

From MAJOR J. C. CLARKE, Otamatea, Kaipara.

I BEG to report that at a meeting of the Committee of the school I explained to them the meaning of the holiday granted as "Arbor Day." They seemed much interested, and promised to search the bush for young suitable trees. Unfortunately the night previous and on the morning of the 19th very heavy rain had fallen. However, in the evening a Maori came with about fifteen young seedlings of the Native forest kind, and I planted them round the school premises. On the morning of the 20th six or seven adult Maoris came from the bush with the children, carrying a larger supply of the requisite plants. These we also planted, although I am afraid several of the trees were rather overgrown for satisfactory planting. I think altogether about a hundred have been planted in secure positions. The difficulty of transplanting the native trees and shrubs is so well known that I can only wait to ascertain the effect of this attempt. I am pretty certain some of the very young plants may take root.

It was pleasing to observe the interest taken by the adult Maoris in Arbor Day, held here, I understand, for the first time.

From Mr. A. R. HARRIS, Te Kuiti, Waikato.

ARBOR Day was ushered in by stormy weather; about twenty scholars attended. We began planting at 10 o'clock, and were all very busy for about an hour, when the rain came on again: so I sent the scholars home, and finished the work myself. In all we planted fifty-eight trees, such as oaks, elms, Oriental planes, macrocarpa, and twelve fruit-trees.

From Mr. C. A. WALTER, Manaia, Coromandel.

SINCE Arbor Day I have been given twelve seedling peaches and four fig-trees, which I have planted out. The former I shall bud next year from the choice trees supplied me by the Department. I have also sown eight edible chestnuts, and the same number of walnuts. I have three seedling walnuts 1 ft. high that I sowed last year. There are also a lot of Japanese plums and good peach-stones sown, from which I hope to rear some valuable trees. I also got a consignment of seeds from the Malay Peninsula, from plants and trees from the highlands. I have kept a few of each to try and rear; the remainder I have sent to the Minister for Agriculture.

From Mr. H. BRODERICK, Omarumutu, Bay of Plenty.

ARBOR DAY was very wet, but nearly every child brought a tree the day before or the day after; these were planted in the section. The following is the list: Titoki, kumarahou, takaka, karaka, puriri, rewarewa, tawa, toromiro, karamu, poroporo, mapo, kahi, pohutukawa, ngaio.

From Mr. J. WYLIE, Fort Galatea.

A FEW days previous to Arbor Day my sons carted over to the school-site a wagon-load of willows and poplars. We purposed having a great day's planting on the 19th, but I regret to say that the day turned out very unfavourable—heavy showers of rain, with a cold, southerly wind. However, we have got a few trees down, and will see to getting the others planted after school-hours.

From Rev. C. C. BROWN, Te Ngae, Rotorua.

I HAVE to report that, though the morning was a rough wintry one and very unpleasant by reason of heavy showers, yet many of the children assembled; they planted about two dozen trees in the grounds surrounding the house. The afternoon previously I had addressed them on the subject, endeavouring to show the benefits and pleasure to be derived from all work in connection with garden and orchard and the soil generally. The character of the weather spoiled the intended programme to a certain extent, but the trees were all planted, each one putting in his or her own tree. Great interest and not a little excitement was shown in connection with this annual event.

From Mr. A. G. HAMILTON, Tokaanu, Lake Taupo.

I MADE arrangements for the boys and girls to bring a tree each to plant as their own tree, and any others in addition that they liked to bring. The day, unfortunately, was wet, but we did as much as possible between the showers, and finished the work on Saturday. The total number of trees planted on the two days was eighty-five, made up as follows: Thirty-five totaras, fourteen rimu, eleven miro, five kawaka, eight arurangi, three rewarewa, four tree-ferns, two horopito, and three tawhiri. The girls also cleared round all the young oaks planted last year, some two hundred. Of last year's Arbor Day work, we have growing twenty-eight willows, eighteen totaras, &c., and two blue-gums. The children took the greatest interest in the matter, and worked with great energy. The Chairman of the Committee attended on the Wednesday to assist. In about a month's time I shall plant out a number of blue-gums and *Pinus insignis*, which I sowed last year.

From Mr. H. R. KIRKMAN, Waiomatatini, East Coast.

IN accordance with your instructions, I duly assembled the children of my school and carefully explained to them the reasons of the day having been set apart. The weather was very inclement, a heavy gale blowing, accompanied by torrents of rain. Very little could be done in the way of tree-planting. Most of the older children brought trees—willows, poplars, karakas, kawakawas, &c. These they intend to plant on the new school-site to-morrow. I have done my best to impress on the children the importance of tree-planting, and apparently it had some effect, for a good many trees are being planted at Waiomatatini and Te Horo.