

Nature's Way at Tarawera.

It is also the method followed by Nature in establishing forest on perfectly bare ground. For instance, on the new soil formed by the Tarawera eruption in

sp.) the seed of which is carried by air like dandelion seed.

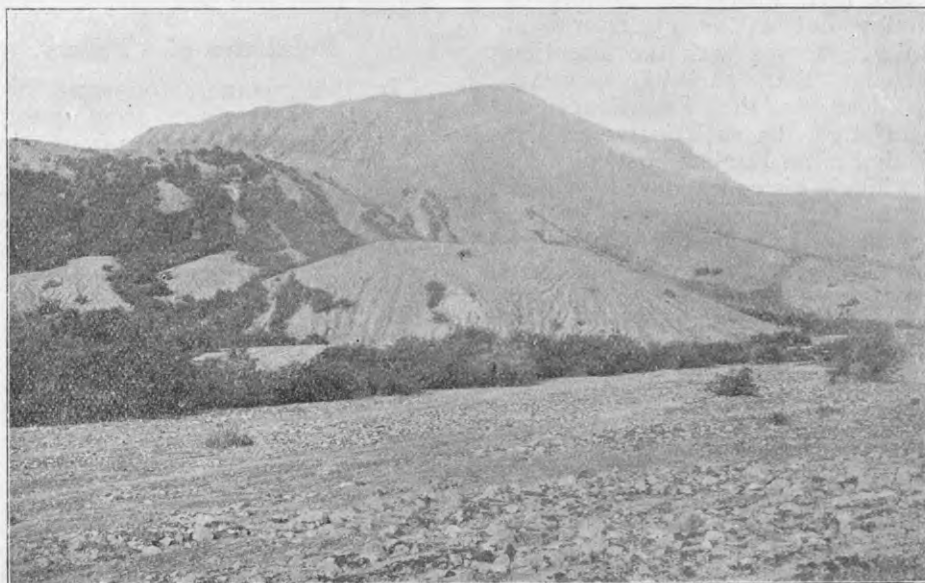
In the patch plants, which resemble a mossy growth less than an inch in height but yards in diameter, birds left the seed of the tutu (Coriaria), one of the best of nurse crops for woody growth but unfortunately poisonous to cattle. Following this shrub, which dies out in about twelve years, the wineberry or makamako (*Aristotelia racemosa*) with other shrubs such as tree fuchsia (*Fuchsia excorticata*), manuka (*Leptospermum*) and mahoe (*Melicytus ramiflorus*) now took possession of the mountain side.



Slopes of Tarawera, 1450 feet. In the background is seen the summit of Tarawera. In the middle distance are gullies with the vegetation slowly creeping up the mountain. In the foreground are manuka (*Leptospermum*) and tutu scrub, with patches of Strathmore weed (*Pimelia*). Walking Stick at the bottom right-hand corner shows the scale. Photo by B. C. Aston in 1913.

1886, by which was deposited to a depth of several feet scoria, gravel, stones, sand, silt and clay on the top of existing vegetation—forest and shrubbery—it was not trees and shrubs that grew first but an organic matter or humus providing nurse crops of mat plants (*Raoulia*

If thus, on a soil lacking all organic matter and consisting of erupted fine and coarse rock, forest may be established by natural means, it must be easy to establish New Zealand forest on good soil.



Looking at the south end of Tarawera, showing gradual slope to summit avoiding the "mural crown." Coriaria shruberies in middle ground; gravel in foreground with patches of *Raoulia*.

Photo by B. C. Aston in 1913.