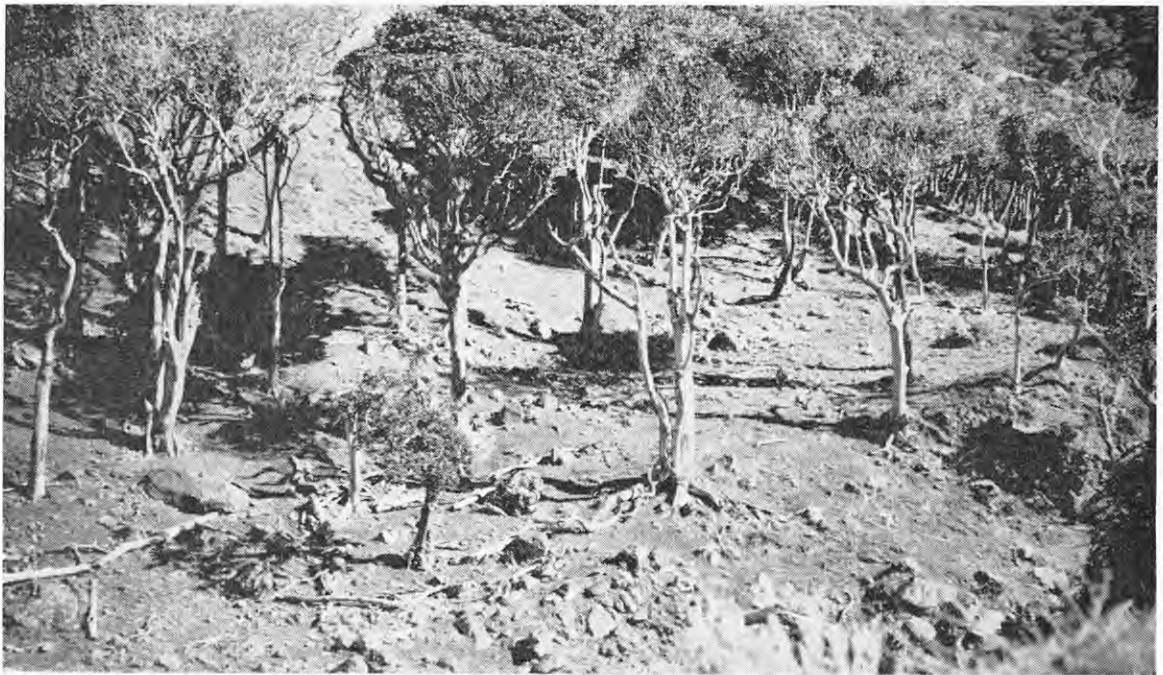


FIFTY YEARS OF CHANGE

by "Old Timer"

In the first decade of this century motorcars were a rarity. I can't recollect when I saw my first, but I do remember that the first ride I had in one was an experience to be described with enthusiasm to all my friends! The penny-farthing bikes had gone and some of the more fortunate lads owned a bicycle. Generally, however, to get to any place in the country we walked, or travelled on horseback or in a horse-drawn vehicle. Thus it was I made my first trip to the Palliser Bay area, a much planned nearly all-day journey I can do now before breakfast with ease. Always I found

seaward faces had been cleared in many parts although much bush remained in the gullies; along the foothills much karaka bush remained. In the Mukamuka region, Crown land, the bush was intact, and very lovely bush it was, although even then heavily infested with goats, pigs, and a few deer. I cannot recollect seeing an opossum there for many years after that. The effect of the animals was already apparent—the absence of undergrowth in many places—but I remember the wonderful bird life. It was a joy to wake in the morning and hear the tuis and the



Dying trees. Here I pitched my first camp, having to clear sufficient undergrowth to erect the tent.

landowners friendly and cooperative, in fact rarely during my life have I found them otherwise. I fear that those who do not welcome visitors nowadays have very good reasons for not doing so and they have my sympathy. Palliser Bay lands generally are steep and erosive, hills, rising up to over three thousand feet, once covered in heavy bush. When I saw them during that first trip the

pigeons in the trees around the camp. There is still bush on the Crown land, but it is emaciated, and shingle slips are appearing in many places. The situation on the semi-cleared lands is very bad; in places where I walked under trees during my first visit there is now no trace of trees, the stumps, if they are still there, being many feet under great washouts. I have known great chasms forty feet wide