

Meeting Is Convinced that Raising Levels of Manapouri and Te Anau Is a Dreadful Mistake

AT the end of October I attended a packed meeting in the new Wool Centre at Invercargill which had been called to hear reasons why the levels of Lakes Manapouri and Te Anau should be raised. Mr Talboys represented the Minister of Electricity, who was ill, and Mr Bambery the Electricity Department. The result of the meeting was that the large audience remained more than ever convinced that raising the level of the lakes to produce a comparatively small amount of extra power could not be justified and would be a dreadful mistake. This was evident in no uncertain manner from speakers and the applause which greeted them. Mr Talboys promised to convey the strong feeling of the meeting to the Government.

As reported elsewhere, the Society's Council decided at its meeting at Bushy Park that if an absolute assurance could not be obtained that the lake levels would not be raised, a public petition to the Government should be organised praying that it should take all steps necessary to avoid mutilating the lakes as proposed in the Department's plans.

Legal Opinion

Since the October meeting at Invercargill the Society has secured a legal opinion on the obligations of the Crown to the aluminium

industry to raise the lake levels. In a long dissertation the opinion indicates that the Crown must put across the rock weir at the confluence of the Waiau and Mararoa Rivers, which would have little effect on the lake levels; it is also obliged to supply certain quantities of power to the company, but there is no direct obligation to raise the lake levels as planned. In any case there is provision in the agreements between the company and the Crown for any adjustment which might seem desirable to be made by mutual agreement. Of course, Manapouri is capable of producing great quantities of power without the lake levels being raised. Lifting the levels would add a small percentage to the power already produced by the seven generators; to interfere with the lake levels for so small a gain is unthinkable.

Before this article is published in "Forest and Bird" a decision whether or not to organise a petition will have been made. If it is organised, we will be in need of all members to secure signatures. I trust that all will lend a hand and recruit others from the public so that everybody interested may have the opportunity of signing.

—R. C. NELSON,

President.

Historic Pa Sites Given to Crown

TWO historic Maori pa sites on the Paparoa headland in Ohiwa Harbour have been given to the Crown by a Whakatane resident, Mr R. A. Bell.

"Both areas will be preserved for the nation under the Reserves and Domains Act," the Minister of Lands, Mr D. MacIntyre, said recently.

"The larger of the two areas will be called the Paparoa Pa Historic Reserve," he said.

"Here in the early nineteenth century the Kareke tribe, which occupied much of the Whakatane valley, took refuge when they fled under attack from the Ngati-Awa and Ngati-Pukeko. Their attackers made two unsuccessful assaults on Paparoa, but about 1822 a third tribe, the Tuhoe, drove them out.

"The Kareke then moved further around Ohiwa Harbour to Oheu, where they built a fort on the hill above the Kutarere wharf. However, the Ngati-Awa forced them to move again and take refuge with the Whakatohea people of the Opotiki district.

"The second pa site was 25 chains to the south of Paparoa Pa and overlooks the channel which leads up to the Wainui School. It was probably an auxiliary or lookout.

"At both sites the outlines of the fortifications are still apparent," said Mr MacIntyre. "At present there is no legal access by land, but Mr Bell has added to his generous gesture by offering right of way over his land."
