

L. E. Wall.



Tasmanian Field Naturalists' Club

EASTER
CAMP-OUT

1915

To Maria Island, East Coast

— TASMANIA —

GENERAL REPORT

By Clive E. Lord, Hon. Secretary

ENTOMOLOGICAL NOTES

By G. H. Hardy, Assistant Curator, Hobart Museum

DREDGING OPERATIONS

By Professor Thomson Flynn, B.Sc.

Reprinted from "The Tasmanian Mail."

PRINTED AT "THE MERCURY" OFFICE, MACQUARIE STREET, HOBART.



LIST OF CAMP MEMBERS

Mr. G. Abbott
Mr. T. P. Arnold
Miss O. Barnard
Mr. C. E. Cole
Miss Cruickshank
Mr. E. Cruickshank
Miss D. Dean
Mr. L. Dechaineux
Mr. Dick
Miss S. Dunbabin
Professor Flynn
Mr. D. Guilbert
Mr. G. H. Hardy
Mr. E. Heritage
Mr. Hickman
Miss Hookey
Mr. E. Kirby
Mr. C. E. Lord
Mrs. C. E. Lord

Miss Lewis
Miss Miller
Mr. L. Rodway
Miss A. Rowntree
Miss F. Rowntree
Miss K. Packer
Mr. H. T. Sargison
Miss M. Simmons
Mr. R. Stops
Miss Tenniswood
Miss G. Wise
Miss M. Wise

Assistants.

W. H. Woodward (Assistant-in-Charge).
G. Keenan
E. Plane
V. Molross
W. Woodward, Jun.



A Ladies' Camp.



Lunch Time.



The Cliffs near Darlington.



On the Rocks.



Creek Scene near the Old Waterworks.



Mr. Dechaineux on the Trolley.

Tasmanian Field Naturalists' Club

EASTER CAMP-OUT, 1915

(By CLIVE E. LORD, Hon. Secretary)

The Tasmanian Field Naturalists' Club held its eleventh annual Easter Camp during the Easter holidays, the site this year being Maria Island, off the East Coast of Tasmania. It has been visited on several previous occasions, but owing to the numerous places of scenic and historic interest that abound there, the charm of the locality by no means fades, but rather grows with more familiar acquaintance.

The party this year consisted of 36 members, which is a small one when compared with the full hundred taken last year, but owing to the effects of the war and other causes the committee did not feel justified in running a large camp. The outing may be counted, from a social standpoint, as being the most successful ever run by the club, while the students of natural history, especially those interested in dredging the ocean's depth, had a successful time. The weather, of course, exercised a great influence on the trip, and it is generally agreed by all that last Easter was the most perfect we have had for years; in fact, during the whole of our stay each day was a perfectly calm autumn one, with never a suspicion of those cold westerly squalls we felt so keenly last year at Wineglass Bay, and our regrets were that our Sydney friends were not with us this season in order that amends might be made for the last trip when the weather prevented such a lot from being done.

The site of the camp was near the settlement of Darlington, which is placed on a pretty spot at the north-west corner of the island, where a creek meanders down from the hills, and breaks through to the sea through a crescent-shaped beach of shining white sand, at the far end of which the jetty juts into the sea, while at the southern extremity stands out the knoll on which

Mr. Bernacchi erected his famous pigeon loft, portion of which is still standing. The view from the summit of the loft is interesting, as it opens out the settlement as a map before the observer, and from whence he can pick out the convict buildings, or what remain of them, as some have been pulled down, while others, although erected in the twenties, still stand, as do a good many of Bernacchi's structures, which were raised in the eighties.

The history of Maria Island is interesting, and contains two eras of importance—the convict settlement, and later the boom and burst period of the Bernacchi company. The first European to record the island was Tasman, who noted it in his voyage of 1642, but we do not hear of it again until Cox visited it in 1789. Then the French expedition under Captain Baudin called at the island in 1802, and landed in order to bury their surgeon, M. Monge, whose remains are supposed to lie near the shores of Chinaman's Bay. The first settlement took place about 1825, when the island was chosen as a convict station, and many of the structures then erected may be seen standing to-day, the old barn and the store standing out prominently when approaching the island from the west. The Bernacchi era constitutes to date the most flourishing period the island has experienced. This was towards the end of the eighties. This period was the outcome of the efforts of a company formed to develop the natural resources of the island, and a great deal of work was done in the way of erecting buildings, including large cement works and kilns, a hotel of 30 rooms, the plantation of vineyards, and numerous smaller structures, all of which are to-day in a more or less state of decay. However, if the cement manufacturing portion of the company's proposals were once more set to work

it is probable that they could be made to pay well, as there is not the slightest doubt that the crude material for the manufacture of cement exists there, both in quantity and quality. However, before we attempt to anticipate any future periods of prosperity for this settlement it may be as well for the purposes of this report to record our doings for the few delightful days that we were enabled to spend on this picturesque isle.

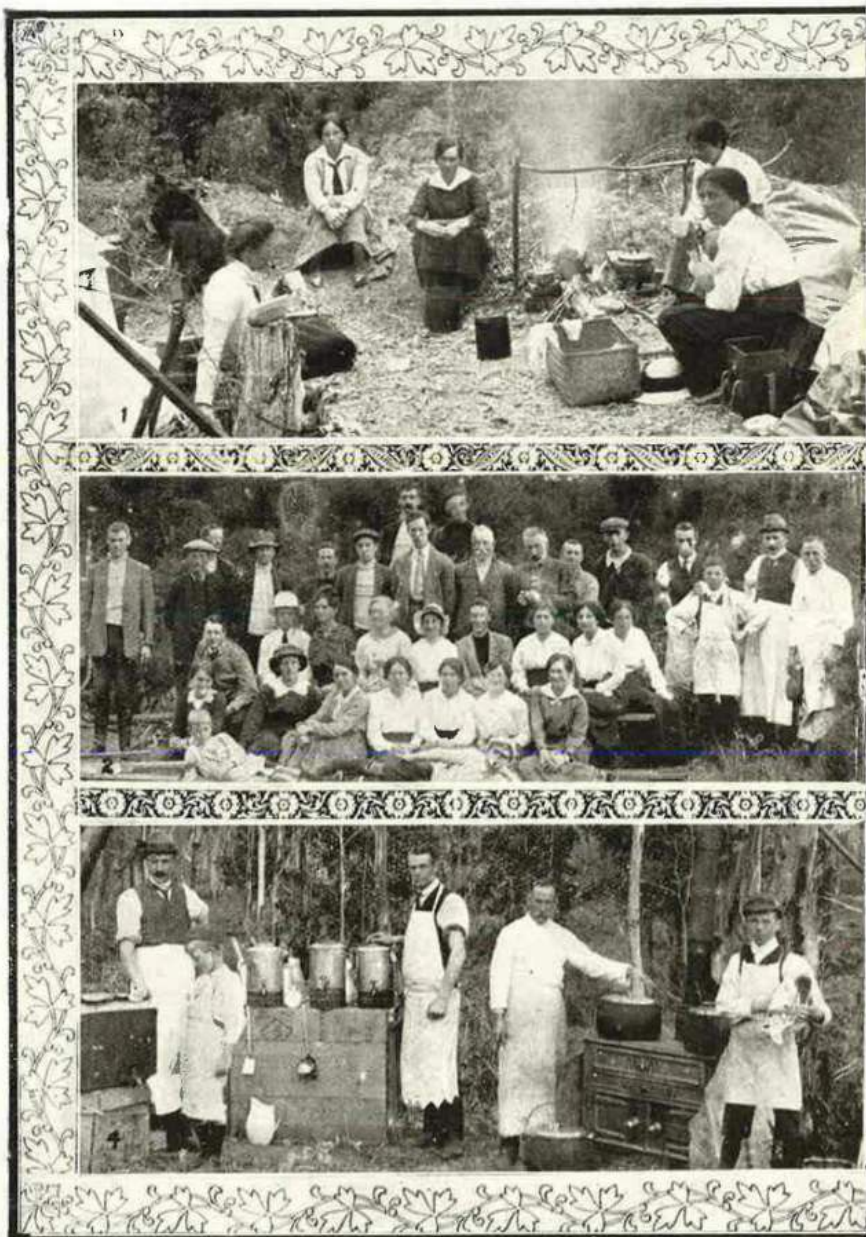
A start was made from Hobart at 8 a.m. on Good Friday morning, and the East Bay Neck Canal was passed through soon after midday. Lunch was served during the run through Blackman's Bay, and soon afterwards the boat passed through the Narrows, and a direct course was shaped for Maria Island, which could be plainly seen across the intervening stretch of the South Pacific Ocean. After calling in at Chinaman's Bay, and landing several members of the party, who preferred to walk to Darlington, we ran to Rheban, and then to Darlington jetty, which was reached about 4 p.m. The landing of the camp impedimenta was immediately proceeded with, and willing workers soon loaded up the several waggons and drays that had been commandeered for our use in order that our many and varied articles and packages might be transported to the selected site, which was about half a mile or more from the beach, and in close proximity to the famous cement works of the Bernacchi era of the island's history. As soon as the waggons had brought up the first loads the ring of axes and other tools could be heard, all being actively employed in order that our embryo township might be securely erected before darkness closed in. The site was an ideal one, as, although some distance from the sea shore, a mountain stream ran along the line of tents, ensuring a plentiful supply of water, as well as forming a splendid adjunct from a scenic standpoint. The tents were placed in a sheltered belt of trees that formed an excellent breakwind, as well as allowing the several sections of the camp to be placed in close proximity, and yet without encroaching on one another. As soon as the tents had been erected and our future homes put in order the very welcome sound of the dinner gong echoed through the trees, and ample justice was done to the first camp meal, which was served under

romantic conditions among the gum trees, with the ruins of the cement works looming out above the trees, while over the hills behind rose in its full glory the Easter moon. After dinner a large fire was built, and an enjoyable musical evening spent.

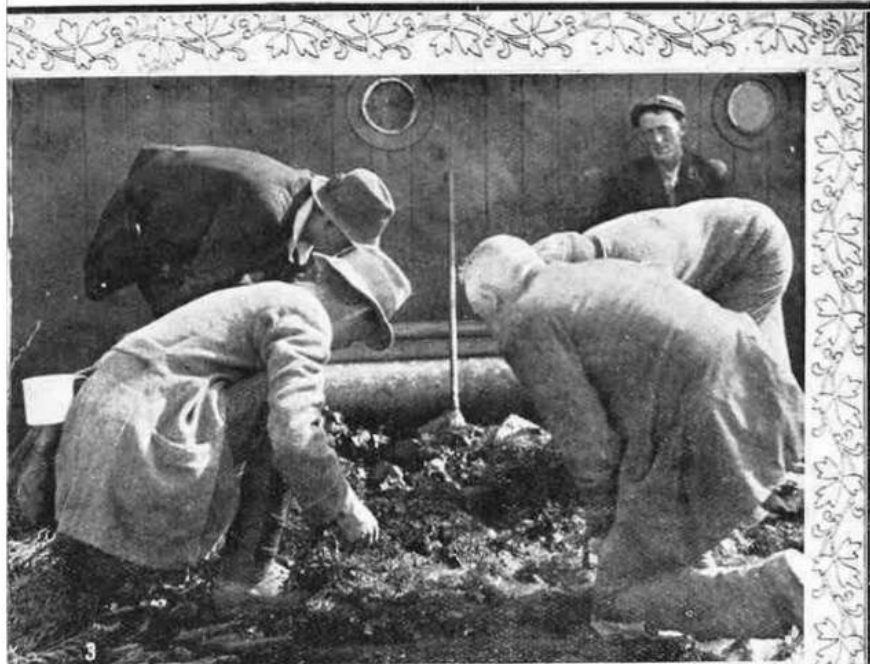
On Saturday several excursions were made. The largest party spent the morning in an inspection of the settlement and fossil cliffs, and in the afternoon set out to climb the Bishop and Clerk, a mountain overlooking the sea at the southern end of the cliffs. The climb proved much harder than had been anticipated, and the ladies of the party found the going rather difficult towards the summit, which was reached at 4 p.m. The ascent was well worth the trouble, for the vista unfolded was superb. Away to the north the Schoutens stood out boldly, the summits of Mt. Freycinet and the Hazards being plainly discernible, while further west, on the mainland, ranges could be discerned rolling back hill upon hill from the shores, lapped by the sea, away into the dim distance, where the horizon was formed of mountain and cloud entwined. To the south-west Mount Wellington's homely shape was easily noticed, as well as other hills to the southward, while as the eye roved round, the settlement of Darlington appeared through a break in the belt of Oyster Bay pines seemingly almost at our feet. After enjoying this panorama for some time, and allowing the photographers of the party to make records of our visit to the summit, the return journey was commenced. This proved rather a tiring trip for some of the party, and camp was not reached until darkness was falling.

On the following day a number of members enjoyed a twenty mile tramp to Chinaman and Reidle Bays, while others spent the time in fishing or in making excursions to places of interest in proximity to the camp.

On Monday the chief event of the day was the dredging trip, and those members interested in this branch of science spent a very profitable day in the s.s. Warrentinna, which was skillfully handled by Captain Kerr, enabling the dredge and trawl to be worked to the best advantage. The evening camp-fire socials were a distinct feature of the camp, and their success was due partly to the ideal weather conditions and to those members who contributed musical



(1) While the billy boils, (2) A group of members. (3) Spo



from the deep. (4) The cooking staff. (5) An al fresco meal.

items. Mention might well be made of Messrs. Guilbert's and Pitfield's zono-phones, as well as Mr. Hector McRae's items with the aid of the bag-pipes. The camp fires were much larger than usual, as all hands used to assemble before dinner each evening and build the fire, the logs in many cases being about ten feet long and two or three feet in diameter.

During the trip a fair amount of fishing was done, flathead being taken in large numbers, while rock cod, perch, and other varieties served to vary the haul. One fishing party, consisting entirely of ladies, had a lively quarter of an hour owing to hooking, but failing to land a shark whose dimensions could not be accurately determined owing to conflicting evidence.

On Tuesday morning the camp was broken up, and our baggage carted to the jetty to await the arrival of the steamer, which finally had all aboard, and started for home at 3.30 p.m. Owing to darkness falling and a very low tide at the Canal, it was rather doubtful for a time whether we should get through or not, but owing to good seamanship on the part of the skipper we were brought safely through. During the voyage to town the zonophone was again requisitioned, and the camp-fire songs and choruses sung. The smooth sea and musical items caused the time to pass fairly quickly, and we were landed at the Hobart wharf at 11 p.m., thus bringing to an end one of the most enjoyable outings ever held by the Field Naturalists' Club.

ENTOMOLOGICAL NOTES

(By G. H. HARDY, Assistant Curator, Hobart Museum)

Considering the beautiful weather conditions just before and during the camp, the entomology of Maria Island was very poor, even for Easter.

Aptera.—A few stray specimens of this order were noted, but not taken.

Orthoptera.—Very scarce, none taken; all the specimens noted were of the commonest kinds.

Neuroptera.—One specimen of Heme-robina was taken and one Dragon-fly seen; no more specimens were seen, although a special search was made for this order.

Hymenoptera were very scantily represented. One Protoctrypidæ; eight Braconidæ (3 new to my collection); one Ichneumon; one female Thynnidæ; one Sphegidæ (Subfam. Larrides); and three Apidæ, or bees. Various common ants were noted, but not taken.

Lepidoptera.—Butterflies were moderately plentiful, especially our two commonest browns, but nearly all were very battered and worn. Moths were more plentiful, but only two specimens of Hepialidæ were taken. One of these, *Trietena (Pielus) labyrinthica*, is a very magnificent specimen, with a 6½ in. expanse of wing.

Diptera.—Flies were moderately represented, but only two specimens were taken, one a Syrphid, genus *Trygriphus*, and the other a species of Muscidæ *Acalyprata* quite new to me; four specimens were taken on the sand dunes around Darlington Bay; the wings were milky white, with a large black blotch covering the apical half of the wing, more or less reaching the tip.

Hemiptera were represented by a few odd specimens of Reduviidæ and Capsidæ. None were collected.

DREDGING OPERATIONS

By PROFESSOR THOMSON FLYNN, B.Sc.

On this occasion, as on all others, one of the principal objects of the annual Easter camp of the Field Naturalists' Club was the collection of zoological specimens, with the object of lending aid to the elucidation of any problems connected with the lower fauna of the State. In the accomplishment of this object the use of the dredge and the trawl plays an important part, and to a great extent this is the most fascinating portion of the work, but land and shore collecting, as well as surface netting, are to be counted as important factors towards attaining the desired object.

The Easter of this year was not the first occasion on which the members of the club had visited Maria Island. On the last occasion (1912) successful dredging was accomplished in 100 fathoms off the coast of the island.

Other expeditions have dredged near Maria Island at various times. Some few years ago the *Aurora* (of the Australian Antarctic Expedition) made successful hauls in 65 and 1,300 fathoms in the open sea, a few miles off Reidle Bay. The Commonwealth trawler *Endeavour* also explored the waters between Maria Island and the mainland, and last year the members of the British Association for the Advancement of Science took part in a scientific excursion to Maria Island, and important collections of sponges and other invertebrates were on that occasion made by Prof. Dendy and Dr. Tattersall, collections which, it is hoped, will help materially in bringing the lower marine fauna of Tasmania under the notice of British scientists.

The East Coast of Tasmania has, owing mainly to the efforts of the Field Naturalists' Club, been scientifically well explored, and the following list shows the localities of the various camps and the depths in which dredging has been carried on:—

1909.—Wineglass Bay, 5-35 fathoms.

1910.—Cole's Bay, 10-15 fathoms, 100 fathoms.

1912.—Maria Island, 10-20 fathoms, 100 fathoms.

1913.—Safety Cove, 5-20 fathoms, 60 fathoms.

1914.—Wineglass Bay, 5-20 fathoms, 65 fathoms.

1915.—Maria Island, 5-20 fathoms.

Such a list is one of which any club might be proud, and, in conjunction with the other work carried out, should in a short time make it possible for a comprehensive survey of the Tasmanian marine fauna to be carried out.

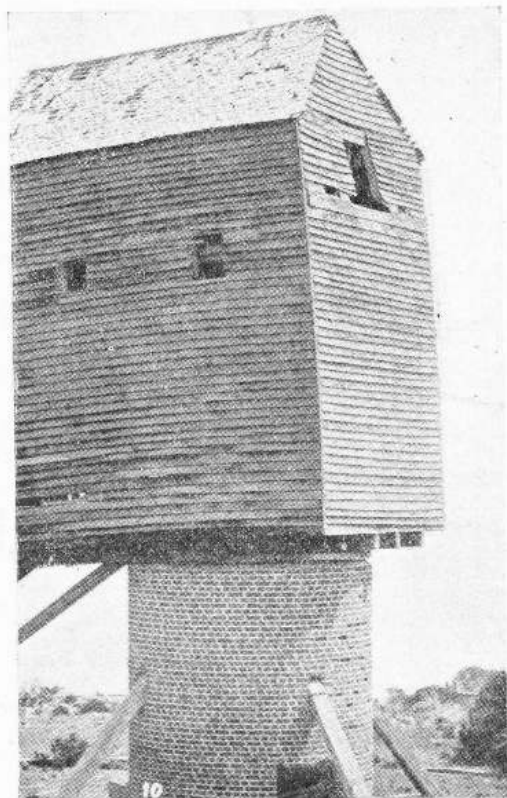
As regards the Easter trip of 1915, dredging was carried out under ideal weather conditions. The apparatus consisted of a small dredge (intended only for a stand-by, and not used on the trip), and a 10ft. trawl specially purchased by the trustees of the Tasmanian Museum. The use of such a trawl in a boat like the *Warrentinna* is not unattended with difficulty, and Captain Kerr is to be congratulated on his excellent handling of the boat and his good humour through all the necessary dislocation of the ship's routine which follows use of dredging material.

The area covered by dredging was an extensive one, between Maria Island and the mainland, in depths varying from five to twenty fathoms. The sea bottom here is covered by a carpet of the most gorgeously hued sponges, amongst which grow masses of seaweed. It is, perhaps, not advisable to go into details of the "catches," but it may be mentioned that they included almost every form of marine life, polychaeta, hydrozoa, worms, starfishes, and other echinoderms, crustacea, mollusca, etc., besides fish of various kinds, including torpedo (electric) rays, sole, flathead, "pipe" fish, and others.

During dredging operations the surface net was handled to great advantage by Mr. Dechaineux, and the result showed that the sea here abounds in the small crustacea (Copepoda), pointed out by Professor Herdman and others as being of so much importance



Afternoon Tea.



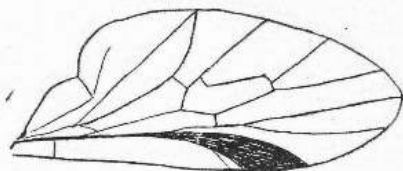
The Old Windmill, a relic of the early Settlement.

in their relation to fish food. Besides these, there were numbers of medusæ, and larvæ of various crustacea and echinoderms.

Some larger animals were got in the surface net by working from the pier; true jellyfishes and peculiar jellyfish-like creatures, called "etenophores, which possess a globular body beset with eight meridional bands, each band bearing vibratile comb-like structures, the movements of which give it a beautiful iridescent appearance. Round the pier could be seen the larvæ of the common crayfish in such quantities as

to form clouds in the water which totally obscured the bottom.

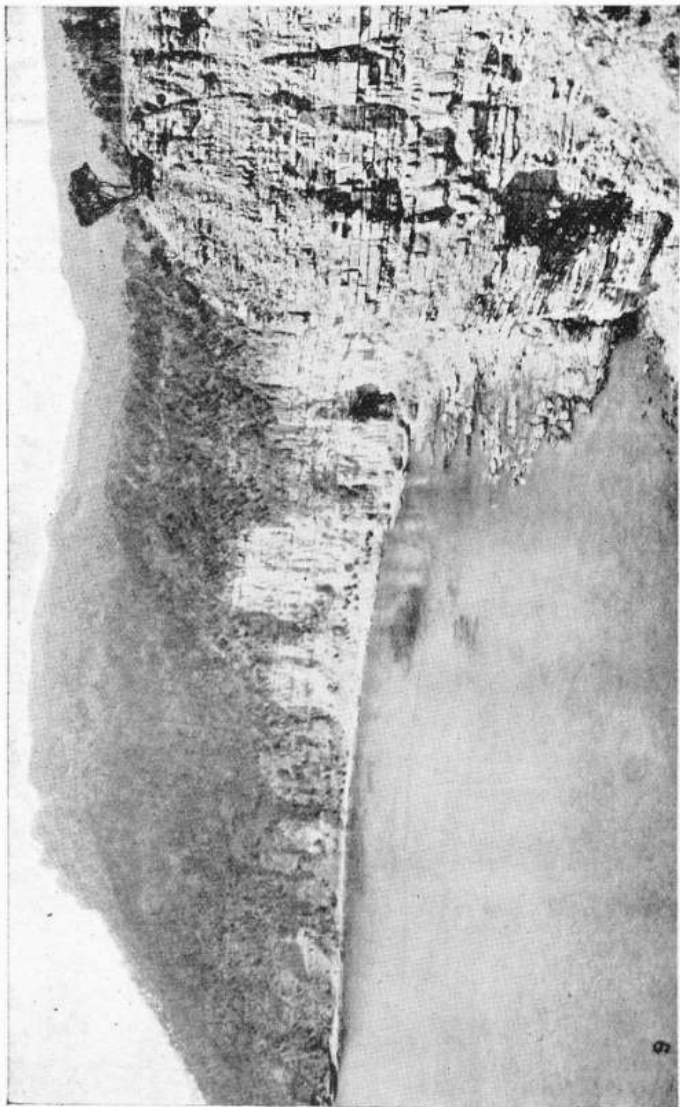
Little shore collecting was done, it having been exhausted on previous trips; but it would be well, perhaps, to mention that two students of the University of Tasmania, Messrs. V. Hickman, B.Sc., and Brettingham Moore, who lately visited Reidle Bay, have brought back some important collections, including a number of shore-living Pyenogonida ("sea spiders") the first to be recorded from Tasmania. Several have previously been found in waters ranging from 10 to 65 fathoms.



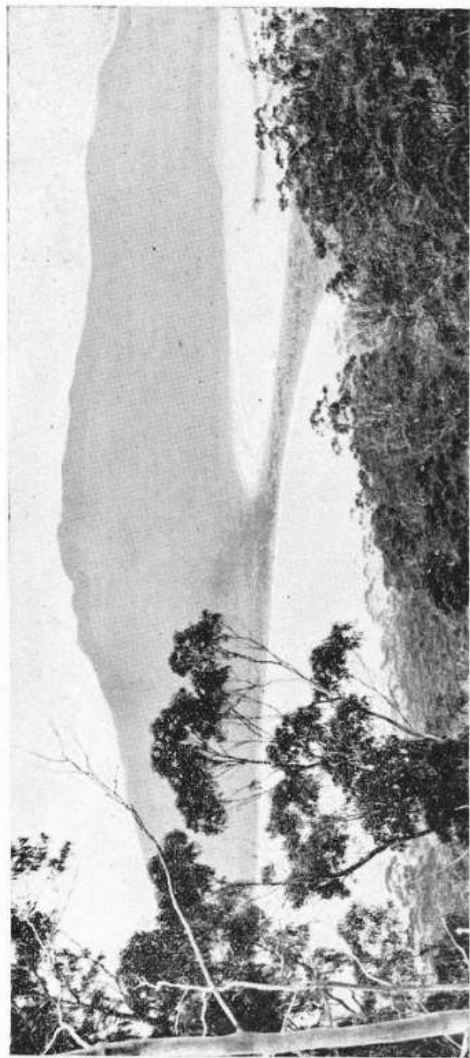
Wing of SPANIOPSIS TABANIFORMIS, White, a species of blood-sucking fly belonging to a new genus, and species of the family Leptidæ, was caught at Freycinet's Peninsula during the Easter Camp of the Tasmanian Field Naturalists' Club, 1914. This species was sub-

sequently described by Mr. Arthur White in the Proceedings of the Royal Society of Tasmania, 1914.

The general appearance of this fly is like the March-fly (Tabanidæ), but very small, being slightly under $\frac{1}{4}$ inch in length.



The Fossil Cliffs near Darlington.



The Neck joining the North Island and the South Island.

