



"Rapanui" (Shag Rock)



Sumner on the Sands, 1896.

of the petitioners be granted." The alterations in the Borough boundary were gazetted on the 30th March, 1921, and Mount Pleasant became part of Heathcote County on the first day of April of the same year.

CAVES OF SUMNER

MOA-BONE CAVE

Many inquiries have been made during recent years regarding the Caves of Sumner. Te Ana (the Cave) or Moa-Bone Cave, as it is universally known, is perhaps the one which excites the most interest. Explaining the formation of this cave the late Dr. Julius Von Haast wrote as follows:—

"There is no doubt that the Moa-Bone-Point Cave was a pre-existing hollow in the doleritic lava stream, which has been enlarged by the enormous power of the dashing waves of the ocean beating here at one time furiously against the northern foot of the Peninsula."

The appearance of the cave from the days when Dr. Von Haast examined it has materially changed, due of course to road and footpath construction. Reporting on what was found in the cave during the period beginning on the 23rd September and ending on the 9th November, 1872, he said:—

"The entrance to the cave, which is about forty feet from the crown of the Sumner Road, which has here an altitude of 18.59 feet above high-water mark is situated nearly five feet lower or 13.65 feet above high-water. An opening, which is about 30 feet broad by eight feet high is much narrowed by a huge rock, leads into the cave, the floor of which I found sloping down slightly. The cave itself consists of three compartments, of which the first one possesses by far the greatest dimensions, running nearly due north and south, and being 102 feet in length, 72 feet in width towards the middle and about 24 feet high."

From its termination, by a small passage a second cave is reached, which is 18 feet long, 14 feet wide and about 11 feet high; its direction being north by west to south by east; at its southern end a small passage three feet high by about two feet six inches broad, leads into a third or inner chamber, which is 22 feet in length, with an average width of 16 feet and about 20 feet in height, running again like the principal cave due north and south, its floor being about eight feet above high-water mark.

The cave was on the property of Alfred Claypon Watson. Mr Watson readily gave permission for Dr. Haast to conduct his examination. A Mr Edward Jollie suggested the examination of the cave and headed a subscription list for the purpose of meeting the expense. The cost of the work amounted to £32/10/4, of which Dr. Haast paid £6/0/4 (evidently the deficiency), the Canterbury Museum authorities and the Philosophical Institute finding £8 and £5 respectively. In his paper, which covers 30 pages of the Transactions of the N.Z. Institute, Volume VII, and which "was read before the Philosophical