

1920.  
NEW ZEALAND.

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DEPARTMENT OF LANDS AND SURVEY:  
**SCENERY-PRESERVATION.**

REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH, 1920 TOGETHER WITH STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS AND SCHEDULE OF LANDS ACQUIRED AND RESERVED DURING THE YEAR UNDER THE SCENERY PRESERVATION ACT.

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*Presented to both Houses of the General Assembly pursuant to Section 17 of the Scenery Preservation Act, 1908.*

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SIR,—

Department of Lands and Survey, Wellington, 16th June, 1920.

I have the honour to submit herewith report on scenery-preservation for the twelve months ended the 31st March, 1920.

I have, &c.,

T. N. BRODRICK,

Under-Secretary for Lands.

The Hon. D. H. Guthrie, Minister in Charge of Scenery-preservation, Wellington.

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**REPORT.**

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RESERVATIONS.

THERE were comparatively few reservations during the year, but they included some very charming areas of scenery.

In the *North Auckland Land District* 706 acres of land bordering the Whangaroa Harbour were taken under the Public Works Act for scenery purposes. They included Pekapeka (or Okohomoko Bay), which has been used for picnic purposes for some considerable time past. It is situated near the entrance to the harbour and commands a beautiful view. As, however, the owner of the land objected to such a large area being taken, the matter is now under consideration with a view to seeing if the area can be reduced in any way and still retain a suitable reserve for scenic purposes.

In the *Auckland Land District* 80 acres of land on the shores of Kawhia Harbour, where the Awaroa flows in, were also taken under the Public Works Act, and will preserve a very picturesque feature of the landscape.

On the north bank of the Mokau River a block of 856 acres was also secured, and will help to preserve the charming scenery on this part of the river. For years past the Mokau River has been considered one of the principal attractions of the west coast, and the reserve in question is one of several recommended by the Scenery Preservation Board. When the rest of the areas recommended have been acquired it is hoped the attractions of the place will be preserved for all time, and be visited in the future, as in the past, by a great number of people who desire to see what the pristine beauty of New Zealand was, and in some parts still is.

In the *Taranaki Land District* 166 acres of very beautiful bush lying between Everett Road and Mangonui Stream, north-east of Inglewood, were finally preserved under the Scenery Preservation Act. The land had been formerly set apart as a forest reserve, but the reservation had been cancelled, and there was danger of the timber being utilized, therefore the Government decided to permanently reserve it for scenic purposes. A local Scenic Board is now being constituted with a view to ensure adequate protection.

Over 3,000 acres of land on the south bank of the Mokau River were set aside during the year, and, as has already been stated, the acquisition of these areas will preserve the magnificent scenery of the river. Although the banks do not possess the grandeur of those on the upper reaches of the Wanganui River, yet they have a beauty of their own, and in this way cannot be surpassed by any other river in New Zealand. With the increase of motor and other traffic and the proper facilities being afforded for launching up the Mokau River, its beauties will receive ample recognition in the future, and will serve to attract to this part of the Island many visitors who otherwise would not come.

A further area of 8 acres covered with native bush on the Okoroa Road, to the north-west of Okahukura Station, on the Main Trunk line, were resumed and set apart under the Act.

In the *Marlborough Land District* four small areas of land adjoining Whenua-nui Bay, in Queen Charlotte Sound, were acquired by way of exchange and reserved for scenic purposes. They are within easy distance of Picton, and will no doubt be visited largely in the future.

In the *Southland Land District* 190 acres abutting on the southern shores of Pickersgill Harbour and Dusky Sound, Fiord County, were proclaimed as a scenic reserve. The land is covered with heavy mixed forest and native bush, comprising broken and precipitous country. The proclamation of this area completes the reservation of the land in the Sounds National Park.

The only other reserve made during the year was  $\frac{1}{4}$  acre adjoining the existing scenic reserve at Clifden.

The reservation over three areas, comprising 211 acres, was revoked during the year. This was done on account of the land being no longer suitable for scenic purposes.

Added to the reservations made under the Scenery Preservation Act since 1903, there are now 525 separate reserves, aggregating 312,075 acres, and this, as has been said before, includes some of the finest scenery in the Dominion. When further reservations which are now under contemplation are effected the bulk of the unique scenery of the Dominion will be secured.

During the last few years, through the unusual circumstances occasioned by a state of war and the great strain thrown upon the financial and other resources of New Zealand, there has naturally been a falling-off in the expenditure of money under the scenery-preservation vote, but every care has been taken that judicious expenditure should afford the best results, and this will continue to be done in the future.

#### LAKE ROTOITI.

Some time ago the Native owners of certain lands fronting the shores of Lake Rotoiti decided to cede portions to the Crown for scenic reservation, and last year, while the Hon. Sir Francis Bell was in the Rotorua district, he met a number of the interested Natives at Okere and discussed the matter with them. Among those present were Morehu te Kirikau, Wirehunga Tamati, Teiri te Tikau, Raharuhi Pururu, and Captain Vercoe, D.S.O. Captain Gilbert Mair acted as interpreter.

Speaking for the Natives, Morehu te Kirikau made an offer of the land to the Government free of compensation, subject to certain conditions, and subsequently he visited Wellington and confirmed the offer. Provision was made by section 33 of the Native Land Amendment and Native Land Claims Adjustment Act, 1919, to accept this offer, and to establish a special Board in accordance with the wishes of the Natives for the administration, protection, and control of the land: the Board of control to consist of not less than six members, of whom five shall be members of the Ngatipikiao Tribe. The former Native owners are to retain free right of access to any ancestral burial-grounds, and shall also have the right to bury deceased Natives in any such burial-grounds.

The survey of the land has been carried out by Mr. Tai Mitchell, and as soon as the plans have been approved steps will be taken to constitute the Scenic Board in pursuance of section 13 of the Scenery Preservation Act, 1908.

It is understood that it is the intention of the Natives to celebrate the handing-over of the scenic reserves by holding an official gathering at Rotorua to which representatives of the Government will be invited.

The spontaneous action of the Ngatipikiao Natives in presenting such a beautiful area of scenic bush to the Dominion is worthy of the highest praise, and is very gratifying to the Department.

#### TENNYSON INLET.

The reservation of the forest-covered land around Tennyson Inlet, containing about 7,000 acres, has been considered by the Scenery Preservation Board on more than one occasion, and it is now pleasing to record that provision was made by section 14 of the Native Land Amendment and Native Land Claims Adjustment Act, 1919, to reserve this magnificent area of Native bush, which extends in its virgin state practically from the tops of the hills to the shores of Tennyson Inlet, one of the most beautiful in the Marlborough Sounds.

Certain South Island landless Natives were awarded land in this locality by the Smith-Mackay Commission, but, as the land was very rugged and quite unsuitable for settlement, the legislation quoted provided for the payment of a grant of money in lieu of land to the Natives entitled thereto, and action in that direction is now being taken. As soon as opportunity offers it is hoped to make a properly formed road to the reserve in order that its scenic grandeur may be accessible to all visitors.

#### LOCAL SCENIC BOARDS.

Local Scenic Boards appointed in pursuance of section 13 of the Scenery Preservation Act, 1908, continue to do good work in controlling scenic reserves in various parts of the Dominion, and as these gentlemen hold purely honorary positions and act without remuneration of any kind their services in protecting much of our beautiful scenic bush are highly appreciated by the Department. At present seven of these Boards are in operation.

During the year the control of the Tukituki River Scenic Reserve was vested in the Waipukurau Borough Council for a further term of three years, and Mr. John Parkinson was appointed an honorary Inspector over the Kaituna Valley Scenic Reserves.

As reported last year, the control of the Turuturumokai Pa was vested in the Hawera Borough Council. The conditions of control were subsequently amended, authority being given to the Minister charged for the time being with the administration of the Scenery Preservation Act, 1908, to take such steps as he thinks fit for the planting of suitable trees in the reserve, or to require the Hawera Borough Council to plant such trees therein as the Minister shall specify. As a result of this action over 1,200 native trees of different varieties have been planted by the Council. Care is being taken not to damage the old earthworks made by the Natives when the pa was used for defence purposes in the Maori War. It is hoped that in the future this historic reserve will be unique as a plantation of native trees, and will thus be of special interest to all lovers of our beautiful New Zealand bush.

#### EXPENDITURE.

The expenditure during the year was £750, out of which the cost of acquisition of lands amounted to £510.

By a reference to the appended table it will be seen that, out of the £100,000 authorized under the Scenery Preservation Act, £94,000 has now been raised. As was the case during the preceding twelve months, every care was taken to curtail expenditure.

#### *Comparison of Expenditure.*

Year.	Compensation for Land.	Fencing and Maintenance.	Surveys, Valuations, &c.	Board's Expenses.	Salaries.	Total.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
1904-5 .. ..	216	Nil	52	1,822	*	2,090
1905-6 .. ..	3,336	„	527	1,221	*	5,084
1906-7 .. ..	7,856	304	801	185	*	9,146
1907-8 .. ..	4,286	382	555	86	175	5,484
1908-9 .. ..	3,813	1,063	540	24	325	5,765
1909-10 .. ..	1,688	1,159	2,603	Nil	325	5,775
1910-11 .. ..	1,066	685	1,643	11	325	3,730
1911-12 .. ..	2,619	715	2,237	22	345	5,938
1912-13 .. ..	12,997	798	2,697	6	345	16,843
1913-14 .. ..	10,467	627	1,547	3	365	13,009
1914-15 .. ..	6,253	758	476	12	388	7,887
1915-16 .. ..	1,530	698	104	6	390	2,728
1916-17 .. ..	252	836	76	1	390	1,555
1917-18 .. ..	428	602	114	3	390	1,537
1918-19 .. ..	1,295	1,964†	49	1	280	3,589
1919-20 .. ..	510	188	12	..	40	750
<b>Grand total .. ..</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>90,910</b>

\* Included in Board's expenses.

† Includes £1,750 paid to Summit Road Scenic Reserves Board.

#### APPENDICES.

Attached to this report are the following appendices :—

- A. Schedule of reserves made during the year, accompanied by a statement of accounts.
- B. Report of the Scenery Preservation Board.
- C. Kapiti Island.

## APPENDICES.

## APPENDIX A.

## RESERVES MADE IN 1919-20 UNDER THE SCENERY PRESERVATION ACT, 1908, AND ITS AMENDMENTS

Recom- mendation No.	Local Name.	Description.	Area.	Date of Proclamation in Gazette.
		<i>North Auckland Land District.</i>	A. R. P.	1919.
402	Ranfurlly Bay, in Pekapeka Bay	Block III, Whangaroa S.D. (part of Taupo 24)	706 0 0	6 June.
		<i>Auckland Land District.</i>		
184	Kawhia Harbour .. ..	Awaroa A No. 2H, Block XI, Kawhia North S.D.	80 0 0	17 Oct.
210	Mokau River bank .. ..	Mangapapa B No. 2, Blocks XIII and XIII A and XIV and XIV A, Awakino East S.D.	856 0 8	27 March.
			936 0 8	
		<i>Taranaki Land District.</i>		
459	Everett Road .. ..	Sections 13, 18, and 19, Block XIII, Waitaia S.D.	166 0 0	15 Nov.
458	.. ..	Section 15, Block XI, Tangitu S.D. ..	8 0 0	15 Dec.
		Mokau-Mohakatino Block, part Subdivision 9 of 1F and part 1F, Block II, Tainui S.D.	642 3 0	
214 and 215	Mokau River banks .. ..	Part Subdivision 13 of 1F and part 1F, Blocks III and IV, Mokau S.D.	1,266 2 0	1920. 27 March.
		Part 1G, Block V, Mokau S.D. ..	425 0 0	
		Part 1H and 1G, Block V, Mokau S.D. ..	212 0 0	
		Part 1H, Block V, Mokau S.D. ..	543 0 0	
		Part 1c 2, Block II, Tainui S.D. ..	178 1 14	
			3,441 2 14	
		<i>Marlborough Land District.</i>		1919.
353	.. ..	Sections 13, 14, and 15, Block VII, Linkwater S.D.	5 0 10	15 Nov.
		<i>Southland Land District.</i>		
451	.. ..	Pickersgill Harbour, Dusky Sound ..	190 0 0	8 April.
..	Clifden .. ..	Section 1, Block I, Lillburn S.D. ..	0 1 5	3 July.
			190 1 5	

## REVOCATION OF RESERVATIONS.

Land.	Area.	Date of Proclamation in Gazette.
	A. R. P.	
Section 35, Block IV, Tautuku S.D. .. ..	1 0 0	10 July, 1919.
Part Section 3, Block II, Omapere S.D. .. ..	6 2 0	3 October, 1919.
Section 28 and part Section 102 (Block XI, Kumeu S.D.), Waitakerei Parish .. ..	203 2 13	22 " "
Total .. ..	211 0 13	

## SUMMARY OF RESERVES.

District.	No.	Area.		
		A.	R.	P.
North Auckland .. ..	1	706	0	0
Auckland .. ..	2	936	0	8
Taranaki .. ..	8	3,441	2	14
Marlborough .. ..	1	5	0	10
Southland .. ..	2	190	1	5
	14	5,278	3	37
Reserved up to 31st March, 1919 .. ..	512	307,007	3	23
	526	312,286	3	20
Less reservations revoked .. ..	1	211	0	13
Grand totals .. ..	525	312,075	3	7

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS, SHOWING THE AMOUNTS EXPENDED AND THE PURPOSES TO WHICH THE MONEY SO EXPENDED HAS BEEN APPLIED, FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH, 1920.

SCENERY PRESERVATION ACCOUNT.

Statement of Receipts and Payments for Year ended 31st March, 1920.

<i>Receipts.</i>			<i>Payments.</i>		
	£	s. d.		£	s. d.
Cash in hand 1st April, 1919 ..	.. 433	8 7	Salaries ..	.. 40	8 4
Loan Account: Debentures issued ..	.. 5,000	0 0	Administration of reserves, &c.—	£	s. d.
Rents received ..	.. 263	10 5	Salaries of caretakers and allowances ..	.. 70	3 6
			Travelling-expenses ..	.. 4	10 4
			Eradication of weeds ..	.. 1	16 0
			Erection and upkeep of fences ..	.. 12	0 0
			Legal costs ..	.. 7	7 0
			Compensation for lands acquired along the Wanganui River: Puketarata ..	.. 118	0 6
			Compensation for Native lands taken for scenery purposes—		
			Pukaahu Thermal Resort ..	.. 350	0 0
			Ngatira Scenic Reserve ..	.. 42	14 0
			Orari Gorge Scenic Reserve: Contribution towards fencing and improvements ..	.. 6	0 0
			Surveys, valuations, and incidental expenses: Advertising intention to take lands ..	.. 12	3 9
			Turuturumokai Pa Scenic Reserve: Cost of planting trees, &c. ..	.. 87	7 6
			Cash in hand, 31st March, 1920 ..	.. 4,944	8 1
	<u>£5,696</u>	<u>19 0</u>		<u>£5,696</u>	<u>19 0</u>

Loan Account, as at 31st March, 1920.

	£	s. d.		£	s. d.		£	s. d.
To Loan authority: Section 12, Scenery-preservation Act, 1908 ..	.. 100,000	0 0	By Debentures issued—					
			1905-1919 ..	89,000	0 0			
			1919-1920 ..	5,000	0 0			
							94,000	0 0
			Balance of authority as at 31st March, 1920 ..				6,000	0 0
	<u>£100,000</u>	<u>0 0</u>					<u>£100,000</u>	<u>0 0</u>

10th June, 1920.

J. H. O'DONNELL,  
Chief Accountant.

APPENDIX B.

REPORT OF THE SCENERY PRESERVATION BOARD.

DURING the year under review the following meetings were held in the office of the Surveyor-General: On the 14th April and the 1st May, 1919, to deal with matters in the Auckland Land District; on the 29th April, 1919, to deal with matters in the Marlborough Land District; on the 30th April, 1919, and the 23rd February, 1920, to deal with matters in the North Auckland Land District; on the 1st May, 1919, to deal with matters in the Taranaki Land District; and on the 31st March, 1920, to deal with matters in the Southland Land District.

The Board submitted thirteen recommendations to His Excellency the Governor-General in regard to acquiring and reserving certain lands for scenic purposes, and several of these have already been carried out, while the remaining ones are being dealt with. Several other cases were also considered, but no recommendations were made.

T. N. BRODRICK, Chairman.

APPENDIX C.

KAPITI ISLAND.

A SMALL portion of this island is still retained by the Native owners, and, so far, proposals to purchase the interests of the Natives have not been successful.

During the year it was decided to set up an advisory committee to advise the Government on technical matters relating to the flora and fauna of the island and the preservation of bird-life thereon, and the following gentlemen have agreed to accept appointment on the committee: E. Phillips Turner, Esq., F.R.G.S., Secretary, Forestry Department; Professor H. B. Kirk (nominated by the New Zealand Institute); Dr. J. Allen Thomson, Director of the Dominion Museum; Arthur Seed, Esq. (nominated by the Wellington Acclimatization Society); Dr. Leonard Cockayne, F.R.S., &c.; and W. H. Field, Esq., M.P. The Commissioner of Crown Lands, Wellington (*ex officio*), will act as Chairman of the committee.

It is hoped that the recommendations of gentlemen so well qualified to advise on such matters will be of great value and assistance in dealing with the general administration of this unique sanctuary.

Mr. J. L. Bennett is still caretaker of the island, and continues to render valuable service in this respect. The following extracts from his annual report may prove of interest to the general public :—

“ During the year 197 goats and two cats were destroyed on the island.

“ The total number of opossums trapped was 2,397, and the sale of the skins realized £780 15s. 2d. As the total expenses were £213 15s. 2d., a profit to the Department of £567 resulted.

“ I have now finished my observations of every gully and spur on Kapiti, and find that about 140 acres on the north of Taiapiro and 200 acres south of waterfall must be trapped this winter.

“ Bird-feed : Owing to the unseasonable spring and early summer the bird-feed is again very scarce ; even on the karaka-trees the berries did not reach maturity.

“ Birds : Tuis are greatly reduced in numbers, also whiteheads and fantails, but still numerous enough for all the feed there is for them. On the other hand, bell-birds and robins show a very noticeable increase. A few years ago robins were seldom seen ; at present they are in evidence everywhere. Blue herons are also on the increase ; wekas are very numerous ; pigeons, kakas, parakeets, &c., are numerous.

“ Bush : Kohekohe, mahoe, passion-flowers, and fuchsia are all showing signs of recovering from the damage done to them by the opossums.”

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