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WELLINGTON.



Dept. of Internal Affairs photograph by John Pascoe MAKARA VALLEY, near Wellington, where Dr. Arnold, of Rugby, once owned land When Arnold's son Thomas visited the valley in 1848, "dark bush ... everywhere obstructed the sight"

Dr. Arnold's Land

by ANGUS ROSS

N Book Shop for April 28, the reviewer of the latest biography of Dr. Arnold, of Rugby, mentioned that Arnold acquired two sections of land in New Zealand. His opinion that it would be interesting to discover more about this land was reiterated by the session chairman. When it is recalled that Thomas Arnold, son of the great headmaster, visited New Zealand with a view to farming his father's land, and later left an account of his travels, it is not difficult to obtain some information about Arnold's land.

My own story of how I became interested in this subject illustrates how large a part the fortuitous can play in such matters. When I was in Cambridge. England, in 1949, my friend, W. G. Mc-Clymont, author of the centennial publication, The Exploration of New Zealand, wrote suggesting that I should try to locate the diary of Thomas Arnold. He told me that Mrs. G. M. Trevelyan, wife of the historian who was then Master of Trinity College, Cambridge. had asked Miss Brenda Bell, of Shag Valley, Otago, with whom she had become friendly during the last war, whether she knew where Thomas Arnold, Mrs. Trevelyan's grandfather. had lived in New Zealand. McClymont was able to tell Miss Bell that Thomas Arnold had lived for a time with her own grandparents, the Francis Dillon Bells, at Nelson. After Arnold left New Zealand, he lived for a time in Tasmania, and it was there that his daughter, later well known as Mrs. Humphry Ward, herself a writer of note, was born. In 1904, Janet Penrose, second daugh-

ter of the Humphry Wards, married George Macaulay Trevelyan, and therefore it was to the Lodge of Trinity College that I went in search of the diary of Thomas Arnold.

I did not find the diary, but that did not matter very much since Thomas Arnold had committed most of his memories of New Zealand to paper when he wrote his article in Frazer's Magazine of August, 1861, and his autobiography, Passages in a Wandering Life, in 1900. From these sources we learn that he was so impressed by his father's purchase of land from the New Zealand Company that he read everything about New Zealand that he could lay his hands on. Then, in November, 1847, he took a cabin passage in the ship John Wickliffe to Wellington. He thus travelled with Captain Cargill and the first settlers of the Free Church settlement of Otago. Arnold was not very impressed by Cargill nor by conditions at Otago: "The old captain himself was, I should have thought, a case to which the rule of superannuation was justly applicable. His glass of toddy sometimes elevated him considerably, and on such occasions he would walk about the cuddy, trolling out with flushed features the burden of some old Scottish song." After spending nearly two months at Port Chalmers, the John Wickliffe took Arnold on to Wellington where, after some sightseeing and a visit up the west coast, he tells us, he "lost no time in ascertaining the situation of my father's country land.'

His description of the land is reasonably full: "The two sections, each of 100 acres, were in the Makara Valley, about eight miles due west from Wellington, in the peninsula which separates Port Nicholson from the main channel of Cook's Strait. For about half the distance there was a good road; for the rest of the way only a bridle path which