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A HISTORICAL STUDY OF THE SEARCH FOR

OIL IN THE POVERTY BAY - EAST COAST

DISTRICT FROM 1874 TO 1912

A thesis presented in partial fulfilment
of the requirements for the degree
of Master of Arts in History
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PREFACE

This thesis deals with oil exploration in the Poverty Bay East Coast district between the years 1874 and 1912. The Geology of the district is outlined and a brief chronology of events is given. The achievements and problems of boring are related in Chapter I. Chapters III and IV unfold the story of exploration examining company promotion, share holding, public criticism and company expenditure. Chapter V gives brief biographies of most of the men of the district who promoted the companies. The occupations of the promoters are analysed. Public attitudes to the exploration are examined under three themes: the confidence that oil would be found, the question of local or foreign capital; and the benefits Poverty Bay would have received.

ABBREVIATIONS

AJHR	Appendices to the Journals of the House of Representatives
GT	Gisborne Times
PBH	Poverty Bay Herald
PBI	Poverty Bay Independent
PBS	Poverty Bay Standard
M.P.Company	Minerva Petroleum Company
N.Z.Oilfields Ltd.	New Zealand Oilfields Limited (Gisborne)
P.B.P. and K. Company	Poverty Bay Petroleum and Kerosene Company
S.C.P.Company	Southern Cross Petroleum Company
S.P.P.Company	South Pacific Petroleum Company