

Xeronema callistemon on its rocky outcrop, where A.T. Pycroft had found it in 1933. On many such rocky stations rengarenga Arthropodium flourished in all its pristine glory, untouched by garden snails and slugs. Beautiful Hebe parviflora assumes the proportions of a small tree here. Round the shorelines harakeke, Phormium tenax, taupata Coprosma repens, ngaio Myoporum laetum, Hymenanthera novae-zelandiae form a dense shrubby barrier. On the rocks below we saw rauhuia, Linum monogynum, koheriki Scandia rosifolia, Senecio lautus, horokaka Disphyma australe, ma-ako-ako Samolus repens, remuremu Selliera radicans, Salicornia australis, punakuru Lobelia anceps. Many in the last bracket enjoy a seepage of fresh water.

In many places ferns form the floor cover of the forest. In places we saw Asplenium lamprophyllum dominant, hiding the ground for decametres at a time with its tufts of soft green fronds, presenting a vision of great beauty. A. oblongifolium and A. flaccidum were frequent, also Polystichum richardii.

One of the most amazing plants there must be nikau Rhopalostylis sapida which on Taranga, as on Little Barrier, assumes giant proportions. The largest can have trunks 26 metres in height, one metre in diameter and fronds measuring as much as 8 metres in length. I quote A.E. Esler is saying that these belong to the "southern" variety of nikau, and more nearly resemble the Kermadec R. cheesmanii and the Norfolk Island R. baueri than the northern nikau which is much smaller and holds its fronds more upright. The large grove of this "southern" nikau at Old Woman Bay with their elegantly arching huge fronds is truly magnificent. **No feather duster this palm!**

At no time during our wonderful week on Taranga were the Lucys consciously teaching me. I was however, a listener during their scientific discussions; and they were there to answer my questions. I absorbed a tremendous amount of exciting botany and knew that henceforth this would be my main interest. As my love and respect for this beautiful environment deepened I began to understand the vital importance of ecology.

Received 31 December 1987.

ROSS MICHIE

The passing of 93 year old Mr Ross Michie of Kaitaia will be mourned by his many botanical friends.

His extensive knowledge of the plants of the Far North was well known and he was frequently consulted about localities. I did not have the pleasure of knowing him until one summer evening when my husband and I were passing his gate and we stopped to chat. When he heard about my interest in botany he took us round his back garden to show us some of his trees. One of these, a Pittosporum virgatum had a remarkable diversity of foliage and he gave me some specimens which I later pressed. I would like to share these with members and have made this sketch as a memory of a short encounter with a very interesting gentleman.

Katie Mays
3 November 1987.

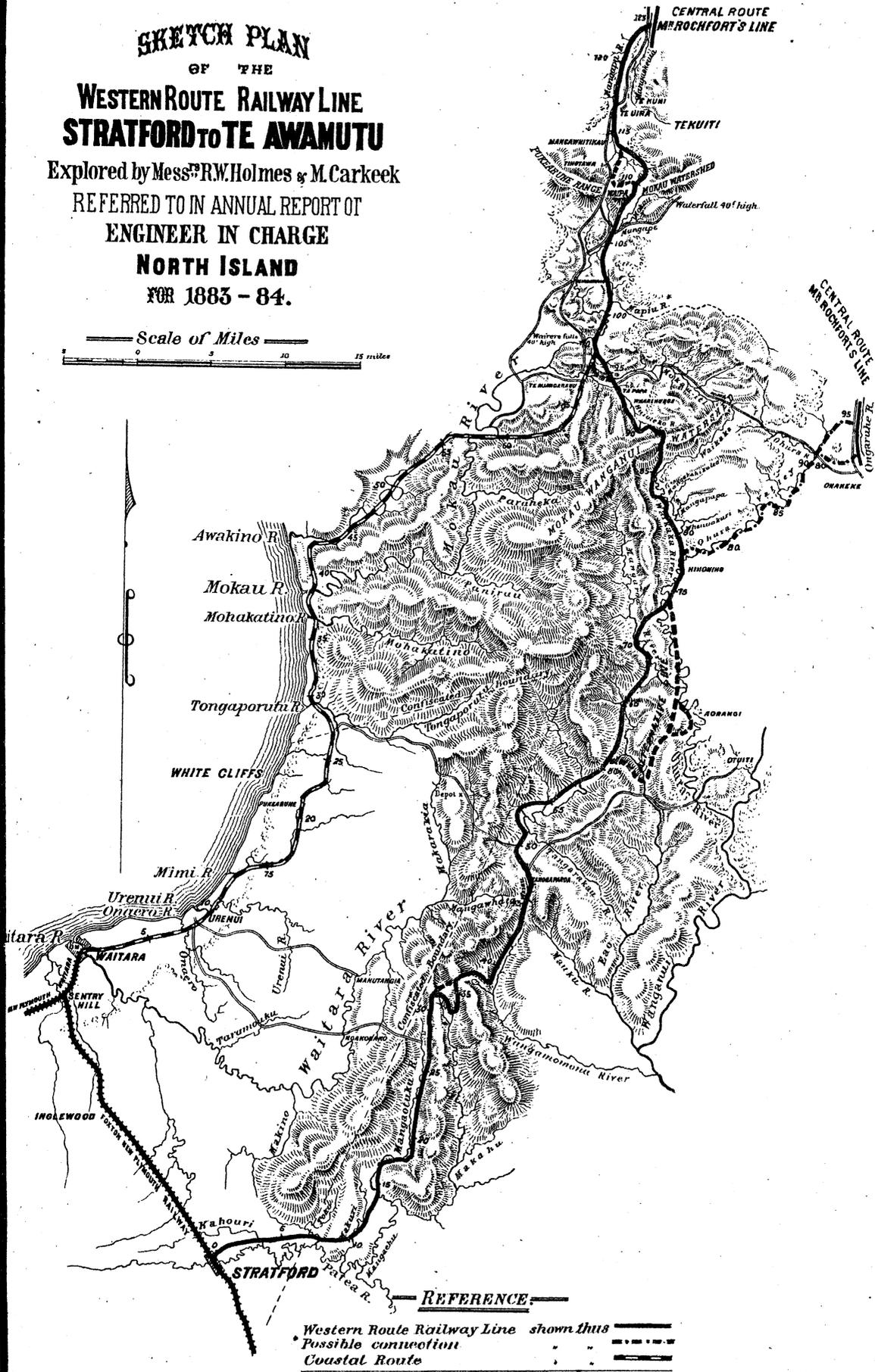
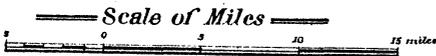


K. Mays.

PITTOSPORUM VIRGATUM.
ALL SPECIMENS FROM ONE TREE IN MR
ROSS MICHIE'S GARDEN, KAITAIA, 20.3.71.

SKETCH PLAN
OF THE
WESTERN ROUTE RAILWAY LINE
STRATFORD TO TE AWAMUTU

Explored by Messrs R.W. Holmes & M. Carkeek
REFERRED TO IN ANNUAL REPORT OF
ENGINEER IN CHARGE
NORTH ISLAND
FOR 1883 - 84.



Photolithographed at the General Survey Office, Wellington, N.Z. July 1884.