

11,532, and lambs, 250,461. The differences in seasonal conditions between Hawke's Bay and Poverty Bay is shown by the figures of the killings at the Whakatu works (near Napier), which were a record. *

Barnet Burns, an English sailor, is believed to have been the first white settler in the Gisborne district. On his return to Great Britain more than one hundred years ago he published a booklet, which, with two illustrations of himself tattooed from head to foot, and with a fantastic account of his life among the Maoris, could not fail to create the impression that life in those early days was nothing if not perilous. The title page of the booklet read:— "A Brief Narrative of a New Zealand Chief, being the Remarkable History of Barnet Burns, an English Sailor, with a Faithful Account of the Way in which he Became A Chief of one of the Tribes of New Zealand, together with a Few Remarks on the Manners and Customs of the People, and other Interesting Matter. Written by Himself"

The text of the booklet opens with an "Address" as follows: Address. Multitudinous as are the ills "which flesh and blood is heir to," and multifarious as are the miseries of human life, they become, from their frequency, commonplace subjects of remark, and merely excite a transient sympathy in the mind. There are, however, incidents in the pilgrimage of some which force themselves upon our observation with a power which at once arouses our attention—startles our imagination—excites our surprise, and calls forth our admiration; such is the history about to be narrated. Happily, "recording with fidelity," he adopts a lively style to tell of the hardships he endured, "perils unheard of in modern times, sufferings almost beyond human endurance, in a country of professed cannibals." *

It was not until after the inter-tribal wars in the district, the rise and fall of the terrible Hau hau i nu and the bloody massacre by Te Kooti and his fanatical followers of nearly forty settlers, and after the reign of Captain Read, a trader, who ran his own fleet of schooners and who issued his own paper currency in exchange

for gold—it was not until after this, in 1868, that the present site of Gisborne was bought by the Crown from the Maoris for £2,000. In those days, because of the uncertainty of the ownership of the land, many of the houses and huts were built on sleds so that if a new owner should appear friends could pull the dwelling to a new section.

The township, which was named Gisborne in 1870 after the Hon. W. Gisborne, Colonial Secretary in the Fox Ministry, from 1869 to 1872, was surveyed and laid out in 1870, and sections were auctioned. By 1874 great progress had been made; houses, buildings, and hotels were being erected and a public board had been formed. In 1877 the first mayor and council were elected; the borough, as now it was, had a population of between 400 and 500. Less than ten years later it was 2,000. Now it is more than 14,000, including the urban area more than 16,000.

To a visitor to Gisborne the sun appears to rise in the north and to spend the rest of the day travelling slowly to its bed in the south—probably because, although Gisborne is on the coast, there is a spit of land between the town and the ocean. But at least that sun shines. The town is clean, busy for its size; the streets are colourful with Maoris. With its shops, hotels, and business premises, its post-office, library, banks, fire station, theatres, and dance halls it is little different from other farming centres. But it also has a pie-cart. The narrow, rich flat rolls into hills, until all round are hills with their wealth, not of gold or oil or coal, but of pasture land for sheep and cattle. Goats—billies, nannies, and kids—are on those hills to keep back the blackberry. There are few rabbits; a vigorous "killer" policy has seen to that. It's a pity the erosion couldn't be stopped as effectively. On that Gisborne country are horses, too. Because of few main highways, and the difficulty of travelling in a district that even now is not properly opened with roads, horses are used more extensively than in most parts of New Zealand. There are many horses round Gisborne. One of the better class won the Grand National Steeplechase the day we left.