

3.

Mr. Potts bought 50 acres (R.S. 1129) and R.S. 1130 (30 acres) in 1858 and built a stone house, leaving a wooden part of the original house at each end. He was a great naturalist, and was the author of the book "Out in the Open", a series of Essays dealing with many topics of interest in New Zealand flora and fauna. On p.226 he says "Living close to the beach in a sheltered nook in Port Cooper, few woodland birds now frequent the slopes of our picturesque Hills, like many other districts, once clothed with stately trees and bright-leaved shrubs. Shade and shelter gone, bare stems with whitened tops remain, and point to the work of the ruthless bushman." It is said that Mr. Potts employed six gardeners, and sent for seeds and plants all over the world, also that he had as many as 4,000 different kinds of trees. He made a fernery in a gully near his house, containing ferns, many of them rare, from all parts of the world. An unprecedented flood caused by a cloudburst washed the whole fernery out to sea.

Mr. Potts named his place Ohinitaki. Some of the stone was brought from Little Quail Island, some from a quarry on his own land. He lived at the Bay until about 1885, and was always to the fore in doing all he could for Governor's Bay.