



THE LATE Mr. T. J. MALING,
First Owner of "Abberley."



Some months later, the land known as Abberley, of 4 acres 2 roods 37.4 perches, was offered to the Christchurch City Council by the trustees as a suitable area for a park. After being favourably considered and recommended by the Reserves Committee, of which Councillor M. B. Howard was Chairman, negotiations were entered into between the Finance Committee (Councillor G. Manning being Chairman) and the trustees. Finally the Christchurch City Council agreed to purchase for the sum of £4,250, £250 to be paid at the date of possession and the balance to be paid in sums of not less than £400 per annum over a period of ten years, the unpaid portion to bear interest at the rate of 3½ per cent. per annum.

DEVELOPMENT OF THE GROUNDS FOR A PUBLIC PARK AND RECREATION PURPOSES.

The Council took possession on the 21st April, 1939, and the work of converting it into a suitable public park and public playground was immediately commenced. In redesigning the grounds every endeavour was made to retain, insofar as it was possible to do so, the original simple design brought into being by the past owners.

The rose garden was retained, being only slightly altered to conform to public use. Only those trees and shrubs which were in a decayed or dangerous state were removed, every effort being made to preserve all trees growing on the property, some of which no doubt were planted in 1863 when gardens were first laid out. The kitchen garden and orchards were removed and the areas occupied by them sown down in lawn and planted with ornamental trees and shrubs.

