

## THE MUSEUMS OF NEW ZEALAND

shingles in the colonial style, was faithfully carried out even to the furnishings. The grounds were likewise laid out in harmony with the period.

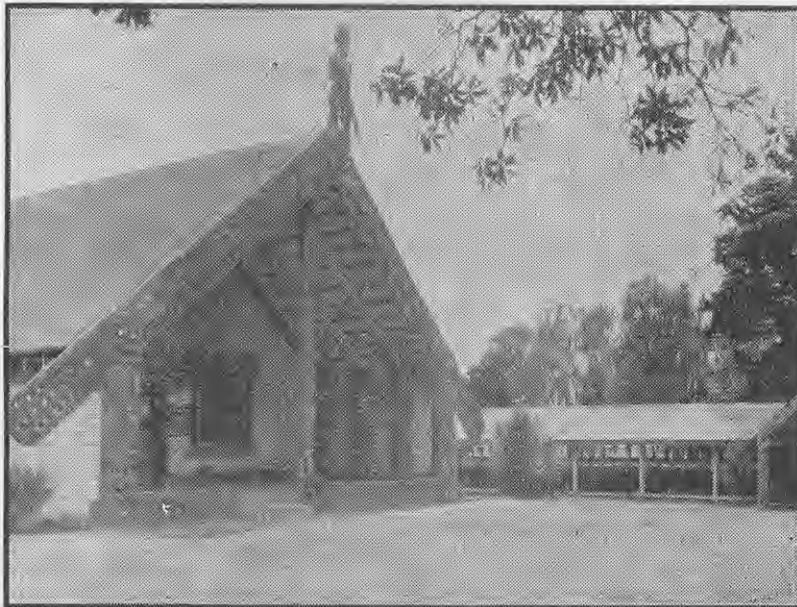
At the express wish of Their Excellencies a museum was established in the southern wing, which was reconditioned and made fireproof for this purpose, and there was intense excitement when Busby's diary was discovered in the attic by some workmen. A memorial tablet to Busby in the museum is inscribed: "He built this house and lived in it. Under difficult conditions he served both Pakeha and Maori with courage, impartiality and fidelity."

The brass tablet in the hall commemorates the Maori chiefs who signed the Treaty. The Trust Board much appreciated the advice and help of Dr. Gilbert Archey, Director of the Auckland War Memorial Museum, Johannes C. Andersen, late Librarian of the Alexander Turnbull Library, Wellington, and Vernon H. Reed, Honorary Secretary and Administrator, in setting up this museum.

The front of the museum faces the 112ft.-high flagstaff, erected by the Royal New Zealand Navy. At the top of the masthead is the treasured crown from the ensign staff of New Zealand's first warship, H.M.N.Z.S. Philomel, and at the foot is a commemoration stone which reads:—

On this spot on the sixth day  
of February 1840 was signed  
the Treaty of Waitangi  
under which New Zealand became  
part of the British Empire

Pieces of the original flagstaff of Baltic pine, which was cut down time and again by Hone Heke, have been fashioned into an inkstand which is displayed in the museum.



[National Publicity Studios photo.]

The whare-runanga, carved house, with the war canoe house in the background.



[National Publicity Studios photo.]

The war canoe presented by the Tokerau tribes. It is 117ft. long and holds 140 people.

### Colourful Setting

From the museum windows you look out upon the blue waters of the bay, dotted with tiny islands and encircled by green hills over which hover snowy drifts of cumulus clouds, and across to the township of Kororareka (Russell) in the distance. Hydrangeas thrust their rosy florets close to the white-

walled house, and hibiscus blaze with a myriad coral flames against the sombre background of the native bush. The Norfolk Island pines which Busby grew from seed sent him by his brother, a surgeon stationed at the island's convict settlement, are tall trees now and the oaks and other English trees are picturesquely gnarled with age.

There are numerous stories concerning the giant pohutukawa on the lawn. It shelters a large anchor which was lost in the Kawakawa River by the brig Pioneer in 1809, when the trader slipped anchor after word was received of the Boyd massacre, and sought safer waters. The cannon balls by the veranda came from Ruapekapeka Pa, Kawiti's stronghold, which was the scene of the final battle between the British forces and the opposing Maoris in the Northern war, terminating on January 10, 1846.

A dais was erected under an enormous elm for Lord and Lady Bledisloe when His Excellency laid the foundation stone of the whare-runanga, the carved house, presented by the Ngapuhi tribe. This national Maori centennial memorial has been built near the Treaty House of the pakeha, thereby symbolising the friendly relations of the two races. The opening ceremony was held on February 6, 1940, on the 100th anniversary of the signing of the Treaty of Waitangi. The tuhu tuhu or kowhaiwhai (coloured scroll work) and the tukutuku (decorative reed panels) are admirable examples of Maori art, and the carvings, every piece of which has its particular meaning, are representative of all the tribes throughout New Zealand. The 117ft.-long waka taua, the war canoe used in the centennial celebrations, was made from kauri trees