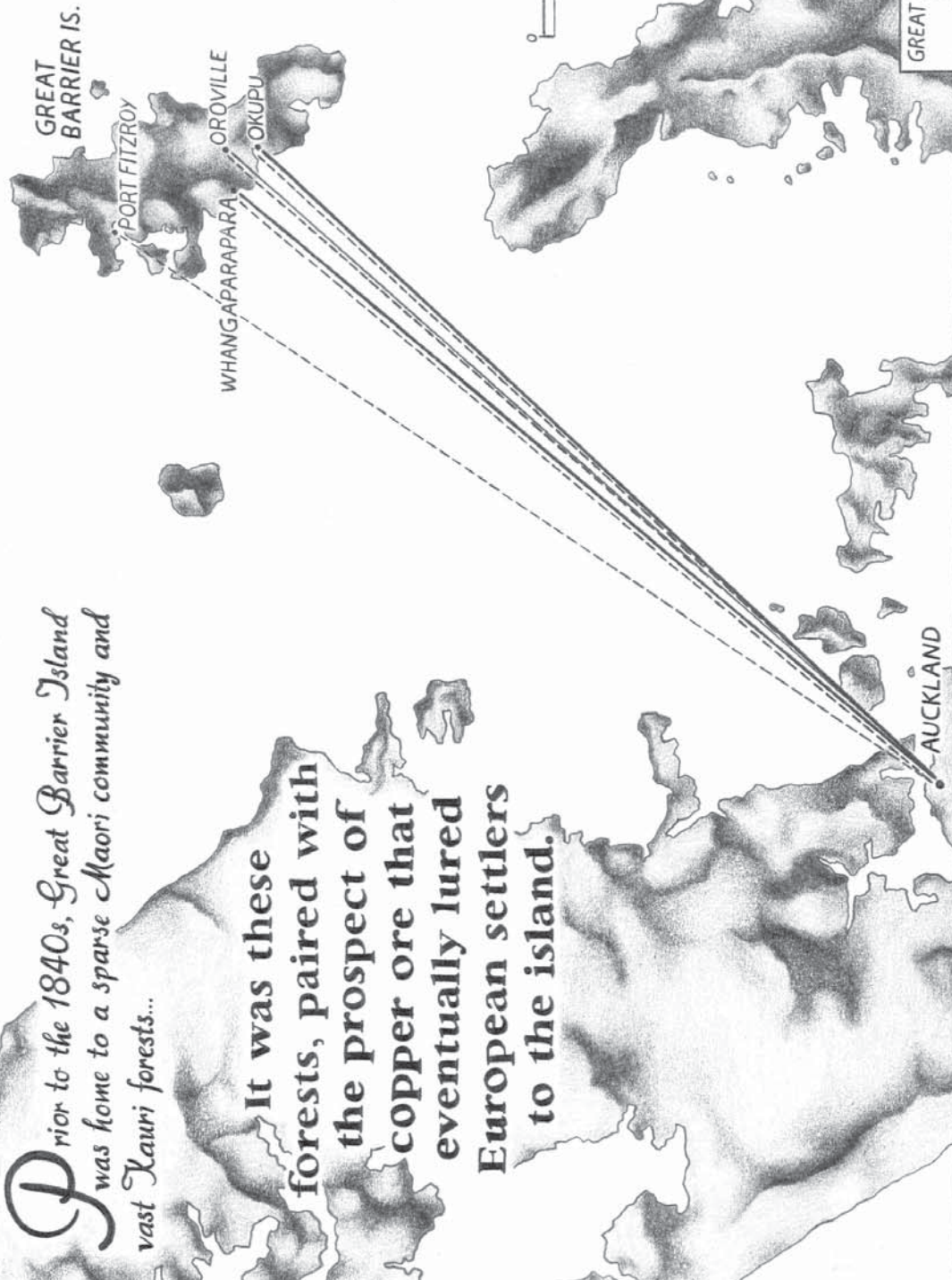


Prior to the 1840s, Great Barrier Island was home to a sparse Maori community and vast Kauri forests...

It was these forests, paired with the prospect of copper ore that eventually lured European settlers to the island.



**GREAT BARRIER ISLAND TO AUCKLAND
PIGEON FLIGHT ROUTES**

FRICKER'S AGENCY (one way)

FRICKER'S AGENCY (two way)

HOWIE'S SERVICE (one way)

With a swelling population came the increasing demand for a reliable means of COMMUNICATION with the mainland.
EVENUALLY RESULTING IN THE NEW ZEALAND POST DEPARTMENT SUBSIDIZING A WEEKLY STEAMER SERVICE.

The fact that a speaker,

INDEPENDENT POST SERVICE

on an island silently teeming

with

GOLD

seems suspiciously

GOINCIDENTAL.

was conceived of by
**KEY MINING
PROMOTER**
MR JOSEPH SMALES.

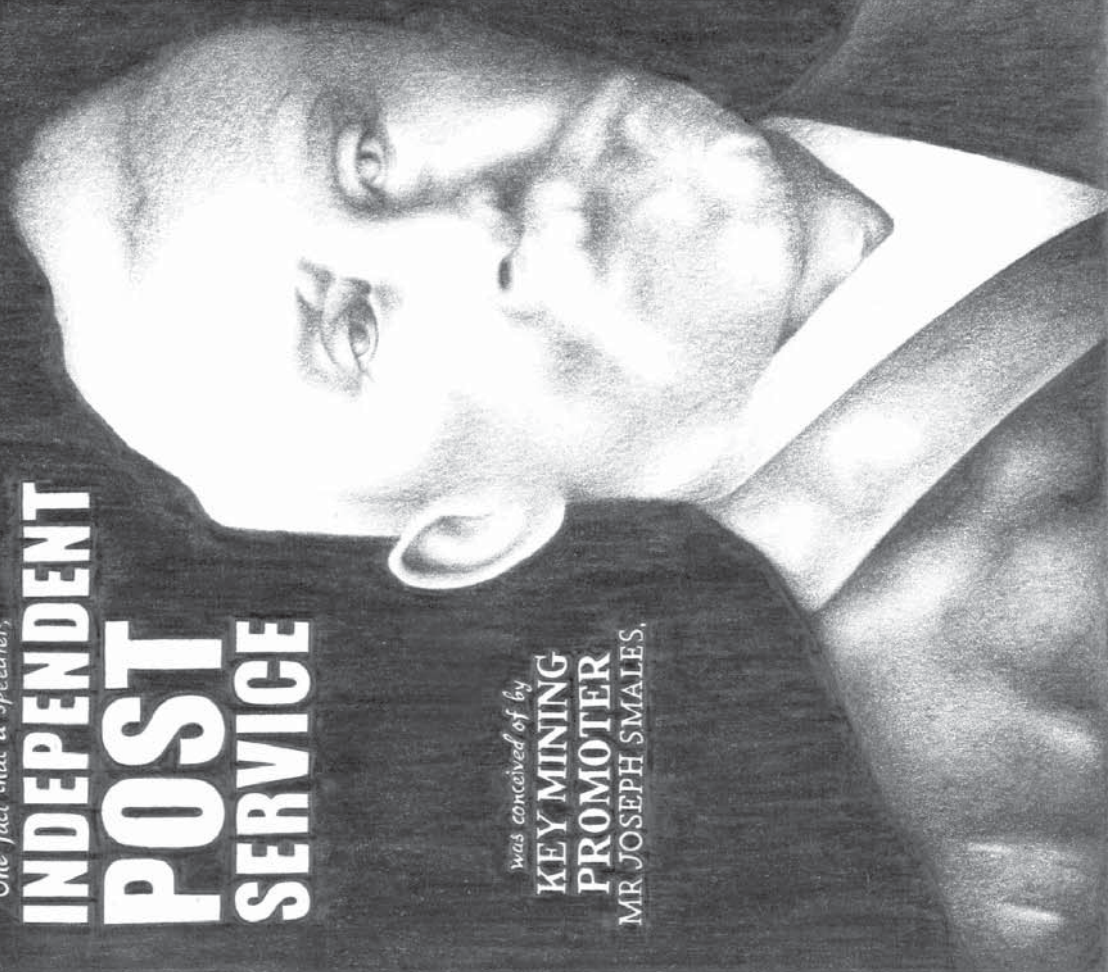
Smales approached

MR WALTER FRICKER

HOUSEPAINTER AND PIGEON FANCIER
OF PONSONBY AUCKLAND

with

THE ENTICEMENT OF A SUBSIDY, SHOULD
HE ESTABLISH A PIGEON POST SERVICE



A mysterious

RIFT

rumoured to be caused by
**FINANCIAL
MATTERS,**

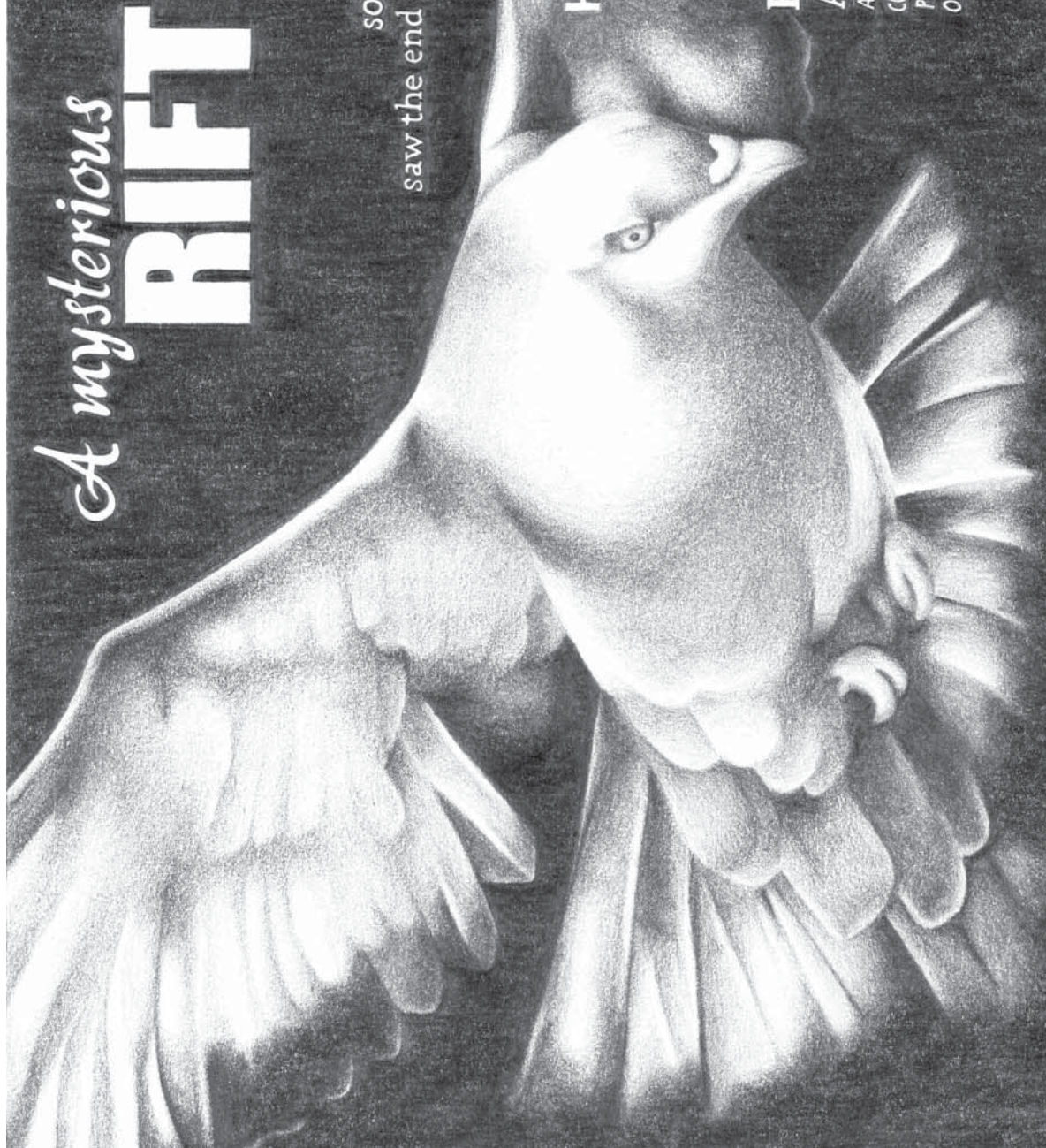
soon

saw the end of associations between

**FRICKER and
SMALES,**

**HOWEVER BOTH DID NOT
LOSE FACE.**

**FRICKER'S PIGEON
AGENCY PERSISTED**
AND SMALES, UNITING WITH MINER MR GOULD,
COMMENCED ARRANGEMENTS FOR A NEW PIGEON
POST SERVICE THIS TIME WITH THE COOPERATION
OF MR J. E. PARKIN.



Bitter at this new threat

FRICKER

INCITED REVENGE

with a

DETAILED LETTER

to the

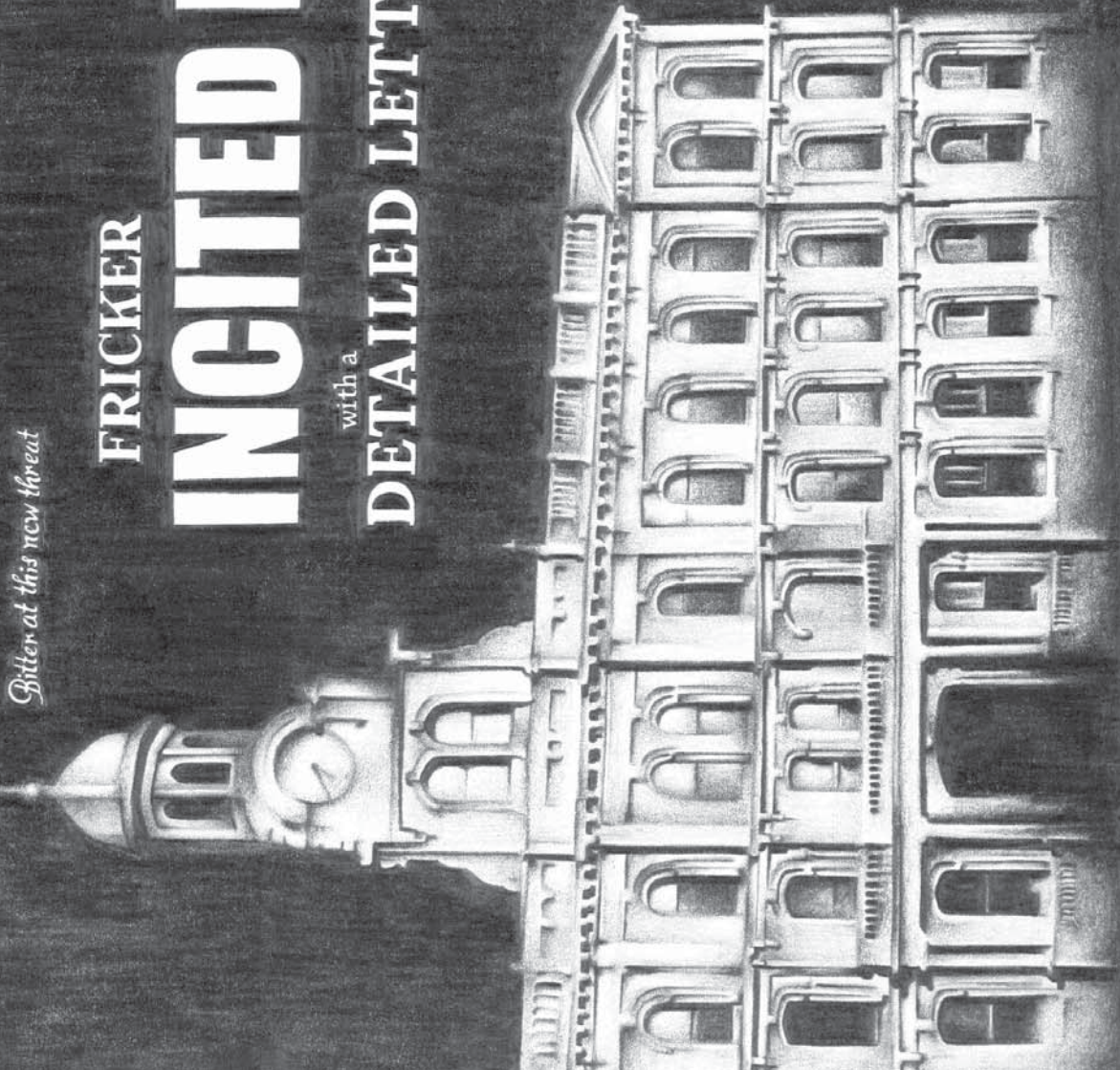
NEW ZEALAND

POST

AND TELEGRAPH DEPARTMENT

CONDEMNING
PARKIN'S SERVICE AND PERHAPS BEGINNING THE
LONG AFFAIR WITH THE WORD 'POST'.

FRICKER DECLARED THAT THE USE OF THE
WORD 'POSTAL' IMPLIED PARKIN'S SERVICE
TO BE UNDER DEPARTMENTAL CONTROL
DISADVANTAGING HIS SERVICE.



*The headquarters of Howie's operations were located at
Newton Road, AUCKLAND.*

UNDAUNTED

or
perhaps at this point
innocently
UNAWARE

of the
**POSTAL
MONOPOLY**
WHICH HAD LAID CLAIM TO THE

WORD
'POST'

Howie's elaborate
HEADQUARTERS
proudly BOASTED...



November 1898

STRUCK A DISTINCT MOMENT OF GLORY

for the ORIGINAL GREAT BARRIER PIGEONGRAM SERVICE with the creation of the

world's first
AIRMAIL STAMP.

MASTERMINDED

BY HOWIE,

THE STAMP WAS OF
**INTRIGUING
DESIGN.**

The
CENTRAL
feature, a letter was not
NESTLED SAFELY
IN THE BEAK OF A PIGEON
BUT RATHER THAT OF A
SWALLOW.

More
curiously still were the two words
'SPECIAL POST.'



*The words
'special post' no doubt*

STUNG

the eyes of the

POST

DEPARTMENT

GREAT BARRIER ISLAND



SPECIAL POST

provoking

FURY

at the

PURE AUDACITY OF THE USE OF THE WORD

POST

AND UNEASE AT THE POSSIBLE CONNOTATIONS OF THE WORD

'SPECIAL'

Meanwhile with the **BITTER RIVALRY**
between pigeon services **STILL RAGING,**

a further
**THREAT
LOOMED.**

In an **extravagant**
BID TO OUT DO
HOWIE'S STAMPS,
Fricker soon issued his own,
very
DISTINCTIVE
ONES.

Designed by a noted artist, their
DISTINCTION

LAY IN THEIR
UNIQUE SHAPE; A
TRIANGLE.



By 1908 it seems the government had devised
a failproof plan to **silence**

both services.

THE FATAL BLOW INFILTRATED THE WORKINGS
OF THE SERVICES, CHALLENGING THE ONE
THING THEY WERE FOUNDED ON.
SPEED.

STARTING AT PORT CHARLES, THE **SILENT THREAT**

of a
CABLE
stretched out like the
RELENTLESS
arm of the

NEW ZEALAND
POST
DEPARTMENT

ending
on Great Barrier Island
in the form of
a small

innocent
**TELEGRAPH
MACHINE.**

