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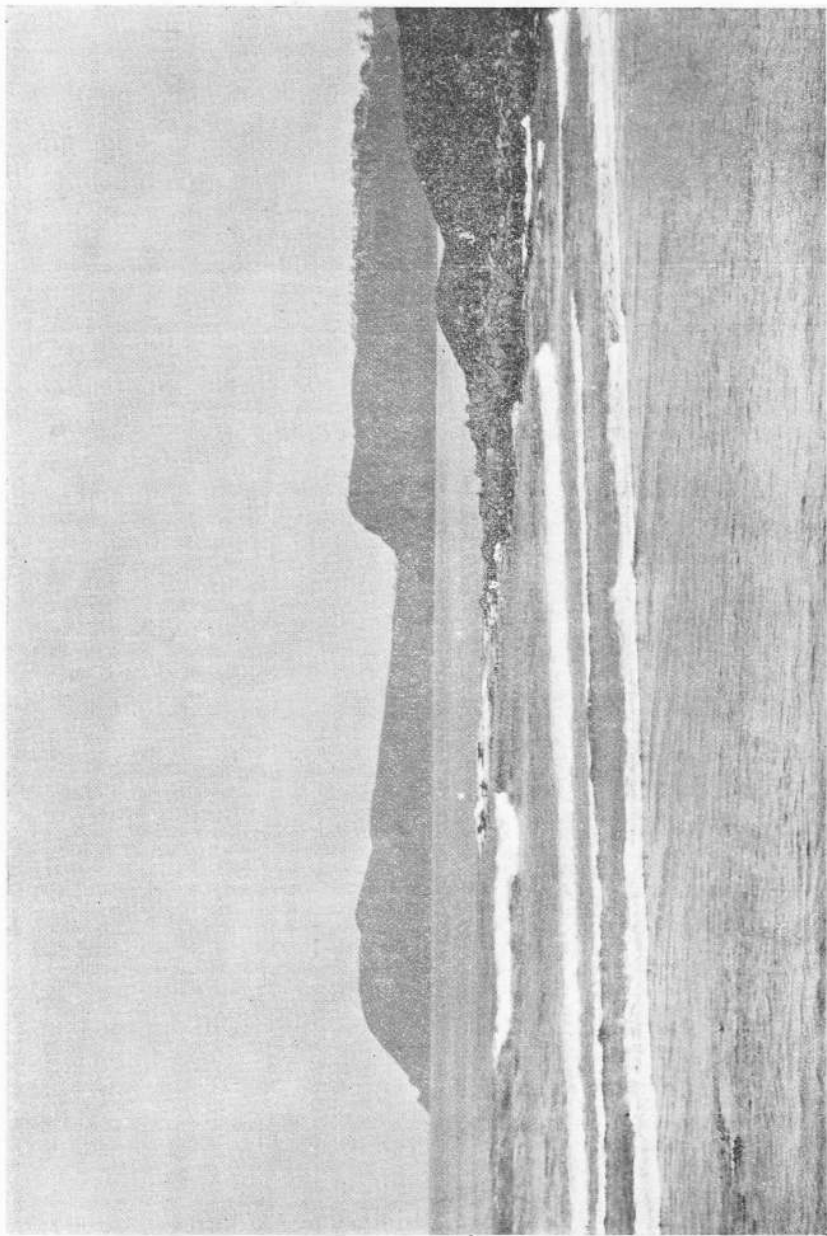
No. 2.

Camp Out of the Field Naturalists' Club on Bruni Island, Easter, 1907.

By the HON. SECRETARY.

It was arranged to hold the third Easter camp-out of the club at the south of Bruni Island, landing on the channel side at the head of Great Taylor's Bay, from where Cloudy Bay Lagoon is easily reached, and of the locality thereabouts good reports were heard. This year the party numbered 25. They met at the steamer *Waldemar* on Thursday evening, March 28, and started on the trip at 7 o'clock, expecting to land at the camping ground some time before midnight. A good trip down channel was made, though when the Huon River was reached it was seen that the ship did not head for our destination, but was going straight up this river. Upon interviewing the captain it was learnt that in his opinion the wind was too strong to make a safe landing at Taylor's Bay, and as arguments were in vain, we had to suffer a trip up to Franklin, which was reached about half an hour past midnight. A number of the party made an unsuccessful attempt to obtain lodging in one of the hotels. Some went for walks in the moonlight, along the roads, passing many fine apple orchards; these, of course, making the district a famous centre of apple-growing. There was little sleep for most. A start down stream was made the following morning, and many cases of apples were taken on board ere the river was left behind and the ship headed for Bruni. Disappointment was again our lot, for this time we were landed in Daniel's Bay, which is one of the chief settlements on South Bruni, and some seven miles from the locality we desired to reach. The steamer landed us at

5 p.m., and as a fairly good camping ground was found near by, most of the party at once carried their impedimenta there, and set about erecting the tents; returning it was found that the shed at the end of the jetty had been commandeered as a dining hut, and as the evening meal was ready, this was soon made but a happy memory. There were eight tents for the 25 campers, so that no tent was too full, and the first night was one of rest to all. At daybreak on Saturday morning many birds made their presence known. They were chiefly of the honey-eaters, and contained in their number the wattle-birds (*Acanthochaera induris*), whose voices, having benefited by their night's rest, made too frequently their unpleasant, croaking call, certain it is that they were there more noisy in early morning. After breakfast some of the party went fishing; others left for South Bruni lighthouse, ten miles or more distant. The country of the district was seen to be hilly and covered with fairly large eucalypts, with thick undergrowth in places, making progress very slow when roads or tracks were left. That is to say, that part resembled greatly the most of Southern Tasmanian country. After walking four miles the large swamp at the rear of Cloudy Bay Lagoon was seen, and soon afterwards the lagoon itself, one or two miles broad, came in view. There is a neck of land 500 yards wide from here to the channel side of the island at Great Taylor's Bay—where we had expected to land and form the camp. A narrow channel con-



WEST HEAD OF BRUNI ISLAND, FROM CLOUDY BAY.

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nects the lagoon with the ocean, and by setting nets across this many fish may be caught, whereas in Daniel's Bay, where the camp was, fish were very few. At the lighthouse the party was hospitably received by Superintendent Hawkins, who is in charge there, and who showed the members over the buildings, which were kept in praiseworthy condition. In conversation, Mr. Hawkins stated that the weather would easily have allowed the boat to land our party in Great Taylor's Bay on the Thursday night, when taken direct to Franklin. Other trips were made to Adventure Bay, Mount Bruni, and elsewhere, which were enjoyable, but there was little scope for natural history research. Between Cloudy Bay and the lagoon a long arm stretches, having a fine beach on the ocean side, where shells are to be found after a storm, but few shells were seen during our visit. Many gulls, terns, and cormorants were flying about the lagoon, and as the water is very shallow over most of its area, it must be an easy matter for them to catch the fish. Out in the middle were some black swans, and ducks of different kinds were also observed. A large flock of white-fronted terns was there too, and sooty and white-breasted oyster-catchers occasionally flew in from the sea. On the hills the chief birds seen were black cockatoos, green parakeets, and wattled birds. Two summer birds and a few

swallows were seen, showing that these had not then left the north. Near Daniel's Bay the numbers of small birds were remarkable; three of the robins—scarlet and flame-breasted and dusky—were continually in sight. The spine-bill, crescent, New Holland, yellow-throated, and black-headed honey-eaters were common, and showed by their numbers that the pea rife was practically unknown there. Quail and ground birds (*Cinclosoma punctatum*) were also seen. Whilst fishing in Little Taylor's Bay our attention was attracted by the hawk-like cackling cries of a Caspian tern, which was trying to take a fish from a smaller species, the latter probably being the white-fronted tern. At different times one or two sea eagles were observed, sometimes soaring, at others flying heavily in the still air. Probably there are several nests of these birds on Bruni, but local residents at Daniel's Bay were unable to tell us where they were situated. No wedge-tailed eagles were seen. Fish were remarkably few; only small catches of flathead and rock-cod were taken with hand lines, and the nets brought up usually nothing at all—sometimes a few mullet. The other kinds taken were flounder, pike, saw-fish, sting-ray, and a small kind of leather-jacket. On Tuesday, April 2, at midday, the members were grouped on the beach and photographed, and at 2 p.m. the steamer called and took the party back to town.