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John Edmond, TAY STREET,
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Kennel Notes.

(By "Spaniel.")

At the recent Wellington Kennel Club Show, there were 162 exhibitors. This speaks well for the fancy as a whole.

The building known as the 'J' shed, adjoining the wharf, was very roomy, but its close proximity to the briny waves was a doubtful asset. One dog of the smaller variety got overboard and was rescued with great difficulty, but another one was not so fortunate and made his way to the bottom. It was hard luck for the owner.

It might be wise for future exhibitors at the above show to see that their dogs have a little swimming practice before competing at the waterside show.

English setters made a very strong class, seventeen of the breed facing the judge.

In the North Island, the breed is very popular amongst gunshots. Their great scenting power makes them a necessary part of a day's bird-shooting equipment.

Amongst the exhibits was the well-known veteran "Bay Richmond" shown by O. F. Angell.

Another of the older brigade was champion "Silver Rock." He is a half-brother to "Bay Richmond," each claim "Bay Rock" as their sire. "Silver Rock" is not seven years old and is wearing well.

Irish setters were not so numerous as the English, although there was also a challenge class.

Messrs Morton and Dawson, who have recently entered into partnership, were in scoring mood with a strong team.

Mr F. Daines was also a keen exhibitor and several of his breeds were amongst the winners.

The Gordon setter is fast losing his popularity. Only two dogs and one bitch were benched.

Retrievers also made a poor entry, only two coming forward.

Airedales made a fine show, there being nineteen competitors. The quality in this breed was excellent and that is only what one might expect after having a glance at the pedigree of the majority of the exhibits.

Since the show, one of the winning bitches, namely "Wairiki Wise Wenche," has gone west. Her death was sudden; about forty or so of the motormen may know but are not likely to squeak. Mrs Biltcliffe is a heavy loser and we extend to her our sympathy in her loss.

Bull terriers received a challenge class. We say that challenges are simply wasted on many breeds, only two being benched, one of each sex.

In black cockers, the quantity of exhibits was poor, six in all competing. "Edenvale Billy" had things all his own way and won with ease.

In bitches "Edenvale Zoe" a half-sister to "Billy" had no trouble winning over "Karaka Bonnie," who, by the way, is a daughter of "Edenvale Billy."

The coloured classes found eleven competitors, the winning dog being "Omnia Bang," who was placed over "Millwood Surprise," the crack lemon-roan dog. The latter was a trifle on the big side for Mr Soler.

"Millwood Surprise," later gained third place in the challenge stakes under Mr J. D. Graham, so evidently the latter fancied him a great deal.

"Rocklyn Blossom" (Imp.) was the only bitch benched in the open class. She is now seven years old, but what a wonder she has been. Perhaps she is the best cocker spaniel bitch ever imported into N.Z.

For terriers were a particularly fine lot and the judge had a fairly difficult task set him in making the award.

In the North Island the fox-terrier has always been a popular dog and the high-class quality shown at Wellington gives one the impression that at the present time he occupies a very high pinnacle in the fancy.

The wires have never been so popular as the smoothies; it is not the lot of all fanciers to be first class barbers. The wires require a lot of trimming. Every fancier knows that the right thing to do is just to take off what you don't want left on. It sounds easy enough, but just there we find would-be wire fan's giving the fancy the toss.

Only five dogs came forward in the Irish terrier section and they were a fair sample of the quality prevailing in N.Z. at present.

No bitches were benched. Can we take this to mean that the quality of the bitches is below the form of the dogs? Let us hope not, as that would spell disaster for the breed.

There is at present a rare opening for a fancier to import a really first class pair of Irish terriers to N.Z. Many of the worst faults were noticeable amongst the winning dogs, bad colour, over size, long backs and loaded shoulders.

The Irish terrier is a most desirable dog, and we should like to see him brought into line with the fox terrier and Airedales.

BOROUGH FINANCES.

To His Worship the Mayor and Councilors: Sirs,—The matter of providing the necessary finance for tramway, electricity and sewerage undertakings is causing me some anxiety, and I therefore beg to bring the position of these departments before you and to ask your consideration to the requirements as forecasted by your engineers during the next two years. Whether we should or should not anticipate for a still longer period, is for the Council to determine.

1.—Regarding the Tramways, the spendable loan capital at present authorised, amounts to £55,864 7s 2d, of which £12,764 is in cash and £43,100 is represented by unsold debentures.

The loan schedule allocations are:—
New cars, £23,464; Track duplication, etc., £16,570; trolley wire duplication, £1,530; feeders, £1,500; plant, rotary converter, etc., £5,000; Grinnell sprinkler, £2,250; buildings, £1,550; contingencies, £4,000; total, £55,864.

The builder extension contract £8,320, plus architect's fees £104, is apportioned thus:— Tramways loan No. 5, £1,550; electricity loans Nos. 5 and 6, £6,874; total, £8,424.

Contracts have been let or tenders invited for:—Grinnell sprinkler, £1,760; rotary converter, £3,756; six car bodies, £15,000; six car, air, etc., (equipment), £7,000; building, £1,550; trolley wire and cables (estimated), £2,000; rails, fishplates, etc. (estimated), £12,000; sleepers (estimated), £3,500; total, £46,566.

Add estimated cost of supervision and labour laying track, erecting trolley wire, etc., £11,000; contingencies, £4,000; four extra tramcars, say, £15,200; total, £76,766; loans authorised, £55,864; grand total, £209,902.

These figures demonstrate that in order to bring the tramways service up to the full requirements of the Public Works Department, and without allowing anything for extensions, £21,000 additional capital is required; and seeing how recent calculations have been upset by prevailing abnormal conditions, it would, in my opinion, be wise to obtain £30,000.

The total authorised loan capital is now £153,000. If this were increased to £183,000, interest and sinking fund would amount to £10,535 per annum plus, say, £4,000 to £4,500 for depreciation and renewals.

It is thus evident that the heavy increase in capital costs will be seriously reflected in the annual standing charges.

2. Electricity Department.—The spendable loan capital at present authorised amounts to £42,475, of which £38,275 is cash and £4,200 is represented by unsold debentures.

The loans No. 5 and 6, schedule allocations were:—Turbine and other plant and tower, £16,000; alterations of machinery, £2,000; alterations of lighting, £1,000; poles, £1,000; wires and cables, £2,000; transformers, £4,000; building, £2,500; test room equipment, £500; meters, £1,500; vehicles, £1,500; insulation, £500; switchgear and sundries, £1,000; contingencies, £1,500; preliminary expenses, £100; total £35,100; buildings, £5,000; mains and equipment for extensions, £4,500; contingencies and preliminary expenses, £500; grand total, £45,100.

Required to complete works provided for in loans 5 and 6:—Alterations to machinery, £2,000; alterations to lighting, £1,000; test room equipment, £500; vehicles, £1,500; foundations for turbines, etc., £1,500; cooling pond (to complete installation of turbines), £500; insulators, switchgear, etc., £1,500; mains and equipment for extensions, £4,500; total £55,368.

3.—Prior to the war, the engineer's estimate of the sum necessary to undertake and instal any given public service was reasonably accurate and the orthodox system of raising a loan by taking a poll etc., before calling tenders worked well enough. Nowadays the position is reversed, and as of course it is not practicable to call the tenders first and fix the amount of the loan afterwards, the only remedy is to make the allowance for contingencies very liberal. For instance in the case of the wire contracts, also the building contract, the funds provided only sufficed for about half the quantities originally specified, which is tantamount to spending twice the allocation.

4.—Regarding the sewerage loans, I have to report that the loans known as No. 1, £31,000, and No. 2, £24,000, raised for the inner and outer main areas are almost exhausted.

I recommend the Town Engineer be asked to report on the cost of completing the Nos. 2, 3, 4 and 5 areas, and suggest that until more money is available, the work be carried on in areas 3, 4 or 5, for which loan money is on fixed deposit at the bank.

5.—I desire to add that Mr Carman has persued and approved the details regarding his departments.—Yours obediently,
F. BURWELL,
Town Clerk.

17th August, 1920.

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