

ROYAL TOUR (New Zealand)

12/1/54

Continuing her tour of the North Island of New Zealand, Her Majesty the Queen saw some of the Dominion's finest breeding cattle, in the Waikato Agricultural Association Show at Hamilton; and a demonstration of sheep-shearing by Godfrey Bowen, who recently created a world record by shearing four hundred and fifty-six sheep in nine hours.

The next official engagement was at Arawa Park, in the centre of the Maori country; where, first of all, was given the traditional Maori challenge.

This was the big day in the Maori welcome to their Queen and the Duke. Here, for the first time, all their tribes were represented.

And here the Queen received, from the hands of the Maori Bishop of Aotearoa, <sup>(E)</sup> the Korowai --- the cloak of feathers which is the symbol of the highest rank.

A cloak, too, for the Duke --- conferring upon him the honour of chieftainship. And in reply to the address of welcome --- in which they had poetically described Her Majesty as the "white heron of a single flight", the Queen said to them:

There was a delightful, informal moment when a little girl came unattended to the royal party's platform --- determined to get a closer view. And she was allowed to sit there while the Maoris performed their songs and dances; the poi; telling how their ancestors had come to New Zealand in great canoes, five hundred years ago.

Strenuous days of many engagements were now followed by a short rest at Moose Lodge --- the beautiful country home on the shores of Lake Rotoiti which had been placed at their disposal. This was situated in the hot springs district of Roturua, where volcanoes beneath a thin crust of the earth heat the springs and lakes. The temperature varies from pleasantly warm to boiling hot. The favourite local pastime is diving for pennies.

Then --- escorted by the famous Maori woman guide Rangī, Her Majesty and the Duke explored the thermal pools --- ~~which~~ <sup>They</sup> range from bubbles in the mud --- to a sixty-foot spout from the champion hot fountain of them all --- Old Pohutu.