

country impressed him. The night was spent in their tent at Otira, then graced by an 'inn' at which Berggren purchased mutton, coffee and cognac and had an encounter with a French-speaking drunkard. On the 19th down past Kelly's to Jackson's - 'Scotsman. Decent' with wife and father 'almost a hundred years old'. The night of the 20th they camped below the Taipo-Taramakau junction among *Olearia avicennia-folia* (Akeake) in two tents together with bullock drivers from Christchurch. 'These men spend three weeks on the road'. Typical of his entries is that for the 21st '... Here comes the stage coach ... with the doctor. Stopped and talked. Then Blakes - wade in a valley ... Camp in the forest and lots of people. A slaughtering hut. One man on a horse came galloping but turned again without speaking. People, workers at the camp in tents. Many mosquitoes and sandflies.' In a letter to Haast he said: 'At Enys there was an exceptional profusion of moss vegetation. I collected a lot but couldn't make them ready for pressing. Would you please put the packet in a dry place until I return - because I must press the mosses myself ... I am very pleased with Ben; he is very willing, cooks well, has learned how to preserve the plants, can keep the tent free of sandflies by smoking tobacco, has a great affection for the horses and becomes quite excited when I say "This plant is found only in this one place in the whole world." and then tries very hard to collect lots of samples of *Notothlaspi*, *Cotula*, *Raoulia*, *Ligusticum* ... etc.'¹² Rather hopefully Berggren said that they had already had two rainy days and seemed to anticipate that this might be all until the end of the following month.

On 24 February they reached Hokitika. 'Searched in vain for His Honor Bonar.¹³ Was told ... that I would probably not be able to see him until 11 o'clock the following day. Met Langer who brought me to O'Hara's Exchange Hotel. A lot of Germans swarming around, in hotel as well.' Bonar invited him to dinner which may or may not have eventuated. Gerhard Mueller in any case was hospitable and arranged for him to go on to Okarito with one of his men. He met Preshaw and a plant collector Johnson who had prizes from some exhibition for his mosses - 'strange, puffing and trembling hands' - also Klein a newspaper editor, Appel a cigar-dealer and animal doctor with a minerals collection. Hokitika impressed him no more than its Mayor. The litter of shipwrecks on the beach, its 'one broad street and one pillar in memory of deserving deceased citizens ... on the streets, rags, bottles, tins and paper just as everywhere in New Zealand.' On 2 March he had a soaking trip south to Ross, crossing the Hokitika on a barge after a false diversion. A disappointing day; 'did not collect anything', ended up at the London Hotel 'Tavern' at Ross which cost him a pound for bed and breakfast. He regretted the whole expedition and decided to return, passing through Hokitika the next day as far as Blake's. From