

State Farm

1894		State Farm	Cole	William P		Master	£205.00
1895	44	State Farm	Cole	William P		Master	£ 205.00
1895	44	State Farm	Howan	Emma		Female Pupil Teacher	£25.00
1896	38	State Farm	Cole	William P		Master	£205.00
1896	38	State Farm	Howan	Margaret E		Female Pupil Teacher	£ 25.00
1897	39	State Farm	Cole	William P	D1	Master	£205.00
1897	39	State Farm	Howan	Margaret		Female Pupil Teacher	£30.00
1898	50	State Farm Levin	Cole	William P	D1	Master	£205.00
1898	50	State Farm Levin	Howan	Margaret E		Female Pupil Teacher	£37.00

1894

22nd May 1894 State farm. Levin (8 families also on farm), No of Workers 37, also 2 artisans
 20th September 1894 Part of a long article on the Levin State Farm. We do not think that there are 52 men upon the property at present, as we had mentioned a little over 80 by the manager; and it is natural that some, alteration might occur during the six months The work done during the six- months since a start was made is as follows" :— The open land about twenty acres has had the scrub cut down and cleared off, the whole has been substantially fenced and subdivided, and a portion, some six or eight acres has been ploughed. A garden bus been prepared as a nursery for fruit trees and ' some 2250 trees, obtained from a southern nursery, planted close together therein, The trees looked well and strong.

A room-provided- with a fireplaces has been built for a school for the children during the day and as a Social Hall for the labourers of- a night.

William Plunkett Cole started teaching as assistant master at Te Aro School in the centre of Wellington. He resigned after being accused of punishing a child too severely, he was acquitted. He was first teacher at the State Farm School in 1894 In 1899 the name of the school was changed to Horowhenua where he still was when the school ceased to exist under this name. At Times he was William P, W Plunkett, W P, and William Plunkett

8th October 1928 Captain Plunkett Cole, who was wounded when the steamer Anking was attacked in the Gulf of Tonking, by Chinese pirates a few days ago, is a son of the late -Mr Plunkett Cole, who was for many years a schoolmaster both in the Levin district and in Wellington and who died some fifteen years ago. After being headmaster at Te Aro School, the life Mr Plunkett Cole acted in the same capacity at the school “which was situated at the Central Development Farm, and afterwards on the Beach Road, and which was closed when the Central School was shifted from Weraroa into Levin. The late Mr Cole, senr., was an old-time tramper of considerable stamina, and a favourite exercise of his on a Saturday was to walk to Hokio thence along the beach to the Manawatu Heads, and back again in the same day. Captain Cole served his apprenticeship on the New Zealand Shipping Company’s sailing vessels.

27th September 1894 It was decided to transfer Mr W. P. Cole from Dreyerton to the school on the State farm at Levin. The chairman stated that the Labour Department had a

schoolhouse, and that there were 30 children of school age in the district. [The appointment at Dreyerton was a temporary appointment]

1st October 1894 Letter to the Editor: By the report of the last meeting of the Wellington Education Board I see that body has granted a school at the State Farm at Levin. It is only a few months ago when an urgent request from the settlers at Kuku met with a decided refusal on the ground that two schools— Manukau and Ohau— were within the distance prescribed by the Board's regulations— viz , three miles. Are the members of the Board aware that the State Farm is within a mile and a half of the Levin School? It seems manifestly unfair to the settlers at Kuku that their application should have been refused, and that this Government fad should be pandered to. At Kuku the children when attending either school have to cross an unbridged river, while the State Farm children have a good road right to the Levin School. Is the Board, like some other departments of the Government, under the thumb of Ministers r I am, &C., Mem.

17th October 1894 The opening of the new school at the State Farm has made a material difference to the State school [Referring to Levin School] here, and I learn that some 40 scholars are now regularly attending the new institution. Mr. Plunkett-Cole has been placed in charge.

1895

4th January 1895 The recent judgment of the Chief Justice in respect of the Horowhenua Block has apparently emboldened the Natives to indulge in some bounceable talk at the State Farm, and a telegram has been received from the manager, Mr Winterburn, stating that some uneasiness has thereby been caused to the women folk resident on the estate. Instructions have been sent to the manager to proceed. by civil action against the Natives if they render themselves a nuisance by too frequent trespass, and to telegraph for police assistance should they attempt any resort to violence. The Crown feels secure as to Its rights, and any interference by the Natives will lead to prompt action on the part of the authorities.

26th January 1895 he celebration of the' first anniversary of the State Farm at Levin passed off on Thursday last with great 'eclat. The Ministers of Labour and Lands had intended to be present, but were prevented at the last moment" as a Cabinet meeting had been summoned. Addresses of welcome had been prepared for presentation to them and much disappointment was therefore felt 'at, their .absence, .Mr James Mackay represented the department of Labour. There was a large number of visitors including many Natives from the neighbouring settlements, and all the visitors both white and coloured were very hospitably entertained. The festivities comprised a programme of athletic sports, and in the evening a social gathering. During the afternoon fully, a hundred children sat down to tea in the school-house. Altogether the scene was : very bright, animated and interesting, the people, in their holiday attire, the long lino of saddlehorses tethered to the fences, the gay costumes of the Maori belles, the general bustle and movement combining to form a striking tableau. , There was food for thought and cause for congratulation in the reflection that only twelve months ago the forest primeval stood where now A thriving settlement exists. 'Within, that brief time about 350 acres of bush have been felled, buildings have boon erected, lands fenced and planted, and crops are being raised; all this work being" done by men most of whom are past

the heyday of life, and who, if left to shift for themselves, would now be a burden upon public charity.

1st February 1895 Mr J. D. Ritchie, Secretary of the Agricultural Department, and Mr James Mackay, of the Labour Department, have returned from the Levin State Farm after holding an enquiry into certain complaints preferred by one of the residents against the manager. They will report immediately to the Minister of Labour.'

4th April 1895 The Minister for Labour spent Monday last at the State Farm. Although the Manager (Mr Winterburn) is still absent on sick leave owing to his broken leg, the work on the farm is proceeding in a very satisfactory way. The little colony numbers about 110 men, women and children. There are 45 children of school age on the roll of the school which has been started at the settlement, the teacher being Mr Cole, late of To Aro School. Almost without exception the families are now decently housed, and a great deal has been done in the way of growing vegetables for themselves.

14th May 1895 Inspector Lee to visit on 23rd May

28th May 1895 On Saturday last 18 of the settlers of the Horowhenua Village Settlement were started by the Lands Department, on the work of forming a road through the block to afford them access to their sections. This village settlement block adjoins the State farm at Levin.

31st May 1895 The Hon Mr Beeves and Mr E. Tregear, Secretary of the Department of Labour, have returned from their visit of inspection to the State farm at Levin. The Minister is greatly pleased with the results so far accomplished. Four hundred and ten acres of land have been cleared of bush, and sown in grass, which is coming up most promisingly. The schoolmaster has made a good record. At the last examination 21 children were presented for passes, and every one of them passed. Arrangements were made with the manager of the farm to bring certain rules into force

28th August 1895 Wellington Education Board Miss Howam [sic Howan] appointed pupil teacher

1 of 10 children: the only Howan family listed in BDM

1880/18649	Howan	Margaret Emma	Ellen Jane	Samuel
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1896

24th March 1896 Mr C. E. Plunkett-Cole, R.N.R., son of Mr Cole, of the Levin State Farm School, passed the Board of Trade's examination for second mate's certificate in London on the 3rd February last. He is now serving in the New Zealand Shipping Co.'s s.s. Ruapehu — due here in a day or two — and has only lately completed four out of his five years' term of apprenticeship.

30th May 1896 The Levin correspondent endorses all our contention about the management of the State Farm there and he says this farm up to now seems to have given no one full satisfaction as the men on it grumble, the workers outside grumble, and the tradesmen, if possible, grumble more than either of them.

1897- 1898

1st February 1897 The question of retaining the school on the Levin State Farm or shifting it to a site more accessible to the children in the Levin and the Wereroa townships, is under consideration by the Board of Education. Messrs. P. Bradey and J. Young visited the district last week as a committee of the Board, and conferred on the subject with Mr. Mackay, Chief Clerk of the Labour Department, It is understood that a number of residents favour the abolition of the school, urging that the other school in the district provides sufficient accommodation.

24th February 1897 The report on the proposed removal of the Levin State Farm School was deferred till a full meeting of the Board.

17th May 1897 Inspector Lee to visit on Thursday 10th of June

2nd September 1897 The Government Poultry Expert (Mr. J. A. Henderson) expresses himself highly pleased with the results obtained so far at the poultry breeding station on the State Farm at Levin. The children at the Farm school are showing great interest in the rearing of poultry.

29th November 1897 Mr. J. A. Henderson, poultry expert, has successfully initiated poultry competitions in three public schools— Levin State Farm, Lower Hutt, and Blenheim. At each of these places 10 willing youngsters have been supplied with a sitting of eggs each, all of the same kind, and a prize is to be given to the most successful hatcher and rearer of the sittings. At Levin the teacher (Mr. Plunkett Cole) has negotiated the monetary part of the competition. At Lower Hutt the funds have been provided by Messrs. W. A. Fitzherbert, C. H. Treadwell, S. V. Burridge, and P. Casey. At Blenheim Mr. C. de V. Teschemaker is the principal subscriber. There have been several successful hatches already

10th April 1898 Mr Fleming to inspect State farm Levin 6th June

26th May 1898 The Chairman said a petition had been received for the removal of the school from the State Farm, Levin, to Wereroa. The building belongs to the Labour Department, which proposes that the Board should buy the school, and that the expenses of the removal, &c., should be taken into consideration when it comes to be valued. The Board agreed to this being done.

7th June 1898 Only nine men are now employed on the State Farm at Levin

8th June 1898 The Labour Department requests us to say that the number of men employed at the Levin State Farm is 16— not nine as has been stated.

29th June 1898 Wellington Education Board Mr. Bradey stated that Mr. Bartholomew was of opinion that it would be cheaper to build a new schoolhouse in the vicinity of Levin than to remove the schoolhouse now on the State Farm.

28th July 1898 Wellington Education Board It was decided to defer consideration of certain proposals in regard to the State Farm School, Levin, pending reports from the committees in the adjoining districts.

1st September 1898 Wellington Education Board The question of the removal of the Levin State Farm School to a more central site was discussed, and the removal agreed to, on the motion of Mr Bradey, seconded by Mr Young. ,

Horowhenua

1899	74	Horowhenua	Cole	William P	D1	Head Master	£ 225.00	
1899	74	Horowhenua	Howan	Margaret E		Female Pupil Teacher	£ 37.00	
1899	74	Horowhenua	Thompson	Frederick		Male Pupil teacher	£ 25.00	
1900	65	Horowhenua	Cole	William P	D1	Head Master	£ 225.00	
1900	65	Horowhenua	Howan	Margaret E		Female Pupil Teacher	£ 41.00	
1901	76	Horowhenua	Cole	William P	D1	Head Master	£ 215.00	\$ 20.00
1901	76	Horowhenua	Silvester	Eveline		Female Pupil Teacher	£ 20.00	
1901	76	Horowhenua	Stuckey	Dorothea		Female Pupil Teacher	£ 20.00	
1902	89	Horowhenua	Cole	William Plunkett	D1	Head Master	£ 215.00	\$30.00
1902	89	Horowhenua	Sage	Agnes	E2	Assistant Female	£ 95.00	

Figure in far right column indicates a school house was not provided for the head teacher

1899-1904

10th January 1899 Wellington Education Board TENDERS will be received at the Education Board Office, Wellington, up to Noon of the 13th January, for the removal and additions to the Lavin State Farm School. Plans and specifications may be seen at the offices of the Manawatu Farmer, Levin. Otaki Mail, Otaki, and Manawatu Herald, Foxton. A. DORSET, 30th March 1899 A tender of Mr P. L. Arcus for £132 was received for the removal of the Levin State Farm School. The matter was referred to the chairman to deal with.

18th April 1899 The tender of Wm. Allaway has been accepted by the Education Board for the removal, of the school building at the State Farm to the new site in the Wereroa district. Two other tenders were received.

17th May 1899 Mr Bakewell Inspector to visit Levin State Farm 29th May

13th June 1899 In a long article on the Levin State Farm was this piece: Perhaps the most important feature of the farm is the dairy. At the present time sixty-two cows are milked, the work being carried out by three women residing on the farm, and each of these three employs a junior from her own family to assist. The dairy buildings are convenient and up to data, and their cleanliness is beyond reproach.

29th June 1899 Below Photo Levin State Farm



31st August 1899 Mr F Thompson appointed pupil teacher at the Horowhenua School. [This is the first mention I can find of a change of name. I presume the school is now at the Horowhenua State farm near Weraroa close to the Levin State farm]

1900-1902

26th April 1900 School Committee Horowhenua — Messrs. James Silvester (Chairman), G. Cameron (Secretary), Thos. Hirst, Ivor James, R. Prouse, J. W. Boulton, and John Woods

13th December 1900 The Levin and Horowhenua Village Settlement School Committees, • have joined in a proposal to give the children of both schools an outing on the sea L beach at Paikakariki. As parents are generally busy during the Christmas holidays, and this may affect the attendance of children, the excursion will not . take place until early in February.

[I have no evidence that there were two schools operating in this area of Levin. There are no records from the Wellington Education Board or any other official place of these two schools existing. The buildings were it seemed owned by other Government departments]

1st April 1901 Pupil Teacher required

28th August 1901 site with about 400 acres of good land has been secured at Horowhenua, near Levin, for a boys' industrial school, and it is hoped that part of the new premises will be ready for occupation in the beginning of 1902. Most of the industrial school boys proper (i.e., exclusive of those requiring a reformatory treatment) who are in residence are at present at Caversham-; when the Horowhenua School is open, these inmates will be taken thither. It is intended that the latter school shall consist of a set of cottage homes, not of one large institution.

30th January 1902 Proposed Increase in Wages Wellington Education Board Horowhenua, Emily Sloan', present salary £80, colonial salary £95.

5th March 1902 Emily Sloan resigns Horowhenua School

2nd April 1902 The Chairman remarked that if the Petone School could be added to and altered so as to make it available for a year or two longer, the Horowhenua School might be gone on with if funds permitted. It was decided to call tenders also for a new school at Horowhenua and additions to the Petone School.

Agnes Sage started teaching in 1886 at Masterton Infant School until 1889

She was then at the Masterton School until 1895, Featherston School 1896 1900. Greytown in 1901. Horowhenua 1902 and Levin 1903-1904. All for the Wellington Education Board

4th March 1903 It was recommended that tenders for removing the old Horowhenua school to the site of the new Central school should be advertised for.

In 1904 Mr Plunkett Cole was headmaster of Taita School in the Hutt Valley where he taught until 1909

5th October 1904 Wellington Education Board Ample room could be provided at Levin by the removal of the Horowhenua school to a new site. It was decided that the old school be shifted at a cost of £80, for the purposes of providing accommodation for secondary education.

This was a very hard school/s to collect information on. Didn't find any education board meetings where the decisions were made