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ROYAL TOURS
New Zealand. (cont)

Waitomo on the North Island of New Zealand, (famous for its two great caves, Ruarki and Aranui) is among the natural beauty spots visited by the Queen and Prince Phillip. Her Majesty wears low-heeled shoes to explore the rocky caverns which are acknowledged as among the finest of their kind anywhere in the world. Clinging to the clusters of stalactites and stalamites are millions of glow-worms which light the caves with a beautiful blue-green sparkle. The many different tunnels and shafts bear names such as "The Blanket Chamber", "The Cathedral" and "The Organ Loft".

The glow-worm caves at Waitomo were discovered in 1887, but it was not until 1911 that a Maori, called Aranui, changed upon the neighbouring cave which now bears his name. Among the many scenes of natural beauty along the royal route, Waitomo provides, perhaps, the most colourful and spectacular of them all.
