

short, but were rescued by the Maoris who provided them with enough food to take them to the Buller.

It would be a long story to tell you of the journeys from Nelson made by Mr. (later Sir) William Fox; by Mr. Heaphy; and by Mr. James Mackay, who went to negotiate for the purchase of lands from the Maoris.

He was followed almost immediately by Dr. (later Sir Julius) von Haast, who was accompanied by Mr. Burnett, a mining surveyor. They went as far as the Grey and reported on the country from a geological and mining point of view. These gentlemen, however, never got much below the Grey and really never entered the West Coast part of Canterbury.

In 1862 or 1863 the Provincial Government of Canterbury decided to establish a relief store at the Grey. Gold had been found all through the Buller and Upper Grey and the diggers were beginning to work down the Grey Valley.

A little before this time, Whitcombe, an engineer, had crossed the ranges and reached Hokitika. He and a man named Louper were drowned in attempting to cross the Taremakau - an attempt they should not have made.

The Government sent a vessel, named, I think, the "Ocean Wave" to establish a relief store, and a party in charge of Mr. Charlton Hewitt, a son of the celebrated authors - William and