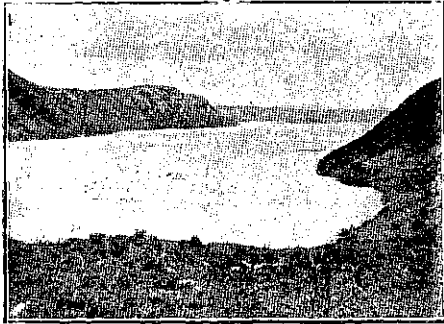


It seems perfectly necessary that for studies to have good effect, they should be carried on without intermission. But the crux of the whole question is money.

There is another aspect to the matter which concerns girls and women more than it does men. Mr Seddon has touched upon it, in



Nettie Trewheellar, Photo.
Peep of Green Lake at Wairoa.

answering the objection urged by some secondary schools that they have no room for an influx of primary school pupils. "Out," he says, "should go the children of tender years whose parents look down on those who send their children to public schools." If there is one thing more detestable, and at the same time ridiculous, in such a community as that of New Zealand, it is the rank snobbery exhibited by girls who seem to acquire it while, and by virtue of, attending a school where fees are paid. I have known girls, who have won scholarships which will take them to the secondary school. They have been apparently nice-natured girls. But after a few months of secondary school they seem to lose their eyesight when quondam teachers and pupils of the primary school meet them in the street. The next step is contempt for their simple parents, their father's occupations become professions, or if this is impossible, are carefully hidden from the knowledge of other snobbish friends.

Now the Premier's ideas on the subject are most praiseworthy. He

is essentially a democrat, and does not attempt to disguise the fact. What good are young children doing at a secondary school? Far better to teach them the elements soundly, as they can be taught in the common Board school. Secondary schools should be only for secondary work. Primary education is attended to in its proper place.

It is my honest opinion that if every child of the colony were taken through the Government primary schools, the average education would be on a higher footing. For what is learnt there is quite sufficient to implant, in likely soil, a desire for the so-called higher education. When standard classes are done with, let the bright boys and girls go, if they so wish, to the High School, and from there to the University.

What happens now? George or Mary attends a secondary school for a year. After such a course of honour, parents cannot dream of letting him or her earn a living as a common carpenter or dressmaker. No. George must keep equal to his genteel acquaintances. If he cannot, through lack of means, be allowed to study for a profession, he



Nettie Trewheellar, Photo.
Pigeon Geyser at Whakarewarewa.

must sit on an office stool and become the well-dressed, ill-paid clerk. Mary's dreams never condescend to the level of common housework. She must, if she is forced to earn a living, unwillingly teach, or spoil her eyes and nerves