

native forests there, and to discuss their excellent plantations, would, in a New Zealand forestry journal, be equivalent to talking shop, which I promised not to do. Nor have I mentioned Sydney, with its harbour, where I indulged my well known propensities for yachts, but that must await a more suitable time. The Editor, I know, has his limits. *Kia ora ra koutou katoa.*

AN EARLY FOREST RECONNAISSANCE.

[We take the opportunity of reprinting an excerpt from a report of C. E. Douglas written in 1892. Charlie Douglas will be a familiar name to all West Coasters and to many others, as one of the few men in New Zealand who have deserved the title of explorer. For years this intrepid old-timer wandered through the then quite unknown back country of Westland, a bushman, prospector, surveyor and chronicler par excellence. These observations on "Timber Scrub" should appeal to the modern forester, less perhaps, for their botanical accuracy than for their matter-of-factness and humour.—Ed.]

"Timber Scrub.—As far as marketable timber is concerned, the Gordon (Little Waitaha) is one of the best rivers in Westland. As for getting it to a market, that is a different question. All along the Mount Rangitoto road and on both sides of the river, is red pine forest, with splendid spars, straight and tall. There are the usual kamahas, meros, totaras, and on the slopes of Rangitoto, yellow pines, but red pine may be considered as the prevailing timber. Near the silver mine, there is a small patch of the true manuka, the only specimens of that tree I have seen in Westland. The tree people call manuka, here, is not manuka at all, but a scrub variety of it, and its name I believe, is 'kilmogue.' I am not sure either about the name or the spelling, but it is something near it. In parts of Otago manuka forms large forests of valuable timber, with spars seventy feet long and growing as close together as an American or Norway pine forest. There is also to be seen on the Rangitoto road, some fine specimens of the bush cabbage, native palm, Coeur-de-leon or whatever its name is. It is not a very common plant, but has a wide range, being found here and there all over the country. Like the light-wood bulla-bulla nettles, it appears to spring up mysteriously on recent slips and road cuttings, although in general, only a few feet high. It sometimes hits out and people living in this country have no idea of the height it can attain to. I once had a talk with Prof. Kirk, Government botanist, about this plant. He asked me what height I had seen them grow. I said I once cut one down on the Paringa and it measured forty feet in length and the leaves were fifteen. He looked cornerways at me and muttered something about Ananias, no doubt; yet I really took twenty feet off the height, as I knew he wouldn't believe in sixty."