

**EXTRACT FROM THE "ZEALANDIA" ON THE OCCASION OF THE
CENTENARY OF THE
CATHOLIC CHURCH IN PALMERSTON NORTH**

The first Roman Catholic Church in Palmerston North.

The late Mr J. G. Rush, when a resident of Taita (Lower Hutt) interviewed Fr. Moreau, of Otaki, as to the possibility of making a commencement with the construction of a Catholic Church in Palmerston North. Fr. Moreau promised Mr Rush, who was much associated with the French priest in his work, that he would go to see Mr Rush's son, John, resident at Palmerston North and that he would trust to St Patrick to help him.

In 1872, therefore, and as near to St Patrick's day as possible, the first Mass was celebrated in a surveyor's office at Palmerston North. The building being one constructed of wood with a thatched roof. There was present Mr and Mrs Lichtwark and family, Mr and Mrs McDowall and family, Mr and Mrs Richardson and family, Mr and Mrs O'Meara and family and Miss Jessie McDowall. Mr J.H. Rush, who was in charge, acted as altar assistant to the French priest.

JOHN GEORGE RUSH

Suffered from illness.

Flags placed at half mast in the Square. His sons, daughters, grandchildren and great grandchildren numbered nearly 100, going into the 4th generation at his death. John and Cecilia were originally Church of England faith but joined the Roman Catholic Church owing to their admiration of the mission work done on the Wanganui River. At the time of his death the deceased was trustee for the Catholic portion of the cemetery. He was in complete possession of his mental faculties to the last and a few minutes prior to his death was conversing rationally with one of his sons. Prior to his death he never had an ailment in his life. He was very widely respected. Buried with his first wife Cecilia in Terrace End cemetery, his grave has a large cannon ball on a pillar.

Owned a very fine residence in Avenue Road.

**THE ABOVE OBITUARY WAS PRINTED IN THE PALMERSTON
NORTH PAPER AT THE DEATH OF JOHN GEORGE**