

CORRESPONDENCE.

Waipoua Kauri Forest.

The Editor,

New Zealand Journal of Forestry.

Sir,

Your editorial on Waipoua Kauri Forest included a statement: "Moreover, an ideal sanctuary, typical of the kauri formation, now exists in Little Barrier Island, already a bird sanctuary ideally protected by physiographic features from the general public and from fire."

This statement in its context appears misleading on several points. Granted the Island forms an excellent sanctuary "ideally protected by physiographic features from the general public . . ."; these very physiographic features, indeed, make the virgin kauri formations on Little Barrier so inaccessible that virtually no one has visited them—at least since the Island was proclaimed a sanctuary in 1894. They are inaccessible alike to the general public or to visiting botanists for study. Visitors to the Island see the more or less modified formations on the S.W. side of the Island; of the virgin stands on the N.W. and N. and E. slopes the most they see are glimpses of the canopy from the summit of the Island.

Secondly, I would not agree that the kauri association on Little Barrier is "typical" if this, from its context, means similar to kauri formation in Waipoua, or typical of the kauri which once covered large areas in North Auckland. A number of southern species such as *Nothopanax colensoi*, *Pseudopanax discolor* and *Nothofagus truncata* occur in the association, while a number of the species listed by Cockayne as typical of the kauri association are absent, e.g., taraire, *Cyathea dealbata*, *Dicksonia lanata*, and a number of other characteristic species do not occur.

Little Barrier fortunately remains as a sample of the once extensive kauri formations of the Great Barrier Island and the Coromandel Peninsula. It is not, however, typical of the North Auckland kauri formation and it is hopelessly inaccessible.

Yours faithfully,

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The relative inaccessibility of Little Barrier Island to which Mr. Hamilton takes exception is an advantage from the viewpoint of its utility as a botanic sanctuary. This tends to restrict the interplay of biological factors to those peculiar to the natural forest. While admittedly visits to such sanctuaries as Little Barrier must be restricted by the controlling authority, the latter would doubtless approve entry for the purpose of botanical study and observation.