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HAUTURU OR LITTLE BARRIER;

ITS HISTORY, GEOLOGY AND BOTANY.

By "Chef"

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F O R E W O R D.

This thesis is a preliminary attempt to draw together the strands of information available regarding the little Barrier island with particular reference to the forest covering of the island. While certain sections such as that dealing with the history of the island may appear to have little reference to the botanical aspect, it was found that the influence of human occupation on the vegetation had been not inconsiderable and it was necessary to collect such information in order to form a clear conception of its possible influence. In the same way the geology, soils and climate of the island were found to have a definite place in the description of the forest covering, the distribution of plant species on the island and their relation to the general distribution of plant forms in the region of the Hauraki Gulf.

The treatment, throughout, aims at being descriptive, rather than interpretive; to be a basis for future work rather than intrinsically valuable or complete in itself. The island has been in the possession of the Crown since 1894 yet up till the present no permanent record has been made of the vegetation on the island. During that time, regeneration has proceeded over a considerable area and excellent opportunities for study in natural regeneration have been lost but more detailed work is still required before the island can be used to study the slow changes occurring in New Zealand forests.

The classification of plant societies is a means to an end and not an end in itself. The present vegetation cannot be regarded as any more than the static representation of a dynamic evolutionary sequence, and it is hoped that the present description may form the basis for future work of a more detailed description of the plant communities and the changes which are occurring in them. Our knowledge of the slow

evolutionary processes leading to the formation of climax associations under New Zealand conditions is, at the present, based almost solely on observation and assumption and it is felt that more detailed work is now warranted to follow up the monumental foundational work of the late Dr.L.Cockayne who was the first to give prominence to, and create interest in the ecological aspects of the vegetation of New Zealand.

Few other reserves are so admirably suited as the Little Barrier for the formation of an ecological research station. The island presents a variety of edaphic and climatic conditions and a range of species and associations which would be difficult to surpass in any other area of similar size, while it has the added advantage of being free from the depredations of grazing mammals. It is to be hoped that in the future, greater use may be made of the unrivalled opportunities which the island presents for ecological research into the primitive forest communities of northern New Zealand.



PLATE I. The Little Barrier viewed from the mainland at Leigh, a distance of 15 miles; Leigh Cove in the foreground; Great Barrier in the distance.

H A U T U R U. (LITTLE BARRIER).

Hauturu or Little Barrier Island lies in latitude 36 degrees 12 minutes South, and 175 degrees 7 minutes East longitude on the northern fringe of the Hauraki Gulf, distant 24 kilometers (15 miles) from Cape Rodney and 17 kilometers (11 miles) from the Great Barrier (Aotea).^(See Fig. I.) Its high and rugged outline is a familiar feature of the northern horizon from Auckland, from which city it is distant 72 kilometers (45 miles) in a N. N. E. direction.

Historical.¹

(See Plate I.)

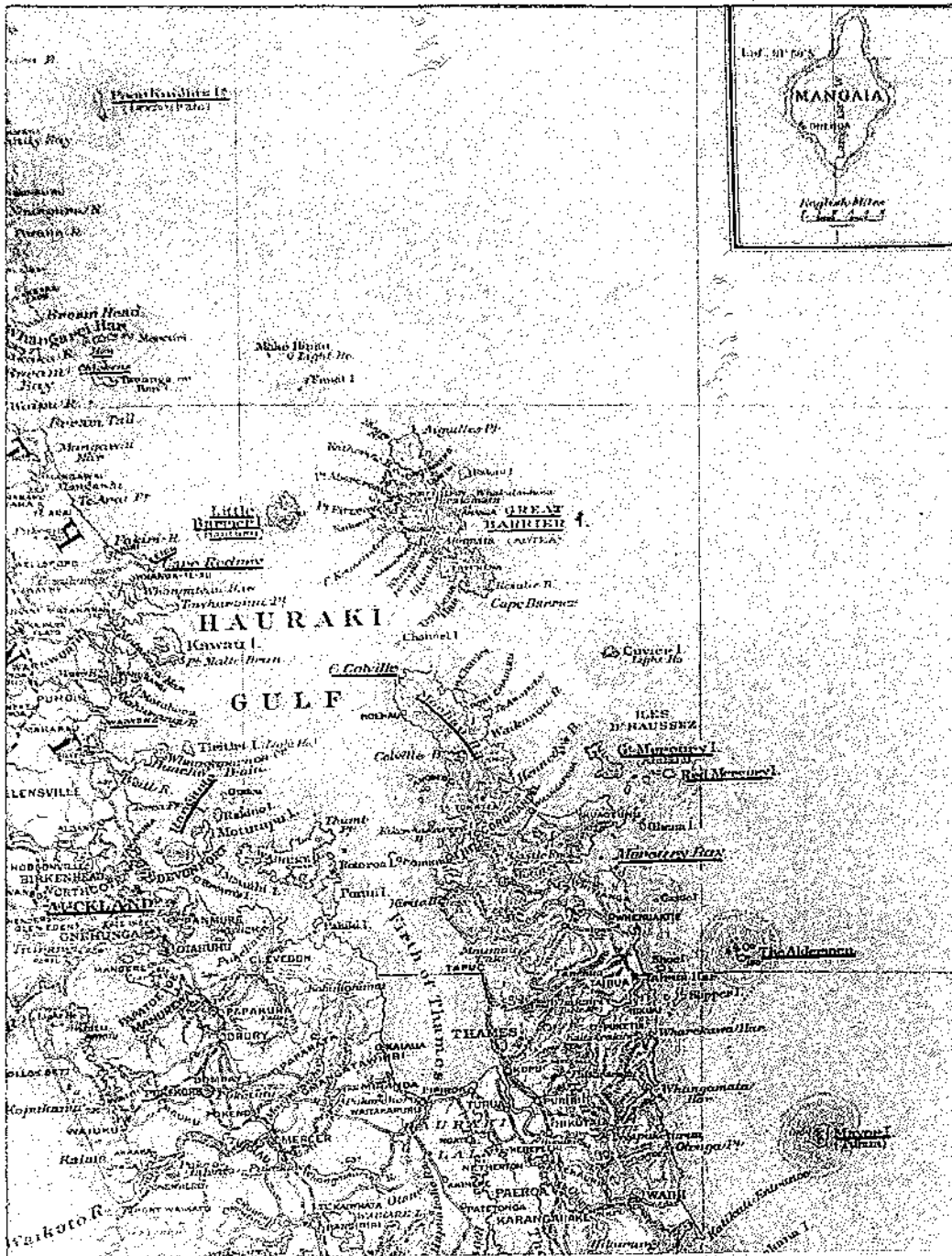
Maori tradition states that the ancient name of Hauturu (The Wind's Resting Post) was bestowed by Toi who arrived in New Zealand from Hawaiki about 1150 A.D. in search of his grandson Whatonga. The Island was uninhabited by "ordinary mankind" but on the misty summits lived the Patu-paiarehe (fairies), visiting the coastline only at night or in misty weather to fish and collect sea foods.

Toi had a dog, "Moi-pahu-roa" (Moi of the long bark) which he cast overboard to seek a landing for the canoe. A slave (Mokai) was sent ashore on the dog's back, but the sea being rough and the landing rougher, the dog refused to go ashore so the slave killed it with a blow of his weapon and cursed it for not landing. The dog turned to stone and the mark of the weapon is still seen on it. The slave, afraid to return to the wrathful Toi, fled to the forest and in stormy weather is still sometimes heard calling the dog "Moi- pahu- roa- ! -epahu! -epahu! -roa!" This rock, (plate 2) was tapu and was a ceremony stone (uru-whenua) where first-comers laid an offering and where fishermen placed a fish to propitiate the sea spirits.

1. I am indebted to Mr. G. A. Graham for much of the information relative to the early history of the Island; I have also drawn freely on Boscowan's published reports.

FIGURE 1.

LOCALITY MAP OF LITTLE BARRIER.



Places mentioned in the text are underlined in red. Note particularly the Poor Knights Islands, the Hen and Chickens, Moehau R. and the Aldermen Islands.

Land and Survey Dept. map.

Some of Toi's people later lived at Hauturu on "The Flat" there, (Plate 3) called "Marae-roa" (The Long Courtyard) after a place at Hawaike; Toi himself went to Waitemata and later to Whakatane where he settled. His grandson, Whatonga, returned to Hawaike from his wanderings and, finding that Toi had set out for the land of Aotea-roa in search for him, he journeyed thence and found Toi at Whakatane; he later migrated and settled at Waitara

When the "fleet" of canoes "Arawa", "Tainui" and others coming from Hawaike arrived at the East Cape about 1350 A.D. many of them came on to Hauraki and some of the Arawa canoe settled there. Hei, one of the Arawa canoe, lived at Mercury Bay, and hence the Ngati-Hei of that place. His son Waitaka, was the ancestor of the Ngati-Wai who intermarried with Toi's people of the Great and Little Barrier and later were granted title to the Island.

About 1650 A.D. the chief Maki of Taranaki, a descendant of Whatonga's, came on a punitive expedition to Waitemata and Kaipara. He destroyed many of the villages and captured many war canoes in a fleet of which he then attacked the outlying islands. On this occasion the Ngati-Wai of Hauturu were able to repel the attempted landing of Maki's forces, who lost several canoes and their crews in the attempt, owing to heavy weather intervening.

Later, however, Maki's younger brother, Mataahu is reputed to have returned and killed many of the Hauturu Natives at a spot called Te Pua on the south side of the Island and it is from this reputed subjection of the Ngati-Wai that the Ngati-Whatua later claimed ownership of the Island. A burial place at Te Titoki Point is known variously as Ngapumataehu and Pua Mataahu and appears to have some connection with this invasion. (Plate 4).

It was probably subsequent to this date that arose Rangihokaia, (see Geneology; Appendix i.), the chief who was the common

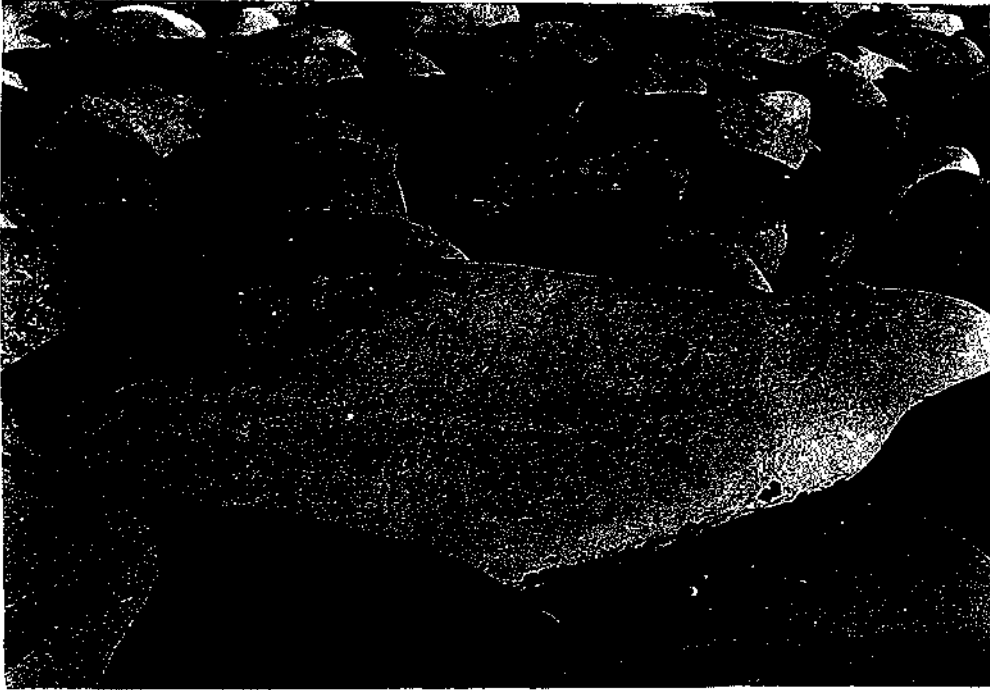


PLATE 2. The Hauturu Stone on the beach at The West Landing. Note the mark on the back of the "dog" where it was struck by the slave. This was a tapu stone or "aru-whenua" of the ancient Maoris where first-comers laid an offering and where fishermen laid an offering to propitiate the sea spirits. The stone is about two metres in length and lies between high and low water mark on the beach.



PLATE 3. "The Flat", "Marae-roa", on the south-western side of the island viewed from the ramparts of Parihakoekoa pa. The "West Landing" is in the immediate foreground while the position of the Hauturu Stone is marked by a cross. Te Titoki Point stands out clearly to the right.

ancestor of the grantees to the title of Hauturu. His descendants, it was, who built the pas at Te Hue and Haowhenua^a. These pas were on the cliff-tops being well defended by deep trenches on the narrow spurs leading up to them. The old kumara pits and the trenches surrounding the pas are still plainly visible while away back in the bush on the Flagstaff range are more pits presumably used as reserves in case of prolonged attack.

Te Kar^u is said to have lived in Parihakoakoa pa at Waipawa; Boscawen (4) records (1893) that "the walls are still standing, made from large boulders from the beach; but the old carved posts, which tradition states were there, must have rotted away very many years ago, as an old ngaio tree is now growing in their place and it shows signs of great age. The natives only lived in this pa in rough weather, when their enemies from the mainland could not cross in their canoes; in fine weather they lived at the Te Hue and Haowhenua pas".

There are many traces of old occupation on "The Flat"; long ridges of stone, probably collected off land the natives proposed to cultivate, are still standing though now almost covered from sight by soil and vegetation. There is also, near Te Waikohare, a large passage through the boulders (Plate 5), evidently where the natives must have hauled up their canoes, or have launched those built up the gullies.

Wars between the Ngapuhi and other northern people and those of Waitemata, Kaipara and Hauraki continued till after the arrival of the "Pakeha"; several times Hauturu was attacked by fleets coming and going in these expeditions and though the Ngati-Wai had sometimes to seek refuge in the precipitous interior of The Island they were never dispossessed. The last record of cannibalism on the Island is when, after the defeat of such a party by the Ngati-Wai under the leadership of Te Heru, Te Waihoripu was killed and eaten at Te Waikohare near the present care-



PLATE 4. Looking from Kapuamataahu, an ancient burial place and the supposed scene of a massacre of many of the Hauturu natives by Maki's younger brother, Mataahu. Shews the "South Landing" in the curve of the bay and in the distance Awaroa Point with Mt. Haurua through the trees.



PLATE 5. The passageway through the boulder bank at the south landing thrown out by the Maoris in order to permit them to haul up their canoes from the beach or to launch those built up the gullies. Now used as a pathway from the caretaker's house to the South Landing. Mt. Herekohu in the distance.

taker's residence, probably between 1820 and 1830.¹

The Island was used by the celebrated Hongi as a calling place when on his punitive expeditions to Hauraki and Bay of Plenty; Sir James Cowan records (10) that Paratene te Manu, then a young man, accompanied Hongi on eight excursions between 1822 and 1830. In later years, (1862) Paratene te Manu visited England and was given an audience by Her Majesty, Queen Victoria.

In more recent times the Maori occupation was sporadic, few residing constantly at Hauturu but visiting frequently from Aotea (Great Barrier) and Pakiri for fishing and bird-snaring. In the late sixties and up till the time of the purchase of the Island by the Crown, much firewood was removed by the Maoris from the lower slopes of the southern, western and northern parts of the Island and altogether nearly one third of the Island must have been cut or burnt over prior to its acquisition by the Crown. Gum-diggers were also active and added to the destruction of the native flora.

"In 1844 the Island was offered for sale to a Mr. Hughes, a grocer in Shortland Street, Auckland, by Pomare, of the Bay of Islands; but the Ngatiwai hearing of it turned up and objected to the sale just as a bargain was completed. A small schooner was to have been given Pomare for it." (4)

With the gradual spread of colonisation, with its resultant destruction of the native flora and fauna, attention began to be directed to the establishment of sanctuaries. So at a meeting of the Auckland Institute and Museum (2) held in 1875 Mr. F. D. Fenton suggested that the Island should be set aside

¹ Mr. R. Shakespear, son of the first caretaker of the Little Barrier, informs me, however, that at a later date a fugitive from Orakei landing on the Island met a similar fate near the entrance of Awaroa Stream on the south coast - hence the name "Cannibal Gully" by which the stream is sometimes known.

for this purpose, in pursuance of which object the Council urged Sir R. Stout, then Premier of the Colony, to purchase the Island from the Native owners without delay. Public opinion was expressed in favour of the proposal and it was also warmly supported in later years by Lord Onslow and Sir W. L. Buller.

ESTABLISHMENT OF TITLE.¹

The ownership of the Island was claimed by two tribes, the Ngati-Whatua and the Ngati-Wai. TeHemara Tauhia first made formal claim of ownership on June 1876 and this was followed by a series of claims by other tribal members of the Ngati-Whatua and the Ngati-Wai. The Native Land Court held its first meeting to adjudicate on the establishment of title to Hauturu, at Helensville at a sitting presided over by Judge Rogan. A decision was arrived at in favour of Ngati-Whatua but the absence of the Ngati-Wai from this hearing led ~~to~~ the Governor in Council to set aside the judgment and order a rehearing.

"A procuring by way of such hearing was opened at a sitting presided over by Chief Judge Fenton, who personally decided in favour of Ngati-Wai, but his assessor not concurring the procuring lapsed, but effect was afterwards given to the Order in Council, when, at a sitting presided over by Judges Munro and O'Brien the Court found in favour of Ngati-Wai".

"Here the legislature interposed and, by a clause in the Special Powers and Contract Act 1883, enacted that Hauturu should be deemed to be again native land and its ownership be again inquired into by the Court. In 1884 a sitting was duly held when

¹ I am indebted to Mr. Earle of the Native Lands Court, Auckland, who permitted me to peruse the files and minutes of the Court dealing with the procuring of title for the Island.

the Court found Ngati-Whatua to be the owners instead of the Ngati-Wai. But the legislature being no more satisfied with this one of the only two possible decisions than it had been with the other again interposed and by enactment in 1884 prescribed another hearing which was held before Judge Puckey when the Court again declared in favour of Ngati-Wai."

The Ngati-Whatua claimed ownership by right of conquest by their ancestor Maki and his younger brother Mataahu who they claimed subdued the people of Hauturu. They admitted that the land had not been occupied by their tribe, but claimed that the Ngati-Wai paid toll for the use of the land and that the Ngati-Kawerau had in their possession a tiki given as part payment for the right to occupy the land.

The Ngati-Wai claimed from their ancestor Rangihokaiia who it was alleged occupied from a period "when men were stones" and whose descendants had continued to exercise rights of ownership without having been dispossessed. As one witness ¹ said, "The Ngati-Wai may claim both by ancestry and by occupation; they have cultivated there; their dead are buried there; and there are none but Ngati-Wai on the land. The hearthstones of the Ngati-Wai on Hauturu had never grown cold." Occupation giving the premier claim to ownership the Ngati-Wai were finally adjudged owners, the title being made out at a sitting of the Native Land Court of New Zealand held at Auckland before Edward Walter Puckey, Esquire, Judge, and Benjamin F. J. Edwards, Assessor, on the 18th October 1886. (Fig. 2.)

¹ Mr. J. A. Tole; Crown Solicitor attached to the Auckland District.



FIGURE 2. The Title map of the Little Barrier lodged in the Lands and Survey Office, Auckland. The map was made by enlargement from the Admiralty Chart and bears the signatures of the various Judges of the native Land Court of New Zealand before whom the map was produced in the securing of title to the island. Note the signatures of Judges Macdonald, Puckey, Fenton, O'Brien, Munro and von Sturmer.

The shares of the various owners were determined at a sitting of the Native Land Court on the 28th May, 1892, as follows :-

Rahui te Kiri	One-thirtieth
Ngapeka	One-thirtieth
Wi Taiawa	One-thirtieth
Tenetahi	One-tenth
Miria Taukokopu	One-tenth
Paratene te Manu	One-tenth
Ngapera Taiwa	One-twentieth
Hone Paama	One-tenth
Kino Rewiti	One-twentieth
Pita Kino	One-twentieth
Rapata Ngatiwai	One-tenth
Te Nupere Ngawaka	One-tenth
¹ Miria te Moananui	One-fortieth
¹ Mata Kuru	One-fortieth
¹ Paratene te Manu	One-twentieth
Ngawhare Taiawa	One-twentieth

THE PURCHASE BY THE CROWN. ²

The Island was first proclaimed as under negotiation for purchase by the Crown in a Gazette notice in 1881 but further negotiations were delayed pending the completion of the procuring of a title to the Island in the Native Land Court.

¹ Shared the estate of Henare te Moananui who died in September 1891.

² My thanks are due to the Under Secretary for Lands for the assistance given me in obtaining information relative to the purchase of Hauturu by the Crown and for permission to peruse the files in the Auckland Lands and Survey Office.

Following the issue of a title to the Ngatiwai, negotiations were entered into by the Government in October 1891 for the purchase of the Island.

"We Native Owners of Hauturu, hereby agree that the Island shall be sold to the Government for the sum of three thousand pounds (£3,000) which is the price fixed by the Hon. Mr. Cadman, Native Minister.

We also agree that the purchase price shall be divided amongst us according to the relative interests recently defined by the Native Land Court, that is to say :- "

And follows a list of the Native Owners and their respective shares as set out on page eight.

"And we severally agree to sell our respective shares to the Government and to accept our respective shares of the purchase money according to the relative interests defined by the Court".

However, in the establishment of title the cost of the proceedings on behalf of the Ngatiwai had been borne by Tenetahi on the understanding that on the successful establishment of title and sale to the Government, Tenetahi was to be reimbursed by the grantees to the title. The following agreement between Tenetahi and Mr. Edger, on behalf of the Crown, was drawn up in October 1891 :-

"It is hereby understood that in signing the deed transferring Hauturu to the Queen, no money (consideration) is to be paid to any of the owners until all of them sign the said transfer and if all the other said owners consent to Tenetahi receiving the whole of the said money (£3,000) the same shall be paid to him for distribution amongst all the owners according to their respective shares." At the same time Mr. Edger obtained a deed of transfer of the shares of Wai Taiawa, Tenetahi and Kino Rewiti.

About this time the natives received tempting offers for the kauri timber upon the Island and began to regret the agreement they had entered into with the Crown. However, as by

no means all the grantees to the title had signed the agreement to sell a notice was inserted in the "New Zealand Herald" for January 7th, 1892 stating that as Mr. J. A. Tole had failed to complete negotiations for the purchase of the Island it was no longer for sale, but inviting applications for the lease of the Island or independently for the sale of the timber.

Following this notice Simon Welton Brown, the son of Mr. Brown, then Chairman of the Rodney County Council, entered into an agreement with Tenetahi on March 12th 1892 to purchase all the kauri on the Island for the sum of £1,000, all the timber to be removed within five years. The conveying of the timber from the water's edge at Hauturu to Auckland was under taken by Tenetahi.

"Mr. Gerhard Mueller (Chief Surveyor, Auckland), in reporting to the Surveyor General in July 1892 says 'the kauri is small and hardly worth the risk and trouble of obtaining, as it is cut and then thrown over the cliffs to take its chance of falling on the beach below without being shattered. I saw several logs on the beach with splinters twelve and sixteen feet long broken off them'.

In a report dated October 1892 Mr. Henry Wright observes that "the felling and hauling of kauri had already made great havoc with the bush (in Awaroa Stream) - - - every kauri tree of sufficient size having been removed. Eight white men are up Wai-pawa (Stream) felling kauri and drawing out with bullocks".

"In consideration of Tenetahi bearing the whole cost of carrying the title through the Land Court it has been agreed that the timber is to be his own property. He has arranged with Mr. Brown to fell all the kauri as speedily as possible, the object being to realize on it before the sale of the Island can be completed"

Brown estimated the kauri on the Island at eight million superficial feet and proceeded energetically to arrange for its

felling and conveying to Auckland. A weatherboard house was erected on "the Flat" near Waipawa, bullocks were brought over from the mainland and the work of destruction began in earnest.

Removal of the ~~first~~^{first} covering would have destroyed the value of the Island as a bird sanctuary and hence its value to the Crown who were negotiating for its purchase. Backed by public opinion, the Land and Survey Department did all in its power to prevent further felling of kauri on the Island by notice appearing in the press, and by posters placed in conspicuous places round the coast of the Island, warning that all persons other than the owners or occupiers of the Island, who cut timber or trespassed, would be proceeded against by the Crown - dated June 1892.

However, not to be discouraged by this setback, the native owners, proceeded to fell and log the timber on the Island and by the late spring of 1892 logs from the Island were arriving weekly at the sawmills at Auckland, conveyed thence in the scow "Irene".

In September of that year Mr. Bishop R.M., visited the Island, acquiring and paying for the interests of Hiria Taukokopu, Paratene te Manu, Miria te Moananui and Mata Kuru, being three-tenths of the shares in the Island. As the Crown has now paid one-third (almost) the value of the Island they had power to claim one-third of the value of anything exported therefrom, and further timber arriving in Auckland was marked with the Government brand.

At the same time ~~an~~^{an} injunction was issued restraining Brown or Tenetahi from further timber cutting (December 1892) while Mr. Henry Wright was appointed temporary ranger to see that the injunction was obeyed. He was succeeded in that capacity by Mr. Chas. Robinson of the Agriculture Department in February 1893.

Unavailing efforts were made by the Crown to complete the purchase but without success. The two chief grievances of the natives appear to have been :-

1. Tenetahi's agreement with the Government by which he was to have reimbursed himself for the cost of the Native Land Court proceedings had been broken, by the Government treating individually with other native owners. Tenetahi naturally objected to selling his land when the purchase price by the Government (for his share) would scarcely recoup for him the cost of establishment of the title; a benefit which had been enjoyed equally by the other owners.
2. There was a definite feeling on the part of the Native Owners that Brown had been ^{harshly} dealt with by the Crown. Brown had paid a deposit on signing the contract with Tenetahi; he had been ^{ou}put to considerable expense in erecting a house on the Island and in conveying bullocks, men and gear from the mainland, while such timber as had been conveyed to Auckland had been seized by the Crown; the remainder lay either at the water's edge or alongside the bullock tracks on the Island. Whether or not Brown's contract was legal following the Gazette Notice 1881 of the Government's intention to purchase the Island, and the agreement by the Native Owners to sell it, the Native Owners felt that Brown should have been compensated for his losses and refused to treat further with the Government.

How far this attitude on the part of the Natives was prompted by a genuine regard for what they believed to be a gross injustice done to Brown, and in what degree it was merely a veneer covering their own sense of frustration at being deprived, by the intervention of the government, of the value of the contract, it is now difficult to say, but probably the latter added considerably to the force of their protests on Brown's behalf.

Matters continued in this unsatisfactory state for some time, the remaining Native Owners refusing to treat with the Government for the final disposal of the Island to the Crown. At

the Annual Meeting of the Auckland Institute, February 1894, a resolution was passed requesting the Council to urge the Government to complete the purchase as speedily as possible since, "by degrees, the Island is being rendered less suitable for the purposes of a preserve". (2) "In response to this, a deputation of the whole Council waited on the Premier fully explaining the position of affairs and the necessity for immediate action. He expressed himself as being anxious and willing to expedite the purchase; and engaged that if the Native Owners continued to refuse reasonable terms a Bill would be introduced into Parliament providing for the compulsory purchase of the Island at a fair valuation."

This was later done under the provisions of "The Little Barrier Island Purchase Act 1894" which provided that the Island should be deemed Crown Land and the respective shares of the purchase price (£3,000) of those Native Owners who had not signed the Deed of Transfer should be paid to the Public Trustee on their behalf. (12) "This gave the Crown legal, but not quiet possession, as Tenetahi and his family obstinately declined to remove their cattle and other belongings. Briefly to recapitulate events, it will suffice to say that as soon as legal possession had been given to the Crown the European and Native residents upon the Island were given notice to quit, and a steamer was sent down by which they had the opportunity given them of being removed with all their belongings to any place they chose. Shortly after this Tenetahi appealed to the Stipendiary Magistrate for an extension of time to remove his stock and crops, alleging as a reason that his scow was being repaired, and to this the Magistrate agreed. The six weeks expired in the middle of May and during that time (the caretaker's services having been dispensed with) two of the permanent Force were stationed upon the Island as representatives of the law, and are still in residence. To show how little Tenetahi intended from the first to keep faith, he has not, up to this date, attempted to remove any of his belongings, though

his vessel is long since repaired - - -". Finally the Natives still resident upon the Island were removed with the help of the Permanent Force and a specially chartered vessel removed all the live stock on the Island claimed by the Maoris.

There remains little room for doubt that Tenetahi had a genuine grievance in his claim for reimbursement for the costs of establishment of title to the Island and the action of the Crown in compulsorily purchasing the Island at a fair valuation may be hard to justify as a standard of policy for dealing with the Native Owners of land, who believed their titles sacrosan^ct under the Treaty of Waitangi. Be that as it may, it still remains, that, viewed in perspective, the purchase of the Island has created for the flora and fauna of New Zealand a preserve, unequalled elsewhere, and the value of which, as such, might have been seriously diminished had its purchase not been effected ^{when} ~~as~~ it was.

(13) "Having thus obtained possession, the next consideration was how best to carry out the object for which the Island was purchased. This it was felt could best be done by the Auckland Institute, and it was agreed that the Government should grant £200 to cover the expenses of management for one year; that the Institute should appoint a resident curator and that the Government steamer when making her periodical visitations to the northern lighthouses, should, when convenient, call at the Island and land stores for the use of the curator. A sum of £250 was also granted for the erection of a house for the curator upon the Island." (Plate 6).

Mr. R. H. Shakespear was appointed curator by the Auckland Institute and left for the Island early in January 1897 since which date a caretaker has been constantly in residence upon the Island to prevent unauthorized persons from landing.

¹On April 1st 1905 control of the Island was assumed by the Tourist Department in whose hands it still remains. The services of Mr. R. H. Shakespear were retained until, owing to ill-health he resigned on February 28th 1910 but died two days later and was interred at Leigh. His son, Mr. R. Shakespear now of Whangaparoa, remained on the Island till the appointment on May 4th of the same year of Robert Hunter-Blair, the third son of Sir Edward Hunter-Blair, baronet, of Ayrshire, Scotland. Mr. Blair had been in indifferent health for some time previous to his transfer to the Little Barrier and in September 1910 he took seriously ill and expired the following morning, the 22nd September. His widow the only other person on the Island, interred the body in a grave not far from the house and having no means of communication with the mainland waited patiently for a boat to call at the Island. Five days later, the Government steamer "Hinemoa" called and Mrs. Blair was brought to Auckland. The grave remains as a mute reminder of one of the minor tragedies of the Gulf.

Mr. Hunter-Blair was replaced by the temporary appointment of Mr. T. P. Firman who was caretaker from the 17th November 1910 until the 12th May 1911 when he was succeeded by Mr. Robert Nelson who was appointed on the 29th May 1911 and remained until the 4th May 1922 when he retired on superannuation.

His successor was William Cleaver who remained until the 29th August 1923. During Mr. Cleaver's caretakership an unauthorized visitor to the Island met his death under tragic circumstances. Mr. H. G. Weidman, one time first mate of the ill-fated schooner "Cecilia Sudden", was apprehended by the caretaker, gum digging on the Island and was taken to the caretaker's residence. However, during the night he made his exit and rowed away in Cleaver's dinghy. It was not till eleven days later (June 27th 1923) that the body of the man was found on the beach at the foot of high cliffs and interred on the Island. The manner in which Weidman met his death remains a mystery.

¹ Much of the information relative to the recent history of the Island was kindly supplied by Mr. G. W. Clinkard of the Tourist Dept



PLATE 6. The Caretaker's residence upon the island erected in the year 1898 from a grant of £250 made by the Government for the purpose. The Te Waikohare stream flows immediately to the right of the house. Mt. Herakohu shews through the trees on the left. Photo by T.W. Collins.



PLATE 7. The arrival of the fortnightly mail on the island. Landing is impossible except in the calmest weather and the mail service while ostensibly running once a fortnight is strictly subject to "weather permitting."

A suitable caretaker not being available, Robert Nelson agreed to return to the Island (September 1923) where he remained until the 15th November 1932, when he again retired on superannuation.

William Henry Hardgrave, the present caretaker was appointed on the 15th November, 1932.

Communication with the Island is maintained by a fortnightly launch service run from Leigh (Little Omaha) by the Post and Telegraph Department, the present holder of the tender being Mr. D. Mathieson. (Plate 7).

Permission to visit the Island must be obtained from the Tourist Department. As a sanctuary some restriction is necessary on visitors to the Island; it is no place for picnics nor have the merely curious any right there, but with proper supervision by the caretaker every facility is, and should be given to those genuinely desirous of studying, under natural conditions, our fast disappearing bird and plant life.

Only so, can we justify in some small measure our inroads into the domain of Maoridom. This attempt to draw together such information as was available regarding the history of the Little Barrier might well have been from abler hands, but I trust it may serve as a foundation for further research into the stories and legends of Hauturu before such are forgotten together with the people who, at one time, called Hauturu "Home".