

We could gladly have spent several days in this delightful district. The excursions in the neighbourhood are endless, and to the amateur photographer the waterfalls, dashing mountain torrents, mammoth forest trees, and rank growth suggests innumerable subjects for the production of most charming pictures.

Soon after leaving the Otira Hotel, the point where the Midland Railway is in course of construction is reached, and the road still follows the valley of the Otira,

coaches start. Here we put up for the night, and right glad we were to get to rest, having come from Castle Hill in the day.

Next morning we made an early start, and soon after leaving Jackson's, the road goes through some of the most delightful forest scenery on the whole journey. The road for many miles is nearly level, and winds in and out through the bush, each turn revealing some new vista of sylvan beauty. This part of the road has been well named Jackson's Avenue, immense trees



OTIRA GORGE, FROM THE TOP OF ARTHUR'S PASS.

precipitous forest-clad ranges towering above on either side. Many and varied are the peeps of distant snow-clad peaks as the cyclist coasts along the smooth road, until at the junction of the Otira and Teremakau rivers, Aicken's is reached. This is a delightful little nook, surrounded on every side by dense forest, such as only the West Coast can show. Pushing on still further, we reached Jackson's, which is the present terminus of the railway, and from which the

on either side making a perfect natural avenue until Kumara is reached. This is a mining township, as a glance at the surrounding country will show, slicing operations being carried on on all sides. We did not stay long here, but pushed on some eighteen miles further until we reached Hokitika, having covered the distance from coast to coast in less than a day and a half.

Hokitika is at the mouth of the river of that name, and is prettily situated. The