

their operations to Campbell Island where they have established a station for right whaling'.

Whaling at Campbell Island

Although the Secretary for Marine continued to record his interest in the whaling operations at Whangamumu, apart from the briefest references he failed to display any marked interest in the firm's venture at Campbell Island, despite that island being New Zealand territory—an omission which fortunately has been repaired by Ian S. Kerr in his recent history of Campbell Island.²⁵

Campbell was principally a sealing island, that trade attracting a brief but intensive period of activity immediately after its discovery by Hasselburg in 1810, but, during the 1870s, under the impetus of a bonus offered by the Otago Provincial Council to encourage New Zealand whaling, a few ships from southern ports engaged in an also brief period of whaling at the island. This in effect was bay whaling, the vessels anchoring in Campbell Island harbours and using their boats off shore to capture the whales which were processed on board for their oil and bone.²⁶ One of the vessels taking part was the *Splendid* in which George Cook served as Mate.²⁷

Although whales were reported to be plentiful off the island, the boisterous weather conditions of the Southern Ocean were hardly suited to open boat whaling and the brief interest in whaling developed into a revival of sealing,²⁸ although there were sporadic whaling ventures at the island; by the Hobart barque *Helen* in 1888 and 1889 and by the *Southern Cross* in 1899.²⁹

In the latter year also, the *Helen* endeavoured to establish shore whaling at North West Bay by the remarkable expedient of dragging two whaleboats overland from Perseverance Harbour but although a number of whales were taken, rough weather again prevented the success of the operation.³⁰

A period of more or less permanent occupation of the island began in 1894 when both Campbell and the Auckland Islands were gazetted as sheep runs, the Campbell Island lease being taken up first by James Gordon of Christchurch and later, in 1897, by Captain W. H. Tucker of Gisborne, the headquarters for this pastoral activity being established at Perseverance Harbour.

Bedevelled by isolation and lack of regular shipping, pastoral activity at Campbell Island was only moderately successful. In 1909 Tucker made a proposal to combine sheep farming with whaling at the island, the number of whales appearing off the island convincing Tucker that the men employed could profitably occupy themselves with tending sheep and hunting whales in the winter.³¹