SIR PETER BUCK'S ASHES NEAR JOURNEY'S END

FINAL PREPARATIONS FOR TOMORROW'S CEREMONY

THE ashes of Sir Peter Buck will lie at Urenui Pa tonight, within a mile of the noted scholar's birthplace near the banks of the Urenui River. Tomorrow they will be taken to the memorial at Okoki and interred in the crypt.

Last night the ashes lay in the carred house at Manukorihi Pa, Waltara, after the afternoon and weather, after the alternoon and evening had been spent by speakers in extolking Sir Peter Buck's virtues and mourning his death. About 300 Maoris slept in the carved house.

This morning the ashes remained in This marning the ashes remained in the carved house while outside visitors from tribes throughout the North Island were welcomed to the pa. Nearly 300 visiting Maoris had arrived at the pa by noon today and many more were expected to arrive throughout the afternoon. The cortege with the ashes was to leave Waitara for Urenul at 2.30 pm.

At Urenui Pa activity had reached a high pitch this morning. Only two of the eight marquees that were originally erected were up, the others having either been blown down by Thursday night's high wind or pulled down to prevent damage. The other marquees will be erected as required. Sleeping accommodation for about 600 will be provided at the Urenui Pa in tents and two houses.

CEREMONIAL FEAST

The four hangis in which food will be cooked for the ceremonial feast after the interment of the ashes tomorrow were being prepared today. A loudspeaker system had also been erected to relay announcements. A grader was at work levelling the three entrances to the pa in preparation for the heavy traffic expected tomorrow.

About 100 visitors slept at Urenui Pa last night but the majority were ex-

last night but the majority were expected today.

The Mahitamariki House, where the ashes will rest tonight, has been decorated with greenery and this morning elderly Maori women were sitting in front of it calling their traditional welcomes as various parties of visitors arrived to take part in the ceremonies. It is expected that nearly 40 Maori women elders and relatives will sleep in the house with the ashes tonight.

WELCOME TO GOVERNOR

Tomorrow morning, at Manukorihi Pa, there will be a welcome to the Governor-General, Sir Willoughby Norrie. This will conclude just before noon. At 1.30 p.m. the memorial will be unveiled at Okoki by His Excellency, who will be the only speaker in this part of the ceremony.

The ceremony at the memorial will be

The ceremony at the memorial will be conducted in two parts. The interment of the ashes will take place at 'Okoki at 1.30 p.m. in the crypt behind the memorial, with the Bishop of Actearoa, the Rt. Rev. W. N. Panapa, officiating. The Minister of Maori Affairs, Mr. Corbett, will bear the ashes to the place of ceremony where the bishop and accompanying clergy will approach them, intoning the words of the memorial service. After the psalm, lesson and hymn, Mr. Corbett will deliver an address and

Minister Pays Tribute to Sir Peter at Waitara

"Do we realise what we owe to this great man? It is said that to a very great degree he has built a bridge across the narrowing gap between the two races. The old people are doing what they can to encourage the building of such bridges. It would be better if more pakenas tried putting a few bridges over from the other side, too."

These words were used yesterday by the Minister of Maori Affairs, Mr. Corbett, addressing the ashes of Sir Peter Buck on the marae of Manukorihi pa. Waitara. Mr. Corbett stood facing the urn, which lay at the foot of the monument to Sir Maui Pomare overlooking the river and town.

"Te Rangi Hiroa, today you and I have nearly reached the end of a great journey," the Minister said. "It is fitting that we should reach Manukorihi and lay you with the spirit of your old friend in the shadow of Pukepapa. You are now with your friend, you are now with your friend, you are now with your people. In death we are all one."

Mr. Corbett then turned and gave a greeting to the assembled tribes of New Zealand. He spoke of the journey to Otaki and of the fact that the ashes had rested on the marke of Ngati Ruakawa and thanked all those who had assisted him in carrying out his sacred mission.

"I am glad that we meet here as one

mission.

mission.
"I am glad that we meet here as one family from Parininihi to Waitotara. If we had not, my mission would have been spoiled, for Te Rangi Hiroa was a man who hated discord."

Mr. Corbett spoke warmly of the support of the four Maori members of Parliament. He was glad to have them with him because in the common cause of the Maori people they were one

"Soon we will reach the warm family hearth of this great man," he concluded. "The fires have almost gone out, but they will be rekindled."

then hand the ashes to the tribal repre-

A tribal representative will then speak and the ashes will be handed to the bishop. The bishop will address those present and then perform the interment ceremony.

ceremony.

The unveiling by Sir Willoughby Norrie is expected to take place about 2 p.m. After the unveiling the memorial will be dedicated, a hymn will follow and Benediction will be pronounced.

The assembly will move back to Urenui about 3 p.m. There the dinner and addresses will conclude the ceremonies.

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