

and, curiously, at the Kidnappers. This is the only known place throughout the world, as far as my information goes, where the gannet has its breeding-haunts on the mainland. As estimated by Mr. Mannering, the gannets at the Kidnappers number four thousand. These are now included within a "bird sanctuary" which Mr. Frank Gordon presented to the Government for the benefit of the people. Under careful protection the number of birds might be largely increased. Curiously, the habits of the gannet are little known on account of the inaccessibility of their breeding-places. The Kidnapper haunts, however, provide an exception, and young ornithologists have an excellent chance to distinguish themselves by taking up the study of the gannets. Even the late Sir Walter Buller, whose work on New Zealand birds is a classic, had never studied the habits of the gannet, nor had he ever seen a gannet breeding-place until within a few years preceding his death. His visit is described in the third or supplementary volume of his "New Zealand Birds."

### APPENDIX C.

#### REPORT OF THE SCENERY-PRESERVATION BOARD.

DURING the year ended the 31st March, 1916, the following meetings of the above Board were held: On Wednesday, the 16th June, 1915, to deal with lands in the Auckland District; on Thursday, the 19th August, 1915, to deal with lands in the Auckland District; on Saturday, the 2nd October, 1915, to deal with lands in the Marlborough District; on Monday, the 11th October, 1915, to deal with lands in the Southland District; and on Friday, the 31st March, 1916, to deal with lands in the Hawke's Bay District. All the above meetings were held in the office of the Surveyor-General, Wellington, and the Commissioner of Crown Lands for the district in which was situated the lands dealt with attended the meeting of the Board in each case.

Eleven recommendations were made by the Board regarding the acquisition of land for scenic reservation, and submitted to His Excellency the Governor. The Board also considered and dealt with several other cases where they were not in a position to submit a recommendation.

It was, of course, inevitable that the activities of the Board should be restricted in consequence of the unfavourable state of affairs, but the interests of scenery-preservation have been, and are being, carefully considered, and every opportunity will be taken to recommend the acquisition of land for that purpose when the occasion warrants it.

E. H. WILMOT,  
Chairman, Scenery-preservation Board.

#### REPORT OF SUMMIT ROAD SCENIC RESERVES BOARD.

The Board met four times during the year—namely, 26th May, 7th June, 29th October, 1915, and 16th March, 1916.

On the 1st April, 1915, the area of lands under the Board's control was 322 acres.

By *Gazette* notice dated 20th May, 1915, reserves numbered 3002, 3064, and 3235 were brought under the Scenery Preservation Act, and vested in the Board by notification in the *Gazette* of the 17th June, 1915.

An additional area of 91½ acres was purchased from Mr. Parkinson, partly by private donations and partly by subsidy from the Crown. An area of 2 acres has been donated by Mr. William A. Gray, of Kaituna, and a hut, at a cost of £200, voted by Parliament, is being erected on the same for the accommodation of persons visiting the locality. The area under the Board's control is now 1,143 acres. Some of the open portions of the reserves being let to adjoining owners bring in a revenue of about £90 per annum, which at present is the only regular source of income, private subscriptions having almost entirely ceased since the commencement of the war.

During the year a new road has been surveyed and graded from Gebbie's Pass to Kaituna Saddle, connecting with the Purau Road above Port Levy. When this track has been formed the whole of the Board's reserves will be linked up from Godley Head to Mount Sinclair, a distance of about thirty miles.

#### Balance-sheet.

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
Rents .. .. .	61	0	6	Purchase of Land .. .. .	500	0	0
Guarantees .. .. .	150	0	0	Labour, supplies, &c. .. .. .	159	15	0
Government subsidy .. .. .	458	5	8	Balance .. .. .	60	6	3
Advance from Treasury .. .. .	50	0	0				
Miscellaneous .. .. .	0	15	1				
	<u>£720</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>3</u>		<u>£720</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>3</u>

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