

calf. When I asked him his reason for doing so, he said he wanted to get them into the settlement and finding he could not, he shot five of them and Shunghee* shot one. I was much hurt at this circumstance, as it was defeating my intention toward New Zealand. Mr. Butler had no right to kill my cattle: it was a wanton, thoughtless act. The cattle could not have been worth much less than £100 in New South Wales. They had cost me considerable trouble and expense to get them into the country. Their beef was very fat. Had they acted properly from the first, they would have had plenty of milk and butter and a considerable quantity of beef by this time, and would not have been so dependent upon the Natives. If the society could meet with a pious farmer, or if a few families were settled on the society's land, this would be an excellent thing . . . Some measure must be adopted to render the missionaries independent of the Natives, and there is none but agriculture that can furnish them with supplies."

In the end Marsden's farming plans achieved temporary success at the Waimate and Rangiaowhia Stations, only to be submerged by the disastrous Northern and Waikato wars.

Farming at Mission Stations

Between 1814 and 1840 the Church Missionary Society established stations through most of the Auckland Province and in Poverty Bay (see map on opposite page). The Wesleyans were for a time at Whangaroa and the Roman Catholic Church established stations at Hokianga, Bay of Islands, and later at Whangaroa. The first stations of the Church Missionary Society were centred at the Bay of Islands—at Rangihoua, Keri Keri, and Paihia.

Farming operations were mainly confined to gardening and the production of small areas of wheat. Keri Keri was intended to be the main farming centre, but the land was not suitable; much of the 13,000 acres originally purchased for the station is inferior ironstone soil and still remains an unproductive waste. The missions relied largely on the Maoris for food, and spades, axes, hoes, etc., were bartered for potatoes and pork.

In 1829 the missionaries decided to move their farming operations to Waimate, nine miles inland from Keri Keri, where 250 acres of fertile volcanic land were purchased. By 1840 farming operations, under the direction of Mr. R. Davis, were in a satisfactory condition. A hundred acres, 80 acres of which had been fenced, had been sown in grass; 25 acres were in wheat; gardens and orchards occupied a smaller area, and 200 sheep were

* Hongi.

carried as well as the milking cows and draught cattle of the station. A flour mill had been installed which in the past year had ground 48,000lb. of flour for the station as well as considerable quantities for the Maori farmers. The station had its own blacksmithing and building artisans and was established to fulfil the aims of the society in self-sufficiency in food and for the instruction of the Maoris.

The development of Waimate into a successful farm was due largely to Mr. Davis. A Dorsetshire tenant farmer and a man of strong religious sentiments, he was tireless in his efforts to help the Maoris to improve their farming methods. Charles Darwin, who visited Waimate in 1835, wrote:—

"At length we reach Waimate. After having passed over so many miles of an uninhabited, useless country, the sudden appearance of an English farmhouse, and its well-dressed fields, placed there as if by an enchanter's wand, was exceedingly pleasant . . . On an adjoining slope fine crops of barley and wheat standing in full ear; and in another part fields of potatoes and clover. But I cannot attempt to describe all I saw; there were large gardens, with every fruit and vegetable which England produces; and many belonging to a warmer clime. I may instance asparagus, kidney beans, cucumbers, rhubarb, apples, pears, figs, peaches, apricots, grapes, olives, gooseberries, currants, hops, gorse for fences and English oaks, also many kinds of flowers. Around the farmyard there were stables, a threshing barn with its winnowing machine, a blacksmith's forge, and on the ground ploughshares and other tools; in the middle was that



The Rev. John Morgan.

happy mixture of pigs and poultry lying comfortably together, as in every English farmyard. At the distance of a few hundred yards, where the water of a little rill had been dammed up into a pond, there was a large and substantial water mill."

The work and influence of the Waimate Station were upset by Heke's war, and the land and buildings were taken over in 1842 by the Church of England; it was there that Bishop Selwyn established his headquarters and opened the College of St. John which was moved to Auckland in 1844.

It was, however, in the Waikato that missionary and Maori farming really progressed and assumed considerable importance in the early fifties. A mission station was established at Te Awamutu in 1839, but no progress was made in farming operations until 1841, when the Rev. John Morgan took over the mission. He taught the Maoris to grow wheat, grind it in their own mills, plant orchards and to sow grass and keep livestock. Sir George Grey, reporting to Earl Grey, Secretary of State for Colonies in March, 1849, writes:—

"It will be interesting to your Lordship to be informed that during my journey through the extensive and fertile districts of the Waikato and Waipa I was both surprised and gratified at the rapid advance in civilisation which the Natives of that part of New Zealand have made during the last two years. Two flour mills have already been constructed at their sole cost, and another water



The Rev. Richard Davis.