

MR GEORGE HILLIER

Sir,—Towards the close of last year, Mr George Hillier left these parts for another district. The reason was that he could be near some of his children—quite a natural thing to do.

The pity was that the residents of this place did not recognise (in some small way) the merits of his almost life-long sojourn in the Tatiara. Not that there was a desire to slight him, but just because someone was not energetic enough to start the ball rolling.

One had thought that your well-meaning and consistent scribe and local biographer, whose letters are read with interest, might have a little to say about him, although we cannot expect that correspondent to attend to everything. An old-age-pensioner said of George, "I'll miss him." Those three words meant a lot, and could be repeated by many.

One feels rather timid about relating past history in case of mistakes, as I cannot claim to be an old resident in comparison with many others. George Hillier carted wheat with bullocks from the farm now occupied by Mr J. Smith, to Kingston, although both he and brother Oliver should have been attending school.

Both George and Oliver (twins, now 77) have been responsible for much hard work in clearing, etc, from outback of Keith and throughout the Tatiara. We owe them a great deal as they have helped considerably to make the way smoother for those that followed.

Doctor Miles can tell of the able manner George managed the erection of a vermin-proof fence for him. Many others, now gone to their reward (including the father of the present chairman of Tatiara District Council), always had a good word for the capable way any work en-

trusted to these two men was carried out.

George Hillier applied for land from the Board thirteen times without success. It is true that Mrs Hillier was allotted a small block, but surely he, who worked on others' land nearly all his life, was worthy to own his own property. Such is the way some people are treated. Was it that he was better suited to work for others than himself?

It is to be hoped that the Centenary Committee will extend an invitation to George to attend the celebrations next Spring. If not too late, would it not be better to bring the flowers while they can enjoy their perfume, and not leave it, as we often do, so that, except for a very few, they are "unwept, unhonoured, and unsung."—Yours, etc.,
Mundalla, 13/5/47.

L. FISHER

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