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Obituaries

MARTIN JOSEPH STEINER

Another of the "great old oaks" of Taranaki has fallen!

On November 17th, Martin Joseph Steiner died suddenly. Martin migrated to New Zealand from Kanton Schwytz in 1902 and settled in Stratford and for the next 62 years remained in this and the Koponga-Rowan area. In 1906 he married Mary Sattler, who was the oldest daughter of Mr and Mrs John Sattler, who were also early immigrants to New Zealand—arriving here in 1880.

The Steiner-Sattler marriage was blessed with the following large family: John (Ngarua), Martin (Normanby), Annie (Mrs P. Dodunski, Stratford), Joe (Te Puke), Lew (Otorohanga), Harry (Tuakau), Eileen (Mrs F. Standbridge, Walton), Frank (Onehunga), and the late Len (D.C.M.), killed in action and the late Ada.

Mrs Steiner passed away in 1940.

In the early days in Taranaki Martin assisted many of the "new" Swiss to purchase farms and interpreting agreements and deeds for sharemilkers and lease-holders. His memory for names and places, details of purchases of farms, acreage and prices was truly amazing and even until the end of his long life he was able to astound many of the younger generation with his intimate knowledge of the various farms in South Taranaki.

Besides the members of the family mentioned above, Martin is survived by 31 grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren. He also has one brother, Mr Frank Steiner, Eltham, and one sister in Switzerland. To the whole family of Martin we express our sincerest sympathies. —P.H.

LOUIS BUTLER

Every man-made thing we see round us is the result of somebody's thinking and we owe a great debt to our fellow men who have, with their ability to think accurately, made such technical advances over the ages.

With the passing of Louis Butler on Monday, November 16th, we have lost one of those men. In step with the evolution of farming practices of this country, Louis presented to the farmers, from his engineering shop in Inglewood, the "Butler Sweep," a vastly superior implement to the old horse-sweep, and when, after the last war, haybalers started to succeed the sweep, he had already built the hedgecutter, an implement that took the drudgery out of cutting those big old-man boxthorn hedges of Taranaki, which threatened to engulf much valuable farmland.

The significant fact remains that the principles he employed in building his first machine are still employed in his own work-