

London's Maori community at Oddington, Left to right: Scotty McPherson, Principal of St Stephen's School, spent a year in Britain on a research fellowship; Jim Wiremu, originally from Kaitaia, has lived in Britain for more than thirty years; Les Gandar, New Zealand High Commissioner to the UK; Rachel Windsor, another Tai Tokerau Maori now resident in London; Mrs Betty McPherson; Two of Maggie Papakura's grandchildren. Barbara Dennen, in the cloak, unveiled the stone; Ben Gerrard of Hicks Bay, employed at New Zealand House in London; Tony Curtis of Rotoiti



1911 saw the coronation of King George V, and among the occasions organised to celebrate the event was an imperial exhibition in London. Already famous in New Zealand, and well known to British people who had travelled here, Maggie was chosen to represent her country at the exhibition, along with a Maori performing group and a collection of examples of Maori art which included cloaks, greenstone, carvings and a whole meeting house.

This trip was to change her life. She had already met, in New Zealand, a wealthy farmer called Richard Staples-Browne. She met him again in England and they married. She settled in Oddington and, apart from a brief visit in 1926, never saw New Zealand again. She certainly never severed her ties with New Zealand, however. During the First World War, many New Zealand troops, Maori and Pakeha, were entertained at Oddington Grange, and after the war she erected a memorial in Oddington Church to the memory of Maori troops killed in action.

Having lived the lives of a guide and an English farmer's wife, she adopted a new career in the mid 1920s, when at the

age of 54 she became a student of anthropology at the University of Oxford. She completed a valuable study of her people called *Makareti — Old Time Maori*. Unfortunately she did not live to see the book published; she died in 1930, and *Old Time Maori* was not published until 1938.

The book has long been out of print, but other reminders of Maggie's stay in England remain. In New Zealand House in London are two of the carvings she took with her in 1911. During the Second World War they adorned — and some say protected — H.M.S. *Maori*, which was sunk by German bombers in 1942 but without loss of life.

And in Oddington itself are further reminders. The memorial to the Maori dead of the First World War still occupies its place inside the ancient church, while outside, in the unlikely setting of an English country churchyard, lies the newly unveiled memorial to a remarkable woman.



Every weekday for the past 59 years,
we've come up with something fresh.

New Zealand's finest fruit and vegetables —
fresh wherever in the world you are.

Turners & Growers Ltd.

P.O. Box 56 PH: 774-720 AUCKLAND