

Lyon & Blair's Almanack
And Descriptive Hand-book of the Province of Wellington 1876

The Hutt District

The remaining portions of the Wellington Province which require to be described consist of the Lower Hutt and Upper Hutt Districts, the Wairarapa and East Coast, and the country lying between Masterton and the Manawatu Gorge. Starting again from the City of Wellington, the first place to be described is the valley of the Hutt, so called after the river of that name, which flows through it and discharges itself into the upper portion of Wellington Harbor. The Hutt valley is reached from Wellington by a road skirting the harbor, parallel with the railway line now completed. Passing the villages of Kaiwarrawarra and Ngahauranga – at the latter of which the road branches off to the West Coast – a few miles further on the Hutt bridge is reached, which, together with a small village, is situated at the lower part of the valley. This village is a pretty suburb of Wellington, and since it has been connected with it by rail has become a favourite place of resort.

The district is known as the Lower and Upper Hutt, and is the oldest settled in the Province. The land is of a very diversified character. The valley is first-class alluvial soil, and the hills afford very fair pasture for sheep when cleared of bush. There are a great many small holdings of from 10 to 160 acres each in the lower valley, which are cultivated as market gardens principally. The larger holdings are grazing farms. The spurs of the hills along the margin of the valley are pretty well cleared of timber by this time. A very large trade in timber was at one time carried on in the Hutt Valley, but as the forests became exhausted the trade gradually diminished, and, although there are still several saw-mills in operation, the industry is wretchedly insignificant to what it once was. It is expected, however, that a new line of road about to be opened between Mungaroa and Waikanae, on the West Coast, will tap fresh forest land and reanimate the old industry for which the valley was once famous. In the Lower Hutt the price of land is very high, partly on account of its great fertility, and partly owing to its contiguity to the City of Wellington. Land for general purposes fetches as much as from £30 to £50 per acre, and frequently as much as £100 per acre is paid for land required for some special purposes, such as building sites, &c. Land in the Upper Hutt is in all respects inferior to that of the Lower Hutt, and is usually quoted 50 per cent less. The same causes which operate in keeping the value of Hutt land at so high a figure also keep the rates of wages for all descriptions of labor at the very highest figure ruling in the Province. The price of sawn timber at the mills is from 8s to 10s per 100 feet.

The general features of this district, which lies altogether to the west of the Tararua and Rimutaka Ranges, are steep wooded spurs proceeding from those ranges, and vallies lying between them. After leaving the Upper Hutt, the Mungaroa is the next point reached, on passing which the ascent of the Rimutaka Hill, a spur of the Tararua Range, commences. The summit of the hill is reached by a side-cutting, and the descent on the other slope by similar means leads to the lower part of the Wairarapa Valley. The railway is now constructed as far as the Silver Stream, and operations are steadily progressing in forming a tunnel through the hill. The formation of that part of the line known as the "Incline Contract," on the Wairarapa side of the hill, is also progressing. Full particulars as to this railway are given in another division of this book under the head of "Public Works in Progress."

Calendar

- 1872 Jan 25 Hutt Bridge opened for Traffic
 1872 Aug 17 First sod Hutt Railway turned
 1874 Jan 21 First locomotive started Hutt Rail
 1874 Mar 27 First train passed over Hutt line
 1874 Apr 15 Hutt Railway opened for traffic
 1875 Mar 25 Daniel Riddiford died
- 1875 Apr 19 Mrs Hendle, wife of the Lighthouse Keeper accidentally killed at Pencarrow Lighthouse
- 1875 May 24 Queen's Birthday – first railway excursion to Silver Stream
 1875 Jun 13 Mrs Valentine of the Hutt died
 1875 Aug 11 Public meeting at Hutt on the Abolition question
 1875 Aug 21 Second abolition meeting held at Hutt
 1875 Aug 30 Stafford addressed the electors of the Hutt
- 1875 Oct 17 Richard Waygood committed suicide at the Hutt by shooting himself through the chest (Richard Waygood HAWKINS)
- 1875 Nov 07 New Wesleyan Church at the Hutt opened
 1875 Dec 08 Flood at the Hutt and postponement of races

Public Officials

Public Vaccinator Hutt	Dr J. G. F. Wilford
Country Postmaster Taita	G. H. Ross
Country Postmaster Wainuiomata	J. McIlvride
Country Postmaster Upper Hutt	J. Wylie
Telegraphist Hutt	J. H. Broadfoot
Telegraphist Upper Hutt	J. Wylie
Native Medical Officer Hutt	J. G. Wilford
Defence Department	Major J. W. Lockett for Hutt, Masterton, Greytown
Public Works Department	W. H. Hales, resident engineer, Hutt
Public Works Department	C. T. Rushbrook, draughtsman
Public Works Department	G. M. Winks, resident engineer, Upper Hutt
Public Works Department	G. Blackett, cadet, Upper Hutt
Public Works Department	W. K. Mason, resident engineer, Pakuratahi
Public Works Department	R. G. Park, cadet, Mungarooa
Public Works Department	E. M. Park, cadet, Mungarooa
Commissioner of the Peace	George Beetham, Hutt
Commissioner of the Peace	William Beethan, Taita
Commissioner of the Peace	Henry Clapcott, Hutt
Commissioner of the Peace	William Fitzherbert sen., C.M.G., Hutt
Commissioner of the Peace	John Grace, Wainuiomata
Commissioner of the Peace	Henry Jackson, Hutt
Commissioner of the Peace	Alfred Ludlam, Hutt
Commissioner of the Peace	James Kelham, Hutt