

THE THAMES RUGBY UNION is an old established body. Officers for 1900: Mr J. McIntyre, chairman, Messrs D. Twohill, F. Ladner, W. McGregor, T. Scott and H. Koefoed, trustees; Mr. H. G. Nicoll, secretary. There are three senior clubs—namely, the Thames, Native Rose, and Rovers, and three junior clubs—True Blue, Carlton, and Nelson, belonging to the Union. In football the Thames is very strong, and has the distinction of being the only union in the colony which has beaten Auckland, the champion provincial union, for three consecutive years.

THE THAMES JOCKEY CLUB was established about 1875. Officers for 1900: Hon. J. McGowan, president, Mr. A. Smith, vice-president, Mr. C. J. Winder, treasurer, Mr. E. McDonnell, clerk of the course, and Mr. W. H. Potts, secretary. The racecourse is situated at Parawai, where the club owns thirty acres of land, on which it has spent about £2000 in grassing, draining, and erecting new buildings since 1896. The grandstand is erected on a hill and has seating accommodation for 500 persons. There are two annual meetings—namely, on the 26th and 27th of December, and on the 1st Monday in March.

THE THAMES POULTRY, PIGEON AND CANARY CLUB was established in 1895. An annual show is held, and at the fifth, which took place on the 21st of July, 1900, there were 423 separate entries for exhibition.

THE THAMES-HAURAKI BRASS BAND was established early in 1899, and has twenty-five active members. Officers for 1900: Mr. E. G. Williams, bandmaster, Mr. T. B. Booth, sergeant and secretary, Mr. A. Henderson, corporal, and Mr. J. Lang, treasurer. The services of the band are available for public functions and charitable performances.

WILDMAN, THOS., Teacher of Violin and Orchestral Instruments, Pollen Street, Thames. Mr. Wildman was born in 1850 at Settle, West Riding of Yorkshire, and was educated at the Giggleswick Grammar School. He came out to Australia in the "Superb" in 1887, and crossing the Tasman Sea established himself in business at the Music Warehouse, Alexandra Hall, New Plymouth. After being five years in business there, Mr. Wildman followed his profession for two years in Gisborne, whence he moved, in 1894, to Whangarei. He now (1901) resides at Thames, and is well known as a successful teacher.

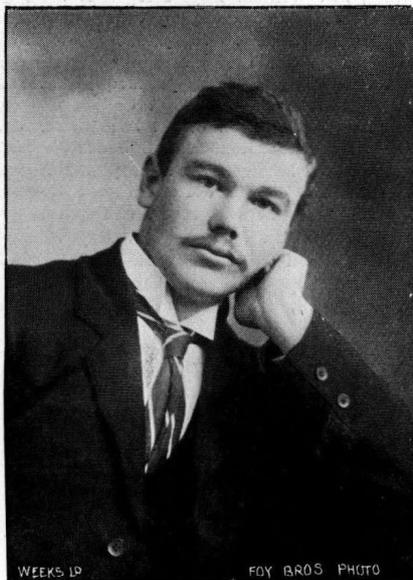
WILDMAN, Mrs., Teacher of Pianoforte, Thames. Mrs. Wildman is a daughter of the late Mr. Francis, Chief Surveyor to the Corporation of Manchester. She received the groundwork of her musical training from Madame Etinrant, and was for some time a member of Sir Charles Halle's Chorus. Mrs. Wildman was for a few years a private governess at the Thames, and is now a teacher of the pianoforte.

PRESS.

THE "THAMES ADVERTISER" appeared for the first time on the 11th of April, 1868. It was for some time published by Messrs Wilkinson and Horton, who were succeeded by Mr. W. Wilkinson, the senior partner, who

published the paper for a number of years. A public company called the Thames Newspaper and Printing Company was then established to purchase the paper. About three years later Colonel William Fraser became the proprietor, and in the end of 1894, it was bought by the present owner, the Hon. W. McCullough. The "Advertiser" is a four page double demy sheet of twenty-eight columns, of which about fifteen are devoted to reading matter, and the balance to advertisements. Cables are received and published daily. The paper is Liberal in politics, and is printed at the office of the proprietor in Albert Street.

Mr. ERNEST VIVIAN HALL, Editor of the "Thames Advertiser, was born at the Thames in 1878, and was educated at public



Foy Bros., photo.
MR. E. V. HALL.

schools and at the Thames High School. Mr. Hall was brought up to journalism, and became a reporter on the "Evening Star" in 1894. Three years later he was appointed to the position of editor of the "Thames Advertiser." Mr. Hall takes an interest in football and cricket and has been associated with various football clubs and with the school of Mines Cricket Club.

"EVENING STAR." This journal was established about 1869, and was originally printed in Willoughby Street. For a number of years it belonged to the firm of Hopcraft, McCullough and Co. Since Mr. Hopcraft's death Mr. McCullough has conducted the paper as sole proprietor. The "Evening Star" and "Advertiser" are published in a single storey wooden building, which contains editorial, publishing, and jobbing offices, and machine and composing rooms. The plant is driven by a Pelton water wheel, and consists of two Wharfedale presses, two hand presses for jobbing work, a full book-binding plant, and large fonts of type. Electric light is laid on throughout the building, and is produced by a dynamo on the premises. The "Evening Star"

is a double royal sheet of thirty-two columns of which twelve are reading matter. The politics of the paper are Liberal.

Mr. LEONARD WALTER PARSONS, Editor of the "Evening Star" at the Thames, was born in Kenilworth, England, in 1860. He was educated at Bishop Vesey's Grammar School, Sutton Coldfield, near Birmingham, and was brought up to journalism in England. Mr. Parsons arrived in Auckland in 1879 by the ship "City of Agra," and for a short time acted as reporter on the "Auckland Star." Since 1880, when he arrived at the Thames, he has been connected with the "Thames Advertiser" or "Evening Star," except for two years, while he was editing the Gisborne "Herald." Mr. Parsons has worked for the "Evening Star" since 1896, and has been its editor since January, 1900. He was married, in 1882, to a daughter of the late Mr. J. Enson, of the Thames, and has one son and five daughters.

LEGAL.

THE THAMES WARDEN'S AND MAGISTRATE'S COURT was established about 1870. The building, which is of two stories, contains, besides the courthouse, offices for the inspector of mines, district surveyor, warden's private room, clerk's room, public room and strong room, and the police station and post and telegraph offices are in another part of the same building. The court has jurisdiction over the counties of Thames, Ohinemuri, and Coromandel. Mr. Robert Smelt Bush is the stipendiary magistrate and warden.

Mr. JAMES JORDAN, Clerk of the Magistrate's and Warden's Court, was born in County Kerry, Ireland, in 1864. He was educated at the Auckland Grammar School, and entered the Government service in 1884 as a cadet in the Magistrate's Court. In 1892 he became Clerk of the Court for Paeroa and Te Aroha, and was promoted to the Thames in 1896. Mr. Jordan was married, in 1894, to a daughter of Mr. J. W. Walker, well known on the Thames, and has two sons and one daughter.

THE THAMES POLICE DISTRICT extends from Hikutaia to beyond Tapu. The staff consists of the sergeant in charge, a detective, and six constables.

SERGEANT ANDREW CLARKE, Officer in charge of the Thames Police District, was born in County Armagh, Ireland, in 1838. He came to Auckland by the ship "Ganges" in 1863, joined the police force in 1864, and was appointed to the Thames in April, 1899.

THE SHORTLAND POLICE STATION was originally used as a police gaol for a good many years. The building is of wood and contains seven rooms, and there are six cells behind the building.

Mr. RICHARD JAMES HODGSON, Constable-in-charge of the Shortland Police Station, was born in Canterbury in 1870. He joined the police force in 1892, and was stationed two years in Auckland and four years at Eden Terrace, before being appointed to the Thames in 1898.

CLENDON, EDWIN JOHN, Barrister and Solicitor, Thames. Mr. Clendon is a son of