

efforts were very feeble during our stay.

Billy's claim was inspected next day; he had prepared us for a novel sight, by telling us that it was only a man with the heart of



On either side great towering limestone cliffs rise sheer.

Photo of a sketch by Mr. Boswell.

five hundred thousand lions that would ever attempt to work such a claim. It is approached by steps cut in the solid rock, which zig-zag up the face of the cliff, and on reaching the top a wilderness of stones greeted our gaze; stones piled up in innumerable heaps; walls of stones built with infinite labour; stones in pyramids—ornaments of the labours of Billy and his mate during the last thirty years.

On enquiring as to the amount of the precious metal which he had obtained from this colossal stone-heap, he quoted the Cornishman who remarked under somewhat similar circumstances: "Where the gold be, there it lies; where the gold bain't, there be I!"

Our last excursion was a two-days' trip to Bullock Creek, where we were the guests of Mr O'Brien, and from here we made the ascent

of Mt. Bovis. O'Brien described the country around his farm as being of a "flat, hilly" nature, and so we found it; but we also observed that it was good grazing land, as all the stock were rolling fat. In his paddocks it is no unusual occurrence for a huge rata tree to disappear bodily—here to-day and gone to-morrow—and nothing to mark the spot where the ground caved in but a pool of water with some gravel scattered around, and perhaps a few of the tree's topmost twigs showing above the water.

We had intended returning by the beach and visiting some very fine caves which have been found there, and we have since regretted that we chose the Fox's River route, as I believe that we thus missed seeing one of the finest sights in the district. We counted between twenty and thirty fords on the walk homewards, but as the river was low they were not formidable.

What an ideal tour it would be from Greymouth through this country which I have described, returning by way of the Buller Gorge and Reefton, if the road, which is now in a disjointed condition, were only completed, I feel confident that a very popular tourist route would be at once established. There would be infinite variety, for the river gorge scenery is magnificent, and not to be surpassed; the glistening ocean beaches are firm and excellent to travel over, and there is the ever present thunder of the surf as it breaks upon the shelving sands; the mountain peaks of the Paparoas possess countless beauties; and for the artist and photographer the bold sea cliffs and wave-worn rocks, around whose bases the kelp waves to and fro on the restless surge, provide splendid material for sketch and photograph.

The time of departure comes all too soon; our baggage was ready for the pack-horse, our adieux made and reckoning paid—a too modest reckoning to our minds, as it was not equivalent for value re-