

gives the landscape a tropical appearance. From the root of the fern, the Maori prepares a bread.

The grandest product of New Zealand is the Kauri pine. Its leaves, instead of being needles like with our pines, resemble the small leaf of our hoxwood shrub; but the tree itself, what a monarch of the soil! Straight and free from limbs,—far, far up; it rises to a height of 180 feet from a base reaching at times 17 feet in diameter. This majestic tree is the finest specimen of the forest that I have seen in my tour around the world. It furnishes an excellent, remarkably durable and straight-grained timber, which is much in demand. It is superior to any of our pines. Besides lumbering, the tree furnishes another industry.—gum digging. The copious resinous exudation from the tree is known as kauri gum. However, the product from the present forests is small compared with that from forests of the same species, but of another geological age. The gum is buried at varying depths down to about 15 feet, and the divining rod for finding it, is not witch-hazel, the occult means for finding water, but a thin steel rod, which is shoved into the earth, and the expert recognizes the touch when resin is struck. Chunks are found weighing upwards of a hundred pounds. It is mostly used for fine varnish, although some is used for ornaments, like its sister resin, amber, which, however, is far more valuable.

Although wheat is successfully grown, although gold-mining has proved remunerative, and although manufactures have been well established, yet New Zealand is essentially a pastoral country. Their progress in the dairying industry in the last few years is simply amazing, astounding. I never ate better Stilton cheese than the New Zealand product, and her butter is most excellent.

Large areas in the South island are devoted to sheep.

Tools, implements and goods introduced by the white man have been of far greater advantage to the Maori than to the other Polynesians in warmer latitudes; for the Maori is more dependent upon labor for his existence than the Fijian or Samoan.

The Maori is an inveterate smoker, and it is not unusual to see mothers give infants their pipes to quiet them; and so strong a hold has smoking obtained that it is a deadly privation to keep a Maori from smoking for half an hour at a stretch.