

accordingly now came into the news, distress being newsworthy.)

October 6, 1931. (Thames Star).

"REGIMENTAL BAND IN UNSATISFACTORY POSITION. REORGANISATION NECESSARY. MR. A. WILLIAMS AS BANDMASTER."

"A meeting of citizens interested in the Regimental Band was held in the Drill Hall, Mackay Street, last evening, Mr. W.B. Macdonald being in the chair.

"Mr. H. Brownlee explained that since the retrenchment of the Defence Department by the Government, the position of the Band had been unsatisfactory. Lieutenant A. Clarke had given up his position as Bandmaster, and Mr. G. Fisher, who had been appointed in his place, had also vacated the position. Unless some steps were taken to reorganise the Band, THE UNIFORMS AND INSTRUMENTS WOULD BE CALLED IN, AND THE BAND CEASE TO FUNCTION.

"Several of those present spoke regarding the unfortunate position in which the Band was placed, and a lengthy discussion ensued on the subject of the Bandmaster.

"It was unanimously resolved to recommend to Headquarters, Paeroa, that Mr. A. Williams be appointed Bandmaster, and that Mr. Williams be asked to take charge as soon as possible, pending confirmation of his appointment.

"The question of organising players for the Band was discussed, and it was decided to extend an open invitation to bandsmen, ex-bandsmen and players to join up under the conductorship of Mr. Williams.

"It was resolved to convene another meeting of bandsmen, ex-bandsmen and citizens, to be held in the Drill Hall, Mackay Street, on Monday, October 12, 1931, at 8 p.m., and Mr. Macdonald was appointed to take the chair for the meeting."

Vote of thanks to Chairman for able manner conducted meeting by acclamation.

October 15, 1931.

"RE-ORGANISED. THE REGIMENTAL BAND. COMMITTEE FORMED."

"A meeting called to further the re-organisation of the Regimental Band was held in the Drill Hall, Mackay Street, on Monday evening. Mr. W.B. McDonald was in the chair, and there was an attendance of 25, while 6 apologies were received.

"It was resolved to appoint a Committee, consisting of 5 bandsmen and 3 citizens, to control the affairs of the Band, and the following were appointed :- Messrs. H. Brownlee, F. Clarke, A. Cameron, A. McIlvride, P. Mortimer (Bandsmen) W.B. McDonald, G. FEARN and A. Garrett (Citizens.)"

(The last was Superintendent of the Volunteer Fire Brigade, with its close links to the Band. Which was becoming orphaned from the Defence Department by starvation, while the 3 citizens on the Committee now formed presaged the shift in the next few years to a citizen instead of military status.)

"Mr. A. Williams thanked the members for his appointment. He thought that he had finished with active band work, but in the circumstances he was prepared to step into the breach and do his utmost to further the band's welfare. Strict discipline was essential to the efficient working of the band, and as the rules covered the position well he trusted they would be enforced.

"Mr. W.B. McDonald offered his services to coach the band in drilling and marching on one or two nights a month, the offer being accepted with thanks.

"Mr. E. Brownlee was re-elected secretary, and a vote of thanks was accorded the 'Thames Star' for the publicity given to the Band.

"At a subsequent meeting of the committee, Mr. W.B. McDonald was elected chairman, and it was decided to meet on the first Monday of each month."

(No reports were found on searching Thames Star files for November and December, 1931, of such monthly meetings.)