

August 13, 1907. "Should the Volunteer force not be maintained, or brought up to an efficient state, volunteering has had its last chance, says the first report of the Council of Defence, submitted to Parliament. The alternative is a system of universal or compulsory training, whereby the burden of service in the defence force will be more evenly distributed."

August 29, 1907. Hauraki Band had a concert in the Oddfellows' Hall, with items such as "Sweet Genevieve," "Coon Song," "A Motor Ride," and "When the Wind Blows From the Sea."

Sept. 4. Volunteer troubles were put down to need for better financial allowances for requirements.

September 21, 1907. (Saturday). The No. 1 Thames Rifles and Battalion Band had their annual excursion to Coromandel.

September 26, 1907. With New Zealand becoming a Dominion, and her Premier a Prime Minister, Sir Joseph Ward, the Thames Volunteers paraded for the first Dominion Day. "On and after the 26th day of September, 1907, shall be called and known by the title of the Dominion of New Zealand."

The Dominion Day proclamation was read on Victoria Reserve, Thames, by Mayor Arch. Burns and he presented colours to the 2nd (Hauraki) Battalion of Volunteers. Colonel Porritt, officer commanding No. 2 Battalion, was in charge of military proceedings, and Sergeant-Major McDonnell as executive officer looked after the details. Units present were :-

No. 1 Thames Rifles, Capt. H. Pearse and Lieuts. Spraggon and Syms.

Hauraki Rifles, Capt. W.S. Clark and Lieut. Hetherington and Surgeon-Captain Dr. Lapraik.

Portion of Ohinemuri Rifles (Paeroa), Capt. Nathan.

Battalion Band - Bandmaster Clarke.

Public School Cadets :-

Kauaeranga School, Capt. T.W. Hammond. (Born 1869, died 1967).

Waioakaraka School Nos. 1 & 2 Coys., Captains, Ferguson and Newton.

Tararu School, Capt. Russell.

Parawai School, Capt. Trimmer.

The Cadet Battalion (Hauraki) Band, under Conductor Anderson.

October 17, 1907. "The goldfields people are notably musical and it is supposed that the reason is that there are so many Cornish and Welsh among miners."

Dec. 5. Reference to recently formed Te Aroha Town Band.

1908 saw the Waiotahi bonanza fading out, with plans for a Thames town hall already being shelved on January 31.

February 15, 1908. Sir Joseph G. Ward, Prime Minister, visited Thames, and there was a big evening reception at Victoria Park. There were strings of Chinese lanterns, and all available chairs and forms for the ladies. (The ladies had been publicising that they had not been invited.) Ward was pleased at the change from a hall to "the canopy of heaven." He was sure the largest hall in Thames would not have held a quarter of those present.

The Battalion Band was there under Conductor Clarke

March 16. The United Friendly Societies had held a big Hospital Sunday Demonstration at Victoria Reserve. Marshalling was done by Major Lucas of the Volunteers and the Thames Battalion Band, under Conductor A. Clarke, and the Hauraki Band under Conductor A. Williams, led the procession to Thronged Victoria Park.

March 20. It was noted there was new life for the Karangahake Band (bandmaster Robinson), which was playing on the Mackaytown Domain. (Dominion status had caused a New Zealand wide revival of interest.)

April 3, 1908. At a campe for Thames and Ohinemuri school cadets at Omaha there were 844 of all ranks, presumably including band members.

May 1, 1908. Thames now had two valuable reserves where not long before there were two unsightly holes, "where broken bottles, jampots and kerosene tins caught the eye, and mud and slime oozed up on contact." The Victoria Reserve was 368 feet by 80 feet, with 100 trees and 12 seats. The Band Rotunda was 21 feet in