

Progressive New Zealand.

(AO-TEA-ROA.)

The charms of New Zealand are many and varied. Here one encounters the horrors of an inferno, adjoining some beautiful, verdant, grassy slope; a modest, unpretentious mountain stream, in close proximity to a turbulent, foaming river; boiling, bubbling mud, fumaroles, and gigantic geysers, along with steaming lakes, all performing the duties appointed them by nature, in strange and everlasting contrast to the weirdness and solitude of the silent forests, the stateliness of her lofty trees, the incomparable beauty of her indigenous palms and ferns, and her majestic snow-clad mountain sentinels, towering beyond the clouds, round which lazily trickle streams of icy coldness, with which are mingled springs of boiling sulphurous water, proceeding from depths far below the earth's crust. Nature has indeed been unsparing in the distribution of her many gifts, and failed to exercise her usual shyness and modesty by hiding her charms and attractions from the gaze of the careless and unappreciative.

It is, according to Maori tradition, six centuries ago since Tamatea, the dusky adventurer, in company with his warriors, left his island home in distant Eastern Polynesia, in search of a new land. After innumerable days and nights, exposed to all the mad elements of this lonely ocean, we can imagine with what delight they welcomed the first appearance of this fascinating country, seen athwart the sun-kissed bows of their canoe "Takitumu."

This white-cliffed, tree-fringed, and lovely new land, with her lofty mountains, and placid summer sea; her unfathomable gullies swimming in a beautiful, tremulous, blue softness, and her ranges of frowning mountains, was from that moment designated Ao-Tea-Roa (the long, bright world), and as the centuries have rolled along, and the pakeha has been glad to follow in the path of the noble Maori, no fitter name has ever been suggested than that spontaneously given by the ancient, dusky viking more than six hundred years ago. For centuries Tamatea's descendants were left in undisputed possession of their ideal home. Native legend or tradition supplies little authentic information connected with the interim, and the long lapse of time since the arrival of this dusky chief, until the first reliable records, endows New Zealand with a mystery, a charm, a fascination, possessed by no other country in the world.

The whole population of this "Long, Bright World" is somewhat less than a million souls, yet these islands are quite capable of supporting, under equally favorable conditions, twenty times that number.

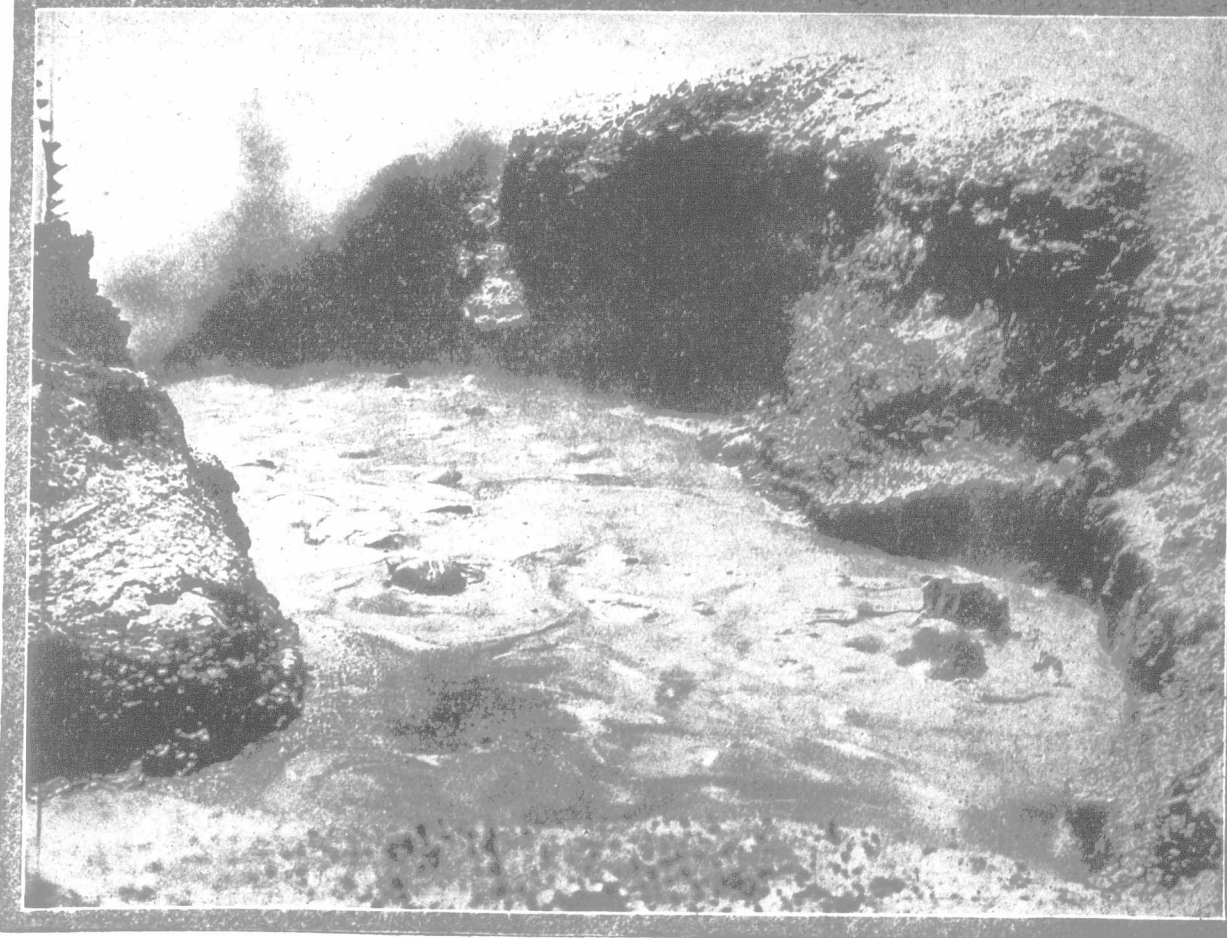
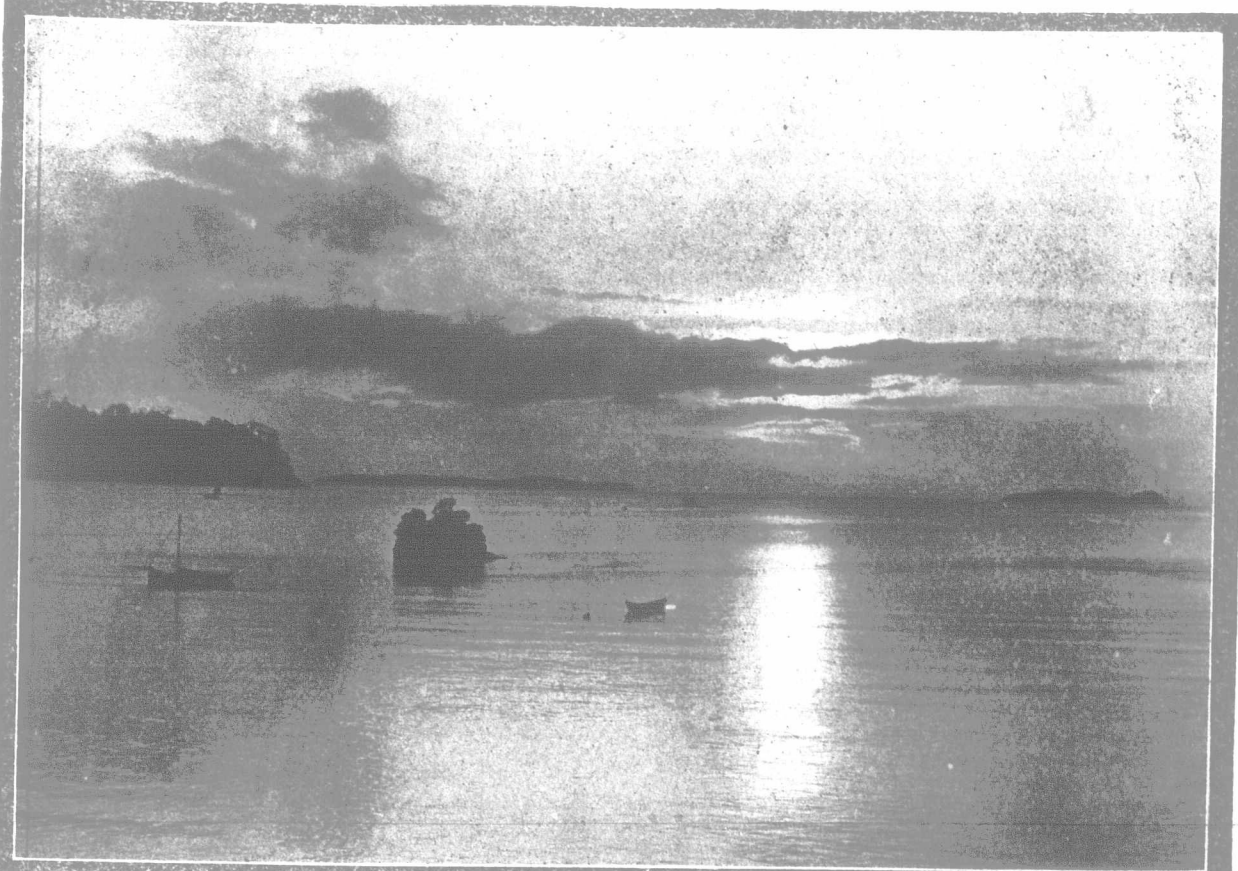
The following is an extract from an article published by the New Zealand Government Department of Tourist and Health Resorts: "There are no millionaires in New Zealand. Wealth is divided more widely and equitably among the people of this little nation than in any other country on the globe. There are no starving poor. A fair opportunity is given to every man. There are no trusts, no private monopolies, that pile up huge fortunes for a few individuals, at the expense of the community. Politics are not dominated by rings or 'machines.' The great body of the people control the affairs of the nation. The Land System is based upon the firm conviction that the ultimate happiness and prosperity of the nation depend upon the successful settling of the people upon the soil, with reasonable limits as to the area occupied by each individual."

The Department of Agriculture has a staff of about three hundred officers, subdivided into ten divisions, and covering every branch of agricultural and pastoral industry in the Dominion of New Zealand. This Department aims at securing the adoption of the most modern methods of farming, improving conditions under which crops are produced and stock raised, and also safeguarding the reputation of the Dominion produce, by raising the grade of the products exported. All dairy produce, prior to shipment, is inspected and graded. All sales of butter and cheese are based upon a Government grade. The numerous butter and cheese factories, and private dairy farms, are regularly visited by experts who, where necessary, give instruction in the manufacture of these products.

The Chief Veterinarian of the Dominion of New Zealand, with a staff of sixty qualified surgeons and other officers, do good work in the prevention of infectious diseases among stock, and the inspection of all meat for export and home consumption. Every animal killed at the abattoirs, and every carcass and every tin of meat prepared for export, is subject to a most careful and searching inspection.

Orchards throughout the Dominion are inspected by experienced and qualified instructors, and fruit-growers obtain all the aid necessary in dealing with orchard and garden pests. Advice is freely and gladly given to all settlers, as to the best methods of combating all diseases affecting crops.

Poultry-farming is now becoming a great industry, and vast quantities are exported in the



New Zealand Scenes.