

GOLDSEEKERS OF THE EARLY FIFTIES.

TO THE EDITOR.

SIR,—I have read with much interest the series of articles reproduced in your columns from the Melbourne Argus on "The Gold-seekers of the Early Fifties."

In your issue of Saturday, the 10th, there appear several minor historical errors. Speaking of Garrett, his name was not "Tom." The name he was best known by was "Harry Garrett." His real name was "Henry Rouse."

The accompanying letter to Mr. Donne, of Wellington, will explain more than I care to occupy your space with, and the only object I have in view is to give the future historian facts.

Another error in the same issue was the capture of Garrett in England, which was solely due to the detective on the trail making friends with a woman that Garrett's mate in the bank robbery had picked up.—I am, etc.,

J. FORSITH.

Manor Terrace, June 14.

RE MAILS.

TO THE EDITOR

SIR,—I read with much interest Mr. Durand's letter on the above subject, in your issue of Saturday. All he says only goes to bear out what I tried to impress on our public bodies some 12 months ago—viz., that Wellington is the proper port for distribution of the American mails. True, no time was lost in bringing down the mail last week, but that only occurred through a series of fortunate chances, the Moana arriving almost up to time, the detention of the Rotoiti, the tides suiting, etc. Let us see when there will be another delivery on the Thursday night!

There is a further grievance, however, the apathy about which in the commercial community is a source of wonder to me. I refer to the postal communication with Australia during the winter months. Until six months ago the service had been weekly, but owing to the falling away of both passenger and cargo traffic the Union Company found it necessary to curtail their sailings for six months out of the 12. No one can blame the Union Company for failing to run a service when they are bound to lose by it, and it can only be looked upon as a matter for regret that the traffic does not permit of the weekly service being run throughout the year. But, when you read of special committees being chosen by Parliament to consider how a better service can be maintained, such proposals seem the height of idiocy—unless, indeed, the members who were so chosen

GOLDSEEKERS OF THE EARLY FIFTIES. TO THE EDITOR.

OTAGO DAILY TIMES, ISSUE 11451, 16 JUNE 1899, PAGE 6

Using This Item

Allied Press Ltd is the copyright owner for the Otago Daily Times. You can reproduce in-copyright material from this newspaper for non-commercial use under a [Creative Commons New Zealand BY-NC-SA licence](#). This newspaper is not available for commercial use without the consent of Allied Press Ltd. For advice on reproduction of out-of-copyright material from this newspaper, please refer to the [Copyright guide](#).

the members who were so zealous only meant to maintain a regular weekly service if possible. It would, indeed, be absurd to try to oust such a service as the Union Company's; the subsidy would require to be enormous. Why try to improve upon the excellent service we have, unless in the way of making it weekly all the year round? If the "Committee for the Extension of Trade" are anxious to subsidise someone, by all means let it be the Union Company, which deserves it. I hold no brief for that company, indeed I think their ten-daily service might be improved upon. For instance, their ships leave Melbourne and Sydney on the same days, making a gap of 10 days between the sailings from each port. Why should they not leave Sydney the one week and Melbourne the other, giving weekly communication for cargo and postal services too? So far as the postal service is concerned, we should be much better suited by a fortnightly service from each port leaving alternately Sydney and Melbourne. Passengers in a hurry to get over could always proceed from Sydney to Melbourne, or vice versa. Then we should not be limited to one regular Home mail per month, as at present.

Considering the great inconvenience this colony suffers through irregular postal communication, I am astonished that we are content to sit still under it. No other commercial people would! What are chambers of commerce for? Apparently to discuss abstract questions. Certainly they do not trouble themselves about matters of much practical utility, and surely nothing comes more within the scope of their functions than attending to postal questions. The Auckland Chamber are all alive to their interests in these matters. Cannot something be done to interest our local body? The Union Company always pose as the servants of the public. Let us see what the Chamber of Commerce can do with them—supposing, of course, that body thinks the above subjects worthy of attention.—I am, etc.,

Dunedin, June 15.

A. H.

ECLIPSE OF THE SUN.

TO THE EDITOR.

SIR,—Can you inform me through your paper when the last total eclipse of the sun took place in New Zealand, and at what time of the day it took place? Please inform me if one took place about 13 years ago, and at what time did it occur.—I am, etc.,

ECLIPSE.

[The last total eclipse of the sun visible in New Zealand occurred on 9th September, 1885, about 7 a.m. The total phase crossed New Zealand near Cook Strait and Masterton.]

PACIFIC STREET, NEVADA.

TO THE EDITOR.

SIR,—As a ratepayer in Roslyn, I should like to corroborate what "Ratepayer" says in this morning's Times about the condition of this street.

It has always occurred to me that the residents in this street must be a very humble and long-suffering class of people.

One has just to go down it on a wet winter's night to fully realise the state of matters, for not only is there an entire absence of lighting, but the paths are all dilapidated, and the road proper in ruts, literally.

The road has not, I am told, been macadamised for some 15 years back.

The residents should petition the council and respectfully insist on metal being put on the roads, the paths both curbed, and two lamps put in the street; for, like the other parts of the borough, they pay rates for lighting and street maintenance.—I am, etc.,

June 15.

ROSLYN.

GOLD DREDGES.

TO THE EDITOR.

SIR,—In your issue of the 10th inst. under the above heading a brief epistle appeared signed "E. T. H.," informing your readers of the fact that the said "E. T. H." knew of a dozen "wild cats," and warning the investing public against investing in those "wild cats." Now, "E. T. H." need not feel disappointed if the investing public refuse to accept his advice until he gives his name and qualification for the position of "adviser-general" to the investing public. "E. T. H." might also be good enough to name the locality wherein the "wild cats" he knows of abound.—I am, etc,

M. M'ALLEN.