

# Plants for Pukeiti from Britain

## OFFICIAL OPENING OF RESERVE ON SATURDAY

THE unique reserve being established in the Kaitake Ranges, 16 miles from New Plymouth, by the Pukeiti Rhododendron Trust, will be officially opened on Saturday by the Minister of Lands, Mr. Corbett. Trust members from all over New Zealand will be present, but the man who started the ambitious scheme, Mr. W. D. Cook, of Gisborne, will not see the reserve opened—he is, in England busy working for the future of the reserve by enlisting new members and buying plants.

As the result of Mr. Cook's visit to Britain some 30 new members have joined the Pukeiti Rhododendron Trust, states a New Zealand Press Association cable message received from London today.

The message says that Mr. Cook will be planting in his 100-acre park at Eastwood Hill, Gisborne, six varieties of magnolias, 800 varieties of trees and shrubs and between 200 and 300 rhododendrons, all of which will be new to the Dominion. The rhododendrons will arrive next year.

All will be planted at Eastwood Hill and in due time Pukeiti will receive from Mr. Cook and also from Britain about 1000 of these trees and shrubs.

New members of the trust, who pay two guineas subscription annually, which entitles them to at least two bulletins each year reporting on the work done at Pukeiti, include in addition to Lady Elphinstone and Duchess of Montrose, Lords Bledisloe, Strathcona, Glasgow and Digby, Mr. Edmund de Rothschild, of Exbury, Lady Vivienne Younger, Sir George Campbell, Sir Bruce Campbell and Colonel F. C. Sterne.

### BEST GARDENS

Since his arrival in Britain last March Mr. Cook has seen some 120 of the best gardens in the country. He has been to Cornwall and to Scotland and everywhere has met with enthusiasm for the Pukeiti Trust. During a visit to the Villa Taranto, on Lake Maggiore, he saw one of the biggest collections of trees and shrubs in Europe.

"I am delighted to find that Pukeiti has been well publicised by articles in British magazines," said Mr. Cook, "and that not only is the Royal Horticultural Society interested in it as well, but it is also going to help with publicity.

"In time we should have experience in information about the growing of rhododendrons and other shrubs in New Zealand which should be of value to gardeners all over the world," he added.

Mr. Cook is returning to New Zealand in the Oronsay which is sailing on October 13. He expects to reach Gisborne on November 26.

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### PROGRESS IN THREE YEARS

The trust was started three years ago after Mr. Cook bought 153 acres of land in the ranges and then offered it to any group who could make a financial success of starting a trust. This was done by calling for five members who would agree to pay £50 a year subscription for a minimum of five years. These and many other keen members were soon found.

Shortly after this an anonymous donor added another 163 adjoining acres to the reserve. In three years the membership has grown to 450, mainly in New Zealand, but with members in many parts of the world.

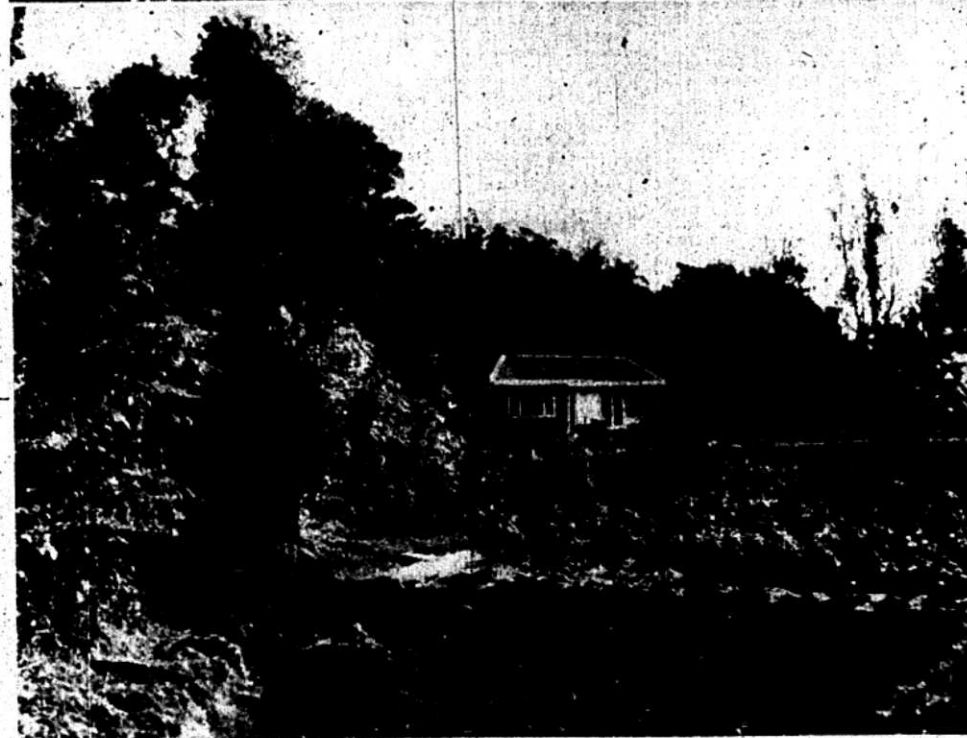
Voluntary labour has put in a road to the lodge, which is nearly finished. Much voluntary work went into reforming tracks through the reserve. The handsome lodge, worth an estimated £8000, was built for a much lower figure because of the help given by many people. Even the timber was donated.

Many rhododendrons and other plants were donated and these were planted out around New Plymouth, until formation work in the reserve was well under way. Just recently the lodge was completed enough for a caretaker to be employed and the planting out in the reserve started a few weeks ago.

Now there are about 800 plants in a nursery in front of the new lodge. As they become acclimatised they will be planted out to form a series of belts joined by attractive walks through native bush.

The trust had planned to discuss the buying of further plants at its next annual meeting. Eventually it was hoped to have many from other countries. The news that about 1000 plants will be coming from Mr. Cook was received with complete surprise by members in New Plymouth today.

They were delighted, but hastened to add that Mr. Cook had started off the reserve and apparently was going to back it up.



SCENES AT THE PUKEITI RHODODENDRON TRUST'S PROPERTY on Upper Carrington Road. ABOVE: The lodge which is to be officially opened by the Minister of Lands, Mr. Corbett, next Saturday. BELOW: The lodge in its setting of native bush. On the right is part of the trust's nursery.

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