

Setting Sun

Hawaiki and told them Long White Cloud

the strong limbs of the braves, brought people. Little is known of these tangata-whenua, as they were called. They disappeared when the Maori eventually came from Hawaiki.

Soon after the Normans landed in Britain, canoe races were being held in Tahiti, when one of the canoes became separated and found its way to a neighbouring island, there to wait a seasonable return. In the meantime another canoe had set off in search of the missing crew, and, passing the island, sailed south, and eventually found the land of "the long white cloud" that Kupe had told of. In the meantime, the first canoe, returning to Tahiti, set off to seek the searchers. They found them—in Aotearoa. And these were the first settlers from Hawaiki. They were followed by other adventurous immigrants, who settled in scattered parts of the island.

Maoris lined up ready for the haka



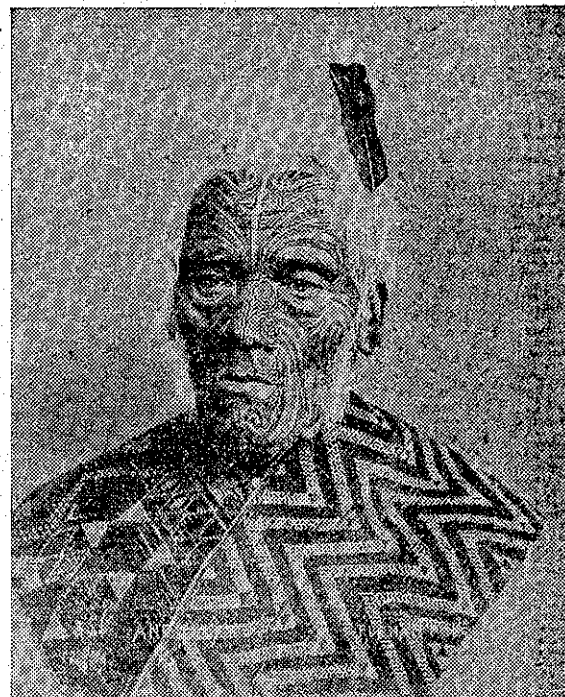
Like seeds scattered in a fertile land, these grew to plants, and the plants to colonies; and so the tribes came to be.

But as yet there had been no serious attempts at migration from Hawaiki. But preparations were being made. Huge canoes were hollowed out, calabashes, in which water and dried provisions were to be carried, were accumulated. The more daring spirits of the islands, spurred on by the tales of the beautiful land of "the long white cloud" that lay beyond the setting sun, prepared for the great voyage. What was ahead of them, they knew not. But we know that they were attempting the great Pacific in craft that even Columbus would have scorned, and in which his men refused to venture out of the sight of the shores of Spain. The great canoes from which the Maori proudly claims descent, the "Tainui," "Takitimu," "Tokomaru," and "Matatua" were gradually built and equipped for the long trip. Tradition even now tells of how the huge trees from which these craft were hewn were felled, and with religious rites prepared for migration. Seeds, and even animals, were collected, for it was told that this land was quiet and that there was little animal food. And so the first fleet was ready for the long voyage.

But before the main fleet was ready the "Aotea" canoe was well on the way. A dispute had been the cause of this, and in a very little time

A tattooed rangatira (chief). The Maoris' innate love for the artistic is partly revealed in the intricate tattooed face and body patterns which they carried to a grotesque perfection. Apart from legend, it appears reasonably certain that the Maoris brought this strange art with them from Polynesia.

Photo, Dominion Museum.



the migrants were underway. As was usual on these journeys, the route was via several of the islands, Rarotonga being the last point called at. There is evidence to show that there was not a great deal of privation on this and like trips.

THEY landed in Tamaki Bay, in the Auckland harbour, but they did not remain here. Crossing the peninsula, they sailed south, and, landing in Aotearoa harbour, they travelled overland, past the great lonely mountain with the white top, and finally saw a wide, slow-flowing river, and recognised it as the one Kupe had described which flowed into the setting sun. It was the Patea, and these Maoris settled here and built their pas and cultivated the ground.

Then this main fleet, which, according to the most reliable account, left only after considerable preparation, came to the shores. "Without compass or other exact navigation instruments, with only a kind of dead-reckoning, these old-time sailors made marvellously accurate sailing. Their canoes would make considerable leeway, they had so little hold in the water, but they would, by experience, learn to allow for this. No doubt some vessels over-ran their course; no doubt many

were lost; we only hear of the successful voyagers. But that they could make accurate sailing

A group of Maoris performing a haka, or posture dance, which, with its rolling eyes and lolling tongue, waving hands and stamping feet, is highly expressive.

Courtesy Tourist Dept.



*"Legends of the Maori" (Fine Arts, N.Z. Ltd.)