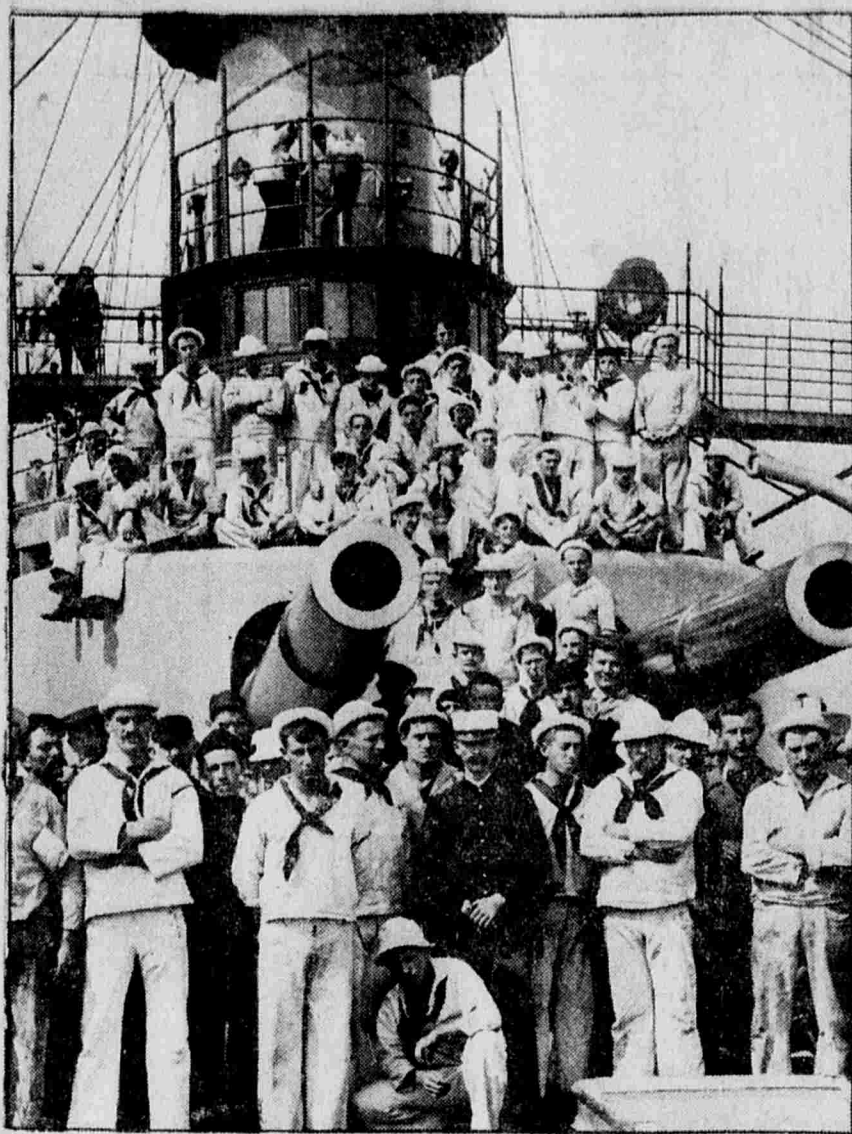


What the Boys of the Great Fleet Will See in New Zealand.

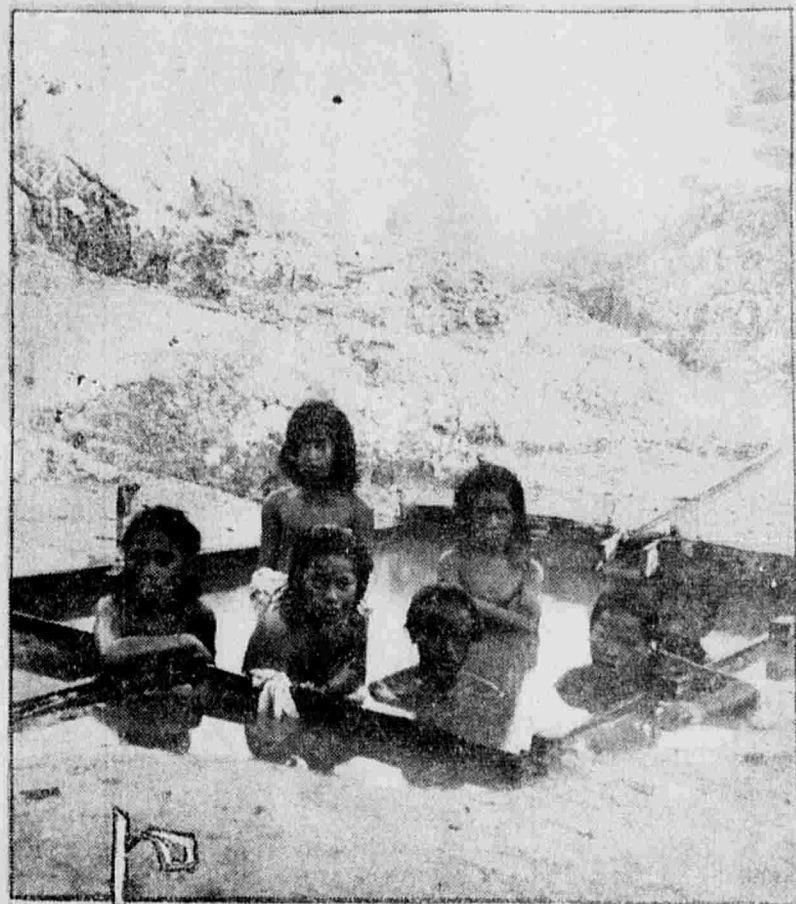
By PROF. JAMES RICATON.



The Maori Girls' War Dance



The Men behind the Guns



Thermal Bath at Rotorua, N.Z.

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New York.

When the Sixteen Great Battleships Flying the Stars and Stripes Arrive at Auckland the Crews Will Be Given Shore Leave in a Magnificent Maritime City That Extends to Them a Warm Welcome.

AFTER brief sojourns in Honolulu and Pago Pago, followed by a sea voyage of several thousand miles in tropical seas, the Yankee bluejackets will experience a home coming exuberance of spirits when they enter the harbor of Auckland, the city of the South Pole, for they will be again among a kindred people speaking their own language.

They will then be about 37 degrees south of the equator and in the southern hemisphere, and although more than a third of the distance from the equator to the South Pole, they will be in a climate corresponding to northern Italy.

They found the harbor of Honolulu hemmed in by grim old craters; here they will find the splendid harbor of Auckland and the old capital of New Zealand surrounded by more than 60 extinct globe-chimneys, not grim and somber like those in the Hawaiian elysium, but green to their summits and set in the midst of fertile plains dotted with suburban villas. On their first shore leave they will no doubt land at Queen Street pier, near which the ocean liners have their docks and at which intercolonial and coasting boats arrive. If the men of our fleet have been under the impression that New Zealand is an unimportant South Sea island and that Auckland is an insignificant seaport town; the busy and extensive maritime hubbly at the Queen Street pier will tend to dispel their incompetent geography; the forest of masts, tall chimneys, and towering warehouses will announce a large city, and they will see a harbor filled with ships from all parts of the world. One may realize that New Zealand is something more important than is implied by an Australian island when it is stated that the three main islands extend more than 1,200 miles north and south and that the most northern is larger than the state of New York, and that the second or middle island is larger than the state of Illinois, that the third member of the group outstrips the stout member of the American Union, "Little Rhode," by 1,000 square miles. Their extent may be better understood when it is stated that the three islands are, in a true sense, a part of the continent of Australia, and from their corresponding number and area might appropriately have been called New Britain instead of New Zealand (New Sea Land). With a fertility equaled to that of the mother country and a superior climate, along with many much extolled ideals in government one wonders why the population should remain so sparse. Many lines of fast steamers to and from have made time and distance inconsiderable, yet the population of the three islands falls below that of one of our smallest

states. To account for this fact is difficult, unless it be the unwillingness of emigrants to go far away from world centers.

FINE MODERN CITY.

Like most modern cities, Auckland has fine broad streets on which electric cars rush along, imposing public buildings, parks, museums, libraries and theaters; but these are to be seen in every city, and a newcomer is looking for something unusual, something peculiar to the country. What will he find in New Zealand?

The primitive inhabitants are among the most interesting things in any part of the world visited for a first time. The Maoris are the aborigines of New Zealand, and the country still contains some 40,000 or 50,000; the visitor in Auckland will not be long on the streets before he will meet a dark visaged type which is most likely to be a Maori whom he will more readily identify, having seen the Kanaka of Hawaii and the Samoan. They are considered to be of Malayan origin, and their traditions say they came from an island called Hawaiki; and this word so much corresponds with Hawaii, or Savaii of the Samoan group, as to warrant the conclusion of their having come, within the last few hundred years, from those islands; and this conclusion is apparently confirmed by an affinity of language and by a similarity of mental and physical characteristics. Many of them are now to be seen in the towns and engaged in commercial pursuits like the Europeans. They formerly practised tattooing, but the habit is disappearing with the incoming of European ways. An occasional deeply tattooed face may still be seen when an old chief visits Auckland with some of his modernized descendants, as was the case when the writer secured the picture shown of a tattooed chief beside his daughter and his two grandchildren. The Maoris had no written language before the missionaries made one for them. A hundred years ago they were savages; now there are excellent Maori college graduates. Maori gentlemen own ships and speak the best London English. They are a merry, open-hearted people like the Hawaiians and the Samoans. The Kanaka saluted you with "aloha," the Samoan with "talofa" (both salutations signifying "love to you") and the Maori, without the formality of an introduction, will greet you with "ten-a-ke" (that's you), emphasized if you like by the nasal salute known as rubbing noses; but rubbing noses too has given way to hand-shaking in all but "way back" Maori communities.

GUM INDUSTRY.

Near the landing pier in Auckland the new-comer may see large warehouses with the unusual sign or notice, Kauri gum, or Kauri gum merchants. This attracts the attention because gum digging is a rare occupa-

tion. Primeval forests of great extent once covered large portions of the northern island of New Zealand; they were forests of coniferous trees, pine trees (Damarus Australis) or Kauri pines, some of these trees still exist and are used for lumber; they are not unlike the California big trees and often 800 feet in diameter. The ancient gum-producing forests have mostly disappeared and the gum from them has accumulated in lumps in the earth, often five or six feet beneath the surface. Gum prospectors traverse the gum regions of the north island for gum. This curious industry might be called gum-mining. The lumps of gum vary in size from one pound to fifty. Prospecting is done by using a slender steel rod from six to eight feet in length, which is thrust into the earth, and

when it comes into contact with gum a grating sound or sensation locates gum when digging is commenced. The gum is sent in sacks to the warehouses in Auckland, where it is scraped, assorted and classified, then boxed and shipped to Europe and America for varnish-making.

In the course of millenniums and under different chemical conditions these great accumulations of gum would have become vast deposits of amber, which is only a mineralized resin.

Kauri gum-diggers, I was told, are mostly scape-graces and fugitives who follow this occupation because gum-fields are in remote and unfrequented regions which offer good hiding places. This fact accounts for the absence of a picture to show gum digging. The writer tried every persuasive of "tip"

and tongue to secure one, but in vain. One gum-merchant in Auckland told me his shipment of Kauri gum to one varnish firm in Brooklyn amounted to several hundred tons annually.

GEYSER DISTRICT.

The traveler will find the scenic features of New Zealand improve as he proceeds southward until he reaches a culmination of majesty in the fjords and mountains of the southeast coast. It is a thermal district 120 by 120 miles in extent abounding in all the phenomena of a geyser basin and surrounded by lakes and mountains. It is called Rotorua. It is a health resort on account of its thermal and mineral springs; it is the most frequented tourist's resort on account of its geysers and its varied lake and mountain scenery. The lakes abound in trout

Kauri-Gum Diggers Include the Flotsam and Jetsam of Humanity Who Follow This Occupation Because Gum-Fields Are Remote in Unfrequented Regions Which Offer Good Hiding Places.

which make it a sort of Waltonia for devotees of the rod and reel. Before reaching Rotorua the train stops at a small station in the partially cleared mountain district; at this place Maoris offer for sale something which will greatly interest the entomologist—it is a vegetable caterpillar, that is, a caterpillar which has become a plant, paradoxical as it may appear. Bishop Butler would have gloried over this caterpillar for his "Analogy" in which he refers to the transformation of a caterpillar into a butterfly as no more wonderful than and being analogous to the emanating of the spiritual from the material but in case of the New Zealand larva it is the change from an animal substance into a vegetable, from a caterpillar (chairy cat) into a plant; but when explained there is nothing supernatural—the larva feeds on the leaves of a vine which grows on tall trees in this particular locality; in eating the leaves the microscopic seed of the vine is sometimes eaten, and when the larva burrows in the ground for its change of form the seed may happen to germinate; when this occurs the larva dies, and the vegetable growth takes the exact form of the caterpillar such as an infiltration of mineral substance takes the form of the animal or vegetable in petrification. The skin and form of the caterpillar are unchanged, but the interior becomes a solid piece of vegetable pulp like that of a potato, and a slender stem from six to 10 inches high bearing terminal seed spores grow up out of the earth from either or both ends of the vegetating caterpillar, so that the substance of the caterpillar has been changed into that of a plant, and the paradox is no paradox; it is only a unique example of the universal exchange that goes on between animal and vegetable life.

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accompaniments of thermal activity, thermal cooking by the natives, thermal bathing, thermal washing and thermal vapors rising from many points over the plain and sulphur fumes with suggestions for some people.

The Maori mounds have been acting as guides for many years; they are sisters—Maggie and Bella Papakura—and are well known to all who have ever visited Rotorua. They are well educated and said to be wealthy. Maggie the elder, has traveled abroad; she owns a pretty native cot in the center of Wakarewarewa; it contains a fine piano and she relates with pride how Paderewski visited her home and played on her piano.

NATIVE DANCES.

The Maoris at "Waka" (as the place is so called for short and it truly needs shortening) have erected a native hall or assembly room, in which at stated times they hold entertainments for the amusement of visitors. The "haka" and the "war dance" are the usual roles in which they appear, in both they execute a series of rhythmic motions and grimaces to the music of an accordion. The motions are graceful, and the facial contortions are repulsive.

The Maoris are fond of the hot thermal bath, and many times a day in cold weather they may be seen immersed in the hot water. The thermal bath is their stove in cold weather.

It is curious to see a Maori cook standing by a thermal cooking hole holding fast to several strings at the end of each being some article of food undergoing the necessary cooking process. Should you wish to witness or experience a Maori salute, either "Maggie" or "Bella" will cheerily inflict a personal demonstration.

RUSSIAN COUNTRY.

ROTORUA THERMAL REGION.

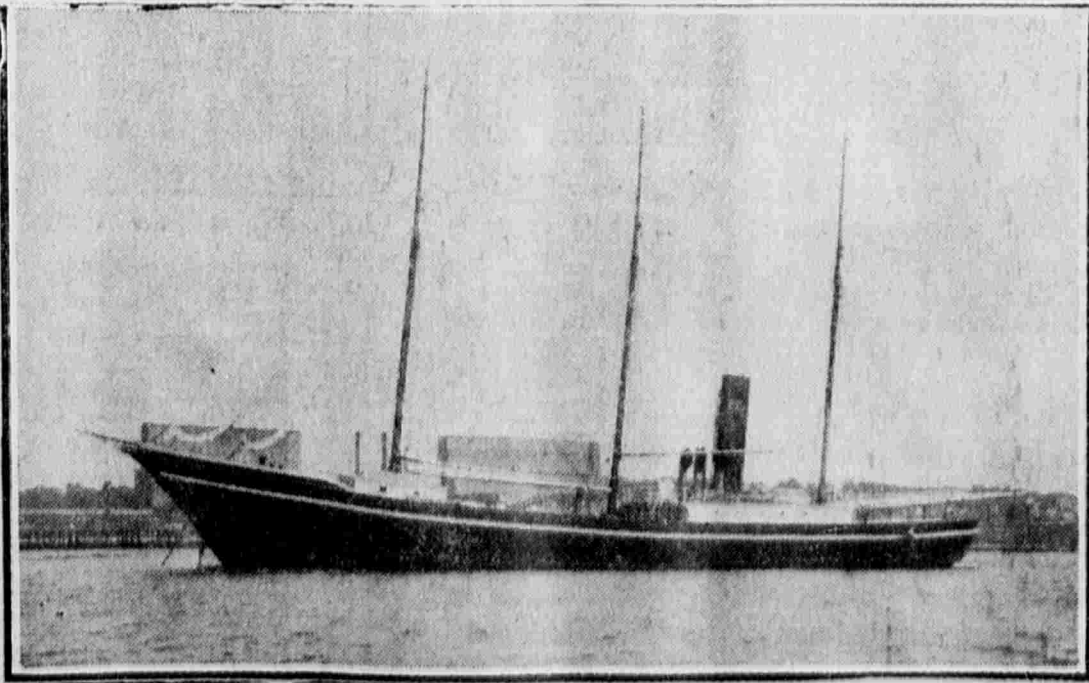
At Rotorua the visitor will find extensive bathing establishments modernly equipped, and thermal baths of all temperatures, of all sensations, and with all kinds of curative properties, especially when there is no shortage in faith. The Rotorua thermal region is evidently geologically very old and the geyser activity is apparently waning. The chief geyser in action is a mile or two from the town of Rotorua at Whakarewa, a Maori village where at intervals of a few days you may see several small geysers play to a height of 15 or 20 feet. One is reputed to spout from 80 to 100 feet when it has an inclination that way, which is seldom unless it be persuaded with several bars of soap but then its waning energies are so conserved that soap lubrication is not permitted save for the advent of some high and mighty government functionary; therefore once chance of seeing a fine geyser display is rare. There are, however, besides the geysers the usual

RUSSIA'S LATENT WEALTH.

At present agriculture is Russia's principal industry. Russia has a very fruitful soil, a large agricultural population, and she has excellent natural means of transport in her rivers and lakes; but poverty and ignorance among the masses, lack of enterprise and of capital on the part of her business men, and short-sightedness and neglect on the part of the administration, have hitherto impeded the development of her agriculture. The soil is merely scratched by light wooden ploughs, the most primitive form of agriculture prevail, manuring is practically unknown to nine-tenths of her peasants, and there are hardly any roads for transporting agricultural produce to the rivers and railways. Though Russia has much coal and iron her industries are quite undeveloped. Her industrial backwardness may be gauged from the fact that with a territory and a population twice as large as those of the United States, Russia produces only one-tenth of the quantity of iron produced in the United States, and that she raises only one-twentieth of the quantity of coal raised in the American republic. In other words, America raises per head of population 20 times more iron and 40 times more coal than Russia. Agriculturally and industrially, Russia is a medieval country.

Many Russians in high official position assert that the latent wealth of Russia is greater than that of the United States, and if they are right the first task of the Russian government should be to develop Russia's potential wealth. Wishing to reserve the whole of the national wealth to her own people, Russia has so far on the

whole discouraged and stifled foreign enterprise, though M. de Witte tried to introduce foreign capital. Russia has as yet neither enough capital nor enough experience to open up the country rapidly. Therefore she will be wise if she calls foreign experience and foreign capital to her assistance. If Russia throws the country wide open to foreign enterprise and to foreign capital, and if she treats liberally and even generously those who, wishing to help themselves, will most vigorously promote Russia's prosperity, the poverty and dissatisfaction of the masses and the penury of the Russian exchequer will soon come to an end. Russia suffers from financial anemia and, as she may prove an Eldorado to British contractors, engineers, and investors, her financial anemia may easily be overcome by their aid.—Nineteenth Century.



PEARY'S SHIP, THE ROOSEVELT.

The good ship Roosevelt, in which Lieut. Peary has already started on his first lap toward the North Pole, is interesting both from its destination and also because of the wonderful manner in which the ship was constructed. The Roosevelt is a vessel which was built on original lines laid down by Lieut. Peary himself. Her sides are sloped in such a manner that their angles do not offer any opportunity for the tremendous ice floes of the northern ocean to grip the vessel and crush her hull, as has often been done to ships constructed in the ordinary manner. The beams which stretch out to support her hull are marvels of strength, and her bow is built so as to crush its way through ice fields where ordinary ships would be immovable.

New Zealand is a mountainous country and the rugged character increases toward the south. The mountains vary in altitude from a thousand feet, to Mount Cook, the sovereign of New Zealand peaks with an elevation of 12,349 feet. No traveler can know the grandeur of New Zealand's scenery unless he visit the Milford sound region in the southwest, where the coast is broken up into a maze of sounds, and the valleys are blocked with stupendous glaciers. The southwest coast much resembles the fjord-locked coast of Norway and portions of it are still unexplored, yet these enchanted places are visited by excursion steamers through the summer season.

New Zealand has a rich and varied agriculture, a grandeur of scenery rarely surpassed, an ideal climate, a solid conservative government. She is entitled to fuller population and to a great share of the world's travel.

"The climate's delicate, the air most sweet.
Fertile the land."