

ruin can be seen everywhere that the land was suitable, and one feels surprised what food is grown even for the few who remain now.

Description of the Country.—The triangulation has not sufficiently advanced to give a detailed description of the country, which, of course, will be supplied when my maps are sent in. The following curtailed sketch may prove useful in the meantime, as I think the quality and quantity of agricultural land in the King country has been over-estimated by most people: The open country lying between the Puniu and Mokau Rivers, through which the Waipa and its tributaries flow, contain the only extensive area of good agricultural land that I have seen. This comprises an area of about 700,000 acres, bounded to the east by the Rangitoto, Ranganui, and Wharepunga Ranges, and to the westward by the broken, wooded country extending southward from the Pirongia Ranges to the Mokau River at Tautoro. This country contains a variety of excellent land for all agricultural purposes, comprising limestone, rich volcanic loam, and, along the rivers and streams, extensive and fertile alluvial flats. Timber for all purposes is easily available. The district is well watered. Roads can be made at a slight cost. Brown coal is to be found in the Hauturu Ranges, to the west of Otorohanga about nine miles; it is also to be found near Te Kuiti, and probably will be got elsewhere when the district is more known, as many of the rivers and streams have particles of coal in them. Between the Mokau and Waimeha Rivers the country is very broken, and the land variable in quality. There is some limestone on the Mokau, near Te Kuiti; but the limestone land is limited in this neighbourhood, and very broken. The valleys are generally open, and the ranges and hills covered with mixed timber, containing rimu, totara, &c., though the totara is not plentiful. There is a considerable area of table-land amongst the hills in this district that is nearly all under forest, and the soil is good; but it is generally difficult of access. About fifteen miles to the westward of Te Kuiti the pumice-country begins, though after this there is good land in the bush and on the table-lands. The valley of the Ongarue and Waimeha Rivers is very poor—thousands of acres of wretched pumice-flats, covered with stunted scrub and dried tussock-grass, with pumice all over the surface. From the Waimeha to Taumaranui some better land is met with. There are small alluvial flats along the banks of the Ongarue, where the Natives have cultivated: on the sides and tops of the fern-ridges the soil is good, but the country generally is very broken. About the Tuhua Mountain there is some good land and plenty of valuable timber, which can be made accessible from Ongarue Valley. Lying between the west of Taupo Lake and the valley of the Ongarue, and extending from Pureora, the most northern peak of the Hurakia Ranges, there is about 300,000 acres of broken country, including the heavily-wooded ranges of Hurakia and Hauhangaroa. The land is very variable in quality, a small stream sometimes dividing a good volcanic loam and a sterile pumice tract; I noticed this even in the table-lands on the mountains. This district is cut up by deep gullies and streams, with table-land between. There is a great deal of valuable timber, including totara, though not a great deal of the latter. The timber would be accessible—at least a good portion of it—from the Te Awamutu and Marton railway-line. Between Taringamutu and South Taupo there is some good bush-land, though broken; there is also a good deal of useful timber, but it will be difficult of access, and roads through this country will cost a great deal to form. On the west of the Waikato River, and extending about twenty miles north from the Hurakia Ranges, is a broken tract of open country, called the Kaiangaroa, containing about 100,000 acres. It is intersected by deep gullies and ravines. The land is poor: bare rocks and landslips everywhere visible. The Maraeroa Plains, at the head of the Waimeha River, comprise about sixty to eighty thousand acres of fairly-good open country, though some of it is poor, with pumice lying on the surface. A great deal of the country around here is level and undulating. The bush-land is variable, some of it good and some a light pumice surface. Finally, outside the area of 700,000 acres before mentioned, lying between the Mokau River and Kihikihi, &c., I have not seen any considerable area of land suitable for general agricultural purposes, though much of the country might be profitably occupied by settlers holding one thousand acres and upwards, and here and there a small farmer would find enough of good land to settle upon.

LAURENCE CUSSEN.

HAWKE'S BAY.

General Remarks.—There is a considerable falling-off in the area covered by the different classes of surveys during the past year. This is to be accounted for by the exceptionally wet season that has been experienced. In the Seventy-Mile Bush district the loss of time from the cause named has been very great, so much so that it raises the question whether or not it is expedient to keep a working party out in the field in bush country during the winter months.

Triangulation.—The area triangulated is 196,970 acres, cost £598 8s. 1d., or 0·77d. per acre for triangular, and 1d. per acre for trig. and topographical surveys. During five months Mr. Hallett has completed 108,500 acres; the other surveys that make up the total have been carried forward piecemeal in connection with section and road surveys in different districts. The triangles observed by Mr. Price in the Mohaka and Waihua districts close on sides of the Poverty Bay circuit.

Settlement or Section Survey.—The average cost of this class of surveys is 1s. 4d. per acre, the bush surveys averaging about two-thirds more than those in open country. Out of the 28,068 acres laid off, 25,794 acres, including 10,000, for the Governors of Napier High School, have been prepared for sale and settlement; the remainder consists of the surveys of applications. The village of Danevirke has been re-surveyed, the pegs of the first survey, made about ten years ago, having been burnt or destroyed.

Roads.—Forty-seven and a half miles have been laid off in exercise of the road rights under the