

The Tourist Resorts of the Colony

BY MARAMA

SECOND SERIES—No. V

ROUND TRIPS AT ROTORUA.

Perhaps the most interesting round trip from Rotorua is that known as the Waimangu trip. Leaving Rotorua at eight o'clock in the morning, a well-horsed conveyance takes the tourists past the beautiful Blue and Green Lakes, with their magnificent reflections, to the buried village of Wairoa, and here they are shown evidences of the vastness of the eruption of Tarawera. Portions of the buried village are still to be seen, with the skeleton remains of the two fine hotels which were overwhelmed by the tremendous fall of ashes and lava. The points of interest are described by the Maori guide, and the visitor is shown the spot where Mr. Bainbridge, an English tourist, was killed by the verandah of the hotel falling on him. Just on the border of Lake Tarawera is a comfortable accommodation house, where morning tea is provided before the lakes trip is commenced. The party embarks on one of the Government launches and crosses Tarawera. On landing on the other side a walk over a neck formed solely of ashes thrown out by the eruption brings them to Lake Rotomahana. Here another lunch is waiting, and in a very few minutes the boat is running along the steaming shores of this truly wonderful sheet of water. A visit is first paid to the site of the Pink and White Terraces which were destroyed by the eruption, and which now lie buried under ashes varying in depth from fifteen to seventy-five feet. A landing is effected here, and several geysers, spout-holes and boiling-pools are inspected, after which the launch is taken along the shore close enough to traverse a portion of the lake which is always boiling. The feeling is certainly uncanny as the water boils up and thumps under the boat. On reaching the head of Rotomahana the passengers disembark, and are taken in hand by the Waimangu guide, who discourses upon the various wonders as the party toils up the hill to the shelter-shed above the great Waimangu Geyser, which, unfortunately, is now quiescent. Even now, however, there is plenty to interest the visitor at this truly awe-inspiring spot. From the hill one looks down into the Inferno, which is appropriately named, with its clouds of steam rising from boiling cauldrons and miniature geysers, while close alongside is the Frying Pan Flat, which is one of the wonders of the thermal region. Refreshments can be had at the Government accommodation house at Waimangu, and from here conveyances take the trippers back to Rotorua by the Waiotapu Road. The round fare for this trip is 20s, and the distance covered is about forty miles. The drive from Rotorua to Wairoa is ten miles, the launch trip across Tarawera six miles, the walk to Rotomahana one mile, the run across Rotomahana three miles, the walk to Waimangu two miles and the drive back to Rotorua seven miles.

Another round trip of quite a different character is that of the Hamurana Spring, thence to Okere Falls, and thence back to Rotorua by way of Tikitiki. A conveyance leaves the township for the lake at ten o'clock, and here launches are in waiting to proceed across Rotorua to the Hamurana Spring, and sometimes a call is made at Mokoiia Island en route. Arrived at

the jetty, a short walk alongside a lovely creek with marvellous blue coloured water, brings the tourist to within a hundred yards of the spring, and from here boats are utilised. The boats are taken right over the spring,

which wells up in a cavity some ten feet in diameter and of great depth. Looking down into the pellucid water, its immense depth can be seen, while the air bubbles keep portions of the surface in a constant state of effervescence. So

powerful is the up rush of water that coppers thrown in are suspended for hours, and eventually are thrown out on the edge of the spring. From Ha-

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HINEMOAS BATH, MOKOIA ISLAND.



IN THE VALLEY OF WAIMANGU BEFORE THE GEYSER BECAME QUIESCENT.