

for many years and the several Government departments who are interested in its control have shown very little initiative in developing it, thousands of people have visited the "Sea of Rippling Waters" each year and have gone away charmed. As the great star attraction of the future National Park, Waikaremoana has great possibilities and is capable of much development.

The Urewera forest is perhaps quieter and lonelier today than it has ever been since the stone age Maruiwi and Maori first set foot in its deep hidden gorges. With the passing of the stone age there came a short tumultuous period when the Armed Constabulary probed the forest routes seeking the elusive rebel, Te Kooti. Lonely valleys heard shots fired in war and pas were burnt and pakeha wounded carried out over the steep hill tracks. After this period the Maori gradually forsook his clearings deep in the forest with the result that today the only centres of Maori life are around Ruatahuna and Te Whaiti. Today Government deer killers and one or two trampers are the only ones who know the area as a whole.

There are signs however that this long quiet period in the history of this forest is coming to a close. No longer is the Urewera forest the forgotten forest of the North Island. The eyes of men are upon it for several reasons. From Auckland to

Hawkes Bay and in Wellington power supply authorities have realised the importance of maintaining the forest as a catchment area for the three Waikaremoana power stations and for the other power stations of the North Island. Meanwhile, around the area, towns are growing into cities and new towns and potential cities are rising. Napier, Hastings, Gisborne and Wairoa are on the southern side of the Urewera, Whakatane and other towns to the east. Inland is Hamilton, Cambridge and Rotorua, with the possibility of new large towns, perhaps a city, at Tokoroa, Kaiangaroa and Murupara. Tauranga is to be developed as a deep sea port. Millions of pounds are to be spent in developing the adjacent soft wood forests of Rotorua and Taupo.

It almost seems that a kind providence has preserved this forest to be a future playground for these adjacent large centres of population which must increase in size each year. The North Island will need these forest solitudes and holiday makers of every type will find something to appeal to every one. Guest houses at Waikaremoana and Ruatahuna will cater for tired business men. Hardy trampers will be able to follow the mountain trails or follow the sparkling water down the deep gorges. Fishermen will find excellent sport.

*On right. Tuhoe Forest Trail. On the 9 mile track to Maungapohatu pa.*

*Below. Maungapohatu pa and Mountain. The pa (now deserted) is at left centre. The old Presbyterian Mission is obscured by the top of the tall tree in centre foreground, but a portion of the belt of trees enclosing it can be seen.*

*[Photos by Author.]*

