

A LONG MOTOR TOUR

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ing. We visited the largest orange grove, which looked a picture, being laden with fruit.

The road then goes past Kamo hot springs on to Hikurangi, where the limestone rocks form peculiar sentries against the sky-line. For about two hours we passed through gum country, which certainly looks like "No Man's Land." It is interesting to notice the different soils so close together. If cultivated it should make good fruit producing land. Tobacco also seems to flourish there.

Whangaroa Harbour, one of the deepest harbours in New Zealand, is very sheltered, and has the outline of St. Paul's Dome on the top of the hill cut out in rock.

We went near Maunganui, on to Kaitia, which is the last township further on we went out on the Ninety-Mile Beach, which is really only fifty-seven miles in length. This beach is somewhat similar to Murawai, except that the sand is white, and it has a harder surface. For speeding it is ideal, as the full length can easily be done in an hour, there being no fear of meeting any traffic except, perhaps, a stray horseman or Maori children digging for toheroas. A peculiarity is the birds, who swarm the beach in thousands, looking like horsemen in the distance on the wet sand.

When we arrived at the end of the beach we turned into a creek and drove for two miles between high sand hills until we came suddenly on good sheep country, which is part of Te Paki station. The North Cape is very narrow and hilly, but the climate is superb, fully justifying its



Oban—A Glimpse of Stewart Island
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title of "Winterless North." The beaches on the three sides are totally different. On the East Coast the sand at Parenga is pure white, from which glass is manufactured. The beach on the West Coast is quite

ordinary, but there are some beautiful shells to be found there. Spirits' Bay, at the extreme end of the Island, from where the Maoris believe the spirits depart, has a fine shelly beach, and when the sun is shining it

looks like millions of jewels glittering. It is a very pretty bay, with a lagoon and bush in it, and one is amply rewarded for their ride out from the homestead. At the end of the summer the curlew congregate there in thousands before leaving for Siberia. They are never seen leaving, so they evidently take flight in the night, only the weak birds remaining on the beach. On all the high hills at the Cape are signs of old Maori fortresses, and quite often valuable curios are found.

ON our return trip we came down the beach again to Kaitia, then through the Victoria Valley and Maungamicku Gorge. In the valley we came upon an unusual sight in these days of speed, when we saw about two hundred bullocks carting waggons loads of metal for the road. The Gorge rivals Mt. Messenger for scenery, the dense bush extending for many miles, and there are several pretty water-falls on the way.

Crossing the bridge at the head of the Hokianga Harbour we passed on to Kaikohe, and then to Whangarei. While there we visited the Wairua Falls, which provide the electricity for Whangarei; also the Grotto tea gardens, where there are some fine specimens of kauri and other native trees.

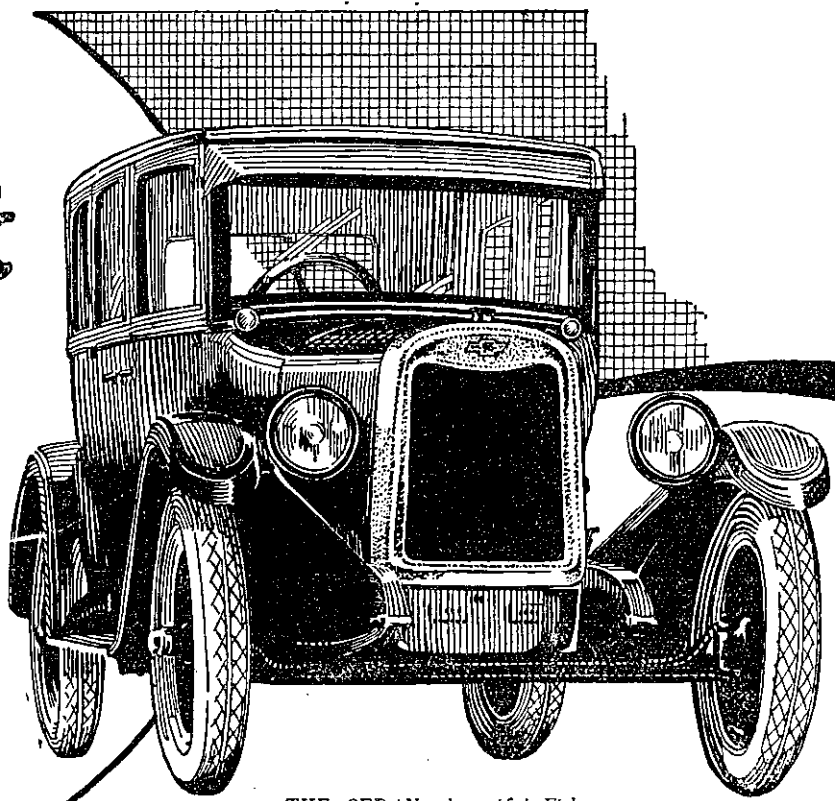
THE next day we left for Dargaville, then on to Auckland, stopping on the way at Helensville mineral baths and taking a short spin up to the Waitakerei Ranges. There

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