

of a former teacher. Consequently this "first book" seemed to be becoming more and more remote, but it was extremely fortunate that the owner of the copy Dr Kawase mentioned was in Wellington and willing to examine the Library's item, verifying that the two were the same. With a certain amount of relief it now seems safe to say that the Turnbull Library holds a copy of the first book on New Zealand in Japanese and that it was published in 1941.

The mystery which remains, of course, is Dr Kawase's apparent hesitancy to admit to his book having been published in 1941 while he is naturally proud of having written the first book on New Zealand in Japanese. From the contents list of the book there are also certain sections which it would be interesting to have translated when resources permit. In the "History" section of Chapter I there are the subdivisions "political revolution—development of the Maori people—World War II—post-war—contemporary period" and in the "State of affairs in New Zealand" section of Chapter V the subdivisions "national defence with fear of Japan" and "increasing religious colour". In fact it is difficult to see how these could have been written on the basis of experiences up to 10 years earlier.

According to the reminiscences Dr Kawase was under orders as far as at least some of his research work was concerned from the time that Japan was actively involved in North China, making two research tours there. As far as he can remember it was after the Battle of Midway in June 1942 that he was ordered to report to the Navy Department at Tokyo and instructed to produce five papers on New Zealand—its history and general condition, climate, the Maori, agriculture, other resources; preparation of these would exempt him from duty at the front. Dr Kawase notes (p. 7):

I was very much pleased to do this job with my best, because I beleived [*sic*] that there is no body in Japan who can defend New Zealand except me, I thought as myself that I had message to protect New Zealand as it is said pen is stronger than sword. Then I determined to do this job as my best with christian spirit.

I thought that I can defend New Zealand by reporting the truth, because from the point of christianity I do not agree to fight against others, and I have so many good friends in New Zealand. Secondly there is no possibility to invade to New Zealand and rule New Zealand by Japanese, and thirdly as I was educated in New Zealand and I owe my education and kindness and friendship to New Zealand, and I do not like to betray New Zealand as an enemy, and also to be an ungrateful fellow. Fourth, if I land on New Zealand again as a pilot of the troop, New Zealanders will feel of me as I was spying New Zealand and some one may kill me.