

tomahawks instead of their ancient weapons of wood and stone, the tribes unravelled, and all the ferocity of the past two centuries of blood hatred welled up in their breasts. A strong war party, or taua, of Ngati-Pikiao and Ngati-Makino, from Rotoehu and the Rotoiti pas, mustered at Ruato village, on the southern shores of Rotoiti, where the present-day road strikes in southwards to Lake Okataina. With incredible energy they dragged their war-canoes up the hills and through the forest along the narrow track to Okataina—over exactly the route that the tourist coaches travel to-day—and, launching them on that beautiful lake, paddled across it to the southern end, and thence made another but shorter portage to Lake Tarawera. Re-launching their wakas there, they swept down in the old barbaric manner on Te Arika, a strongly-palisaded pa of Tuhourangi which stood on the southern side of the lake.

They assailed Te Arika, but were beaten off with heavy loss; at least six of their chiefs were killed, including Taranui, father of Pokiha Taranui, better known as Major Fox, the chief who fought on the British side during the wars of 1864-70. After all their heavy canoe-work they deserved better luck, but they were compelled to sullenly retreat, dragging their great war craft back by the way they had come. A loud and long was the tangi that the Pikiao raised on the Sounding Sands of Rotoiti when home they brought their warriors dead, and many a solemn incantation dirge was chanted as the dead chiefs lay in state. And when they were at last ferried across the lake-arm to their long home in the Ano-Kailau, the ancestral burial cave in the gloomy cliffs of Matawhaura, it was one of those same war canoes that was the funeral barge, the Parahaki; and yonder it lies to-day, mouldering away in the manuka and rushes by the sands of Tapuaebaruru. Not a soul of Ngati-Pikiao will touch that decaying relic of their olden tribal glory, for she is tapu through and

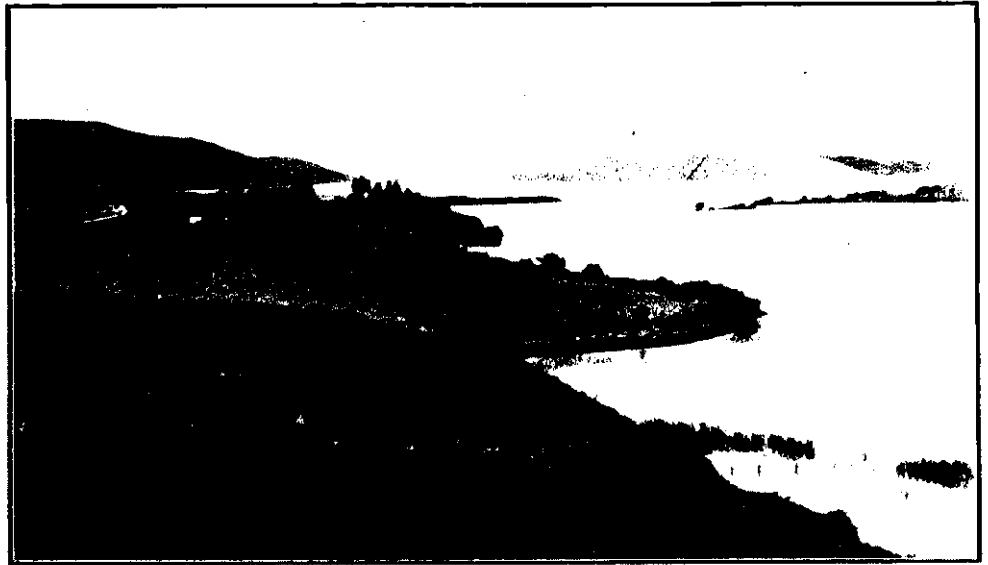
through, sacred to the manes of the tribal dead.

Ruato and Its Prophetic Tree.

Close by the lake-side is the pretty bay of Ruato, where Heke Kapua, the

tribe believe that the manner of the flowering of this tree—its name is "Whakane," after a celebrated ancestor of the Arawa tribe—is a never-failing index to the fruitfulness or otherwise of the year. If, when summer comes, the

and go upwards in the ordinary manner ("haere ake i raro"), it is a propitious sign, an indication of tau mahana, a warm and pleasant year, and a year in which the food crops will yield an abundant harvest.



A VIEW OF THE NORTHERN REACHES OF LAKE ROTOITI, SHOWING A GOOD EXPANSE OF WATER.

wood-carver, has his home. There is a venerable pohutukawa tree standing by itself on the grassy flat. It is called by the Maoris a "rakau-tohu-tau," that is, a tree which indicates or prophesies the nature of the coming season. The na-

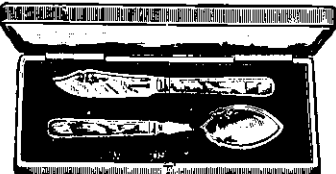
tree flowers only on the upper branches or if the blossoming begins there and only goes slowly or partially downwards, it will be a tau-huka or cold and winter-like season. If, on the other hand, the flowers start at the bottom

A Place-name and Its Story.

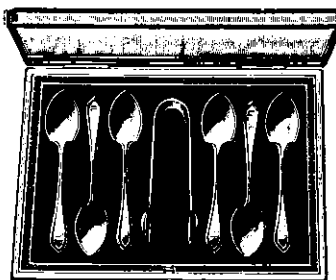
The hill over which the coach-road winds just on the western side of Ruato village, Rotorua, is known as Oturawaro. It was a favourite "taumata" or resting place in olden days for Maori

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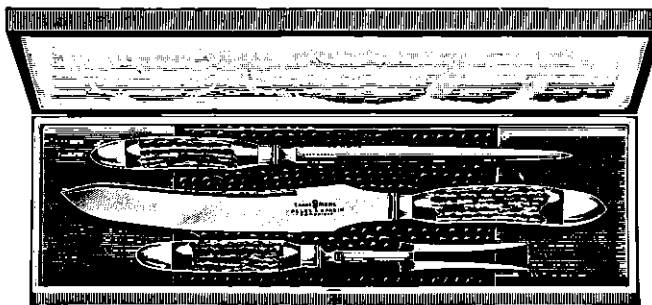
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F 6537.—Case with Silver-plated Jam Spoon and Butter Knife, Pearl Handles, 16/6. Others at 10/6, 12/6, 14/6.

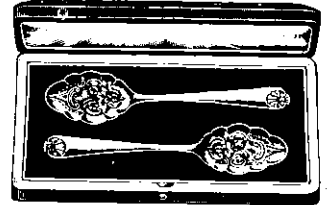


H 5649.—Case with Six Solid Silver Afternoon Tea Spoons and Tongs, £2. Others at 35/, 37/6, 50/, and 60/.

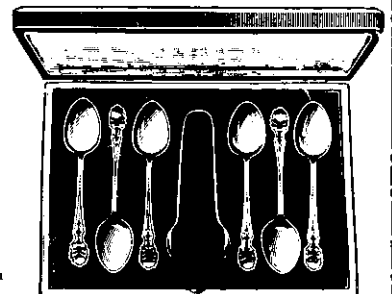


H 1721.—Handsome 3-Piece Carving Set in Case, Finest Sheffield Steel, Staghorn Handles, Best Silver-plated Mounts, £1/15/.

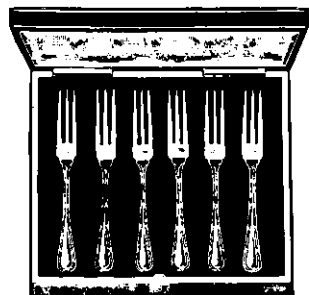
Case with 5 Pieces, similar quality and pattern, £2/15/. Other 3-Piece Sets at 16/6, 18 /6, 21/-, 22/6, 25/, 32/6.



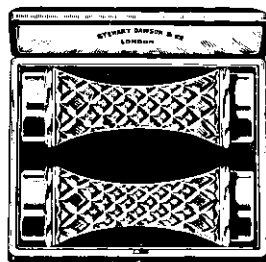
F 6637.—Case with 2 Best Silver-plated Jam Spoons, 13/6.



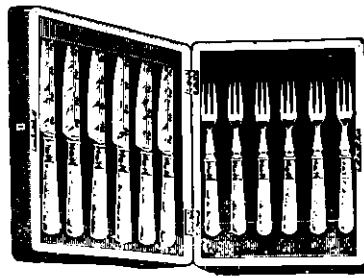
F 2728.—Case with 6 Best Silver-plated Afternoon Tea Spoons and Tongs, 17/6. Others at 8/6, 10/6, 14/6 upwards.



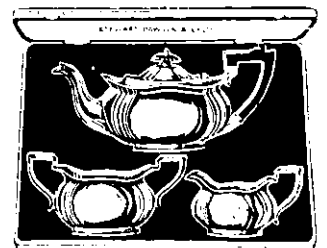
J 3076.—Case with 6 Best Silver-plated Cake Forks, 10/6. Others 12/6, 15/6 upwards.



321.—Case with Pair Fine Cut Glass Knife Rests, Solid Silver Mounts, £1/1/.



J 3204.—Handsome Oak Case containing a pair, Best Quality Silver-plated Dessert or Fish Knives and Forks, Finest Pearl Handles, £2/15/. Others at 27/6, 35/, 45/, 50/.



H 1708.—Case with Solid Silver Teapot, Sugar Basin and Cream Jug, Afternoon Size, £9/10/.