

NOTE re The Rev. H. E. Newton's Journal

Written by A.J. Scott  
[July 1962]

The first <sup>115</sup> ~~100~~ pages are devoted to holiday trips in Europe, mainly in Switzerland & Austria. There is probably quite a lot of interest to people who have done mountaineering there.

Then follows 8 pages of shipboard routine en route to N.Z. At Lyttelton he was met by the Rev H. G. Hawkins, then vicar of Glenmark, whom he had probably known as a fellow clergyman & fisherman when in N.Z. 30 years previously. Glenmark Vicarage was Newton's base whilst in the South Island. The following 40 pages are a record of a 5 months visit to South Westland with a double crossing of the Southern Alps; the return from the Hermitage was over Baker's Saddle of which he had made the only previous crossing in 1902. Later in the season he was a member of a party flown by Captain Mercer into the head of the Arawata; details of this will be of interest in years to come when Mercer's exploits (such as landing on river-beds and cattle-filled paddocks) will have become legendary. From the Arawata the party made the first ascent of Mount Eros. Throughout these months in Westland, Newton was in daily association with Peter and Alec Graham, and this Journal contains much of interest regarding these famous mountaineers. At the Franz Josef hotel, in alpine huts, on glacier expeditions and bush walks, he met most of the active climbers of the day and he records conversations with many of them; a number of the controversies of the day are touched upon and there are some delightful anecdotes. Newton's party met an English mountaineer who was striding along a bush track wearing only a hat & shoes; when he caught sight of Newton he stopped and put on a pair of shorts and only added a shirt when he realized that Newton was followed by some ladies.

In 1935 South Westland was not exactly a paradise for motorists: Newton had brought to N.Z. a car which was then far from new and much of his time was spent in effecting running repairs, with a number of trips to Hokitika when more serious breakdowns occurred. Much of these records will be of value in years to come. Hokitika and Ross are mentioned many times and Newton records visits to old identities whom he had known when Vicar of Ross in 1902-07. He spent much time with Dr Teichelmann (his climbing companion of his youth) and Mr Herman Osmer who had helped with packing of stores on early explorations.

ends

The N.Z. record, with some pages of fishing in the North Island, then a voyage to Vancouver, a photographic holiday in the Rockies, and back by ship to Liverpool.

The rest of the book is devoted to newspaper clippings: articles & photographs relating to the history and mountains of Westland over a period from 1906 to 1938. There are several pages from "The Press" in 1906 about the habits of keas. From Church magazines come long & interesting descriptions of journeys to the Far South undertaken by the Revs. J.R. (later Archdeacon) Young and A.K. (later Bishop) Warren.

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THE  
JOURNAL 1930 - 1935  
OF  
H.E. NEWTON

with press clippings mounted by him, extracts in his hand, and notes by him on passes in the Southern Alps and a chronology of trips in Europe 1871 - 1902 etc. etc.

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