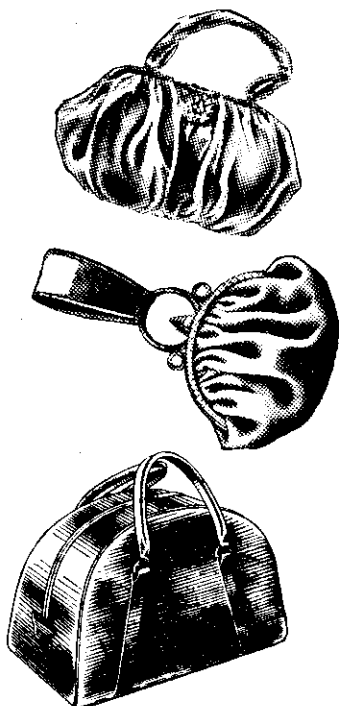


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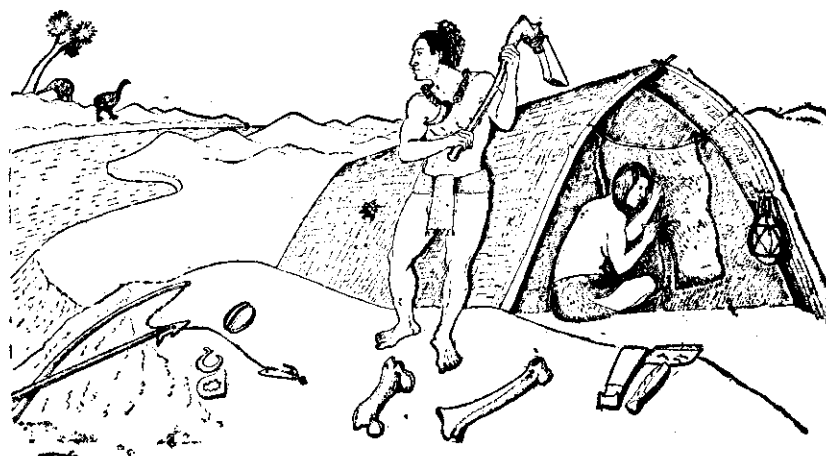
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Lands for Bags

HOW MAN CAME TO NEW ZEALAND

SCHOOL children whose teachers use the NZBS Broadcast to Schools to supplement classroom work are now hearing, between 1.45 p.m. and 2.0 p.m. on Tuesdays, the story of how man came to New Zealand, written by Roger Duff, the Christchurch ethnologist, who is at present studying at London University. Because the series is concerned largely with the Maori race, the Broadcasts to Schools Department engaged two Wellington Maoris to assist in

they had ever found land to exist, they would find our land? Does this mean that they searched the whole cold belt of the South Pacific until they ran on to New Zealand? Whether a few adventurous men found New Zealand by a drift voyage or by a voyage of exploration, they still had to return to Rarotonga and Tahiti, to prepare a fleet of canoes to bring over their wives and families to settle in the new land. This means that they were better navigators than any people had been to that time, because to find Rarotonga from New



MAORIS OF THE MOA-HUNTER PERIOD, from a drawing by Roger Duff

dramatizing two of the programmes. The series, which started on June 8, has already taken the children through the arrival of man in the South Pacific and the settling by the Polynesians of every island, great and small, between New Zealand and Hawaii and from Tonga to Easter Island.

In the story of the voyage of the Polynesians from Tahiti to Rarotonga, Charles M. Bennett, of the War History branch of the Department of Internal Affairs, played the part of the hero Ru, singing Maori chants. In the next episode, on Tuesday, June 29, Kingi Tahiwai, of the Native Affairs Department, will tell the tale of the Polynesian discovery and settlement of New Zealand in the style of the old Maori story-tellers who handed down historical lore from generation to generation.

Raft-voyagers' Theory

Early in the account of man's arrival in this country (which is printed in the supplementary booklet issued to schools by the NZBS) Roger Duff refers to some of the theories of research workers. The Norwegian raft expedition from South America last year, he says, points only to a possible back door; but the front door of the Polynesian migrations was clearly from the west, from Malaya and Indonesia. The so-called mystery of Easter Island does not impress modern scientists. They see no traces of a drowned Pacific continent there, or a civilisation dating before the Polynesians.

How, he asks, were the Polynesians to know that down in the cold seas, 1,000 miles further from the Equator than

Zealand is harder than retracing the flight of a spent bullet to find the gun which fired it.

Pre-Compass Navigation

The first Polynesians to find New Zealand arrived well before the Battle of Hastings (probably about A.D. 950); Toi and Whatonga were the leaders of others who arrived about 200 years later. The early people remained few in numbers because they failed to establish the kumara (or sweet potato). They killed off the moa and other birds and so were called Moa-hunters. Some of them found their way to the Chatham Islands to become ancestors of the Morioris. About 400 years after Kupe's discovery there arrived the last and greatest fleet of Polynesian canoes—the Fleet of A.D. 1350. This was still 140 years before the sailors of Columbus, with the aid of the newly-invented compass, groped their way across the Atlantic to discover America.

Of the people who occupied New Zealand during the long centuries before the Fleet, Maori tradition could remember little or nothing. In fact, the little that their traditions could recall we know now was false, namely, that a tall, thin, dark-skinned Melanesian people came here after Kupe's discovery and occupied the land till the Fleet. The Maori called them Maruiwi, or Mouriri—the man in the street still calls them Moriori. But where was the key to unlock the door of the past, and tell us who they really were?

Moa bones provided the key and the bones of other extinct birds, which Maori tradition had forgotten because

(continued on next page)



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