

Peak. The lower ridge is covered with the grass on all except its very summit, where, amongst huge irregularly piled boulders of basalt, grow the same ferns as are found in Inaccessible Island, and *Phyllica arborea* trees. The summit of the higher ridge appears to have a similar vegetation, the tussock ceasing there.

In the sea of tall grass, clothing the wide main valley of the island on its south side, are patches of *Phyllica* trees, growing in many places thickly together, as at Inaccessible Island, with a similar vegetation devoid of tussock, beneath them. The appearance of the tall grass, when seen from a distance, is most deceptive; as we viewed the island from the deck of the ship, about a quarter of a mile off, we saw a green coating of grass, coming everywhere down to the verge of the wave-wash on the rocks, and stretching up comparatively easy looking slopes towards the summit of the Peak.

The grass gave no impression of its height and impenetrability, and one of the surveyors started off jauntily to go to the top of the Peak and make a surveying station. On closer inspection, however, the real state of the case might be inferred, for there was plainly visible a dark sinuous line leading from the sea, right inland through the thickest of the tussock. This was a great penguin road, and the whole place was one vast penguin rookery, and the grass that looked like turf to walk on, was higher than a man's head.

I made out with my glass a great drove of penguins on the rocks under the termination of the road, and I went below at once to put on my thickest gaiters.

We pulled on shore through beds of kelp, and landed on shelving rocks leading up to caves, the haunt of the Fur Seals in the proper season. We met the surveyors coming back, well pecked and dead beat, having given up the Peak in despair.

The shelving rock is composed of volcanic conglomerate, full of irregular fragments and rounded lumps of hard basalt, and various scoriaceous forms; in places also of a similarly derivative rock of a reddish colour, but devoid of larger embedded fragments. In a cliff about forty feet in height, adjoining and rising from the shelves, are beds of fine-grained volcanic sandstone rock, banded yellow and black, and horizontally bedded, probably of submarine formation.

These beds constitute the whole mass of two or three small outlying rocks or islands lying to the N.E., and are there also horizontal. These beds appear about twenty feet thick in the cliff, and above them is a layer of basalt of about the same thickness, which extends east and west, capping the softer