



DEVOTED TO THE TEACHINGS, PHILOSOPHY, AND PHENOMENA OF SPIRITUALISM.
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MEMORIAL ISSUE

TO THE LATE

William Charles Nation

FOUNDER AND EDITOR

of

"The Message Of Life"

" CALLED WITHIN TO THAT HIGHER LIFE "

William Charles Nation

on May 29th, 1930, in his 91st year.

One of New Zealand's leading Pioneer Spiritualists, who for Thirteen Years was President of the National Association of Spiritualist Churches N. Z. (Inc) and later associated with the Spiritualist Church of New Zealand, serving on the executive committee for Four Years.

MR NATION'S WORK REVIEWED

Of Mr Nation's work for Spiritualism it is somewhat difficult to write. From the time that the phenomena broke out in his family at Greytown in 1883, and he proved that communion with the spirit world was a fact, he gave up his life to spread the glorious truth. He was not taken up so much with the phenomena (though he had seen various phases of it) as with the lofty teachings which came from highly evolved spirits, showing how even on the earth plane every one could so live to make good preparation for the life beyond. He gave to the winds all his theological views, but held fast to the belief that "Whatsoever a man soweth that shall he also reap." In his platform addresses he always proclaimed this as his rock on which everyone should build. The future for every one, whether bright or dark, would find this the test.

Mr Nation soon found that the most stubborn opponents to the truth of spirit survival and a conscious existence beyond the grave, were in the so-called "orthodox" Churches. At the very outset of his spiritualistic career a Presbyterian minister preached a fiery sermon and declared that Spiritualism was one of the devil's decoys to ruin souls. This attack brought Mr Nation into the firing



line, and he replied publicly. And from this time he had to answer from platforms and in the press, letters and articles accusing Spiritualists of all the most dreadful things under the sun.

No doubt he was an instrument chosen by lofty spirits to take a prominent part in the fight to establish the truth of spirit return and refute some of the false dogmas of Orthodoxy, and he found delight in his public addresses to drop a bomb among his hearers. His great aim was to open the understanding of his hearers to the beauties and glories of the life beyond. In his own home he developed a lady medium whose gifts became widely known throughout the Dominion. Through her he and his wife did a great work of rescue among souls in the lower planes of spirit life. The harmonious and peaceful atmosphere of Mr and Mrs Nation's home at Levin enabled the guides of the medium to bring little children who had died in childhood to learn something of earthly conditions, and through these spirit children Mr Nation received much interesting information about the homes, the life, the schools and the recreations of children in the spirit world. His book, "The Unseen World," gives very interesting sketches of the life beyond, received through this medium.

Mr Nation did much active work outside his own town. He visited the Spiritualist Churches in all parts of the Dominion, speaking on their platforms, and he loved to be among the children of the Lyceums telling them of the "inner self" that they all possessed. The publication of the paper "The Message of Life" was a notable event in Mr Nation's career. It may be mentioned firstly that when in Greytown North, he was fully convinced that there is no death and that those who had passed into the unseen world were conscious and able to speak with those still on earth, he resolved to unfurl the flag of Spiritualism and fight under it. In June, 1887, he issued a penny paper of eight pages. It was a tremendous undertaking in those days when ignorance, prejudice, and persecution blocked

the way. Even the Spiritualists were a scattered body. However, Mr Nation issued his pioneer sheet. It was called "More Light," and upon the little page were inscribed the words, "That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you." This venture ran on until November, 1890, when Mr Nation had to discontinue its publication as he was removing from the Wairarapa. But the fire within his soul was smouldering, and in 1903 it burst into flame. He had removed to Levin, with his printing business and was publishing a tri-weekly newspaper. At the rear of his private residence was an old milking shed, no longer in use. This was removed and Mr Nation had a comfortable room erected in its place. He then purchased sufficient type wherewith to print "The Message of Life," the name given to the Spiritualist paper which has been running since July, 1903. In this room, all alone, year after year for 25 years Mr Nation sent forth every month hundreds of copies devoted to the spread of Spiritualism. During his 25 years and the three and a-half years he printed "More Light," he must have printed and circulated one hundred thousand copies of his Spiritualist papers. He established a book depot, and though it was a small one, yet by advertising books and pamphlets on Spiritualism in the "Message" he was able to circulate a large quantity of book literature. His little book, "The Unseen World," recording the experiences of his own family ran through three editions.

Such is a summary of this one man's effort to spread Spiritualism throughout New Zealand. The letters he received from inquirers and others who wrote and spoke gratefully of the light they had received through Mr Nation's letters and books was enormous. And so it will be with much regret that many friends both in this country and abroad will learn of the passing on of this beneficent soul who had become an outstanding figure amongst the Spiritualists and Spiritualist Churches of New Zealand, and one whose kindly and unselfish character had endeared him to the children

JULY 1st, 1930.

wherever he went.

In Memoriam

OF OUR LOVED LEADER
MR NATION

The call has come! our eyes are dim with tears,
Yet not of sorrow; for he longed to go;
Home to that land beyond all toils and fears;
Where weary souls have full fruition know.

Long years he served the Truth;
and nobly won,
The great reward, our Master loves to give;
For him the greeting, "Friend of my heart, well done!"
"Rise now triumphant, and for ever live!"

"There is no death," the truth our souls have spoken,
Only such joy and peace that angels know;
Bliss of reunion, every tie unbroken,
Perfect fulfilment of our hopes below—

God speed thee, noble soul! What can we render?
Of praise for all thine earthly service given?
Only to think of thee; our hearts grew tender,
While peace enfolds thee in thy home in Heaven!

"MATER"

It is not by a man's purse but by his character that he is rich or poor.

R. L. Stevenson.

Late Mr W. C. Nation

EARTHLY REMAINS LAID TO REST

Appropriate recognition of the active and useful life of the late Mr W. C. Nation, who passed away at his home in Levin at the advanced age of 91 on May 29, 1930, was made at the funeral, which took place on May 31st, when many relatives, old friends and Spiritualists from all parts of New Zealand and prominent citizens of Levin, including the Mayor and several Borough Councillors, showed by their presence and bearing the respect in which the deceased gentleman was held. Many beautiful floral emblems were received from relatives and friends, among them being wreaths from the Wellington Branch Church, and Executive of the National Council of the Spiritualist Church of New Zealand, the Weraroa Training Farm (the boys of which esteemed Mr Nation as a very helpful visitor), and the proprietors and staff of the Levin Daily Chronicle, of which journal he was the owner many years ago. Prior to the cortege leaving for the cemetery a service was conducted at the house by Mr Thos. Kirk, president of the Wellington Branch Church of the Spiritualist Church of New Zealand, and the invocation being given by Mrs A. Webb, of the Wellington Spiritualist Church (Inc.). The coffin was borne from the hearse to the grave by Messrs A. Oldfield, N. L. Barratt, P. Oldfield (grandsons), J. Webley (grand-nephew) E. Lyette and W. Waring (friends of the deceased). An impressive service was read at the graveside by Mr Thos. Kirk, (Wellington), and he delivered a fitting eulogy to that worthy Brother. In the course of his remarks, Mr Kirk laid particular stress on the full and energetic life of the departed gentleman, his many interests of selfless character, and the devotion with which he had sought to lead the young people in the direction of right thinking and noble deeds. It was only a few months previ-

ously that the late Mr Nation had addressed a convention and had given an insight into matters of high import, removed even from the comprehension of some of his hearers, and on that occasion many marvelled at the alert and penetrating mind functioning in a frame which extreme age must inevitably have weakened. Six months ago Mr Nation was in conversation with the present speaker, when he expressed his expectation of the end and asked Mr Kirk to be the officiant at the burial service. The deceased indicated that he was going to a vast place where there was a great crowd, and where he would have much to do. Mr Nation was conscious of his mission in the higher life to minister to the souls described by Christ as being in prison, and to help them in their progress that was possible for every one of them. He would from henceforth be engaged in that great enterprise, and it might be also that he would be very near his friends on earth, to comfort them in their thoughts and to inspire them to high endeavour.

The casket was deposited in the family plot, near to the grave of the late Mrs Nation and several relatives who have passed on. In all, the service was probably as deceased had wished it, marked not by a note of disconsolate grief, but by the calmness of relations and intimate friends, reassured by the speaker's conviction of the path of progress and well-doing stretching out eternally before the comrade whose physical body had been laid to rest.

Fear to do base, unworthy things is valour;
If they be done to us, to suffer them
Is valour, too.—Ben Jonson.

Everyone knows better than he practises, and recognises a better law than he obeys. Froude.

One thing at a time, all things in succession. That which grows fast withers as rapidly; that which grows slowly endures.—J. G. Holland.

Obituary

W. C. STENTIFORD

“Mr W. C. Stentiford, the father of Miss E. M. Stentiford, who filled the position of honorary secretary of the Dunedin branch for some time, passed away on the 5th June. Mr Stentiford was an Anglican, and the members of his family naturally arranged for a clergyman of that denomination to conduct the burial service in conjunction with the Druids of which Order the deceased gentleman was a member. However, at Miss Stentiford's request, the Anglican clergyman willingly consented to Mr Ridd, President of the Dunedin Branch Church and also of the Spiritualist Church of New Zealand, giving the invocation at the graveside. All Spiritualists will appreciate this spirit of tolerance.”

The Epistle of Jude

Many Bible readers were puzzled by the Epistle of Jude, with its absurd references to the angels who fell from their first estate, as though it could by any utmost stretch of imagination be held possible that there could be any such fall! The very idea is preposterous. Would Heaven be Heaven if there were any discontented souls there? Much less any souls so discontented, ambitious and proud as to revolt? There are other equally foolish things in it, such as “the vengeance of eternal fire” and the ridiculous reference to Michael, the archangel, disputing with the devil about the body of Moses.

At the sight of a Man we too say to ourselves, Let us be Men! —Amiel.

Minorities lead and save the world, and the world knows them not till long afterwards. John Burroughs.

"THE MESSAGE OF LIFE."

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Communications to be addressed to the

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P.O. Box, 24, Raetihi, N.Z.

PASSED ON

MOUAT.—Passed to the Higher Life, after a long illness most patiently borne. Lottie, youngest daughter of the late Mr and Mrs Mouat, very old and respected members of Kent Terrace Church and Lyceum, Wellington.

Message of Life.

PUBLISHED MONTHLY.

TWENTY-SEVENTH YEAR PUBLICATION

JULY 1st, 1930.

The Loyal Worker

With the July edition of "The Message of Life" as the first copy of the twenty-seventh volume, we pay tribute to its founder and late editor, Mr W. C. Nation, in whom we find one who during his earthly career, devoted his time and energy in serving and teaching his fellowmen. No one who had met that courageous soul, could help but admire that indefatigable worker who at all times was ready to champion the cause of Truth. Of his advent into Spiritualism and his ceaseless endeavour to make known those truths which he had received so convincingly from the other side is shown vividly in the manner in which he stepped out to the front to advocate its principles. Prior to his acceptance of Spiritualism he had been an earnest worker in the orthodox faith, and it required great courage and

zeal to renounce those creeds, and to fight against the ridicule shown on all sides.

His pen proved his mightiest weapon of which he used assiduously, when he published two papers on behalf of Spiritualism, and it is through the columns of "The Message of Life" that he is so widely known in this country and abroad, and in the latter years of his life devoted his whole time to its publication. Very few people will realise the anxieties that this paper has caused Mr Nation in his endeavour to get it published every month, as apart from finding copy, and using his pen to fill its columns, he, until of recent years, through summer and winter would stand at the type box, setting up wholly on his own, the type for the formes, so that "The Message of Life" might be printed and sent forward every month to his subscribers. Personally, I have seen this fine old man in his office, which was heated only by a kerosene heater, picking away at type, with his fingers blue with the cold, and wondered what was the power that sustained that mind and body, which gave so much, and asked for so little. Mr Nation realised that the greatest help to the cause of Spiritualism lay with the use of his pen, which is evidenced by the good work and results it has shown and also it is due solely to his own singular efforts that this journal has survived the passage of time since its inception in 1903, a truly noble effort for one man.

Being a fine and eloquent speaker he lost no opportunity, when time permitted, to address the people from the various church platforms, but it is to the children, and to them alone that he revealed the finest sentiments of his life. A true nature lover, his greatest delight was to be among the congregations of children and to speak to them of the beauties that he beheld in nature around, and of the wonders of the firmament above, also as he knew of, the wonderful life of the little ones who were in the Summerland beyond, and those who

had then listened to that grand old man delivering his message to the children, may perchance have had revealed to them the secret of his faith and knowledge, "His love to his fellowman."

Throughout his life he served his fellowman faithful and true and gave abundantly around him, and so with the knowledge of what lay before him, this beloved soul relinquished his hold upon that mortal form much worn and wearied by the passage of time. His passing on has removed one of Spiritualism's most noble workers, but we know that his work beyond will bring him closer to us, and to teach us those grander and nobler truths of God's heritage to mankind. Whatever the rewards may be for our actions in this life, our worthy Brother, who held to the conviction "That whatever a man soweth, so shall he also reap," shall harvest a bountiful supply; and the lesson before us of the life of that beloved Spiritualist, William Charles Nation, is one worthy of emulating, by all who have at heart that sacred cause of Spiritualism.

Passed Onward

Brave soul ever ready to stand
for the right,
His torch nobly bearing the darkness to light.
"Well done, faithful servant"
shall be his reward,
Great joys wait him yonder,
called home by his Lord.

L. J. HEATHER

When Lord Balfour was at the height of his political power, someone scoffed at Spiritualism in his presence. "Your scepticism carries you too far," he said in rebuke, "there is nothing in political life as I know it to be compared with the interest, the profound interest, and significance of psychical research."

A very pretty wedding was solemnised in the Raetihi Methodist Church on Wednesday evening, when Florence, second daughter of Mr and Mrs A. W. Ashwell, was united in the bonds of matrimony with Laurence W., only son of Mrs and the late Mr C. C. Nation. The Rev. Mr Handy, Methodist Church, Marton, officiated, and the building was too small to hold the large number of guests who were present from different parts of the country. The church was prettily decorated by friends of the bride. Mr G. H. Parkes, presided at the organ and played the Wedding March as the happy couple left the church.

The bride, who was given away by her father, looked charming in a pretty frock of ivory chenille georgette and marriette over pink satin, bodice of ivory chenille georgette cut long on right side, a skirt of ivory marriette, with four frills and uneven hem at sides, and caught on left side with a diamante buckle. Her veil of silk net, beautifully worked in silver and cream, was arranged with a wreath of orange-blossom, and caught on each side with a spray of orange blossom, and she carried a beautiful shower bouquet.

Miss Dorothy Ashwell, sister of the bride, attended as bridesmaid, and she wore a pretty frock of powder blue marriette over blue satin, fitted bodice and four petals on skirt, uneven hem at sides and back. Streamers of velvet ribbon falling from the left shoulder down the back was caught with a diamante buckle. She also wore silk tulle on her head, caught on the left side.

Miss Joyce Urwin was also bridesmaid, and she was dressed in a pretty frock of rose shade marriette over blue satin, fitted bodice and four petals on skirt, uneven hem at sides, and back. Streamers of velvet ribbon falling from the left shoulder down the back were caught with a diamante buckle. She also wore silk tulle on her head, caught on the left side.

There were two little flower girls, Iope Ashwell and Pearl Nation. The first-named was daintily dressed in an apple green crepe de chine frock, angle neck, long body and gathered skirt.

A large number of conveying good wishes from friends, were read by the best man while the bride cut the handsome wedding cake.

Mr Ciocchetto entertained the gathering with a recitation.

Neat hand-painted little cards indicated the seats reserved for the various guests. Most of these works of art were kept as souvenirs by the guests.

Amidst showers of confetti and good wishes, the bridal party left to catch the express for the north where the happy couple will spend the honeymoon.

The bride's travelling dress was cocoa-brown face cloth coat, and hat to tone and figured velvet dress in cocoa tones, shoes and stockings to match.

Among the large number of guests were the following:—

Miss N. Anderson, Mr and Mrs N. L. Barratt, Mr W. D. Barratt, Mr and Mrs Bergman, Mr and Mrs Comer, Mr and Mrs Ciocchetto, Mrs and Miss Dobson, Mrs Drury, Dr. and Mrs Feltham, Mr G. France, Mrs W. Gordon, Mr and Mrs G. Goldfinch, Mr W. Harris, Mrs and Miss Henderson, Mr and Mrs Honore, Mrs Summers, Mr and Mrs W. Jack, Miss Keucke, Miss Levy, Mr J. H. Lucas, Mr May, Mrs Munro, Mr and Mrs W. Munro, Mr Mahony, Mr and Mrs Mabbott, Mr A. Millar, Miss R. Oliver, Mr and Mrs G. H. Parkes, Mrs Perfect, Miss R. Parker, Mr and Mrs and Joyce Reynolds, Mr and Mrs Ripley, Mr and Mrs and Miss Scarrow, Mr and Mrs F. Thomson, Mrs Bert Towler, Mr and Mrs A. E. Urwin, Miss G. and Mr Alf Urwin, Mr and Mrs Wood (Ohakune), Mr and Mrs G. Wise, Mr J. Plank, Miss L. Donaldson, Mr W. Waring, Mr and Mrs Colling, Mr J. E. Laing, Mrs Fissenden, Mr and Mrs Pedersen, Mr and Mrs A. Burling, Mrs Wyche, Mrs P. G. Smith, Sister Rita, and others.

The large array of presents, useful and ornamental, testified to the popularity and high esteem in which the young people were held by a wide circle of friends.

DEATH OF MR. L. NATION: HIS LONG SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY

OHAKUNE, Yesterday (OC).—The death occurred on Friday, March 11, of one of Ohakune's most respected and community-spirited citizens, Mr Lawrence Nation.

Mr Nation had lived in Ohakune from childhood, coming to the district when five years of age and receiving his education in the local school when Mr J. Bligh was its headmaster. He worked for his father in the production of a local newspaper, the "Ohakune News," and later in Raetihi, where they published the "Waimarino Call." Mr Nation's work in this field continued till recent years in the "Central District Press," which went out of print in 1950.

He was also connected with other business enterprises, including a carrying company, store, and bakery business.

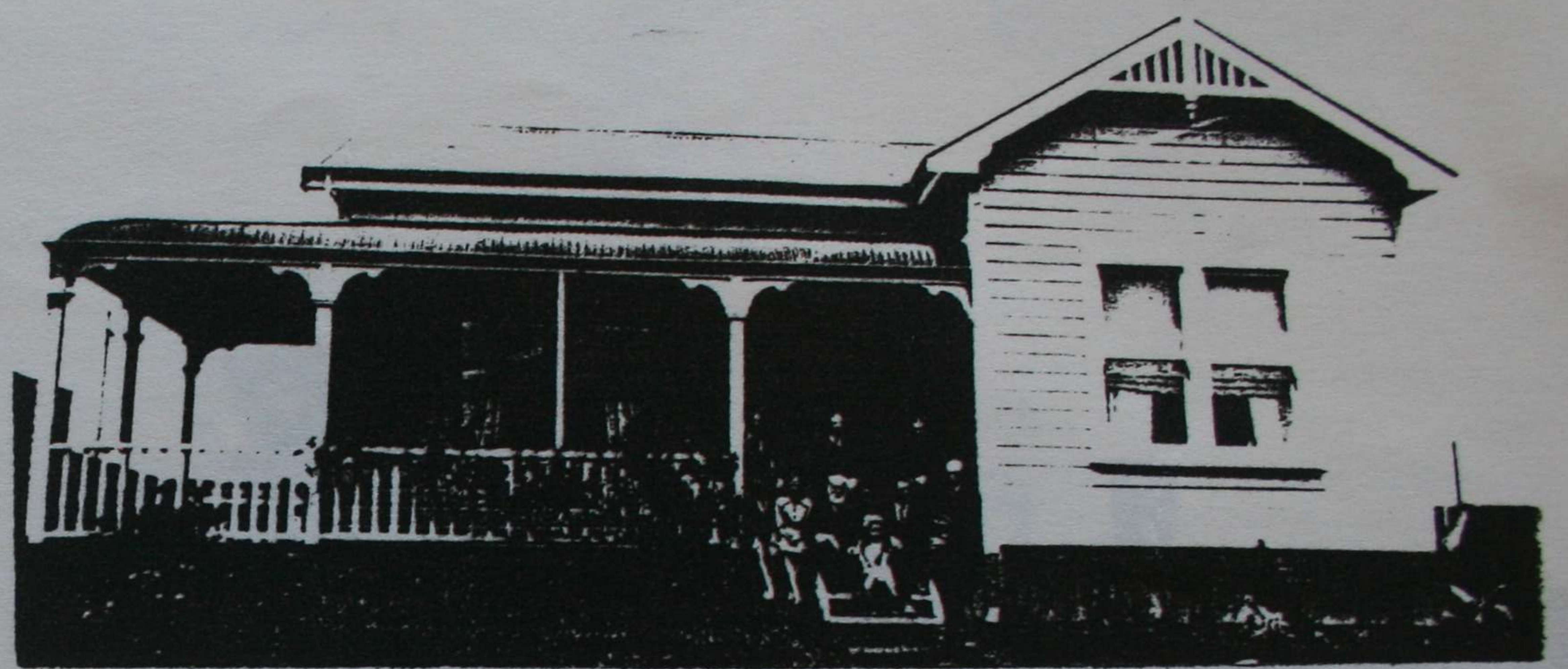
Mr Nation's public career began when as a young man he became one of the earliest members of the Ohakune Fire Brigade. He was also for many years president of the Waimarino Brass Band and one of its keenest supporters.

As a borough councillor Mr Nation served two terms and was also Mayor of the town for two terms, at the time of his election being the youngest Mayor in New Zealand. Five years ago he was appointed to the Commission of the Peace, and has served the district conscientiously in his capacity as Justice of the Peace. Recently Mr Nation also became the Waimarino representative on the Wanganui Hospital Board. He has been a member of the advisory board to the Plunket Society for 20 years.

Mr Nation, who was 52 years of age when he died, had a long and distinguished record of public service, to which he brought intelligence and skill both as a thinker and speaker. His passing is a public loss.



Standing left to right: Mrs. [unclear], Mrs. [unclear], Mrs. [unclear], Mrs. [unclear], Mrs. [unclear], Mrs. [unclear], Mrs. [unclear].
 Seated: [unclear], [unclear], [unclear].



Standing left to right: [unclear], [unclear], [unclear], [unclear], [unclear], [unclear], [unclear].



From left to right: [unclear], [unclear], [unclear], [unclear], [unclear].
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From left to right: [unclear], [unclear], [unclear], [unclear], [unclear], [unclear], [unclear].

Standing

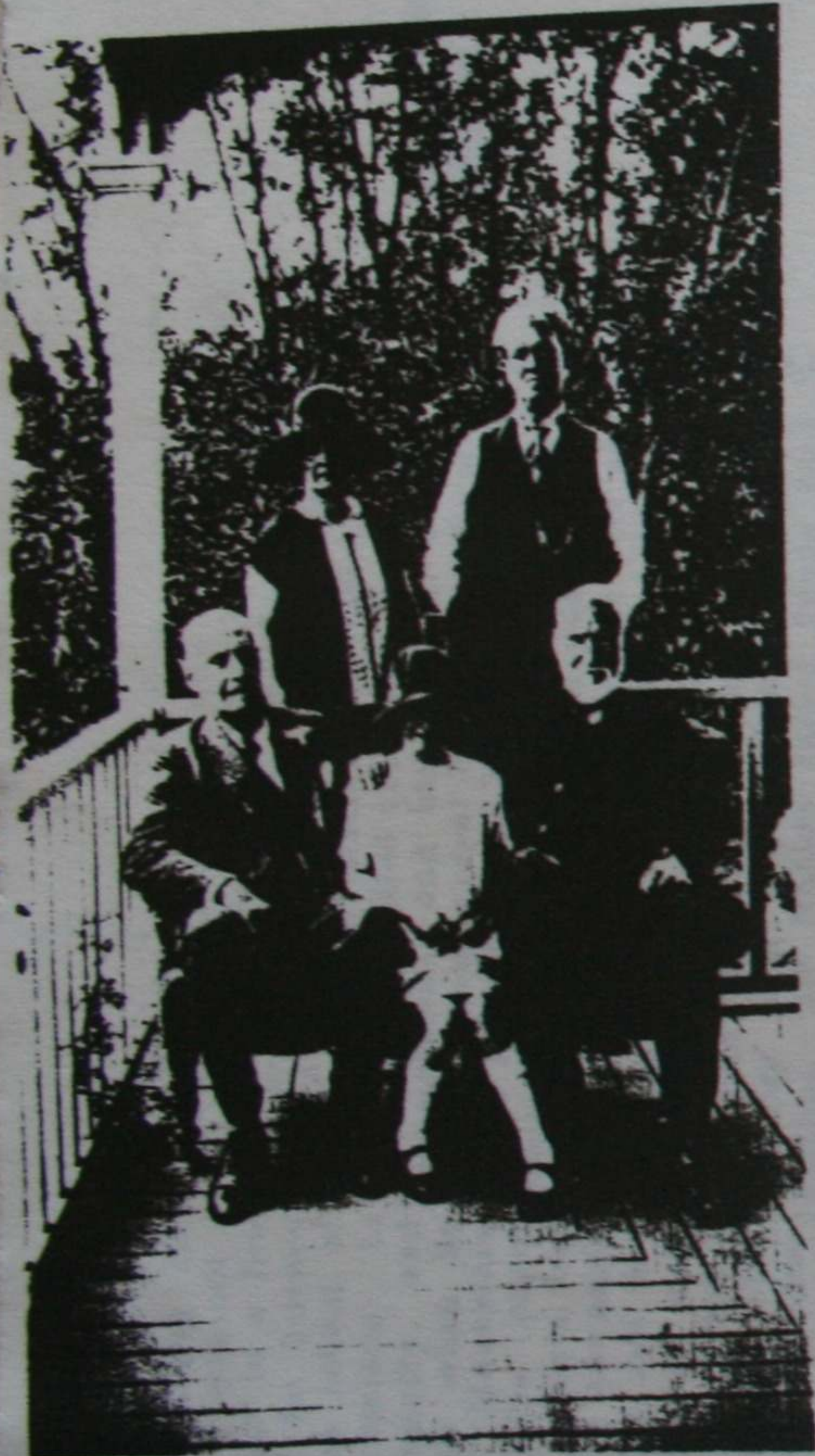
Sitting

WILLIAM WAINING

WHO MARRIED SARAH
AFTER THE WEDDING

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A.O.L. (N.Z.)

their achievement.

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THE WAINING
C.S. & SARAH WAINING
18th FEBRUARY 1900
WEDDING PHOTOGRAPH
TAKEN AT THE WAINING
RESIDENCE

own account by purchasing the "Waikarapa Standard." It was not a good investment, but he put in a few years of hard work, and he learned some useful lessons in the school of experience. He next determined to explore the Manawatu country, and shouldered a heavy burden when he and his son started the "Manawatu Farmer," at Shannon. This paper did good work among the settlers, but as Levin was a Government township and growing steadily, Nation and Son shifted their printing plant and publish the paper in this town. After a good spell they sold out and the "Levin Chronicle" became the final descendant of the Manawatu "Farmer." MR NATION'S SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

It would be a long story to tell how the Fates united Mr Nation's work year by year. The printing press was only part of his mission, for his life beyond this was strenuous, varied and useful. He was possessed of a fine constitution and boundless energy. He did not know what it was to be tired. His was a life of service to his fellow-men, and he was a loving friend to all. He seemed to be happiest when among a group of children. He loved a quiet life, and much of his time was taken up in correspondence on the subject of Spiritualism, for his advice was sought after in all directions.

On his arrival in Nelson in 1857, in company with Mr Isaac Hill and Mr Ben Crisp, old identities, a Band of Hope was started for the young people; he was an ardent temperance lad among the Bands of Hope in Sydney. He joined the Nelson Rifle Volunteers, and the company was kept on the quiet for months ready to go to Taranaki to take part in the Maori War in 1861. In 1864 he married, as he said, "the best girl he could find," in Nelson and went to Christchurch, where he spent twelve years. In 1876 he, with his young family settled in Wellington, and when in 1881 he went to Greytown North he devoted much of his time and energy to brightening the lives of children. He took over a Mutual Improvement Society, drilled them in singing, acting in tableaux, farces, etc., and travelled with them to give entertainments at Featherston, Martinborough, Carterton, and Masterton, besides those given in Greytown. For some time he and his young daughters went to the Maori pa at Papawai, accompanied by an organette, and here every Sunday morning the Maori children, cleaned up, gathered in force in the meeting house to hear Mr Nation's girls play and sing, and to listen to his talks. For two years he undertook the superintendency of the Anglican Sunday School in Greytown.

FOUNDER OF ARBOR DAY.

In 1894 he conceived the idea of establishing Arbor Day in New Zealand, beginning at Greytown. The idea caught on and Mr Nation was asked by the Borough Council to undertake itting start for the movement. With his usual push he went to work. He organised concerts, drilled the children for entertainments, and his daughters ran a series of dances and a grand ball, all the proceeds going to pay the expenses connected with Greytown's first Arbor Day, and the first in the Dominion. A public holiday was observed, children were marched in procession to plant the trees, mayors and county councillors from Featherston, Masterton, Carterton, and Greytown took part, settlers gathered in force and also the Maoris. There was much tree making, and the event was a pronounced success. Mr Nation was ranked by the Borough Council for an enterprise. The Department of

Manawatu Farmer." It was a bold venture, for the town was in its infancy, but the paper got a hold upon the settlers all along the Manawatu line, and lifted the town into prominence. In social matters Mr Nation was active. He drilled the children for entertainments, and his youthful entertainers gave several crowded performances at the school house. When the South African war broke out his son Percy, with other Shannon young men, went to the front. The lad fell at Bothasberg and owing to his popularity and his breezy letters from Africa the residents erected a monument to his memory near the Shannon railway station. Mr Nation raised funds for Arbor Day tree-planting in Shannon, and there is a photo in existence in which 200 children are seen assembled in front of the Club Hotel, when the planting took place.

IN LEVIN.

But although Mr Nation kept an agent at Levin to watch and report on the doing of the town, its progress led Mr Nation and his son to shift his printing plant and publish his paper here. At Shannon Mr Nation was appointed Registrar of Births, Marriages and Deaths, a post he held for 16 years. He was also made a J.P. At Levin he became Coroner for the district, a post he held for 17 years. He looked upon the Horowhenua Lake as a valuable asset to the town and to test it as a rowing course he succeeded in getting five rowing crews from Wanganui, West Coast, Petone, and two from Wellington, to come and test its suitability. But the furies of the air were let loose on the testing day and the Lake did not invite any further test for light racing boats. When Mr Nation was chairman of the school committee the children were taken once a year to the shore of the Lake for their annual picnic. On one occasion half a dozen Maori women tied up the gate to the ground with flax and withstood entrance. A heated argument occurred between Mr Nation and his dusky obstructionists, but all ended peacefully. By means of a concert an avenue of trees was planted by Mr Nation's efforts in Cambridge Street between the Anglican and Methodist Churches, which was known as "Memorial Avenue," in memory of the boys who fell in the South African War.

In later years Mr Nation's chief activity has been the advancement of the cause of Spiritualism. Startling phenomena occurring in his home at Greytown among his children led him to enter upon the study of psychic matters, and eventually to publicly champion the cause on the platform in all the chief centres of the Dominion, by correspondence in the public press, and by the publication of a monthly paper. For twenty-eight years he stood to the front in his advocacy of Spiritualism and for eleven years was President of the National Association of Spiritualists.

The late Mr Nation was pre-deceased by his wife several years ago. One son fell in the South African War, and the other (Mr C. C. Nation) died recently at Raetihi, where he had established a newspaper and printing business. Two daughters also passed away prior to their father, the surviving members of the family being four daughters—Mrs A. E. Plimmer and Mrs F. Barrett, of Levin; Mrs E. Oldfield, of Makino; and Mrs J. Devine, of Mennuku. He leaves also two sisters—Mrs S. Packer, of Christchurch, and Mrs E. Huff, of Hokianga—and two brothers—Messrs Edward and Fred Nation, of Wellington. They will have the sincerest sympathy of their friends in their bereavement.



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Greytown's claim to Arbor Day

THE DOMINION, SATURDAY,
AUGUST 8, 1970 5

By MICHAEL HOLMES
MASTERTON.—Greytown, birthplace of Arbor Day in New Zealand, celebrates its 80th annual tree planting this morning.

Among those present will be Mr Percy Oldfield, a farmer from Tikokino, Hawkes Bay, and grandson of Arbor Day founder, Mr William Nation.

Documented evidence supplied by Mr Oldfield to the Greytown Beautifying Society, established his grandfather as the founder of Arbor Day in New Zealand.

In the past, the honour has often been attributed to Otago

80th BIRTHDAY OF PLANTING

writer and lawyer, Alexander Bathgate.

Mr Bathgate came into prominence when he approached Parliament in 1892 to have Arbor Day recognised as an official day.

But two years earlier Mr Nation wrote the Greytown Borough Council to suggest trees could be planted on roadsides to make the district more attractive.

Royal recognition

The council was keen on the idea and asked Mr Nation to institute a tree planting scheme. He did, and one of the main efforts was a grand concert at Greytown to raise funds for the effort.

The scheme was voted a great success and Mr Nation received the thanks of the council and the Department of Agriculture.

Sir George Grey also showed an interest. In a private letter to Mr Nation he inquired how the expenses were being met. He donated five guineas.

Mr Nation was eventually recognised by Queen Victoria for his efforts and a tree was planted in her honour.

Of the 150 various pine trees planted on the Greytown to Featherston highway on July 3, 1890, 12 still stand today.

Biggest of these is the Cypress Lusitica which has a plaque to commemorate the event. It can be seen on State Highway 2 at the southern approach to Greytown.

Unlike its predecessors, the present council has told the beautifying society it cannot plant any more trees on streets in the borough.

Not to be outdone, the society has planted — with the council's permission — 400

trees on the filled-in rubbish tip outside the borough boundary.

To make sure the town still gets a good supply, the society has made 400 trees available to local residents in the past 12 months.

Mr Oldfield has been invited to Greytown as a guest of the beautifying society.

It is to be hoped that a man with such a link with Arbor Day will be afforded special recognition by the council and citizens of Greytown.

Another interested spectator this morning will be Mrs C. W. Maxton who watched her brother plant a tree at that first ceremony in 1890.

Heart warming

Greytown's Memorial Park, Wairarapa's most tree studded park and camping ground, is to be the venue for today's planting of 50 new trees and shrubs.

It will be a moment which should warm the hearts of all conservation lovers — but none I suspect, more than Mr Oldfield and Mrs Maxton.



MR W. C. NATION

LOOK FOR
FAUST
on Amus. Page

Lord Mayor of London to visit H.B.

NAPIER. — Napier and Hastings city councils will be hosts to the Lord Mayor of London, Sir Ian Bowater, and Lady Bowater, at a lunch on August 14.

About 150 guests, mostly Hawke's Bay local body representatives, have been invited.

The lunch will be in Napier's civic administration block.—Dominion Reporter

VETERAN JOURNALIST PASSES.

DEATH OF MR W. C. NATION.

In his ninety-first year, Mr William Charles Nation, of Levin, passed away this morning at his residence in Exeter Street. His death removes a familiar figure from the community and one who left his mark upon the life of the Dominion, both journalistically and in many other spheres of activity in which he engaged. Despite his great age the late Mr Nation's faculties were unimpaired and though he had been in ill-health lately, he remained mentally and physically alert. His journalistic instinct persevered to the last, and only lately he prepared biographical notes of his life from which the accompanying particulars are taken.

The late Mr Nation was born in Sydney, N.S.W., and at the age of 17 came to Nelson, with the Nation family. There his father in 1857 started the "Colonist" newspaper. Young Nation spent seven years in his father's office and then paid Dunedin a visit, when the gold diggings broke out. After working in one of the printing offices there for a short time, he visited Lyttelton, where he spent a month in the "Lyttelton Times" office, when that paper was published in Lyttelton. He then went back to Nelson to see his parents and old friends. While resting there he received a telegram from the manager of the Christchurch "Press," offering him a situation in that office at a good wage. The manager had, in days gone by, had charge of the "Nelson Examiner," and it was his acquaintance with young Nation when in Nelson that led to the invitation to go South. Before his departure he married. This was in 1864, and in the jobbing room of the "Press" office he spent twelve years.

It may be said that in that same room there worked one of the Horton family, who became part proprietor of the New Zealand Herald (Auckland). Mr George Jones was another compositor in that room, a splendid musician, and who in Christchurch with Mr Nation, started the first temperance paper in the colony. Mr Jones afterwards was elected a member of the House of Representatives, and later became proprietor of the Oamaru "Mail." Another young man who worked in this same room was Mr George Fisher. He became a member of the Lower House, and afterwards Colonial Treasurer. This quartette of compositors climbed the ladder of fame and "left their footprints on the sands of time."

In 1877 Mr Nation went to Wellington and when the "Wellington Independent" gave place to the "New Zealand Times," Mr Nation was entrusted with the oversight of the composing, jobbing, and machine rooms. In 1881 he struck out in business on his own account by purchasing the "Wairarapa Standard." It was not a good investment, but he put in a few years of hard work, and he learned some useful lessons in the school of experience. He next determined to explore the Manawatu country, and shouldered a heavy burden when he started the "Manawatu Farmer."

Agriculture wrote him a letter of congratulation and thanks. Sir George Grey wrote, expressing his regret at not being able to be present, and sending five guineas as a donation. Such was New Zealand's first Arbor Day.

"THE MANAWATU FARMER."

In course of time Mr Nation sold the "Wairarapa Standard," and believing that the other side of the range had a better future before it, he, with his son, purchased a section at Shannon, erected an office upon it, and started another paper giving it the name of the "Manawatu Farmer." It was a bold venture, for the town was in its infancy, but the paper got a hold upon the settlers all along the Manawatu line, and lifted the town into prominence. In social matters Mr Nation was active. He drilled the children for entertainments, and his youthful entertainers gave several crowded perform-

*Levin Chronicle
May 29-1970*

Biographic Review of a Veteran Journalist and Spiritualist.

MR W. C. NATION

The passing on of Mr William Charles Nation on May 29th, 1930, removes a familiar figure from the community and one who left his mark upon the life of the Dominion, both journalistically and in many other spheres of activity in which he engaged. Despite his great age the late Mr Nation's faculties were unimpaired and though he had been in ill-health lately, he remained mentally and physically alert. His journalistic instinct persevered to the last, and only lately he prepared biographical notes of his life from which the accompanying particulars are taken.

The late Mr Nation was born in Sydney, N.S.W., on February 18th, 1840, and at the age of 17 came to Nelson, with the Nation family. There his father in 1857 started the "Colonist" newspaper. Young Nation spent seven years in his father's office and then paid Dunedin a visit, when the gold diggings broke out. After working in one of the printing offices there for a short time, he visited Lyttelton, where he spent a month in the "Lyttelton Times" office, when that paper was published in Lyttelton. He then went back to Nelson to see his parents and old friends. While resting there he received a telegram from the manager of the Christchurch "Press," offering him a situation in that office at a good wage. The manager had, in days gone by, had charge of the "Nelson Examiner," and it was his acquaintance with young Nation when in Nelson that led to the invitation to go South. Before his departure he married. This was in 1861, and in the jobbing room of the "Press" office he spent twelve years.

It may be said that in that same room there worked one of the Horton family, who became part proprietor of the New Zealand

land Herald (Auckland). Mr George Jones was another composer in that room, a splendid musician, and who in Christchurch with Mr Nation, started the first temperance paper in the colony. Mr Jones afterwards was elected a member of the House of Representatives, and later was called to the Upper House. He became proprietor of the Oamaru "Mail." Another young man who worked in this same room was Mr George Fisher. He became a member of the Lower House, and afterwards Colonial Treasurer. This quartette of composers climbed the ladder of fame and "left their footprints on the sands of time."

In 1877 Mr Nation went to Wellington and when the "Wellington Independent" gave place to the "New Zealand Times," Mr Nation was entrusted with the oversight of the composing, jobbing, and machine rooms. In 1881 he struck out in business on his own account by purchasing the "Wairarapa Standard." It was not a good investment, but he put in a few years of hard work, and he learned some useful lessons in the school of experience. He next determined to explore the Manawatu country, and shouldered a heavy burden when he and his son started the "Manawatu Farmer," at Shannon. This paper did good work among the settlers, but as Levin was a Government township and growing steadily, Nation and Son shifted their printing plant and published the paper in this town. After a good spell they sold out and the "Levin Chronicle" became the lineal descendant of the Manawatu "Farmer."

MR NATION'S SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

It would be a long story to tell how the Fates unfolded Mr Nation's work year by year. The printing press was only part of his mission, for his life beyond this was strenuous, varied and useful. He was possessed of a fine constitution and boundless energy. He did not know what it was to be tired. He was a life of service to his fellow-men, and was a loving friend to all. He seemed to be happiest when among a group

of children. He loved a quiet life, and much of his time was taken up in correspondence on the subject of Spiritualism, for his advice was sought after in all directions.

On his arrival in Nelson in 1857, in company with Mr Isaac Hill and Mr Ben Crisp, old identities, a Band of Hope was started for the young people; he was an ardent temperance lad among the Bands of Hope in Sydney. He joined the Nelson Rifle Volunteers, and the company was kept on the qui vive for months ready to go to Taranaki to take part in the Maori War in 1861. In 1864 he married, as he said, "the best girl he could find," in Nelson and went to Christchurch, where he spent twelve years. In 1876 he, with his young family settled in Wellington, and when in 1881 he went to Greytown North he devoted much of his time and energy to brightening the lives of children. He took over a Mutual Improvement Society, drilled them in singing, acting in tableaux, farces, etc., and travelled with them to give entertainments at Featherston, Martinborough, Carterton, and Masterton, besides those given in Greytown. For some time he and his young daughters went to the Maori pa at Papawai, accompanied by an organette, and here every Sunday morning the Maori children, cleaned up, gathered in force in the meeting house to hear Mr Nation's girls play and sing, and to listen to his talks. For two years he undertook the superintendency of the Anglican Sunday School in Greytown.

FOUNDER OF ARBOR DAY

In 1891 he conceived the idea of establishing Arbor Day in New Zealand, beginning at Greytown. The idea caught on and Mr Nation was asked by the Borough Council to undertake a fitting start for the movement. With his usual push he went to work. He organised concerts, drilled the children for entertainments, and his daughters ran a series of dances and a grand ball, all the proceeds going to pay the expenses connected with Greytown's first Arbor Day, and the first in the Dominion. A public holiday was

observed, children were marched in procession to plant the trees, mayors and county councillors from Featherston, Masterton, Carterton, and Greytown took part, settlers gathered in force, and also the Maoris. There was much speech making, and the event was a pronounced success. Mr Nation was thanked by the Borough Council for his enterprise. The Department of Agriculture wrote him a letter of congratulation and thanks. Sir George Grey wrote, expressing his regret at not being able to be present, and sending five guineas as a donation. Such was New Zealand's first Arbor Day.

"THE MANAWATU FARMER"

In course of time Mr Nation sold the "Wairarapa Standard," and believing that the other side of the range had a better future before it, he, with his son, purchased a section at Shannon, erected an office upon it, and started another paper giving it the name of the "Manawatu Farmer." It was a bold venture, for the town was in its infancy, but the paper got a hold upon the settlers all along the Manawatu line, and lifted the town into prominence. In social matters Mr Nation was active. He drilled the children for entertainments, and the youthful entertainers gave several crowded performances at the school house. When the South African war broke out his son Percy, with other Shannon young men, went to the front. The lad fell at Bothasberg and owing to his popularity and his breezy letters from South Africa the residents erected a monument to his memory near the Shannon railway station. Mr Nation raised funds for Arbor Day tree-planting in Shannon, and there is a photo in existence in which 200 children are seen assembled in front of the Club Hotel, when the planting took place.

IN LEVIN

But although Mr Nation kept an agent at Levin to watch and report on the doing of the town, its progress led Mr Nation and his son to shift his printing plant and publish his paper here. At Shannon Mr Nation was appoint-

ed Registrar of Births, Marriage, and Deaths, a post he held for 16 years. He was also made a J.P. At Levin he became Coroner for the district, a post he held for 13 years. He looked upon the Horowhenua Lake as a valuable asset to the town and to test it as a rowing course he succeeded in getting five rowing crews from Wanganui, West Coast, Petone, and two from Wellington, to come and test its suitability. But the furies of the air were let loose on the testing day and the Lake did not invite any further test for light racing boats. When Mr Nation was chairman of the school committee the children were taken once a year to the shore of the Lake for their annual picnic. On one occasion half a dozen Maori tied up the gate to the ground with flax and withstood entrance. A heated argument occurred between Mr Nation and his dusky obstructionists, but all ended peaceably. By means of a concert an avenue of trees was planted by Mr Nation's efforts in Cambridge Street between the Anglican and Methodist Churches, which was known as "Memorial Avenue," in memory of the boys who fell in the South African War.

The late Mr Nation was predeceased by his wife several years ago. One son fell in the South African War, and the other (Mr C. C. Nation) died recently at Raetihi, where he had established a newspaper and printing business. Two daughters also passed away prior to their father, the surviving members of the family being four daughters—Mrs A. E. Plimmer and Mrs F. Barratt, of Levin; Mrs E. Oldfield, of Makino; Mrs J. Devine, of Mamaku. He leaves also two sisters—Mrs S. Packer, of Christchurch, and Mrs E. Duff, of Bulls—and two brothers—Messrs Edward and Fred Nation, of Wellington. They will have the sincerest sympathy of their friends in their bereavement.

O look not at what each comes short in,
Consider what each still retains.
Goethe.

An Appreciation

TO THE MEMORY OF MR W. C. NATION

Contributed by Mr Thos. Kirk.

It is now nine years since first I met him in Kent Terrace (New Century Hall) when at a social there, I had only been in the country four days then, but on this particular occasion I had cause to remember how he made me welcome, and how he made it his business to give my family and self all the information and assistance, where and how to find work also going to the trouble of going round town with us. This to me gave the impression that we had fallen on a real and genuine Spiritualist; and that impression has never faded away, for the more we knew him the better we appreciated his friendship. He was one who was always eager to give or impart to those seeking for "Light" all that he possessed and was able in this manner to bring many into the light of modern Spiritualism. I owe a debt of gratitude to him for the encouragement he gave me, oftentimes when things looked black; how he would write pointing out how difficulties could be overcome, thus giving me the feeling that you never need be afraid of laying before him all your difficulties. It was amongst the young that he played an important part in the great cause of Truth. He always enjoyed the Lyceum sessions and was in his glory giving an address to the Lyceumists, illustrating his points by telling stories familiar to the older members. Now that he has arisen, who will wear the mantle that has fallen from his shoulders.

A subscriber to "The Message of Life" is inquiring for a copy of "Life Here and Hereafter," by W. C. Nation, and a copy of "Death Defeated," by W. B. Harvey. Any reader of this journal having copies of the above books to dispose of, please write "Editor," "The Message of Life," P.O. Box 24, Raetihi.

Church and Church Workers

WELLINGTON BRANCH Church (S.Church of N.Z.)

On Sunday, 1st June, the above Church held an In Memoriam Service to the memory of our arisen Brother, William Charles Nation, who was an honorary member of the Church and also a Lyceum member. The service was taken by Mr Bellamore, another of the pioneers, who had worked with Mr Nation for the past 45 years in bringing the knowledge of Spiritualism to those who were yearning for the light on the great question of "Where are our Dead."

Mr Bellamore paid a high tribute to our arisen Brother who, he said, dealt with the subject from the Biblical standpoint while he (the speaker) dealt with it from the scientific standpoint.

Mrs Moore, another of the pioneers, who was secretary of the National Union for 15 years while Mr Nation was President, also paid tribute to his memory, quoting from some of the articles in the "Message" which were penned by our arisen Brother.

Mrs Sinclair, also a pioneer, paid tribute, pointing out how she was attracted to the cause by the sincerity of Mr Nation's addresses and also for the interest he took in the Lyceum.

The President, Mr T. Kirk, spoke on the high qualities and the enthusiasm of W. C. Nation, even to the fact that only a few months ago he came to Wellington and delivered a stirring address, with the same forcefulness and clearness which he was wont to do in years gone by, leaving a memory which will remain with those who listened to that address.

During the service Mrs Osborne rendered the solo "Crossing the Bar."

CHRISTCHURCH SPIRITUALIST CHURCH (Inc.)

Mrs Nordica is still with us and her Sunday and week-night meetings are still drawing a large number of seekers for truth.

Our building fund is still mak-

ing great headway, a further donation of £5 being handed in by a member of the Church, Mrs A. Smith.

A social gathering was held on 28th May, and although the weather was not of the brightest, a good number attended and a very pleasant time was spent in games, dancing and singing.

DUNEDIN BRANCH CHURCH (S. Church of N.Z.)

At the close of the service on Sunday evening, 1st June, Mr Ridd, president, announced the passing of Grandpa Nation, New Zealand's grand old man in the cause of Spiritualism. He stated that the emancipated warrior had championed the cause for more years than most of us could remember and at a time when it took considerable courage to confess a belief in it. But notwithstanding ridicule and misrepresentation, the old man proclaimed the truth of survival. He had received the light and faithfully carried out his trust in shedding it abroad. In common with all pioneers he met with opposition and had differences of opinion with other workers in the cause but he battled for the Truth as he conceived it. He had gone to receive his reward leaving behind him an example of determination and courage to inspire us in our labours, and we knew that we would still have his assistance in the cause he loved so well.

WELLINGTON SPIRITUALIST CHURCH (Inc.)

The pastor and psychic, Mr R. A. Webb, Dip. S.N.U., delivered the following lectures during the month of May:—"Dementstrating the Unbelievable"; "The Study of Spiritualism"; "Life's Best Pldace"; "The Evidences of Spiritualism"; "Spiritualism and Humanity"; "Unconventionalities of Mediumship"; "Beyond the Veil"; "The Projection of the Astral Body."

Thanks to the kindness of Mr and Mrs Loyey, a successful seance on behalf of the funds of the church, was held at their home, several psychics taking part.

The members quarterly meeting was held on 12th May. There was a moderate attendance. The opening social of the season was held on Saturday, 24th May. It was both well attended and enjoyable. Mr Ballard presided at the piano, for the games and dancing. Mr S. Maclean gave several choice solos on the cello; Mr Wilson gave character and lightning sketches, and the Misses L. and G. Webb sang duets. The month terminated well with a social party at the home of Mr and Mrs Murray, which was well attended and enjoyable. The Lyceum continues its afternoon sessions for the young people.

S. GEO. BODELL,
Hon. Secretary.

NEW PLYMOUTH CHURCH (S. Church of N.Z.)

Our branch continues to make satisfactory progress. For the last four months we have had the assistance of Nurse Clayton from Auckland, who has done much for our general welfare. The services have been well attended and for the winter months we appear to have a bright time before us. We hope in another year or so to have the mortgage on our property paid off and then to direct our funds to wider propaganda work.

These bright and hopeful prospects are made possible through the consistent and energetic workers among our members. For a time, however, we shall lose the help of our sister, Mrs Harris, of Oakura, but we feel that she will return to us with greater power when her domestic duties will permit.

At the present time we have in hand a sale of work of which we hope to have a good harvest.

We all felt the loss of Mr Nation and extend to all his family our condolences though, at the same time, sharing with them the bright anticipations of the more abundant life to which he has gone. Our best wishes to 'The Message' and the branches.

Oh, who can tell, save he whose heart hath tried.

Byron.