

QUEEN SEES WHISTLE STOPS

Mr. Holland presented to Her Majesty a woman who is perhaps the oldest living Maori. She is 107 and had begged to be allowed to shake the Queen's hands. She seemed to want it for keeps. Also the Duke's. It must have been a great day for the old lady. This was the end of the royal stay <sup>in</sup> at Rotorua and the Maori country. The timetable beckoned now ~~from~~ Gisborne, near the first landing place of Capt. Cooke. A nearby peak is the first <sup>land</sup> ~~point~~ on which the sun rises in the whole <sup>British</sup> Commonwealth.

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~~scribble~~

From Napier go the main exports of the big sheep and cattle stations. There was a demonstration by champion shearers, who can ~~take~~ the clothes right off a sheep's back in a matter of seconds. Once the animals have had their clouts cast for them they have to be optimistic and hope it'll be a warm summer.

After congratulating the shearers the Queen and Duke left for a short tour by rail of six small stopping places, and several through which the train ambled at walking pace. There was the same typical New Zealand reception everywhere. Warm <sup>walk</sup> ~~mark~~ apart, it was impossible for the Royal travellers not to feel at home, running through country very much like the west of England. In the crowded three weeks since they arrived in Auckland the Queen and Duke ~~had~~ <sup>had seen</sup> a little of nearly every facet of the amazingly varied life in New Zealand's North Island. Her Majesty is having <sup>here</sup> the closest contact with her subjects since she came to the throne.

(3 x)

Driver George Thomas took his train into ~~the~~ mountain country presenting some of the stiffest gradients in the railway world.

(a/driver) Ex-servicemen of both world wars had a word with the Queen and Duke at Patea, a small place which was very loth to say goodbye when the train moved on.

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(7 out) New Plymouth is the centre of the great <sup>dairying produce</sup> ~~air~~ country.

Here the visitors saw one of the big factories producing cheese and butter, for whose high quality the country is famous. <sup>8</sup> Mutton, beef, wool, as well as the dairy produce, New Zealand is a land ~~flowing~~ flowing with milk and honey indeed.... Now it was farewell. Wellington, the capital of New Zealand, was calling.