

~~Our oaks then, in Government House Grounds, in the Symonds Street Cemetery and elsewhere, are of truly famous ancestry. The grove (probably partly at least of "royal oaks") that gave its name to our Royal Oak is, unhappily, no more.~~

Other old oaks, like those in the Ranfurly reserve at Epsom came from David Hay's wonderful nursery in Seaview Road, founded a hundred years ago. Hay it was who, with Morrison, brought back budwood from Sir George Grey's mysterious "poorman's orange" on Kawau. One of the original mother trees of our New Zealand grapefruit still bears abundant and sweet fruit, as it has for over seventy years, on the south-east corner of the intersection of Mt. Albert and Hillsborough roads.

Mixed plantings of old trees are still to be seen in parts of St. Heliers (there's an historic macrocarpa at 87, St. Heliers Bay Rd., with a base of 43 ft. round), about Judge's Bay, Parnell Park, Victoria Ave., Mountain Rd., Gillies Ave., and at Onehunga, Hillsborough and elsewhere. The giant pines and macrocarpas of Cornwall Park, and the unfortunate olives, were planted by Sir John Logan Campbell himself about 1863.

Famous, tree-planting visitors do not seem to have been many. Chiefly remembered seems to be Alfred, Duke of Edinburgh, second son of Queen Victoria, who in 1869 planted a Norfolk Pine and a Californian "big-tree" side by side in the Domain by the propagating houses (there was a little zoo there once, you know). This same duke is said to have swung (politely, I mean, of course) from the branches of the grand old pear tree that still grows behind Edenhall flats in Eden Crescent.

I would like to conclude by thanking those many good people who have helped me in this research, and to say how grateful we of the Historic Places Society would be for further information or suggestions. It is too late to save some historic trees and places: it is not too early to try to save even more.

We are always glad to receive communications from country members. Mr. Cresswell's article which deals with a most historic place is particularly timely. It is not only of general interest to members, but should be most useful to any whose holidays or wanderings take them to this portion of the East Coast.

INDIGENOUS FLORA OF COOK'S COVE.

Of historical interest, as the first place in New Zealand where the renowned Navigator was able to obtain fresh water, Cook's Cove is a small two pronged inlet situated on the North side of the South headland of Tolaga Bay and a mile East of the present jetty. High sandstone cliffs prevent access to Cook's Cove from the jetty, so a track must be followed over the easy intervening hills.

As one approaches the Cove the track descends from low ridges covered with manuka, tauhinu and gorse, with Gaultheria antipoda occurring in cooler, shady situations. As one descends a low ridge numerous rifle pits add to the historical interest, reminiscent of early whalers trading

with the Maoris. Firearms, trinkets etc. were traded for timber and flax.

Surrounding the Cove are grassy flats with a small stream flowing through. Mariscus ustulatus and Juncus sp. cover the fertile ground. By this stream a few Sophora tetraptera grow with leaves 45 mm. long. The stream reaches the sea through a natural arch worn through a sandstone ridge and having a diameter of 25 ft. Hedycarya arborea, Macropiper excelsum, Coprosma robusta and Brachyglottis rangiora grow on the sides of this ridge with Asplenium lucida fringing the arch.

At the south end of the southern prong of the Cove a low sand spit which is awash at spring tides connects a steep sandstone ridge with the mainland. This is Sporing's Island, and being unstocked is luxuriantly clothed with such plants as Coriaria ruscifolia, Macropiper excelsum, Leptospermum scoparium, Hebe macoura, Coprosma robusta, Cassinia leptophylla, Olearia solandri, Cladium sinclairii and Poa anceps.

The rocky islets at the entrance to the Cove are similarly clothed and have two holes through which the surf rushes. Most picturesque! Sheltered gullies, mostly cleared inland, contain Vitex lucens, Myoporum laetum, Hoheria sexstylosa, Alectryon excelsum, Dysoxylum spectabile, Corynocarpus lavigata and Melicytus ramiflorus. The only ferns to be found being Cyathea medullaris and Blechnum lanceolatum.

The dry climate with a rainfall of only 35" would account for the absence of ferns although a few Nikau palms are in evidence.

A truly charming Cove with its clear, calm water, manuka covered ridges, its cliffs and fertile flats, and situated only three miles from the Gisborne - Opotiki via Te Araroa highway.

by R.D. Creswell, Te Pora, Tokomaru Bay.

18th CHEESEMAN MEMORIAL SHOW
OF NATIVE FLOWERS.

On Saturday afternoon, 24th September, the Mayoress, Mrs. J.H. Luxford, opened the 18th Cheeseman Memorial Show and it continued until Tuesday the 27th. Mrs. Hynes made all the preliminary arrangements and I must record my sincere thanks for her capable and efficient organization. Nancy Bamford also did excellent work with the children's section of the Show and thanks to her and her team of helpers the large number of entries were displayed without any hitches.

The decorative section was most attractive this year and it was a delight to see the work of Ruth De Berg, Shirley Baker and Joan Hastings, as well as the first-class displays by Mrs. Eyre, Mrs. Blewdon, Mrs. Collis, Mrs. Hudson, and Mr. and Mrs. Holt (representing the Y.W.C.A. Gardening Club, St. Mark's Daffodil-at home Committee and the Titirangi Beautifying Society).

The special displays by the Auckland Natural History Club, the Tree Society, the Forest and Bird Protection Society, Auckland, and members of the Botanical Society were of very high standard, and it was