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NEW BOOKS.

[illegible]

Sweetsir Leeches, &c.

[illegible]

WHITE LEAD.

[illegible]

Earthenware, Glass & Glass,

[illegible]

Tea, White Lead, &c.

[illegible]

Hay Rakes, &c., &c.

[illegible]

BRUSHES!

[illegible]

ADVANTAGES OF EMIGRATION TO NEW ZEALAND.

To the Editor of the Doncaster Gazette.

SIR,—Having lately returned to England after a residence of eight years in Australia and New Zealand, and desiring to make known the great advantages offered to agricultural labourers and other suitable emigrants in the latter colony, I request that you will insert the following statement respecting the settlement of Canterbury:—

The two large islands known as New Zealand are together about equal in extent to Great Britain and Ireland. They are of nearly equal size, and are separated by Cook's Straits, which vary in breadth from 30 to 90 miles. Politically they are divided into the six provinces of Auckland, New Plymouth, and Wellington on the north island, and Nelson, Canterbury, and Otago on the south island.

The Province of Canterbury, settled by the late Canterbury Association in December 1850, occupies about one-third of the large south island, between the parallels of 43 and 45 south latitude, and is bounded by the province of Nelson and on the south by the province of Otago. The greater part of the Province is occupied by the great range of snowy mountains, which extends from north to south throughout the whole length of the island, and varies in elevation from 7,000 to 12,000 feet. On the west coast the mountains approach so close as to leave very little level country, and at present no settlements have been formed there. The available part of the province comprising about 4,000,000 acres, lies between the east coast and the snowy mountains, and varies in breadth from 20 to 50 miles. The greater part of it consists of a very extensive plain, appearing to the eye quite level, but rising gradually from the coast to the mountains, where its surface is about 500 feet above the level of the sea. At the northern and southern extremity of this plain the country consists of downs and hills of moderate height. Opposite the middle part of the plain Banks Peninsula juts the east coast. It is about the size of the Isle of Wight, and consists of a mass of volcanic mountains from 2,000 to 3,000 feet high, and contains the harbours of Lyttleton and Akaroa, and several other inlets of the sea.

The province as above described, with the exception of some swamps near the coast and of extensive swamps on Banks Peninsula and small patches of forest on the plains, is an open country covered with grass, and in its wild state estimated to be capable of supporting 1,000,000 sheep and 50,000 head of cattle. The best soil is near the coast where there is a tract extending about six miles inland, of alluvial deposit, very fertile. Near the mountains there is also good soil. The middle part of the plain is the worst, much of it being stony and poor, and quite useless for agricultural purposes, until the land becomes densely peopled and land valuable. The province is well watered by numerous rivers, the largest of which have their sources in the snowy mountains and flow across the plain in very wide beds—in some instances a mile wide. At ordinary times the water is very transparent and pure, and flows swiftly in several comparatively narrow channels, fordable on horseback, through the bed of gravel or shingle. In the heavy floods, occasioned generally by the melting of the snow in summer, the whole river bed is covered by a torrent of muddy water, and is quite impassable. Near the mountains the river bed is several hundred feet below the level of the plain, and are bounded on each side by a succession of terraces or steps, with intervening strips of level ground. For a few miles before reaching the sea some of these rivers flow gently into one deep channel, and are navigable for small coasting vessels. Some of the small rivers, such as the Avon, upon which the town of Christchurch is situated, rise within ten miles of the coast by very copious springs, and receiving very little surface water, never becomes turbid or flooded, and vary very little in extent of water throughout the year.

The Climate of Canterbury is remarkably healthy and temperate, but it is not so agreable as that of Nelson or of the north island, owing to the prevalence of strong north west winds during the spring and early summer months; though coming over the range of snowy mountains they are always warmer and drier than the winds from other quarters, and may perhaps owe these properties to the great Australian desert, which is situated about 1500 miles off in a straight line. The highest range of the thermometer observed by me during three summers was 91° in the shade for a few hours in one day. During a hot wind in Australia, Fahrenheit's thermometer in the shade frequently rises to 105°, and sometimes to 115°. The autumn and winter weather is for the most part calm and serene like September weather in England, except during July and August, when strong gales from the south-west and heavy rains are prevalent. Sharp white frosts occur at night frequently, but black frosts are unknown. There are usually several slight falls of snow during the winter, but it never remains throughout the day except on the hills. The summers are longer than in England, but long continued droughts are never experienced.

The pasture of downs and fine land in many districts is such as to carry one sheep to the acre all the year round. Much of Banks Peninsula is, however, very steep, and is capable of carrying only half that number. In the first of the spring and early summer months, the pasture is abundant and very nutritious, but in the latter part of the summer it becomes very dry and parched, and the sheep are then obliged to resort to the valleys and to the sea shore. Sheep do not require to be folded at night as there are no wild beasts except a few European dogs gone wild, and which will very soon be exterminated. The sheep are of the colonial Merino breed, imported from Australia. They clip from 3½lb to 4lb. of washed wool and ordinary fat wethers two years old weigh about 60lb. The sheep and cattle runs vary in size from 5,000 to 50,000 acres, and are leased from the provincial government on easy terms, the annual paying rent in proportion to his stock, and being allowed to retain possession until the land is purchased in free-hold. The natural pastures of the province can be stocked only at the rate of one sheep to two or three acres, but in the older settlements of New Zealand, where good land has been laid down to English grasses, and enclosed in paddocks, it is said that five sheep to the acre can be kept the year round. Owing to a more temperate climate the wool grown in New Zealand is stronger and sounder than that from Australia, but is at present inferior in fineness of fibre. The autumn is the best time for lambing, but settlers commencing with a small flock of ewes allow them to lamb at any season of the year, and sometimes have three lambings in two years. The annual increase is about 90 per cent, but sometimes more; I have known an increase of 120 per cent. from the same ewes within twenty months. Much caution is required with newly landed sheep and cattle, owing to the prevalence of a wild bush called the "tout" (*cercaria sarmentosa*,) which if eaten in large quantities by hungry cattle will kill them. Stock that have been sometime in the country, and are allowed free range, are very partially injured by it. The most suitable cattle runs are those which are too wet and rich for sheep. Cows yield much more milk than in Australia, and the butter and cheese are also of a superior quality. Old bullocks originally imported from Australia, and fattened upon the natural pasturage of Canterbury, have been slaughtered weighing 1200lb; but about 800lb is the common weight of a fat bullock.

The land hitherto purchased and brought under cultivation is mostly in the coast district around Christchurch, the capital of the province, and about Kaiapoi, situated about twelve miles north of Christchurch, on the river Courtney, which is navigable for small coasting vessels. The expense of clearing land is much less than in most other colonies, owing to the absence of timber. The ground can be broken up by a strong team of bullocks, with the exception of a few roots of the native flax and the tout bush, which require the axe occasionally. Much of the land is quite free from obstructions, and can be ploughed up with a pair of ordinary draught horses. In a few instances the first crop has repaid all expenses of clearing and fencing, and the cost fee simple of the land besides. On account of the scarcity of timber most of the fencing is ditch and bank, which is done at the cost of about 4s. a chain. Owing to much of the land being badly cultivated, or the seed put in too late in the season, the average yield of grain hitherto has been low, but in some few instances where the land has been well tilled, upwards of 50 bushels of wheat to the acre has been obtained without manure. All crops and fruits grown in England succeed equally well in Canterbury. Owing to the moderate heat of the summer and the absence of droughts, land can be laid down to artificial English grasses, which will not succeed in Australia except in a few favored localities, or where irrigation can be practised. The upset price of land is £3 an acre in the Canterbury Block, over which the late Canterbury Association had control, and which extends about 40 miles north and south of Christchurch, comprising about 2,500,000 acres. In the remaining part of the province the upset price was lowered to 10s. an acre by the governor of New Zealand, in virtue of powers delegated to him by the home government, but in consequence of its distance from markets, it is not yet, worth buying at that price for agricultural purposes, and all that has hitherto been purchased has been bought by large capitalists as a speculation. Now that the new constitution of New Zealand has transferred the administration of waste lands to the colonists, as represented in their provincial councils, the price of land no doubt will be raised again, public opinion in Canterbury being against a very low price of land, which is found to occasion a monopoly of the best districts by large capitalists from Australia, and not by any advantage to the small farmer, who intends to make use of what he purchases. In the north island land is sold at 10s. an acre, and several years given to pay it in, a small rate being charged until the purchase is completed; but as it is all very heavily timbered or covered with ferns, the expense and labour of clearing are very great, and by the time the first crop is reaped the land will probably be much dearer than that purchased at Canterbury, at £3 or even £5 an acre, but which is so easily brought into cultivation. As a general rule a large capital cannot be invested profitably in agricultural farming in the colonies, owing to the high rate of wages. Labouring men who have saved some money, of those who have been small farmers in England, will agriculture an extremely profitable business.

The rental of sheep and fine land in many districts is such as to carry one sheep to the acre all the year round. Much of Banks Peninsula is, however, very steep, and is capable of carrying only half that number. In the first of the spring and early summer months, the pasture is abundant and very nutritious, but in the latter part of the summer it becomes very dry and parched, and the sheep are then obliged to resort to the valleys and to the sea shore. Sheep do not require to be folded at night as there are no wild beasts except a few European dogs gone wild, and which will very soon be exterminated. The sheep are of the colonial Merino breed, imported from Australia. They clip from 3½lb to 4lb. of washed wool and ordinary fat wethers two years old weigh about 60lb. The sheep and cattle runs vary in size from 5,000 to 50,000 acres, and are leased from the provincial government on easy terms, the annual paying rent in proportion to his stock, and being allowed to retain possession until the land is purchased in free-hold. The natural pastures of the province can be stocked only at the rate of one sheep to two or three acres, but in the older settlements of New Zealand, where good land has been laid down to English grasses, and enclosed in paddocks, it is said that five sheep to the acre can be kept the year round. Owing to a more temperate climate the wool grown in New Zealand is stronger and sounder than that from Australia, but is at present inferior in fineness of fibre. The autumn is the best time for lambing, but settlers commencing with a small flock of ewes allow them to lamb at any season of the year, and sometimes have three lambings in two years. The annual increase is about 90 per cent, but sometimes more; I have known an increase of 120 per cent. from the same ewes within twenty months. Much caution is required with newly landed sheep and cattle, owing to the prevalence of a wild bush called the "tout" (*cercaria sarmentosa*,) which if eaten in large quantities by hungry cattle will kill them. Stock that have been sometime in the country, and are allowed free range, are very partially injured by it. The most suitable cattle runs are those which are too wet and rich for sheep. Cows yield much more milk than in Australia, and the butter and cheese are also of a superior quality. Old bullocks originally imported from Australia, and fattened upon the natural pasturage of Canterbury, have been slaughtered weighing 1200lb; but about 800lb is the common weight of a fat bullock.

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