

We have much pleasure in printing a most interesting account, by Mr. Norman Potts of Opotiki, of his recent trip to the North Cape peninsula. We hope Mr. Potts will remember us on any further trips he may make !

"A party consisting of Messrs. Finlayson, Michie, McKenzie, Shepherd, Beddie, and myself made a trip to the North Cape peninsula in the middle of June. We found the North-eastern extremity - the Maori Kurimotu (corresponding to our Land's End) - was an isolated volcanic plateau separated from main-land by a swampy sea-level flat 2 miles across between Tom Bowling Bay on the west and the coast on the east. From this flat the country runs up in long ridges to a plateau ending in 800' cliffs on the north - the distance from the lighthouse on the east along the top of the cliffs to Tom Bowling Bay being apparently eight or ten miles. On the plateau above the cliffs we found a highly interesting "herb-field" or probably more correctly, shrubland reminiscent of the country about Ngauruhoe and Tongariro. It extends in a narrow strip for two miles or so parallel with the northern coast, with an isolated piece further east. All the locally endemic plants of Choese-man's Manual were found to be flourishing in lonely state. Cassinia amocna was everywhere abundant as were Pomaderris edgerleyi, Leptospermum lineatum, bizarre prostrate small leaved forms of Coprosma rhamnoides and the supposed hybrid Coprosma neglecta. Patches of flowering Hebe speciosa var. brevifolia made a great appeal on account of their unique bright red flowers and aristocratic appearance. Hebe ligustrifolia was present here and elsewhere, as were presumed hybrids between the two. Corokia cotoneaster was completely prostrate. Scrambling over all these were the yellow tangles of the parasite Cassytha. Pimloca imbricata was present in the "herb-field" but by no means abundant. On the sloping cliff tops Carmichaelia australis was not uncommon in the form of wind-swept shrubs, together with opharmones of Goniostoma and Pseudopanax lessonii. The only Astelia present seemed to be A. banksii in green fruit and rather stunted. Pittosporums were absent. Interesting ferns on the Plateau generally were Botrychium ternatum and Lindsaya linearis - both few and far between, Toodea barbara, and Gleichenia flabellata. What was assumed to be Leucopogon richiei was growing on ridges near the lighthouse. Another novelty on the plateau was Halorrhagis cartilaginea.

Parangaranga Harbour with its soft colouring and intriguing distances made a vivid impression. In the neighbourhood were

Todea barbara, growing on the open hill-side, Coprosma parviflora, Coprosma acerosa in an unfamiliar situation (two miles from the sea and at 300' to 400' elevation) Hibiscus trionum, H. diversifolius, Hebe diosmaefolia, the hybrid Coprosma kirkii, Cordyline pumilo, which always looked sickly and out of step with its environment, and the beautiful mauve Iponoea palmata. Asplenium obtusatum was growing on the sea-cliffs. Conclusions reached by the party were that both Hibiscus were in danger of extinction and that Leptosperum lineatum was worthy of general cultivation and a place in any garden.

The party returned via the Ninety Mile Beach (which by the way is nothing like that length) and liked its salty freshness, its restless surf, and an indefinable sense of mystery as though the "wairua" of brown people long dead still linger in its endless dunes. "

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We record our regret at the passing of Mr. F.A. Davis. Mr. Davis was a keen member of our Committee and we take this opportunity of expressing appreciation of his past services and extending sympathy to his friends and relatives.

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CORRECTION: In our previous number we stated that Mrs. Lucy Cranwell Smith was the first woman to be elected to a Fellowship of the Royal Society of New Zealand. Actually Kathleen M. Curtis, M.A., D.I.C., D.Sc., F.L.S., was elected to a Fellowship in 1936. Apologies to both ladies!

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NEWS OF MEMBERS.

Miss Betty Molesworth has at last been successfully extricated from the Air Force, and has commenced work at the Museum. Miss Molesworth's botanical interests are wide, but her special enthusiasm is mosses. We look forward to having a Bulletin from her on our local species one of these days!

One of our country members, Corporal E.D. Hatch, now stationed at Waiouru Military Camp, has taken up the study of our