

earnestly and often to stick to the Photography, but he was bent on a farmer's life . . . We proceeded to the Land Office and purchased two hundred acres at Maungatapere⁸ at ten shillings per acre . . .”

The brothers finally moved north on the *Petrel* in early December and went immediately to their selection, spending the first night with their neighbour Dwyer. Robert had earlier described the chosen area as on “rich volcanic soil about eighty acres of bush, the rest fern, tupakihi, flax, tea tree, koramika and old native cultivation – Bounded by the Main Government road from Otaki to Taupere, on the south. By the Otaki river and part of Native boundary on the north, by Joseph Land's bush on the west and by George Edge's⁹ Land on the East – There are 260 acres in the block. There is a considerable quantity of scoria or Volcanic lava all over the land and in the bush some enormous and precipitous rocks, caves, and gullies – The place is called after the river Kai-Kush¹⁰ which runs diagonally through the property . . . The bush contains an endless variety of fine timber, abundance of Kauri, Rimu, totara White & Red pines, Puriri or New Zealand Oak Manuka and dense vegetation. the land is very undulating and some fine slopes and picturesque elevations . . .”

Dwyer arranged with the local Maoris that the Anderson goods would be taken up the Otaika, some three hours journey, by canoe for thirty shillings and two flasks of gunpowder. Back at Whangarei early on the morning of the 14th they saw their stores into a canoe “and proceeded with the native chiefs Rata and Toko who gave us a paddle each. About 10 am we were off. For three hours or so we proceeded quickly down the romantic [Whangarei] stream and all at once the canoe stuck fast. The wind was blowing very strong and it was anything but pleasant to remain for hours idle in the Canoe waiting for the flood. All four of us fell asleep. About five o'clock evening we were afloat again, the natives singing over their paddles in a truly savage style. We got into the mouth of the Otaki river opposite Limestone Isle and in about three hours more reached the landing place at the head of the river. We were very tired paddling all day, and glad to light a fire in the bush . . .” However John Grant Johnson “the resident Magistrate and agent for effecting sales of land from the natives sent a servant for us to take up our quarters at his house hard by . . .”

The next day was spent entirely in carrying “one small box crammed full . . . towards our new home” but they managed only to get it as far as “Mr Fifield's house about two miles on our way, the roads, gullies and creeks together with breaking through the bush being serious work . . .” They went to the selection for a further night with Dwyer and on the 16th resumed the ferrying from the river head, camping that night near the Kai Kush stream for the first time, “. . . we fixed on one elevation outside and near the bush and at a short distance from the Kai