

NEW WESLEYAN CHURCH, MINLATON

The opening of the new Wesleyan Church at Minlaton took place on Sunday, February 24, when the Rev. Johnson James, of Yorketown, conducted the services. On Tuesday, February 26, a numerously-attended tea meeting was held in the church, after which there was a public meeting, when the Rev. T. M. Rowe, minister of the Minlaton Circuit, occupied the chair. From the Treasurer's report it appeared that the church, which is 39 x 25 feet inside, built of stone, with cement facings and neatly pointed, of Gothic architecture, but not yet ceiled and plastered, had cost £413 4s. 9d. The allotment on which it stands was most central, and was given to the Trust by Mr. Rowe, the pastor of the church. Inside the building is suitably furnished with pews of Maori pine and moderately raised platform for the minister, and is lighted by six large lamps. The whole appearance of the building is attractive and commanding. On Sunday, March 3, the opening services were continued, when the Rev. H. Mack, who was unable to be present on the previous Sunday, preached three discourses to highly appreciative congregations. On Monday evening Mr. Mack delivered a lecture in the church on "Signs of the Times." The Rev. T. M. Rowe occupied the chair. Before proceeding with his subject, Mr. Mack complimented the people of Minlaton and its neighbourhood on the zeal and liberality manifest in the work they had accomplished in so short a time. He then alluded to the labours of Mr. Rowe. He said it would be a pity for that opportunity to pass, and especially as Mr. Rowe was about to leave the district, without at least referring to his very successful labours. It would be remembered that only three years ago Mr. Rowe was appointed to the Maitland Circuit under the most unfavourable circumstances. But Mr. Rowe had risen above those circumstances. He had in one year built a church at Maitland which had cost £1,000, and another of smaller dimensions in another part of the circuit. From Maitland they must follow him to Yorketown, where by indefatigable labour he had succeeded in erecting two other churches, and improving a third at a cost of about £900. From Yorketown he was sent to Minlaton, where, as is well known, he had been uniformly successful in erecting the church in which they were assembled, a similar one at Stansbury, and a lesser one at Minlacowie. Thus in three years Mr. Rowe had been instrumental in the erection of seven new churches, besides improving another, at an outlay of £3,300. All this, together with the minister's residence, which was partly built, and about twelve acres of land that had been secured as Church property, sufficiently testified to the self-denying labours of Mr. Rowe. Mr. Mack then proceeded with his lecture, in which he reviewed with marked effect some of the great events which had recently occurred and were still transpiring, pointing out that the progress of humanity in all its higher relations and destinies was being absolutely secured by them all. The lecture

was frequently applauded, and at the close a vote of thanks was given to the lecturer.