

Mary Howitt - was sent to blaze a line along the old Maori route. The Maoris did not make a track because that would have allowed their enemies to follow them - they always hid the evidences of their movements as much as possible and made their journeys through the bush, along the bed of the Teremakau to the coast, that being the easiest route, they could find.

At the beginning of 1863, the Government decided that they must know something about the West Coast and advertised for surveyors to survey it from the Grey to the southern boundary. This area was divided into two - one 75 miles long from the Grey to Abut Head; and the second from Abut Head to the southern boundary.

I was then just over twenty-one years of age and thought that it was time I did something, and I tendered for the first section and got it. The man who got the other section laughed at a boy taking on such a job. He was a middle-aged man of considerable experience. The Government evidently did not think that I was too young to undertake the job.

My first concern was to get an outfit together, a matter that took about six weeks to accomplish. I went to Nelson and chartered a little schooner as none of the owners of boats would undertake to convey me and my party down the coast for a fixed sum.

If I had known then as much as I do now, I would have bought the vessel and put her ashore about the middle of my