on the first Monday of every 2nd Month.

7th September That amount of £2/19/6 has been granted for ground improvements and that this money be spent on the path leading up to the school.. Labour to be provided gratis by the School Committee

That Messers Long and Brown arrange purchase of prizes to value of £4.

7th September. I L Kerr Started

29th October. School closed for Carterton Show. Took children through by train

14th December. Closed for birthday and proclamation of King George 6th

15th December. Children decorated the school and had a party though the early closing of all schools owing to Infantile paralysis made the last day rather rushed. A good deal of sickness during the term. 8 Chicken Pox, 1 scarlet fever, and 3 fever contacts has kept attendance rather low.

1937

22nd February I commenced duty. No children present until 1st March. Preparing scheme, handwork, materials for primer children. Journals and some work has been sent home to children.

20th April School closed as from 19th April till further notice on account of Infantile Paralysis epidemic. Children to work at home and send work in to be marked. Listen to radio lessons wherever possible.

12th April Discussion relative to Infantile paralysis took place, Mr G Cooper stated that the Residents of the Summit were definitely against travelling by train from the summit owing to likelihood of catching paralysis.

That exemption for attending school be granted these pupils.

That thanks be given to Mr Long for his service on the School Committee.

24th May School reopened after being closed for 5 weeks. 20 children on roll. The Cross Creek Social Club presented the children with a new football and a new basketball. Letter of appreciation and thanks sent by children.

27th May. Box of tools dispatched to Konini school as only one boy in Form 1 here.

16th July School closed for one week for educational conference in Wellington 21 children on roll

10th December That prize giving be combined with Bazaar starting at about 2 pm.

1938

Comment from Inspector re no entries since 16th July 1937. I L Kerr still at Cross Creek

11th March On December 16th 1937 a school bazaar was held in the social hall. Thanks to parents and friends we realized the considerable sum of £11. £5 of this we intend to renew the library under the £ for £ subsidy scheme. The rest we will use for handwork materials and tools and for mats etc. For school. Books provided by the social club were distributed at this gathering and a school leaving certificate was given to Noeline Hill.

2nd May Householders meeting 9 Present.

Meeting that followed. Only business was election of chairman Mr McGhie and Secretary Mr Huxtable

11th May That Mrs Hackett's offer of cleaning the school at the old rates be accepted and that she be paid for 52 weeks of the year.

That the School Committee has received the dental committee meeting minutes and will discuss it at their next meeting.

That the Secretary and Chairman inspect the school and find out what repairs are needed., also the estimated costs and forward same to Wellington Education Board,

That the teachers report be sent to Wellington Education Board re concrete and painting of school and house roof

That the request by school teacher for basketball (*Netball*) posts be held over to next meeting.

That meetings be held monthly.

8th June That the Wellington Education Board be written to re grant to Dental Clinic

That the School Committee run a 500 evening for a trial of 3 weeks nights a fortnight apart

Mr Fielding kindly donated 5/- for 1st prize to men at 500 evening.

6th July That in future the Teacher must purchase all materials through the School Committee

That the Secretary be empowered to order all school necessities.

That cards be continued fortnightly until further notice

13th July Attendance has been very poor during last few weeks owing to prevalence of colds and measles that nearly every day is excepted and working conditions are far from satisfactory. Roll Now 26

On 3rd June the whole school had a trip to Wellington to see the Coronation Robes and Regalia. Quite a number of mothers came

along. We also visited Bryant and Mays match Factory, The Municipal Milk Department, the Museum 2ZB Altogether we had a very interesting day.

3rd August That the School Committee donate 10/6 towards dental clinic fund.

11th August Miss Maddever and Mrs Huse came out from Wellington and took the senior children for making paper hydrangeas and smocking

7th September That the Secretary write to Mrs Kerr that we are responsible for all monies special and capitation and all requirements must be put before the Committee for approval.

That the School Committee hold a dance in the Social Hall on 22nd October

That the Secretary write to the Wellington Education Board re labour for clearing scrub around school buildings.

17th October That the Secretary procure ambulance materials required by the teacher

That children be granted a full days holiday so as to attend the Carterton Show.

28th Oct. A Whole Holiday (?) yesterday for the Carterton Show. Punished Lester Surrey today for deliberately dropping Stuart Jacobsen's pullover in the creek

16th November That Secretary be empowered to employ Mr L Anderson to grub scrub around school grounds at a price not to exceed 4 pounds

That the letter re school picnic from Mrs Kerr be received and held over to next meeting

That the Secretary be empowered to procure bags of coal for the school

48

30th November That Euchre evenings terminate after Thursday 1st December.

That Mr McPhee be appointed to examine fences around the school and report to the next meeting and approximate cost of repairs.

That Mr McPhee be empowered to purchase toys and decorations for the Xmas Tree to a valuation of £5/15/0

That the Secretary be empowered to purchase prizes for the children at a cost of £4'10/0

That the Xmas Tree function be held on Saturday December 24th

3rd December. Painters finished painting the school and residence and have effected a wonderful improvement. There has been a measles epidemic through the school

I offered to have a concert in aid of committee funds but the committee is not at all enthusiastic over the idea, so we shall just prepare a few items for closing day.

16th December School closed. Each child received a book from the committee The roll number is 27. Two form 2 children June Seagar and Gladys Cooper obtained primary school certificate

1939

1st February 25 children 8 girls and 17 boys

22nd February To advise Wellington Education Board that they have facilities at Cross Creek for swimming and therefore would not need the £5.00 grant from the Wellington Education Board

That Mr Davies be approached re mending of fences and the roof on the boys lavatory.

That the Wellington Education Board be approached to approve of concreting the area in front of the school door as referred to in the letter of the 12th May

During the holidays sheep overran our garden and experimental plots 22nd March The intention was to have the fences repaired. In this connection we could offer the Wellington Education Board the services of Mr L Davies a low paid railway worker who will do the work for the sum of £2 plus the cost of 36 fencing battens

That Mr Millar's wages be increased to 10/- pre week in view of the good work he is doing around the school

17th May. That no action be taken in connection with petition from national peace council

That Mr Kiernan be written to authorising him to have scripture lessons under Nelson Scheme once a fortnight.

Mr Clarke dissented in this manner, That secular education should be kept secular and that religious instruction should be provided by those who desire it and in their own time.

27th July Half yearly tests finished and reports issued. Snow a few inches thick in playground. Preparing work for display in Masterton on August 8th and 9th

8th November Opening of Centennial Exhibition Treat as a historic occasion (*Presumably one out at Rongotai near current International Airport*)

11th December Stormy weather with flooding. Line closed for about 2 days, so summit children (2) unable to attend. Cooper Boys who were at school had to stay down for 3 days. New swimming pool completely washed away.

14th December. Parents afternoon and distribution of presents. The children gave a short Christmas song programme after which afternoon tea was served.

Lola Goddard and James Cooper received Primary School Certificates\Swimming Certificates to Lola Goddard, Robert Brown and Neil Kerr

1940

6th February Miss Mullet? Relieving. Miss Kerr resumed on the 9th February

18th March Mr Lane relieving from March 4th to 15th owing to ill health of Miss Kerr.

22nd April Householders meeting. 7 Present The School Committee were Mrs Seager, Mrs Stephenson, Messers Clarke (Chairman), Goddard and Huxtable

That the School Committee invite Colonel McDonald (Wellington Education Board Member) asking him to come re bridges, fences and concrete

30th April 1940 That Secretary write to Wellington Education Board whether the School Committee could supply labour for concreting at school as it is unable to receive replies to tenders called for

1st May. Mr Brockett Agriculture Instructor visited

15th July Mr Brockett visited making a new barometer. Discussion on the value of mercury. Its value owing to war.

7th August. Summit children (3) unable to attend owing to slip on the incline

13th August During the night sheep used our rain gauge apparatus as a rubbing post and broke it. They are completely ruining the grounds

and unless the fences are mended it will be quite impossible to have a garden or even tidy grounds.

15th August Very cold day. 9 children absent mainly with colds and influenza

4th September Roll 26. Mr Brockett visited giving lesson on capillary action and instruction for years experimental crop. Maize and general gardening

7th October. Today owing to complaints made by Station Master and Chief Clerk about children playing on the railway lines causing inconvenience to the Railway Staff and danger to the children. I have ordered the children to go home immediately they leave school and not play round the station.

I have told them also that not on any account to come to school when I am away and warned them against throwing stones- a popular pastime here Most of the trouble at the station occurs well out of school hours and in the weekend but the station officials asked my help in trying to stop it.

20th November That Mr Marino inspect fences and report on number of battens required

That supplying of books at breakup be discontinued

17th December Mr Perry from Featherston came to teach swimming in our new swimming pool. Most of the school children availed themselves of this opportunity to learn or to improve their strokes. We take swimming every afternoon now

20th December School Closed 27 on roll

Miss Kerr leaves to take up a position at Otorohanga DHS after nearly 4 ½ years here, I wish this school every success and may the winds not blow!

1941

3rd February H J Hart began duty. Swimming pool a wonderful boon

7th February. Trenching of school garden and fencing begun

March Swimming lessons continued after school to make the most of the fine weather

20th February The meeting was called to appoint a needlework instructress to the school

That Mrs Croxon be appointed needlework teacher

6th March Mr Hart schoolteacher attended this meeting, he being heartily welcomed by the chairman

1st April School milk supply commenced. Much relished by children

28th May 1941. Minutes of a meeting held at Cross Creek School
A Donald and Colonel T W McDonald Wellington Education Board
ward members

J S Clarke School Committee Chairman

W J Huxtable School Committee Secretary

Supervisor of buildings (Unnamed)

Teacher had left prior to visit to have a medical inspection for military purposes

Older classroom is too small for the present roll number. It would be difficult to remodel it

The lighting in the larger classroom is very bad as the windows are well up from the floor. There being 2 windows on one wall and one on the rear wall. To improve the lighting is a difficult task owing to orientation of the classroom and the situation of the surrounding hills generally.

We recommend the School Committee cut down two small trees growing close to the school This would improve the lighting

Fence is in a dilapidated condition. But as there is no workmen in this part of the district difficulty has been experienced in receiving prices We recommend that the garden plot be fenced and that a fence be erected around the residence and garden

As there are no cattle in the district it is proposed to leave the other fence in their present state as that the sheep that wander about the hills keep the grass in the school grounds eaten short. This is an advantage.

Concrete has not been done as there are no contractors.

Recommend that Wellington Education Board staff do it. There will be difficulty getting gravel to site owing to the state of the last ½ mile of the road. A track would have to be made across the creek to get a lorry to make a good crossing to the school site. It would probably be better if gravel was brought to Cross Creek by rail. A truck can be shunted up on a side line near the foot swing bridge giving access to the school site.. The concrete and shingle could be barrowed over the swing bridge.

The School Committee asked that a supply of ashes for the path between the school and footbridge. We ask that NZR supply the ashes from Cross Creek.

26th May. Second term begun. Garden was completely destroyed by sheep during vacation. Fence in bad shape

28th May School closed while teacher absent for medical examination for overseas service

29th May. Work on the swimming baths is continuing. The whole structure is being remodelled and concreted to make a permanent job. Several men of the district have worked voluntarily especially after the big flood when a temporary structure had to be built to hold the swimming carnival at the end of the season.. The work of Mr Nahkies

the station master may be described as heroic as he is working hard and long to make the venture a success. It is hoped that a good steady structure is will be ready for next season, Mr George Webster is also worthy of special mention.

Yesterday several members of the Board visited the school during my absence, The matter of school lighting, fencing and concreting ground was looked into and it is to be hoped that much needed improvements will soon take place.

4th June Whooping Cough has broken out for the second time this year. Several children missed 6 to 8 weeks last term. This is a serious set back.

The apples and milk supply to pupils should in the long term have a good effect on the general health.

30th September The National Savings Scheme which the school began on 26th February is still continuing with good results

1st October. Work continuing on new swimming baths, the children assisting at playtime carrying boulders or pile driving

The new drill has been in operation and most of the children have the new rompers

We have marked out a basketball court and obtained much material, new football, repaired old one, and basketball (Netball) obtained tennis balls, wickets, bean bags, ropes. The making of tumbling mats is proceeding

Although seeds have been forwarded by the Wellington Education Board the fence is still not repaired and it is now doubtful if the seeds can be sown in time for a garden this season.

This is a big disappointment after the work that has been done to tidy up this piece of ground which was a mass of broom and gorse over the greater past.

24th October. Miss H Taylor physical drill specialist visited the school and was pleased with the equipment and progress made. All turned out in suitable clothing a credit to the school

11th November. Materials arrived for fencing and concreting

17 Boxes have plants in them now sown some weeks earlier

12th November We have almost finished the baths now. The gates remain to be fitted and protective groin built.

I have planted several willows.

13th November. I have been called to camp Palmerston North on 21st.

I will endeavour to get as much exams over as possible before then.

The school concert is practically ready. I will leave my gramophone, records, music etc for the occasion. As I have no where to put it I shall leave furniture in the school house, axe, sundries etc in meantime. H J Hart

10th December An attempt now being made to get the garden planted as the Board workmen have just repaired the fence. The beans and peas were set today

11th December Completed rock border round garden today and had made arrangements for some from Lower Hutt and Masterton

13th December. Have laid a water pipe onto garden from baths

15th December The swimming pool was officially opened yesterday (Sunday). Mr Nahkies being presented with an inscribed watch for his splendid work in this connection.

The children are being immediately stated on Stage 1 of the swimming pamphlet They will be given a full list of instructions and I will demonstrate all these before the break up. It is hoped by this means to let the children get some good practice in the vacation.

Swimming progress cards have been ordered. The good swimmers will be started on breaststroke with a view to life saving

The school concert and Christmas tree in the Social Hall was enjoyed by all last night. A two hour programme of plays, choruses, recitations and folk dancing brought £2-11-0 to the sports fund for the school.

This will be left with Mr Huxtable (Secretary) for the next teacher to purchase sports' material (I am going into camp in the new year) H J Hart

16th December. Three children in Form 2 gained their leaving certificates,.

1942

20th April Householders meeting. That Wellington Education Board be written to regarding footpaths and windows

That Secretary purchase a suitable ambulance box and contents for school and padlock for toolshed

25th May Took charge of this school today. Find work rather below standard probably owing to so many changes among teachers.

Roll 25. Ira Cody

2nd June That chairman and Secretary arrange to do footpaths

That the Secretary interview School Teacher in reference to school books and equipment

That Wellington Education Board be written to in regard to slit trenches in school grounds and voluntary labour at Cross Creek residence.

4th June I caught Influenza at the weekend and had to have Tuesday and Wednesday off. About half the pupils are now down with it.

25th June. The school chimney is partly down owing to last night's earthquake. It appears safe enough to continue fires.

8th July. Mr Brockett Agriculture instructor visited today and set out work to be done in the gardens

9th July Have seen chairman about broken windows which require attention at once. Some of them I find were broken at least two years ago.

15th July., As there was very little handwork materials in the school the School Committee instructed me to purchase some. I have bought, cane, tray bases a fret saw and some blades.

17th July As most of the work is below standard (Especially so in arithmetic and spelling) I have decided not to set a half yearly examination but to spend the time on improving weak subjects.

3rd August. Three or four more bricks have fallen off chimney which new smokes rather badly. The drain at the school needs attention. It became blocked during my first week here. The chairman and Secretary have inspected it.

22nd August Held concert in social hall. Cleared sum of £5/10/6d to be used for handwork etc.

29th August 4 Boys came today (*In school holidays*) and we put in 6 new panes of glass. I'm afraid the hand of the amateur may be detected in the job

7th September 25 on roll

13th September. Meeting of School Committee to elect a new Secretary and Chairman. Mr Charles is Chairman and Mr Owen Secretary. Mr Rowberry has left district and Mr Marino has resigned

20th September That Mrs Cody procure a suitcase for books etc.

That Secretary and Chairman of School Committee interview Wellington Education Board at early date re renovation of inside of school, drainage, First Aid Outfit, Damage to Chimney, boys lavatory and all other requirements.

26th October. Mr Owen and Mr Charles began the painting of the small room

31st October. Room finished- a great improvement. We are to have pictures and curtains before next year.

28th November Committee Present Mesdames Clarke, Ruddy, Marino, Cody and Mr Charles (Chairman)

That concert be held on 19th December.. No supper and that a raffle put out for concert funds.

19th December. Held concert in Social Hall. Cleared £5-17-0 which is to be used for purchasing library books

1943

1st February Many children still on holiday

2nd February Mr Charles and Mr Owen finished painting of lobby. We are very grateful to them for the time and labour they have cheerfully given

26th February Visited Wellington today and bought 40 new books- history-geography story books etc for school

10th March. Took an hour off today for swimming to obtain certificates. Mr Owen Secretary of School Committee also attended. 1 Boy swam 880 yards. 5 children swam 220 yards and 1 331/3 yards.. Two or three learners had colds and refrained from swimming.

21st March All women at School Committee meeting

That Wellington Education Board be informed of the dangerous condition of Gable End Wall of school and that repairs be effected. Also window frames repaired and sash cords renewed. Chimney to be fixed and new gates and fireplaces required.

31st March. Miss Pottinger Red Cross Organiser for South Wairarapa visited today. The children have decided to form a circle here and have appointed their committee,

9th April. In response to an appeal from the Plunket Society the Children gathered and forwarded 14lb of rose hips- ½ hour of school time given

30th May That curtains for school be bought.

29th May Purchased 4 pictures and material for curtains.

31st May Three workmen visited school today to make a few repairs

21st June. Colin Nickless is away from school during his father's absence in hospital.

13th July The Chairman of the School Committee asked that children might be taken down to greet Wairarapa men returning from overseas. Lieutenant Elliott VC spoke to them and asked whether they could be granted a half holiday. They were allowed to remain at home till 1.00 this giving them from 10.15 a.m.

16th July 1943

A Cross Creek WELCOME

Returned furlough men are not likely to forget the wholly unexpected and hearty welcome they received from Cross Creek residents when they passed through en route to the Wairarapa on Tuesday. The whole of the residents of the township turned out to receive them and the whistles of all the engines in the narrow gorge were blown, making the ranges ring. Mr. Lechner, Locomotive Foreman, welcomed the men in a brief speech, and was replied to by Lieutenant K. Elliot, V.C., who then inspected the school children, who were lined up for the occasion, and shook hands with each one of them. The men were entertained by the ladies, who provided morning tea on specially decorated tables -in the social hall. PP

54

19th July received bag of lime

15th August That children clean school if Mrs D Corbett refuses position under new rates of pay. That Mr D Corbett be advised the Cleaning payment would be at 5/- per week for a 45 weeks

That radio owned by Mrs Cody be repaired and placed in school room. Cost of repairs to be borne by School Committee

That 2 sacks of coal be brought for the school each fortnight.

That the committee meet on the last Sunday of every month.

6th September. Did not open school today as my daughter aged 14 returned from a holiday on Saturday to go down with an attack of what we feared was scarlet fever. We now find she has measles. So I shall resume school tomorrow. The Secretary of the School Committee promised to ring the Wellington Education Board early this morning.

7th September As the Marino family have left the district we have arranged to have the school cleaned by the children under the supervision of the teacher. The remuneration is to be reduced from £26 to £10 per annum

7th September. Mr Dean has offered to take First Aid and Life Saving lessons for half an hour each Thursday Afternoon

15th September. The School Committee have offered to pay for the overhaul of my school wireless set which is out of order. It will be installed in the school during my stay here.

26th September That donation to raffle of 10/- by Mrs Cody be placed on the books

That one day holiday for children to visit Carterton show be granted

28th October. Took all the senior children except one to the Carterton Show.

30th November Swimming pool opened As weather is very hot and help in teaching children to swim is available will devote last half hour daily to swimming and omit physical education some dyes

1944 Upto

1st February Roll 22

During the holidays, a sheep jumped over the garden fence and ate all the vegetables. We had some very good crops. We have now added two wires to the low part of the fence.

23rd February Spent last two hours swimming for certificates. All except 7 of the children can now swim.

6th March. At a meeting of the School Committee I have been authorised to buy handwork materials, a loom, and tools and material for solid aeroplane models., paint and brushes (wood), wool etc.

Mr Sirett and Mr Owen have fixed up a work bench for the boys. We are very grateful to them.

7th March That tennis balls be purchased out of special fund

That room be procured for girl's handwork

That Secretary again write to Wellington Education Board re condition of boy's lav., also drain to be laid and window frames repaired.

10th March. Sent away a bundle of books for men in service

13th March. When playing today Natalie Wilson was blown over by a gust of wind. As her arm appears to be fractured, Mrs Sirett drove her into the doctors

17th March. Have been informed that an Xray of Natalie's arm shows that it has been broken

24th March. Half holiday granted to me to go into Wellington to buy handwork materials.

12th April Natalie Wilson returned to school today

16th April That Letter re Boys lav. drain be received.

1st May Householders meeting, 6 present

That a card evening be held in social hall each Thursday at 8.00 pm together with suitable weekly competitions to raise school funds

22nd May Roll 20. Wilson family have moved to Woodville

Mr Sirett presented the school with a loom he had made in the holidays.

15th June. Senior Pupils collected £3/16/6d for Red Cross appeal for distressed countries

18th June School Committee have authorised me to purchase a football, basketball bladder, and infant class equipment recommended by Miss Lowden. Infant adviser

As above and, also soap for cleaning

Meeting held at 2 pm in the school,

22nd July. Took boys to Carterton to take part in seven aside tournament

28th July. Received a football from Wairarapa primary schools rugby union. And one from the Cross Creek Football Club

8th August. Red Cross Outfit received

11th August As August 2nd was very wet we held Arbor Day today. Planting Ngaio Trees in the school ground and other native trees in vegetable plot

18th August As I intend being away from school during the holidays we scrubbed the school floors, lavatories and then, cleaned windows today etc.

7th September School Committee held final Euchre party – The Secretary informed me that £20 has been paid into the school funds

16th October. Planting 900 onion plants in pupil's vegetable plots. This year we are growing only those vegetables which were not touched by the various pests that spoiled much of last year's crops- Onions, parsnips, leeks, and potatoes

27th October. Mr Maloney, Agriculture Instructor visited. In the afternoon members of the School Committee met him and discussed means of improving school grounds and buying books for the school library. (Nature Study, General Science books)

28th October. Holiday for Carterton Show. I could not take them as I intended owing to illness and a poisoned finger. However they all attended.

8th December Swimming Baths Filled. Will begin swimming next week

11th December. Part of the wall of the swimming pool has been washed away. It will not be put in repair for some time.

12th December That payment of 15/- towards cost of Featherston school dental clinic be paid

That failing definite action by Wellington Education Board in connection with Lavatories and drainage at school that Secretary be instructed to get in touch with health inspector with a view to obtaining his opinion of present conditions/\

15th December. Broke up for holidays. An exhibition of work and a short concert in the afternoon. Most of the parents attended.

1945

5th February Only 17 pupils now

Last Year's Form 2 pupils attended in the morning to help get gardens into order again. We will miss the swimming pool during the very warm months

16th February Wellington Education Board granted me Leave of Absence from 10.30 am to go to Wellington to buy school supplies (chalk etc) and books for school library.

24th February Accompanied tennis teams to Carterton to take part in South Wairarapa Secondary and Primary Schools Championship. Had a happy and winning day. both the Primary School Boys singles championship and the Secondary Combined boys doubles. And being runner up in three other events

8th March. Doctor Mulholland and district health nurse examined children this afternoon. Joy Holmes is to go to the Health Camp at Otaki

4th April That Wellington Education Board be requested to see an architect to the school re a septic tank to draw up plans so that a reliable quote can be obtained

6th April Forwarded 20lbs of rose hips to Masterton Hospital

3rd May. Broke up school one day early. Surrender of German army in Italy

Forwarded 10/- to Otaki Health Camp. Quarterly collection

6th July. Teacher ill with influenza No school today

19th July The amount of £1 per term be paid for the scrubbing out and cleaning of school buildings and that 1/- per pan per week for sanitary services

That Secretary write to Medical officers re obtaining milk daily rather than the 3 times a week at present.

3rd August As we had arranged for collection of clothes for UNRA to take place tomorrow Saturday when mothers are at home. Friday is shopping Day here- we made today our Arbor Day. We gathered native trees and planted them in a corner of the garden. We also planted a short hedge of Toi Toi to give shelter to the vegetable garden

9th August. We collected etc. three large parcels of clothes which we forwarded to Featherston depot.

15th August. We worked all day today with the consent of the School Committee so that we can have Thursday and Friday as holidays
29th October. Mrs Charles sent word that Brian had contracted the measles

6th December. The Stevenson family have left the district

1946

4th February. West Family have left for Mokoia. Roll 11

Unfortunately, the swimming pool which had been repaired has again been partly destroyed and will not be in use this season

I find too the Boys' lavatory has been blown down. I have reported this matter to the School Committee

5th March. The Works foreman of the Wellington Education Board visited the school and looked at the work to be done.

12th March That the school purchase a wireless set for use in schools
Cost not to exceed £30

That stationery approved by the Teacher be purchased to distribute free to children

27th May. I was absent from Cross Creek from March 22nd to May 27th as I had been granted sick leave. In my absence the school was closed for nearly 3 weeks in all. M Kerr a student at Wellington training college taught here for 10 days and my Daughter Patricia for 7 days

30th May Received a supply of garden tools but no grass shears as listed were included.

30th May The School Committee have bought a new wireless set for the school and installed it in the back room.

30th June. Have decided to hold no set examination but to continue to raise standard of work.

18th July. Two pairs of shears received

Winnie Ross who has been under medical care for the last four months is to continue attending school only in the afternoon. She is to go back to hospital in August

5th August. School was only open one day last week as I had an attack of Influenza

9th September The side of the Boy's lavatory has again been blown over. The door of the tool shed has been blown down also

Winnie Ross is to attend school Morning only. Her admission to hospital has been delayed

1st November Holiday Granted for Carterton Show as trains on Saturday not convenient for children to travel on.

6th November That we write and enquire the price of the 16mm "Sound on Film" British Gebescope Projectors

That we purchase 3 gallons of ice cream and 4 dozen mixed drinks

That we again write to the Wellington Education Board re the state of the lavatories

29th November. Holiday instead of election day. To enable Teacher to go shopping.

1947

3rd February 12 Pupils

The playground is covered with long dry grass- a fire danger.

The swimming pool has been repaired so we shall again take a swimming period every fine day.

7th February The weather is uncomfortably humid, so we have been having two periods daily.

Winnie Ross still attends only for morning period.

17th February. After the extreme storm of the weekend we find that much damage has been done to our flower garden.

22nd February. On Saturday it was warm we had swimming practice. Some of the children tried for their distance certificates. 220 yards, 50 yards, 25 yards. Five completed the distances aimed at.

Joy Holmes has hurt her knee and cannot attend school. She does not appear to be sure of the time, when and place where she fell though she thinks it may have happened when she fell on the bridge on the way to school last week.

24th February Joy was taken to Masterton hospital today.

5th March. Joy Returned to school today

5th March Mary McLeod and Joy Holmes swam and completed distances Mary 50 yards and Joy 25 yards.

10th March Three pupils away with stomach complaint prevalent in the district at present

24th March John Richardson has gone to hospital and will be absent some weeks

The attendance this year has been disappointing

The swimming season appears to be over. 7 pupils obtained certificates. Altogether 6 pupils have learned to swim this year. Two of them being in Primer 3

28th March The Ross Family have left Cross Creek

18th April Forwarded £2/12/6 for sale of poppies to RSA

30th April That we are getting £1-3-4 per week for cleaning the school and as it is impossible to get a fulltime adult cleaner. 10/- per week should be allocated between the children who clean the school, the rest to be paid to committee for cleaning each term end and holidays

14th July received a bucket pump from Wellington Education Board

18th July Paper Hanger from Featherston papered residence today. Varnishing of woodwork not completed. no work done on school yet

21st July The Holmes children continually late. I have spoken to their father some time ago

6th August. Too wet for Arbor Day.

22nd August. My last day in charge of this school. Have cleaned desks and scrubbed floor of front room and left everything in order. I regret we could not get garden dug over. It has been limed. The Secretary of School Committee will forward to Wellington Education Board certifying that school and residence left clean and in order

Ida Cody

22nd September H Mackenzie started. Peter Barry is now attending the Carterton Convent School

7th October That Mr McKenzie be authorised to purchase sports gear including 2 school sized bats and necessary cricket gear.

That the Wellington Education Board be approached to have fireplaces repaired.

That an alarm clock for use in school be purchased out of social funds.

21st October. Barbara and Michael Barry left district with family Roll 10

15th November Baths were made ready and opened. Water quite warm

19th November The Ballentynes Fire in Christchurch newspaper cuttings were discussed in class.

20th November and 21st November The morning talks were diverted to the wedding of Princess Elizabeth to lieutenant Philip Mountbatten, Duke of Edinburgh

1st December. All schools have been closed with the outbreak of infantile paralysis

10th December Returned today to complete the school records and returns etc.

1948

2nd February J B Porter reported for duty. The school remains closed owing to paralysis epidemic. Lessons will be carried out by correspondence. The school is at present being painted.

13th February The painters have completed painting the exterior of the school and residence.

19th Feb Visited Featherston to discuss problems with Messrs Stubbs and Bell. (*inspectors, who held a number of training courses re correspondence lessons in the Wairarapa*)

20th February received an excellent consignment of books from the Wellington Education Board .These have been stamped and added to the library.

24th February That Mr Porter be welcomed as the new teacher

That Mrs Porters offer to clean the school be accepted.

That a square of matting be purchased for the school room.

1st March School reopened Roll 11

7th March. The school picnic was held in beautiful sunshine at Brandon's Bush (*Western Lake*) There were about 70 people present and everyone had an enjoyable day.

11th March. I wish to record my grateful thanks to the residents of Cross Creek who saved the school and house from destruction by a scrub fire. About 11.50 am on seeing some smoke about I went outside and noticed a small fire up the valley. As there was a gale blowing at the time I let the children go home for lunch.

In a very short time the whole hillside was a raging fire and had it not been for that the scrub around the school grounds was cleared by the School Committee last year and the efforts of most of the residents who fought the fire for about four hours it is certain that more serious damage would have been done,

During the afternoon the furniture from the house and a good deal of school equipment was shifted into the centre of the school grounds.

At present the origin of the fire is unknown

I would recommend that the fire break be maintained

That any future teacher on arrival insures his furniture immediately

3rd May That a working bee be held to clear the grounds before winter.

24th May The roll now stands at 14 with prospects of at least 2 more children

31st May Today we had a visit from Inspector Hood, Traffic officer. He gave an instructive talk and screened several films

27th August The interior of the small room and porch has been painted by the School Committee with material supplied by the Wellington Education Board The result is very pleasing. Alterations have also been made in the playground

6th September. The school roll is now 18

9th November Received notification that John Clark had gained 1st prize for writing in the Wairarapa show

29th November That £5 be authorised for purchase of filmstrips

That the painting windows and alterations to the backroom be attended to immediately and the Wellington Education Board be approached concerning this matter at an early date with the view of having the work carried out during the Christmas holidays

That a carpet square 9' x6' be purchased for schoolroom

That curtains be purchased for the schoolroom (Cottage Weave)

16th December. A successful concert was held in the social hall

17th December . Parents day

1949

1st February Roll 19. We are now using the "back room" as the classroom in view of the increasing number of pupils

It is hoped to have additional windows in the back room

The former classroom is to be made into a reading-playroom

This has great possibilities and should become the "learning centre" of the school. Especially when proper library shelves are installed

6th February Wendy J Porter was born. I went in to Featherston on the 2.30 pm train and left the senior pupils in charge

10th February That Mrs Porter be nominated as sewing mistress

That the Wellington Education Board be approached re windows for back room.

That 4 gallons ice cream 8 Dozen soft drinks, 2 gallons milk £1 paper lollies be purchased for picnic on Sunday 20th February at Brandon's Paddock

That prizes do not exceed 1/- elder children 6d and 3d smaller children

That NZ Railways be approached to carry out repairs on footbridge.

20th February The school picnic was held in beautiful sunshine at Brandon's Bush. About 70+ people had a most enjoyable day

23rd February School was held in the open. This was one of the most successful school days this year

6th March The school swimming sports were held. An overcast and a strong wind "dampened" proceedings. The swimming sports should be held earlier in the year. Preferably in the Christmas Holidays

25th May The glass bookshelf at present held in the school is on loan from the social club

3rd June Attendance has been exceptionally poor for the previous two weeks. This has been caused by an outbreak of measles and by numerous colds

No date That NZ railways be approached re foot bridge

That Wellington Education Board be approached concerning windows in back room also wind breaks to be treated as urgent

That 6 stools be purchased for school also bookshelf.

8th September We have received 12 new infant tables and chairs plus 6 additional chairs for the library table

9th November. The whole school was taken to Wellington for the day

The primers were taken to the zoo, the museum, up to the botanical gardens in the cable car and then for a ride in a lift.

The standards went on a similar trip except for the fact that they went around the wharves instead of the zoo

29th November A working bee be held on Tuesday for clearing school grounds of scrub and rubbish.

15th December. Parents Day. A gathering of about 50 adults attended this most successful function. A Christmas tree was held for mothers

16th December. The school concert was held in the Railway Social Hall. The proceeds to be used towards a library fund

1950

February A large double window has been added in the main room.

This greatly improves the lighting conditions

6th May End of term. A fancy dress ball was held in the social hall.

The sum of £5 was placed in the library fund

27th July £6-10-0 was collected by the children to aid the United Nations Appeal for Children Fund

14th September That a Jungle Gym be purchased for £12.10

14th December. A very successful visitors day was held at school. Competitions were held in cooking, jam making, and sweets, vegetables, poultry and flowers. At the close of the day the exhibits were auctioned yielding £8-10-0

15th December. The school concert was held in the Social Hall. At the conclusion a play "Dr O'Toole" was presented by a Cross Creek Drama Group. A sum of £6-10-0 was collected and put to the school library account

1951

6th February That School Committee run Euchre evening for three months in the Social Hall

That Mrs Langsford offer be accepted as from Monday for sewing mistress

29th February I am transferring from Cross Creek with many happy recollections of this school and community. The children have been loving and conscientious. I am grateful to the parents generally and the Committee in particular for all that has been done. Everything has been left in order and I wish the incoming teacher every happiness and success. Watch out for bush fires and tie the cabbages down!

5th February Warren C Thompson Head teacher and Arthur Gibson as assistant, Both relieving

Opening roll 19 General work towards cleaning school and gardens

19th February School picnic held at Gooding's Bush overcast with a slight breeze which however did not interfere with the jollity of the occasion.

21st March Visit by Miss Noakes of Junior Red Cross. Circle formed at this school

29th March Visit by nurse of inspection of children.

20th March. Mr Gibson completed his duties, being appointed to Cannington

6th April School closed as Mark of respect to Brian Hutchinson a pupil who died last evening.

4th May End of term 32 on roll

21st May. 2nd Term W Parsonage Organisation, distribution of books cleaning of playground etc.

25th May Mr Evans Agricultural Instructor visited re Nature Study. Aquarium and Terrarium promised to school as soon as possible.

1st June Shivers family from summit transferred to Owhanga. Attendance has been poor due to isolated cases of measles and a type of gastric bug

5th June. School closed for the day. Teacher ill with gastric flu

8th June At this the end of my third week, things are being (sic) to move more smoothly. The children I find are for the most part keen and friendly. I expect good results by the end of the year, though the lower classes will need a great deal of concentrated teaching

18th June Fancy Dress Ball arranged at School Committee meeting. Grant of £5 and £5 subsidy made for additional books for the library. Jungle Gym erected

20th June That Girls lavatory be attended to.

That school wireless be overhauled. That small classroom floor be oiled

9th July Visit by Mr Len Sissons PE Specialist. Indoor work including folk dancing due to bad state of playground

18th July. No summit children at school for two days as the incline being closed. Roll 28

18th August. Very successful fancy dress ball held last night. 15 folk dances were performed to an appreciative audience. I wish to record my appreciation to the accompanist Mr Jameson and Mrs Goodhue who assisted with the dancing. The children performed well, were extremely well behaved and a good time was had by all.

3rd September Roll opened with 30 With 3 new children from the Summit . Ian Batchelor and Ruth and Ann Batchelor both in Standard 3

7th September. Work commenced in gardens. Boys vegetable plots dug in preparation for planting. Girls tidying up "Letter" gardens to prepare for planting of flower plants

15th October. Annette Williams has gone to Woodville. Mr H Williams Secretary of School Committee paid a tribute for his excellent services by School Committee

19th October. Due to breakdown of rail car no Summit children attended school- apart from ? Nicholson who walked down

18th December. Parents day. Over £10-00 raised for exercise book fund

19th December. School closed with roll of 30. Primary School Certificates awarded to Margaret Morrison, Canley Clint? And Brian Duffy

1952

7th February School closed for the day due to the Death of His Majesty King George VI

12th February That Mrs Parsonage be appointed sewing mistress and that Mrs Lansford be written to thanking her for her services.

23rd February New supply of text books received from Wellington Education Board. But no supply of Janet and John books which are needed urgently

10th March Swimming certificates attempted on Sunday

Distances from 25 yards to 220 yards achieved by Judith Pearson and Allan Jameson

A mild epidemic of mumps and a case of chicken pox taken toll of attendance in last few weeks.

17th March School closed. Discussion Group with Inspectors at South Featherston

7th April Mumps epidemic still persists Roll now 25

24th April Attendance still very irregular due to Mumps and measles

26th May Roll 24 16 Boys and 8 girls

8th September Roll now 20

3rd November. Swimming pool opened up for the summer. Cricket set provided by School Committee

1953

2nd February Roll 24

10th March. Children swam for certificates 14/22 gained certificates and seals. Roll now 10 boys and 12 girls

21st April Owing to disruption of rail services due to burning of Tauherenikau Bridge the Summit children were unable to attend school on 2 days

23rd April Normal rail service resumed. Attendance back to normal

21st May. School closed teacher confined to bed

3rd June Coronation of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth 2. Children were taken by teacher to Featherston where a district gathering was held. Children were shown a free cinema show, Punch and Judy show and a Conjuror. Free Ice Creams, drinks and coronation souvenirs in the form of a badge and a flag were given to each child.

A memorable day and one that the children will no doubt remember

16th -17th .The school was closed due to the teacher being confined to bed

9th November That the present cleaners services be dispensed with and Mrs Parsonage be appointed

That the School picnic be held at the Tauherenikau Race course.

17th December. School closed with roll 16 boys and 12 girls

1954

15th January Children assembled under teacher to greet her majesty the Queen and HRH the duke of Edinburgh as they passed through Cross Creek on their way by rail to Masterton. The children were rewarded by an excellent view as the train stopped at Cross Creek for 15 minutes and we were permitted to stand almost alongside the Royal carriage. The children were most enthusiastic in their greeting and were orderly and well behaved.

1st February swimming pool opened.

12th March Swimming certificates finalised. Excellent progress. There are 6 holders of the merit seal 880 yards and only 1 pupil from Standard 1 to Form 2 who does not hold a certificate.

12th July Last Minutes nothing to note.

A Meeting was held on 1955 to elect a School Committee but there are no minutes

16th December. School closed Roll 32 19 boys 13 girls

1955

6th May .Have completed my duties at the Cross Creek School having been here for 4 years W Parsonage

24th May H W (Bill) Peters relieving. 6 Girls and 17 Boys

2nd November Today is the last day at school here at Cross Creek

- a) On this day last week there were 23 pupils today there are only 10
- b) Form 2 Robert Holmes and Roy Pahl

- c) Form 1 Ian Holmes
- d) Standard 3 Barbara Holmes
- e) Standard 2 Lynette Holmes Ian Tonks
- f) Primer 4 Jeanette Pahl and Murray Niven
- g) Primer 3 Vicki Tonks
- h) Primer 2 Wayne Niven

It is fine today just like the day I arrived the 24th May. I first stepped off the train and thought to myself “what a dreadful place”, but somehow have grown very attached to Cross Creek

I am sitting alone in the schoolroom writing this last entry in the log. The children have gone home for the last time. The walls are empty and everything is packed away. Soon there will be nothing left and this building through which many hundreds of children have passed will be deserted.

When as a boy I used to ride up the incline in the railcar. Little did I realise I would be Cross Creek’s last teacher.

In a few minutes I will be walking out the door for the last time. I will always remember my stay here as a very pleasant one. and Cross Creek will always have a soft spot in my Heart.

And so to Cross Creek I say Goodbye and thank for a pleasant stay.
H W Peters

1950

12th April Letter from Wellington Education Board to NZR asking that the NZR get the chimneys swept at house and school when the railway buildings are done.. Also undertake minor works be undertaken by NZR

9th May. Chief engineer replies that because of a shortage of labour they can’t keep up with their own work but might manage it when railway staff are at Cross Creek.

1956

20th January Forestry Department want to purchase property

21 February Cross Creek property handed over to Lands and Survey for disposal.

Appendix

21st November 1898 THE BLOCKED RAILWAY LINE.

OVER THE RIMUTAKA .UNDER . DIFFICULTIES.

THE TRAIN .WRECKED AT PIGEON BUSH.

From Our Special Correspondent

The alarmist reports in circulation here on Saturday morning last concerning the seemingly serious blocking of the railway line between the Upper Hutt and Featherston; the hemming in of the through passenger trains by the rapid succession of landslips on the Rimutaka ; and finally the accident to the goods train at Pigeon Bush, and the almost miraculous escape of the fireman and engine driver of the train, led to your special correspondent spending the greater portion of Saturday and Sunday last on the Rimutaka Ranges. Catching the 10.15 train from the city, he, in company with the Acting Traffic Manager (Mr. Peterkin), a pair of newspaper scribes, and a gang of workmen, left for the scenes of the different disasters, armed with Macintosh , stout boots and leggings, and prepared to get through — well, as far as he could. The send-off was not cheery. We

were told we could not " get through " owing to the blocks in the line, but Mr. Peterkin disposed of this opinion in a most off-hand manner " Can't," he said, with interrogation and scorn finely blended, "Don't know the word." The remark did not sound quite original, but there after we relied on Mr. Peterkin to pull us through. At the Upper Hutt, where the ordinary service ended and the special conveying men and materials to the places requiring them began, we caught an engine and trucks, and in a few minutes were at slip No. 1, which was situated about 21 miles from Wellington. Some few minutes prior to our reaching this spot the men working there had cleared away the obstruction, but the treacherous earth had fallen in again, and on our arrival there the train could go no farther. There was nothing for it but to get out and walk. The slip was in a cutting, and would take at least an hour to shift. Twenty minutes' tramping brought us to the wash-out at the Mangaroa Bridge — not the larger bridge over the main stream, but a small affair over a streamlet some 300 or 400 yards further along. The other side of this break we caught another engine and trucks, and were rapidly transferred to Kaitoke, passing innumerable small slips en route, and seeing traces all along of what must have been

A VERITABLE DELUGE. The smallest streams which under ordinary conditions trickle down the steep hillsides with hardly sufficient water visible in their courses to fill a bucket must have been converted into madly rushing torrents many feet deep. Immense logs and trees, each big enough to require a good team of bullocks to shift it, had been carried down from the hillsides by the extraordinary flood of water and heaped pell-mell one on the other, showing the presence of a force of amazing strength. In one deep, narrow gully about midway between Mangaroa and Kaitoke the volume of the

flood rushing down, to judge by the scarred banks remaining, must have been from 15 ft to 20 ft deep, and the roar of the water could be heard in the far distance loud above everything else by those forced to be out in the vicinity on Friday night. Fortunately this gully is deep at the spot where it crosses the railway line, and no damage was done here.

SOME OBSTRUCTIONS. At several places on the way to Kaitoke the engine and trucks we were on had to slow up in order to creep past slips which had been cleared away only sufficiently to allow the train to pass. This state of things existed also beyond Kaitoke, and we felt our way along, now rushing over a piece of line free from slips, now proceeding gingerly past temporarily-cleared obstructions, until we came across a gang of men working on a large slip which had come solidly out of the side of the hill and pushed the rails a foot or two out of their usual position. This meant more walking, and we left the engine behind, skirted the edge of the slip, and started off up the line on foot. This was about 29 miles from Wellington. A couple of miles of heavy walking brought us to where a large quantity of soft soil and large logs had come down on to the track near the mouth of the tunnel. A small stream of water had converted the obstruction into a liquid mass, into which an over-eager scribe rushing to the front sank up to his knees. He extricated himself with some difficulty, and, profiting by his example, the rest of the party managed to get past without carrying with them any undue quantity of Rimutaka mud.

THE DELAYED TRAIN. A few hundred yards on the other side of the tunnel we come upon the carriages which had formed part of the train leaving Wellington 'at 4 o'clock on Friday afternoon. There were two carriages and a guard's van, and they were in a deplorable condition — buried on one side right up to the windows in rocky,

gravelly material, with windows broken and panels smashed in. It was a piece of good fortune that they were not swept over into the Pukaratahi stream, which at this spot runs close alongside the line, though some feet below its level. A few tons more of earth and the carriages must have capsized over the bank into the flooded stream below. It must not be assumed, however, that the earth, half burying these carriages, all came down while the passengers were in the train. When the smaller slip stopped the train the passengers ran some risk from falling stones, but got safely into a carriage in front, and the train which came down from the Summit to meet them, though it could not get back to the Summit itself, was able to get to a sheltered spot where there was small danger of land' slips. Here it was that the passengers spent the night. Guard Payne was hurt through going back to his van to see to his mails.

BEYOND THE SUMMIT. After passing the hemmed-in carriages we picked up another ballast train, and in it we were conveyed to the Summit, a distance of some three or four miles. From the Summit to Cross's Creek we also journeyed by -train, all the slips .on this side of the line having been cleared away before we reached them. On this side of the hill, also, the rainfall had been terrific, and at Cross's Creek the small building used by the residents as a technical school and library was swept clean away by the flood. Here we heard accounts of the accident to the goods train near Pigeon Bush, and our anxiety to get to the spot, of course, increased when we learned that there was no engine available to take us there. The difficulty of transport was got over, however, by despatching a man on a railway tricycle — an ingenious contrivance worked with levers, and on which it is possible to get up a high rate of speed. He was sent to Pigeon Bush to tell the engine-driver to come back for the gang of

workmen who had made the trip with us, and by 5.30 we were at the scene of the accident, having travelled on six different trains since leaving Wellington, and also having walked some distance in order to accomplish the journey.

THE WRECKED GOODS TRAIN was an astonishing sight, and it is something to marvel at that no one on it was killed. At the particular spot where the accident occurred there's a long, straight stretch of line from Featherston to Pigeon Bush. Along this line the trains run very fast, and just before reaching the small bridge where the accident happened an extra spurt is put on in order to gain a good start to climb the rise leading to the Pigeon Bush station. Therefore the doomed train was travelling at a fast pace when it reached this stream, which is known as Prince's Creek. As has already been stated, the under part of the Wellington end of this small bridge was washed away by the flood, and as the train came on to it, the rails and sleepers having nothing underneath to support them, bent beneath the weight. The engine made a slight dip into the hollow which this caused, but the pace was so rapid that it partly jumped the remaining space, leapt into the air, missed the rails as it descended, swayed over but righted again, dashed on some 100 yards, and fell over on its left side. The engine-driver (McNeiley) was thrown out of the right hand side of the cab of the engine at the first jump the locomotive made and fortunately fell into the water that had flooded over from the stream on to the side of the line. It was pitch dark and raining at the time, but he scrambled out unhurt. Discussing the matter afterwards he stated that he did not know what had happened until he felt himself flying through the air . Then the whole position of the accident flashed through his mind, and before he struck the water he had correctly gauged the circumstances. The fireman (Skidmore),

who was on the left side of the engine cab, kept his place there, and when the engine fell over he went with it. Being on the side of the engine that struck the ground, he did not fall any distance, but he could not get out without breaking the window of the cab, through which he crawled, and groped his way to the road. His escape was a miraculous one, and he may be thankful that the gauge-glass of the engine did not break.

A TERRIBLE SMASH. Both he and the driver escaped with bruises, and the engine itself got off very well, but the trucks behind were terribly shattered. When we arrived on the scene there were some six or eight trucks — perhaps more — heaped on one another, a mass of wreckage — the woodwork of most of them smashed to splinters, while the thick ironwork was twisted and broken to an almost incredible extent. The accident must have been an awful sight to have witnessed. So complete is the wreck of some six or eight of the wagons that it was impossible to tell, from looking at them, how many there really were in the great splintered heap. Several of the trucks were loaded with timber, others contained bales of wool; while large pieces of cheese, scattered broadcast, denoted the contents of others. On one of the trucks a small lineman's whare was being carried. Its battered, distorted shape now reposed bottom upwards on the side of the line. In that whare four linemen had travelled some distance, and, by a mere chance, it is said, they left the train at Masterton. But for that chance there would in all probability be a more serious side to the accident, for the odds were all against any person travelling on that particular portion of the train coming through the accident alive. There were some 16 wagons in the train, and the last half-dozen escaped damage. The guard's van, in which

was the guard and another official, sustained a mighty bump, but no one was hurt.

OCCASION FOR THANKFULNESS. 'Had the train been coming from the other direction — that is to say, from Cross's Creek instead of from Featherston — the accident would probably have been of a much more serious character, for the engine would have left the rails immediately on going on to the bridge, instead of when almost across it. This would have meant that the engine and many of the trucks would have landed in the stream. As it was, none of them went into the water. The passengers by the train from Wellington to Masterton were inclined to grumble at their detention on the Rimutaka, but it was a piece of remarkable good fortune for many of them, and they have much to be thankful for. Had they succeeded in getting through, a passenger and not a goods train would probably have been the first to reach the broken bridge. What would then have happened is too unpleasant to contemplate. It must have been an awful calamity.

MATTERS IN GENERAL. A quite unwarranted reflection has been cast upon the condition of the line at the place where the accident occurred. As a matter of fact, that particular portion of the line was only relaid about two months ago.- and was specially made in order to allow practically any rate of speed to be run on it, and thus enable engine-drivers to get on sufficient pace to carry heavy trains up the Pigeon Bush rise. Probably there is not a better piece of line in the whole colony. Resuming the account of our trip from Wellington, we travelled from Princes Creek to Featherston per trolley express, reaching that township of breezes at 8 o'clock, the journey having thus taken something like 10 hours. Mr. Peterkin had faithfully carried out his undertaking to see us through. Next morning at 7

o'clock we started off for Wellington, and by means of ballast trains and " Shanks's pony " succeeded in reaching Upper Hutt in time to catch the 1 o'clock train to Wellington. On the homeward journey we were better able to judge of the means taken by the railway officials to clear away the obstructions and reopen the line for traffic. The change that had taken place in the few hours that had elapsed since our upward journey was amazing. On it looked a three or four day's job at the least. On Sunday so judicious had been the arrangements and so well had the men worked, that there was every indication of a few hours sufficing to re-open communication between the Upper Hutt ! and Featherston. For this Mr. McCredie (District Engineer) and his assistants deserve every credit. The railway linemen were brought from every part of the line between Wellington and Pahiatua and their willing efforts being ably directed the result is that the line has been cleared with what is probably unprecedented despatch. It is calculated that over 6000 yards of stuff was brought down on the railway line by the heavy rainfall and the logs and scrub in it made it difficult to handle. This all had to be shifted and in addition there were several washouts. Over 120 men were put on to do the work, and they worked like Britons. Some of them were as long as 34 hours straight off without a spell worth speaking of. PP

1883		Cross Creek	Amner	Henry C	Master	£100
1884	10	Cross Creek	Amner	Henry C	Master	£100
1885	20	Cross Creek	Woodman	Mary J	Female	£100
1886	18	Cross Creek	Delany	Richard	Master	£100
1887	16	Cross Creek	Delany	Richard	Master	£120
1888	22	Cross Creek	Delany	Richard	Master	£115
1889	25	Cross Creek	Delany	Richard	Master	£115
1890	18	Cross Creek	Munro	Donald	Master	£155
1891	19	Cross Creek	Delany	Richard	Master	£155
1892	26	Cross Creek	Turkington	Samuel	Master	£100
1893	25	Cross Creek	Turkington	Samuel	Master	£135
1893	25	Cross Creek	Turkington	Julia	Sewing	£5
1894	25	Cross Creek	Turkington	Samuel	Master	£145
1894	25	Cross Creek	Turkington	Julia	Sewing	£5
1895	26	Cross Creek	Turkington	Samuel	Master	£145
1895	26	Cross Creek	Turkington	Julia	Sewing	£5
1896	35	Cross Creek	Turkington	Samuel	Male	£145
1896	35	Cross Creek	Turkington	Julia	Sewing	£5
1897	43	Cross Creek	Turkington	Samuel	Male	£145
1897	43	Cross Creek	Allen	Martha C	Female Pupil Teacher	£20
1897	43	Cross Creek	Turkington	Julia	Sewing	£5
1898	28	Cross Creek	Turkington	Samuel	Male	£155
1898	28	Cross Creek	Wellsted	Blanche	Female Pupil Teacher	£20
1898	28	Cross Creek	Turkington	Julia	Sewing	£5
1899	30	Cross Creek	Turkington	Samuel	Male	£155
1899	30	Cross Creek	Hewson	Maria	Female Pupil Teacher	£20

1900	31	Cross Creek	Turkington	Samuel		Male	£155
1901	30	Cross Creek	Turkington	Samuel		Male	£155
1901	30	Cross Creek	Turkington	Julia		Sewing	£5
1902	29	Cross Creek	Turkington	Samuel		Male	£155
1903	30	Cross Creek	Kirby	James H		Headmaster	£137
1904	28	Cross Creek	Kirby	James H		Master	£139
1905	28	Cross Creek	Kirby	James H	E1	Master	£136
1906	26	Cross Creek	Kirby	James H	E1	Master	£144
1907	30	Cross Creek	Kirby	James H	E1	Master	£144
1908	28	Cross Creek	Kirby	James H	E1	Master	£144
1909	35	Cross Creek	Fieldhouse	Joseph H		Master	£1,135
1910	35	Cross Creek	Fieldhouse	Joseph H	D4	Master	£155
1911	27	Cross Creek	Warwick	Robert E	D3	Master	£150
1912	28	Cross Creek	Rockel	Felix E S	D4	Master	£150
1913	29	Cross Creek	Dudson	Walter F		Master	£135
1914	27	Cross Creek	Bright	Aimee D	E1	Substitute	£135
1914	27	Cross Creek	Dudson	Walter F		World War 1	
1915	37	Cross Creek	Blake	Charles M		Licensed	£143
1917	36	Cross Creek	Blake	Charles M	Head	Licensed	£200
1919	33	Cross Creek	Blake	Charles M	Sole	Licensed	£270
1921	41	Cross Creek	Blair	Robina R R	Assistant		£190
1921	41	Cross Creek	Kerr	Arthur	Reliever		£170
1923	40	Cross Creek	Howard	Kate A	Head	D-109	£343
1923	40	Cross Creek	Wilson	Mary C	Assistant	C-214	£213