

## THE PIONEERS

"It is not chance that their achievements last,  
Nor whim of fortune that their building stands.  
It was for us they strove: we are the heirs  
Of all their agony and sweat and tears;  
And willing or ungrateful, each one shares  
In the vast legacy of toilsome years."

WHEN dealing with local body administration in Sumner over a period of fifty-eight years, with a brief backward glance to the days when the rural sections of Sumner were first surveyed and sold, tribute, in the first place, must be paid to those "who have departed, leaving behind them footprints in the sands of time"; footprints which have definitely led those who followed, to still further blaze the trail and build the road which has gradually developed into a highway of progress. Footprints, too, which have led to a heightened sense of citizenship and the devoting of constant attention to the needs, comfort and interests of the community, under a system which, in short, embodies the aims and ideals of a true democracy.

"Milestones of Progress" may be applied to the resolutions adopted in respect of the institution of the new order of things, whether they be in reference to the building of roads and paths, other improvements, or the establishment of the undertakings which have proved of so much benefit to the people. "Pioneers of Progress" is a fitting appellation for those who have so cheerfully borne the heat and burden of the day. Men, who in the good old British way, have acted as builders under a free and enlightened system, and have so readily fitted in with the general scheme of things, displaying a spirit of enthusiasm and enterprise which has led to undoubted progress.

Sacrifice has meant much to the world, and in this case, the sacrifice of time and money, and the honorary service given as a labour of love for the benefit of the community as a whole, has, or should have, created for them, a monument which will stand for all time as a tribute to their public-spiritedness, depth of vision, and appreciation of one of the finest and healthiest residential areas in the Dominion.

Sumner has been endowed by Nature to an even greater extent than is generally accepted by its own enthusiastic inhabitants. Before coming to reside in Sumner, the writer met an old friend, in the person of a one-time general manager for J. C. Williamson Productions—a gentleman who had circled the globe on many occasions. On being asked where he intended to live on his retirement from business, he replied: "If you had asked me that question two or three weeks ago, I would have said the South of France, or Tauranga, but I have just come back from a visit to Christchurch, and whilst there, visited Sumner. For unsurpassed loveliness, I have not seen anything to equal the views from the hills of that town. The air acted like a tonic, and I felt fresh and fit all the time I was there. I'm going