

CHAPTER I

SECTION I

INTRODUCTORY

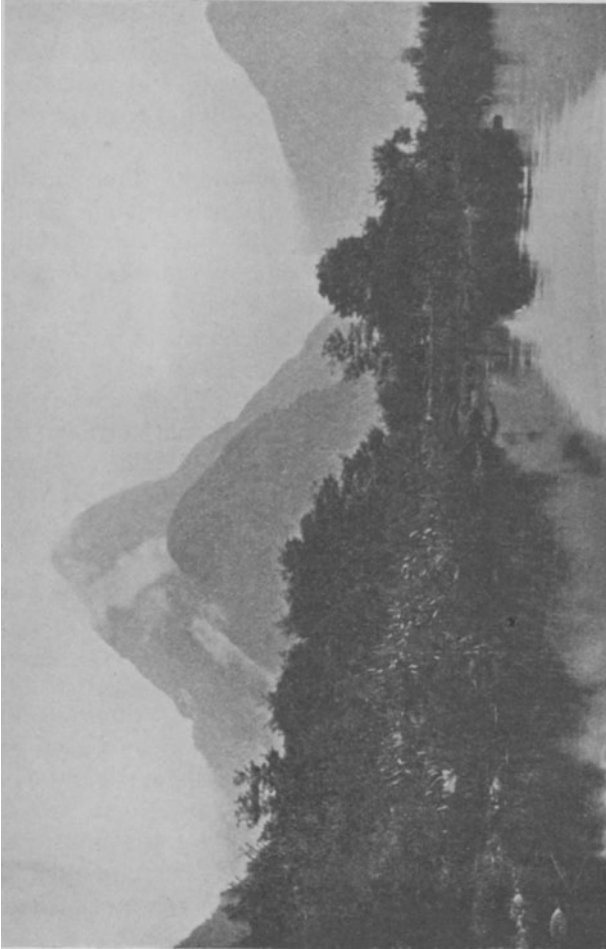
THE Dominion of New Zealand comprises all territories, islands and countries lying between 162° east longitude and 173° east longitude and between 33° and 53° south latitude, and in addition the Kermadec Islands, a scattered group situated between the parallels of $29^{\circ} 10'$ and $31^{\circ} 30'$ south latitude and between the meridians of $177^{\circ} 45'$ and 179° west longitude, and the Cook group and other islands situated in the South Pacific Ocean within the Tropic of Capricorn and lying approximately between the meridians of 156° and 170° west longitude.

The original boundaries of the Colony of New Zealand were fixed by an Imperial statute (26 & 27 Vict. c. 23) in the year 1863. There was a prior Proclamation of Captain Hobson on the 30th January, 1840, which excluded small portions of the main islands, and a further extension by Royal Letters Patent in 1842, but the Imperial statute of 1863 first fixed the boundaries for constitutional purposes.

These boundaries include the following scattered islands and groups of islands: the Auckland Islands ($50^{\circ} 32' \text{ S.}$ and $166^{\circ} 13' \text{ E.}$), Campbell Island ($52^{\circ} 33' 26'' \text{ S.}$ and $169^{\circ} 8' 41'' \text{ E.}$), the Antipodes Islands ($49^{\circ} 41' 15'' \text{ S.}$ and $178^{\circ} 43' \text{ E.}$), the Bounty Islands ($47^{\circ} 45' \text{ S.}$ and $179^{\circ} 0\frac{1}{2}' \text{ E.}$), and the Chatham Islands lying between the parallels of $43^{\circ} 30'$ and $40^{\circ} 20'$ south latitude and the meridians of $175^{\circ} 40'$ and $177^{\circ} 15'$ west longitude. There are also several smaller islands adjacent to the coasts of the main islands of New Zealand.

The Kermadec Islands, which include Raoul or Sunday Island, Macaulay, Curtis and L'Espérance Islands, were annexed to New Zealand on the 1st day of August, 1887, by Proclamation by the Governor under authority of an Act of Parliament authorised by Letters Patent dated the 14th day of January, 1887; and the boundaries of the Colony were further extended to include the islands of the Cook group and other islands by an Imperial Order in Council dated the 13th day of May, 1901, from a date to be appointed by the Governor. The date appointed by the Governor's Proclamation was the 11th day of June, 1901. The principal islands of the Cook group are Rarotonga, with an area of 16,500 acres, its chief town, Avarua, being the seat of the Federal Government and Islands Administration, Atiu, Mitiaro, Mauke, Takutea and the Hervey Isles. The extended boundaries also include other adjacent but distinct

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Mitre Peak, Milford Sound

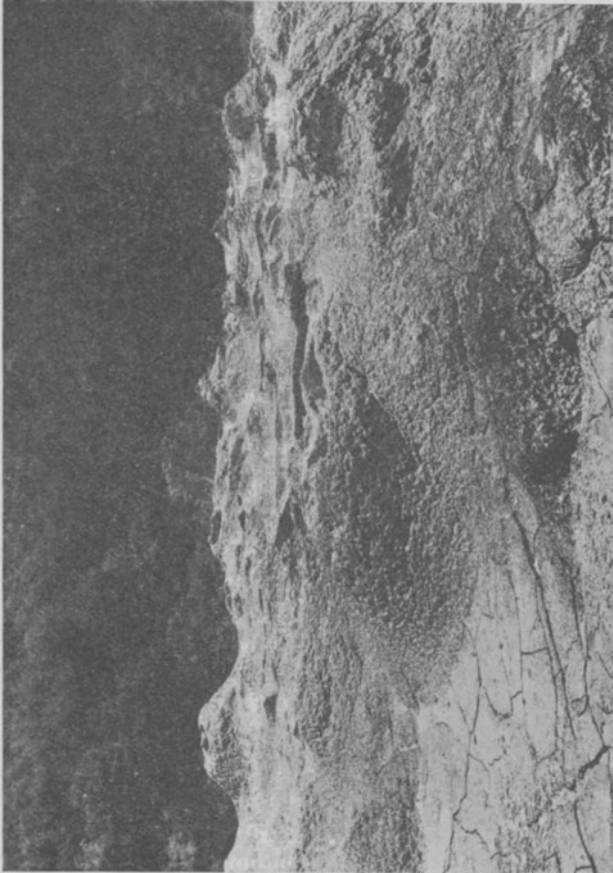
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islands, the most important being Mangaia, Aitutaki, Palmerston, Niué or Savage Island, Pukapuka or Danger Island, Rakahanga, Manihiki, Penrhyn and Suwarrow.

New Zealand proper comprises three main islands and various smaller adjacent islands. The main islands are the North, the South or Middle Island and Stewart Island. The two former contain a total area of 102,993 square miles out of the total area of 104,751 square miles of the whole Dominion. The two main islands are separated by Cook Strait, which is some 12 miles across at its narrowest part, widening out to 90 at its widest, and forming an invaluable waterway for sea-borne traffic. These three islands are as a whole hilly and, in parts, mountainous in character, but there are large areas of plain and undulating country of various degrees of productiveness that are available for pastoral and agricultural purposes. The estimated area in the North Island fit for agriculture is 13,000,000 acres, and the purely pastoral area 14,200,000 acres. In the South Island the areas are 15,000,000 acres and 13,000,000 acres respectively. The area of land in occupation in 1908–9 was returned at 38,204,349 acres. The unproductive area in the North Island is estimated at 300,000 acres and in the South at 9,000,000 acres. These areas include barren land and mountain tops unsuitable either by reason of their

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Mud Volcanoes, Tūkitere

altitude or the poorness of the soil for agricultural or pastoral purposes.

The country is well watered, especially on the western coast, and it is rarely indeed that any ill effects are suffered on account of droughts.

In the North Island there are numerous mountain ranges, and several isolated volcanic peaks, in varying stages of activity. It is in this island that the finest thermal regions are situated, which are invaluable as scenic attractions. Certain of the hot springs are effective in the treatment of rheumatism, gout and kindred disorders, while others are effective in skin diseases. The Government has erected sanatoria and bath houses at the chief centres, those at Rotorua being especially fine. In the centre of the island is Lake Taupo, which is about 20 miles across either way, and is the largest inland expanse of water in the Dominion. Like Lake Rotorua, and its surrounding cluster of lakes, which lie some 40 odd miles to the N.N.E., it has on or near its shores a thermal region which is much frequented by tourists. Fifty miles due east of Lake Taupo is Waikare-Moana, which is famed for its forest beauty. The chief rivers in this island, the Thames, Wairoa, Waikato, Mokau and Wanganui, are suitable for and are used as industrial waterways.

The South Island has a chain of mountains rivaling the Alps in their rugged grandeur, and called the Southern Alps, running throughout nearly the total

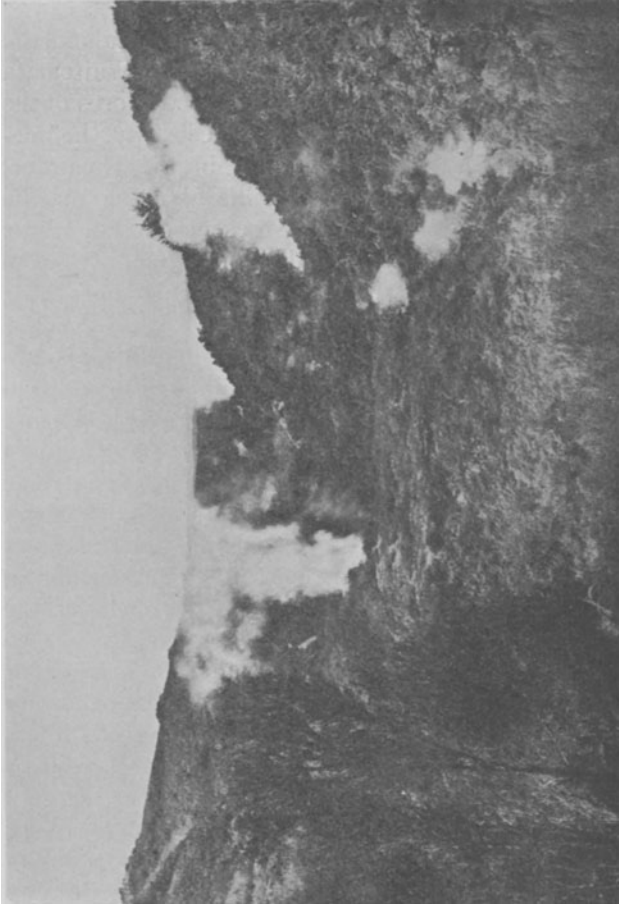
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The Great Geysers, Wairakei

length of the island. Aorangi (the "cloud piercer"), or Mt Cook, the centre of this Alpine region, situated in the middle of the island, rears its ice-bound head to a height of 12,349 feet. All around are extensive glaciers of exceptional beauty, the greatest being the Tasman, which has a length of 18 miles and a width of over a mile, and is therefore of greater extent than the Alletsch glacier in Switzerland. Besides this Alpine region, the west coast of this island is penetrated by numerous sounds or fiords, in many places walled by precipitous mountains thousands of feet high, in others hemmed in by gentler slopes covered with virgin forest to the water's edge and having a beauty and grandeur peculiarly their own. It is in this island, inland from the Sounds, that the fine cold lake district is situated. The principal lakes are Wakatipu, Te Anau and Manapouri, and all have a distinctive beauty. The rivers of this island, the Wairau, Taieri, Mataura and Clutha (the latter the largest river in the Dominion) on the east, the Buller, Grey and Hokitika on the west, and the Waiau on the south coast are more or less navigable, though navigation on the west coast rivers extends at most a little way from their mouths. The other rivers are either rough mountain torrents or wide shingle beds, with a small volume of water except when in flood. There is also a thermal district in this island, at which there are well-equipped baths and a sanatorium.

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The Geysers Valley, Wairakei

There are many fine harbours in New Zealand, the two best for commercial purposes being Waitemata Harbour and Port Nicholson. Upon the shores of the former is situated Auckland, the Queen City, the one-time capital and the largest city in the Dominion, while upon the slopes of the hills abutting on the latter stands Wellington, the present capital, whose wharfage, accommodation and shipping facilities need not fear comparison with many of the chief mercantile ports in the world.

The climate of New Zealand ranges from sub-tropical in the north to one resembling the south of England in the south. Its chief characteristics are an abundance of sunshine, a good rain supply, and a rather excessive amount of wind, without the extreme gales which rage in winter time around the coasts of Great Britain. Records of sunshine are taken at different centres, and rival those of the finest climates in Europe, an average of over 50 per cent. of the possible sunshine being recorded. At Napier, a town on the east coast of the North Island, the instrument in 1908 recorded 2692 hours 29 minutes, being 62 per cent. of the possible sunshine, or an average of 7 hours 23 minutes per day throughout the year. As will be seen from a study of an atlas, New Zealand lies in a corresponding latitude in the southern hemisphere to Spain and Italy in the northern, and its climate approaches that of Italy more nearly than that of any