

Botanists and ornithologists will have half a million acres to roam over, photographers will be able to click their shutters happily. In certain areas, particularly in the Lakes Waikaremoana and Waikare-iti regions, walking routes could be developed by cutting tracks for tourists that would give hours of happy scenic wandering to those who would like to sample the joys of the forest without the heavy pack carrying that appeals to the hardier tent-pitching trumper. For the exploring trumper large areas could be preserved as wilderness areas. In a vast basin to the North of Lake Waikare-iti, at an altitude of 3000 feet is an entrancing region of forest everglades that so far has been seldom visited by any except a few deer-stalkers. Over a range to the west of Waikaremoana is a river of waterfalls which must be unique in the whole of the North Island. It is easy of passage and could be developed as a tramping route as the Milford track is developed in the South. The trip in to Maungapohatu, the great hidden pa of the Tuhoe people is within the capability of any good walker and apart from other attractions the view of the great black mountain and the historic pa, as seen from the eminence Kakare, is one of the greatest views in the North Island.

There are two great wildlife problems that have to be faced in the Urewera, the two same problems that are giving concern in other parts of New Zealand's mountain

and forest country. Deer and opossums present the same great menace to the forests as they do elsewhere. For perhaps twenty years the Department of Internal Affairs has had its hunters continually prowling through a large part of the forest. Thousands of deer have been shot and the numbers materially reduced. The story of the damage done by deer is a tragic one and would fill pages. Yet there are signs of an improvement due to the good work done by the Government hunters and in the last few years plans have been made that will lead to a far more intensive campaign against deer. The checking of opossums will not prove so easy and these marsupials are present in tens of thousands. Forest authorities in the area are very worried about the damage being done and realise that present trapping and hunting methods are pitifully inadequate to deal with this tree-top menace.

This then is the vast forest land that it is proposed to constitute a National Park and a playground for the people. Here in these halls of Tane, if we can check destroying animals, and prevent fire, men and women centuries hence will still hear the dawn chorus of the birds, will still see the wood pigeon swoop across the valley, will still follow trails that were pioneered in the stone age and will find pleasure, recreation and health.

Along the Track

NELSON.—You might be interested in an old kowhai tree I have, one branch of which has in the last 3 years bloomed early in June. The tuis nearby go mad when they see these yellow blooms so early, bellbirds too. When they have finished pulling the flowers to bits, they return thankfully to their syrup bottles, which I always keep filled on bushes near the veranda. I had a pair of riflemen not long ago, and always lots of whiteeyes, who squeak with annoyance when tuis have drunk below the depth of their small beaks.
—*Mrs. D. Wiggins.*

AUCKLAND.—Three years ago I realised a dream of possessing some native bush—two acres with some of the largest manuka I have ever seen, one more than a yard wide in the trunk, with many native birds. Enormous

tree ferns of several varieties, three very similar to the Norfolk Island one but much larger and more of a weeping variety, glow worms etc.

The City Council wanted to put the sewer through the bed of the little stream almost dry in summer—but by devious ways we managed to have the plan altered. Then they couldn't get a tender. In the end two Maoris did the work and I implored them to spare the tree ferns. When I went to see how they were getting on, expecting devastation, I found that they had tunnelled under tree ferns in the way of the ditch and after the job was finished not one fern died and already except for two inspection traps all is as it was. I often think of those two gracious men with gratitude in my heart.—*Mrs. S. Muir.*