



Above: The mineral rich waters of Emerald Lake on the slopes of Mt Tongariro, Tongariro National Park. Photo: Eric Taylor

Right: Pioneer ecologist Leonard Cockayne was a strong advocate about the turn of the century for the establishment of Arthur's Pass National Park. Later he carried out a classical ecological survey of Tongariro National Park which was a very significant influence on its future shape and extent. Photo: Alexander Turnbull Library



been retarded by the policies of the Maori King movement which had prior to the land wars refused to sell land, and resisted surveying and road construction. In effect the King Movement had applied a land protection policy through the period that the national park idea was generating in the United States, and long enough for some European New Zealanders to gain insights into the desperate need for conservation in New Zealand.

European influence in the Ureweras was retarded right into the 1890s. By this time a few influential New Zealanders, including no less a figure than Julius Vogel, had been pointing to connections between forest destruction, flooding and erosion, for 20 years. Their text had been often 'Man and Nature' by the American, George Perkins Marsh, himself an observer of events on the frontier.

Vast forest destruction

Through the 1880s and 1890s, forest destruction, driven by the expanding transport network on the one hand, and the expanding dairy industry on the other, was on a vast scale. Scenery preservation societies sprang up; the developing perceptions of the first generation of European New Zealanders, coupled with the advent of Harry Ell in Parliament combined to produce the