

ference in the condition of the road now and during the winter. No bush before one comes to Oropi. First one passes Gates Pah.

#### IN OROPI

It seems to be an unsuccessful enterprise to build an inn, since only transit passengers and coach travellers come here. The bush is magnificent and there are more ferns and mosses than there usually are in the bush. One species I have not found before. Then all the way through the bush, the road winds itself up the hill which is almost 2,000 ft. Once out of the bush one can see Rotorua and the people on the shore. Came to the bridge; my hat blew off, Maori boys picked it up, later came to the hotel and demanded reward; not one but two, one picked up the hat and the other handed it over.

#### ROTORUA

Nothing much has changed here. The only exception is the military camp and the slightly more violent manners of the population, possibly a result of the warmer season or a result from the amount of money that is in circulation here due to the presence of the military camp. Gilbert Mair<sup>8</sup> . . . is now magistrate. He saw me first . . . then he came to the hotel with a newspaper in his hand, I introduced myself and he took up the paper and sat down to read in a corner. I left without a word. Later made an effort to show his botanical activities . . . Generally no pleasant company here . . . churlish manners in more or less everyone. Scott is the best of them. Travellers seem to be dressed in the Maori fashion . . . shirt . . . and bare legs. Cowan (doctor and school-master) has taken possession of . . . those who are married to Maori women are more or less half wild. Allum seems to be a decent fellow; however. Especially the younger ones are very much given to begging.

#### NOTES

<sup>1</sup>Silver would probably be W. A. Silver who appears in a list of officials for the Tauranga annual regatta, St Patrick's Day, 17 March 1875 (*Journal of the Tauranga Historical Society*, no 21, September 1964, p26)

<sup>2</sup>Motuhoa Island, Mr L. W. Melvin tells me, is still under Maori title so if Berggren had not misunderstood the situation Silver's interest could not have been firmly based.

<sup>3</sup>William Bartlett Langbridge with H. W. Penny was the founder in 1872 of the *Bay of Plenty Times*.

<sup>4</sup>Dr Cowan was apparently teacher at Lake Tarawera School in 1873 and at Pukeroa Hill in 1875 (see D. Stafford, *Te Arawa*, Wellington, Reed, 1967, pp521, 513.)

<sup>4</sup>Edward Roger or Rogers of whom Berggren made an interesting sketch may have been living at Rotorua during this period.

<sup>6</sup>Davies would be C. O. Davis who at the time was engaged in Maori Land Court work in Rotorua and Taupo.

<sup>7</sup>Pihihi was Poihihi, the well-known chief of Tapuacharuru or Taupo who was a consistent supporter of the pakeha during the Maori wars. Numerous travellers of the post-war years met him and were indebted to him for hospitality and assistance.

<sup>8</sup>Unfortunately the Library's set of the diaries and notebooks of Captain Gilbert Mair does not appear to contain one for this precise period so we have no record of what he thought of Berggren if he even registered his visit.