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NEW NORFOLK.

TOURISTS' ASSOCIATION MEETING.

A public meeting for the purpose of forming a local branch of the Tourists' Association was held at the Courthouse on the 9th inst.

The Warden, having read the notice convening the meeting, and explained an apparent delay, was voted to the chair. He produced apologies from Messrs. G. Leatham, M.H.A., J. McD. Singer, and A.C. Blackwood, who were unable to attend.

The Rev. J. Oberlin-Harris read a letter from the Hon. Henry Dobson, M.H.A, president of the Tasmanian Tourists' Association, and said it was mainly owing to expressions contained in that letter the meeting had been called. New Norfolk was unequalled as a resort for tourists who came and stayed often for weeks, but, so far, the residents had not laid themselves out to entertain those visitors. There were a great many natural advantages that the strangers availed themselves of, but New Norfolk people could and should do much more for their gratification. The Municipal Council did not include this duty amongst its functions, but when the town is governed by a Town Board, doubtless much more could be effected. In the meantime they should be up and doing, recognising the

manifold advantages to arise from attracting a good class of visitors, e.g., the river might be turned to much greater use, and a system should be organised for helping visitors to enjoy themselves in fishing. There should be also more facilities for boating and games, bowling, public lawn tennis, cricket, and the band. The Public Library committee were arranging to extend facilities for use of the reading room. Then, as in other places, the New Norfolk people should open up their many beauty spots. It would be necessary to raise money, and he suggested for those indirectly interested, a 5/- subscription, and felt that those who directly benefited, like hotel keepers and those who took in boarders, might each contribute a pound or two. He suggested making a provisional committee that should divide into sections, and each portion work up its allotted part, and meeting at a later date report progress. He thought it highly desirable to have a good guide book; and it should be distributed in all public places. It would cost money, for it should be interleaved with photos, maps, etc, showing all attractive spots, and would then be a great advertisement. The Provisional Committee would show what pecuniary strength and support might be expected from the district. These were tentative suggestions, and he hoped to hear many more put forward. He moved: "that it is desirable that a New Norfolk Tourists' Association be formed."

Mr R. W. G. Shoobridge seconded the motion, pointing out the great lack of knowledge of Tasmania in other countries. He thought it well to call another meeting owing to the comparatively small number present though the wet night, but he felt it desirable that those present should push on with the work.

Dr. Penny, supporting the motion, spoke of his experience as a member of a Tourists Association at Port Fairy, in Victoria, where great things had been done with a great deal less of natural advantages than have existed here. He indicated some of the means adopted.

Mr. J. G. Brown congratulated New Norfolk upon possessing two such energetic and public spirited men as the Rector and Warden, and said he felt sure of success if the business was pushed forward. Nothing had yet been done, but it was never too late to mend. In years past the Municipal Council had started out, but found they had no funds to work upon, except the small revenue from lease of Arthur-square and the Municipal-park. But it was essentially the duty of a body like the Tourists' Association to work these matters up. He thought they should confine attention to this particular district.

Mr. Superintendent Farrell, holding certain offices in connection with the Russell Falls, etc., said the Council had now taken over the streets, and were of a mind to improve these, and, he hoped, to light the same. New Norfolk residents now had the privilege of rating

themselves, and he hoped they might get a Government subsidy.

The Warden spoke in support of the motion.

Mr. J. F. Lee said it was a great pity the hotel keepers did not push their business more energetically. Now Norfolk should look to Launceston to see what can be effected by energy, and should induce visitors to stay longer, and, at the same time, help them to enjoy themselves while here.

Mr. A. J. Andrewartha was thoroughly in accord; but questioned if they could raise sufficient money to make the work effective. They might, with the Government subsidy, raise 70 pound or 80 pound, but it would be a labour. Many of the tourists now-a-day were of a frugal mind, and they objected to pay for boats or vehicles.

Mr. J. T. D. Crump sympathised with the movement, and combatted Mr. Andrewartha's views. He had found tourists always ready to pay if they got their money's worth. New Norfolk should advertise and indicate its show places. Even he himself and several local people had got bushed going to Russell's Falls. He thought the local guide-book a fine idea. He then held a letter from one of the largest fishing tackle supplying firms of England asking for further information re Tasmanian fishing. That firm said they heard a lot about New Zealand fishing but nothing relative to Tasmania; and yet in Tasmania the fishing for salmon and trout was equal to that in any place, and

the visitors would come in numbers if shown where they could catch such fish.

Upon the motion being put It was carried unanimously.

Rev. J. O. Harris moved, - "That the following, ladies and gentlemen be appointed a provisional committee to work in sections us indicating to forward the movement, each section to report at a date to be fixed, to another meeting, upon the facilities and opportunities to be developed within their respective provinces : Mr. R, W. G. Shoobridge: Mr. J. G. Brown, Mr. Mapley, for areas outside the town; Miss Ballantine, Dr. Penny, and Mr. J. F. Lee, for the town ; Mr. Thos. Andrews, Mr. Andrewartha, and Mr. Singer, for the River Derwent ; Mr. A. C. Blackwood, Mr. Henry Smith, and the mover, for the completion of a local guide-book; Mr. T. F. Brown and Mr. J. T. D. Crump, to act as joint secretaries ; the Warden to be chairman of the meetings of the whole body.

Mr. Shoobridge seconded, and the motion was carried.

Rev. J. O. Harris moved, - "That Mr. J. G. Brown be convener of the first committee, Dr. Penny convener of the second committee, Mr. Andrewartha convener of the third committee; that Mr. Crump be secretary to the outside and inside committees, and that Mr. T. F. Brown be secretary to the River und guide-book committees."

Mr. J. G. Brown seconding the motion, it was carried.

Upon Mr. H. Smith's suggestion, It was resolved that another meeting be called on 27th inst. for the purpose of receiving the reports of the committees, and any other relevant business; and that all those desirous of joining the movement be invited to attend.

A vote of thanks to the chairman, and the Warden's reply, closed the business for the evening.

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