

and Murdoch proceeding to Tauranga, *via* Oropi, and the next day to Hamilton, *via* Waihi; while Messrs. Haszard (Chairman), Adams, and Dr. Cockayne went to Thames, where, in company with Mr. J. W. Hall, they inspected an interesting mixed plantation of exotic and indigenous trees planted by that gentleman forty years ago. This plantation is of special interest since an account of the rate of growth of the trees has been published in the "Transactions of the New Zealand Institute," Vol. 34, p. 386. The members of the two subcommittees of your Commission, with the exception of Dr. Cockayne, who had proceeded to Auckland by boat from Thames, reunited at Hamilton, and on the morning of the 10th April visited the Government experimental farm at Ruakura, and also an important plantation of Australian gums on the estate of Mr. R. Gillet, Kirikiriroa. The same evening the whole of your Commission reached Auckland. On the 12th April your Commission sat in committee at the Lands Office, Auckland. On the 14th April we journeyed to Dargaville, where on the day following a public sitting was held in the Court-house. Mr. Adams and Dr. Cockayne did not attend the above sitting, since they went as a subcommittee on the same day to visit a proposed scenic reserve at Ruawai, near Naumai. On the 16th April your Commission divided into two subcommittees, Messrs. Haszard (Chairman), Clarke, Lethbridge, and Murdoch setting out for the Waipoua State Forest, and Mr. Adams and Dr. Cockayne journeying to Kawakawa, *via* Tangiteroria and Whangarei. The Waipoua party made an inspection of the forest the next day under the guidance of Mr. J. Maxwell, the caretaker, reaching Kohukohu, Hokianga, the same evening, to which township the remainder of your Commission journeyed the same day, *via* Ohaeawai. On the 18th April Messrs. Haszard (Chairman) and Lethbridge inspected the Omahuta Forest Reserve, and Messrs. Clarke and Murdoch that on Mount Raetea, to the north of Broadwood. On the 19th April your Commission travelled to Whangarei, *via* Ohaeawai and Kawakawa. On the 21st instant the Puhipuhi Forest Reserve was inspected by Messrs. Haszard (Chairman), Adams, Clarke, and Murdoch, in order to ascertain the results of the fire in the State plantations, and the value of the reserve for afforestation or settlement, as the case may be. On the 22nd April your Commission returned to Auckland. A sitting in committee was held in the Lands Office, Auckland, on the morning of the 23rd, and in the afternoon Messrs. Adams and Lethbridge and Dr. Cockayne visited the Three Kings' College, where they were shown by the Principal, the Rev. J. H. Simmonds, his important collection of Australian gums. The following day a public sitting was held in the Lands Office, Auckland, at which all the members of your Commission were present. On the 25th April your Commission left Auckland at noon, an inspection having been made in the course of the morning of the experimental butter-boxes referred to further on in our report. At Te Kuiti your Commission divided, Messrs. Haszard (Chairman) and Lethbridge, accompanied by the Secretary, Mr. E. Phillips Turner, proceeding to the Mokau River, in order to inspect the present and proposed scenic and climatic reserves, while the remaining members went on to Taumarunui. On the following day the Taumarunui party, under the guidance of Mr. H. Lundius, Crown Lands Ranger, proceeded down the Wanganui River, and paid careful attention to the scenic reserves and the banks of the river in general. On the 25th April the same party continued their journey down the Wanganui River, reaching New Plymouth the same evening. *En route* they called at Wanganui, and had an interview with the Chairman of the Wanganui River Trust, Mr. T. D. Cummins, and Mr. W. A. Veitch, M.P. The Mokau subcommittee, having made an examination of the banks of that river as far as the coal-mine, Parewaro, joined the rest of your Commission at New Plymouth on the 25th April, and that day was occupied in a visit to the forest reserve on the Manganui River, near Inglewood, and to the Mount Egmont National Park. On the 30th April a public sitting was held at New Plymouth in the Municipal Council Chambers. On the 1st May your Commission left New Plymouth for Wellington, reaching that city the same evening.