

✓ one drag, the other ugly white's drag, I hooked two horses onto making five in all, I tried the bear food, when first on entering the main stream, one leader fell over a shingle bank, the next followed his example, & being older & stiffer made several plunges, I broke his harness then the shafter fell, he made several unsuccessful endeavours to rise, I jumped off, took off the leaders & started them out, we unhooked the harness, & after sundry cuffs & kicks we got him up, reharnessed him & put him in again (all this while those ungrateful men diggers (with long boots on) never offered to render any assistance, although we had brought their swags up) after they (on the other side) had replaced the harness they came to our assistance with five horses, which we managed to hook on, after starting, in making a leap to get onto the drag, we failed, so our last resource was to cease, the drag pin behind & thus traileed through the water, stream very sty & cold, so I had the pleasure of keeping on my wet things not having any to change, we reached the Maikieia about noon unloaded & returned to Gijji's, 5 P.M. Gijji both house & stables, crammed, horse double banded, & several sleeping on the floor in the parlour, myself & 3

more slept on the loft over the stables.

Sept 9. Wednesday, fine, sty N & N.W. by N.E. after 5 P.M. down to Otch.

Sept 10. Thursday, fine, stiff S.W. received orders to make preparations for a trip up as far as a drag can get to the west coast. Loaded up with stones from Jackman & Hicks, Colombo St. & utensils, tent & etc. at the Public works office. for a survey party, Mr. Blake surveyor & three others viz. Mr. Charles Percival, Wise & Osborne, going to survey a line for a bridge track over to the west coast. Left Otch 10 a.m. Mr. Wise accompanying me, reached Paiaipoi about 2 P.M. & refreshed both ourselves & horses. The bridge over the Waimakariri is now open for traffic, a hole is levelled on it by Mr. White, the builder thereof, it is built of wood chiefly black pine, 14 tiers of Piles 3 in a tier the approaches are steep, but a strong useful structure & a great boon ^{on} to the Colony, 13 yds between each tier in the centre. The old ferry is ~~not~~ done away by being fresh in the river, the banks wearing away fast. The breakwater on the north side is not driven out into the stream sufficient to stay its ravages. Government is building a new swing bridge over the Hattle branch of the Waimakariri, in a line with the north road.