

handsome electro-plated drinking fountain of large size will also be placed in the saloon.

The dining saloon will be on the lower deck, aft, the tables being arranged along the sides, with revolving chairs at suitable distances, convenient for dining, all stuffed and covered to match sofas; sofas to be arranged along each side. The panelling of the saloon is to be painted in tints, and well varnished.

The stairway, of teak, leading to the saloon, will have handrails of polished hardwood, to match the balusters which surround the opening, the steps to be overlaid with patent indiarubber treads, three-eighths of an inch thick, held in place by brass facings. A pantry and bar will be at the forward end of the dining saloon, fitted up with all necessary plate and tumbler-racks of mahogany, brass hooks, bottle racks, and every convenience.

A ladies' cabin is to be placed at the after end of the saloon, fitted and finished in keeping with the appointments of the main saloon, and with every necessary convenience, all in first-class style.

The forward saloon will be under the main deck, with a separate ladies' cabin, pantry, lavatory, etc. This saloon is to be panelled in yellow pine, nicely painted and varnished, and lighted by skylight on top, and side-lights similar to those in dining saloon. A pantry and bar will be placed at the fore-end of the saloon, in one apartment, and finished similar to that of the first saloon. The stairway leading to the saloon to be similar to that of the main saloon. All fittings to be the same as the first saloon, but bronzed. A drinking fountain will also be placed in this saloon.

Aft on the promenade deck there will be a good-sized smoking-room, the inside framing of which will be of polished mahogany, artistically arranged and finished, the roof to be planted and panelled in yellow pine, and painted and decorated to harmonise with surroundings. It will contain two tables with marble tops, fitted with tumbler racks underneath; stuffed sofas, covered with buffalo hide, the backs of which are to fold up, and to be utilised as sleeping berths. The room is to be lighted with skylight on top, and with square drooping windows in the walls. An electro-plated cigar lighter to be fixed in a convenient position.

The officers and engineers' cabins are to be on the main deck, the fittings to be pine and lacquered brass, sofa seat covered with the best green hair-cloth, folding-table, wash-basin, and neat fittings, all well-lighted and ventilated.

The seamen and firemen, stewards and cooks, will have accommodation right forward on the cabin deck. The berths to be of iron, two in height, in open tiers, and fitted with all conveniences.

The engines are to be direct-acting, compound, diagonal, surface-condensing paddle; two cylinders, diameters and stroke to be of sufficient power to propel the vessel 16 knots an hour with 60 tons deadweight on board. There are to be two cylindrical tubular boilers, with Howden's forced draught system fitted to each with a working pressure of 120lb. The whole of the machinery is to be constructed on the most approved principles, and to comply in all particulars with the Board of Trade requirements. Chadburn's reply telegraph, with three transmitters, connecting the bridge with the engine room, is to be fitted. A donkey boiler of 120lb pressure to supply steam enough for both winches when working together. These winches are to be 5in by 10in for working cargo. The steam windlass is to be capable of working easily a 1 1/4 in. chain cable, and to have warping capstan-head fitted. Steam steering gear is to be used, the steering engine to be very compact, and by the best makers.

The electric light is to be fitted throughout the whole of the vessel, the system to be that known as single wiring; the installation being capable of supplying continuously a current of 80 amperes at 100 volts, each light to have an independent switch. The cargo lamps, of which there are to be three, consist of a 300 candle power sun-beam lamp, fitted in a suitable lantern. On the main deck, right forward, portable stalls for twelve horses are to be fitted, six on each side.

## NEW ZEALAND SUNSETS.

A SUNSET IN THE SOUTHERN ALPS.

(BY THE WARRIGAL.)

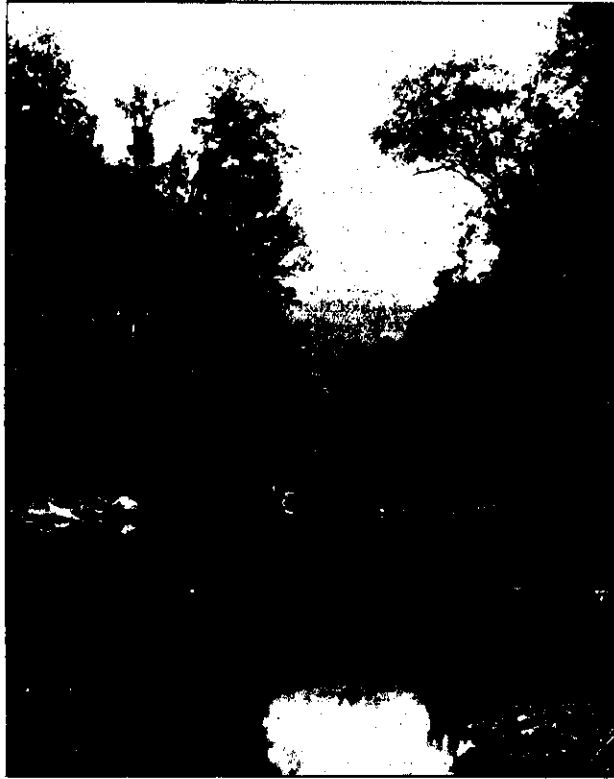
SUNSETS on the low land, sunsets on the high land, sunsets inland, and sunsets by the sea, all have beauties peculiarly their own, but no sunsets have such character as those on the eastern slopes of our great mountain ranges. The Southern Alps running north and south cut the day shorter for the people eastward, and one sees the sun set whilst yet it is strong with evening radiance. The strong light playing on snow peaks and fields of ice makes wonderful contrasts against the gloom of deep gorges and the blackness of hanging forests. The vast heights look higher at sunset, the

gorges and chasms look deeper, and all the power of rushing mighty rivers, all the grandeur of vast peaks and crags, all the mysterious force of the mountain world, is intensified, exaggerated at sunset. I have seen hundreds of sunsets amidst our New Zealand mountains, from the passes in the great dividing range, from spurs of the Seaward Kaikouras, peaks of the Quartz Ranges, from the wonderful alluvial plateaus above Wanaka and Hawea, from the head waters of Rakaiia and Rangitata, and from many other places; but out of all these sunsets there stands one

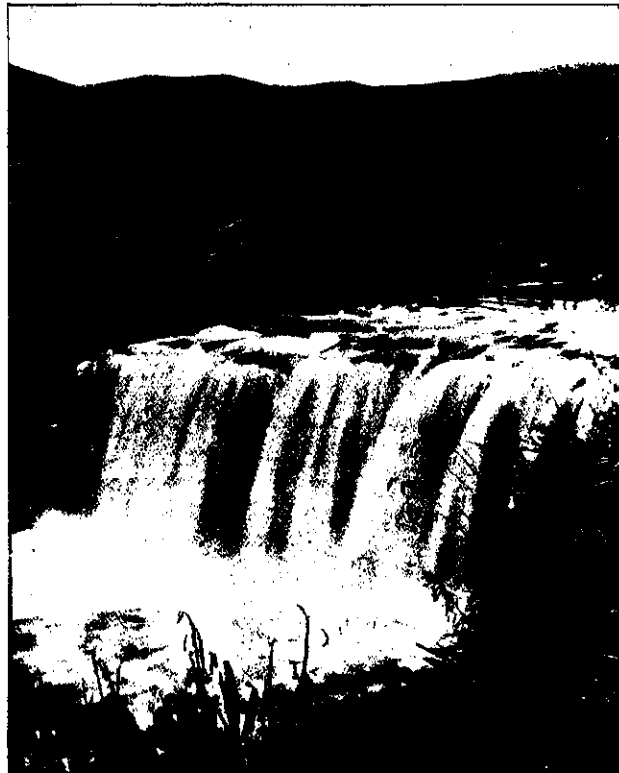
prominent because of its strangeness, unforgotten because of its awful beauty.

I stood on a high saddle of the Southern Alps one evening in winter time. Above me towered huge mountains white with winter snows; below me was a lake frozen into one great sheet of burnished steel. From three sides of this lake rose cliffs, bold, rocky, black as coal; from the open side of the lake the earth slanted steeply down to the valley of a mighty snow river; from the edge of the black cliffs ascended long slopes of immaculate snow reaching high toward a pale green sky.

All the deep hollows were in shadow, but the high peaks shone with the glory of sunlight. An hour before these peaks had been hidden by clouds so soft and white that mountains and clouds seemed one carved mass of snow reaching to the very roof of heaven; then a wind sprang up and drove the mists away, rolling the clouds before it with a slow, grand motion, and as the cloud left the peaks this wind caught up masses of frozen snow and hurled it in huge volumes into the sunlight, where it blazed into glorious rainbow hues. Then the wind fell, and over the mountain world came a deep calm—a calm well suited for the majesty and solemnity of the scene. The mountains were crowned with the radiance of sunset; shafts of light shot between great peaks, or blazed against precipitous slopes. Crimson and gold, the royal colours of sunset, became the evening robes of mountain monarchs. Flashing gems in kingly diadems are poor and tawdry compared with the gleam and glitter of sunset on those mountain crests. Slowly the colours faded from slope after slope and peak after peak until only the highest summits retained their gorgeous crowns, and then a veil of darkness seemed to fall over the lower world; but through this veil the snowfields gleamed ghostly white—an effect grand enough to make a man, standing there in solitude, bend his head to the majesty of nature. The last colours fled from the frozen heights, and then the calm was broken. There came a sound like the rustling of a thousand mighty wings, and lightning, blazing green and terrible. The dwellers on the plain far below might see it and know it as the herald of the fierce north-wester, and the fierce north-wester came with a voice like a thousand thunders. There was the breaking of great ice walls, the crashing of avalanches, the roar of mighty wind in the dark gorges. Time enough then for a man to leave mountain heights, and fascination enough to make him linger—the fascination of grandeur, of awful power.



PATRA RIVER, WEST COAST, N.Z.



TURANGAREKI FALL, NEAR RUAPEHU, ON HALES' BACK ROUTE, WANGANUI.

## FISHING BY ELECTRIC LIGHT.

EASTERN anglers are taking a leaf out of the book of the fishermen of the Pacific Coast. It will be remembered that an enterprising Californian was the first in the country to utilize the idea of attacking fish by means of the electric light. He had the nets for his coast fishing studded with incandescent lamps, which were connected to the batteries in an accompanying boat. As soon as the nets were sunk the current was turned on, and the incandescent filament drew fish from far and near, greatly surpassing in its effects on the hauling of the net the most irresistible of baits. Now an Albany man has devised an 'electrical' net, which works very much after the same fashion, except that the electric light used is fixed above the water instead of below its surface. When the light is placed in a position the nets are set either to the seaward of it or around it, flat upon the bottom. When the fish are drawn to the lamp a rubber which runs along the top of the net is inflated by a pump in the boat, the upper edge of the net will rise to the surface—the lower edge being held down by sinkers—and the fish are caught. A New Yorker has made a modification of the Californian plan of using submerged lights. He simply puts a three-candle power lamp in a quart preserving jar, lowers it into the water, and runs it with a sewing machine battery. He recommends those who wish to follow his example not to spend twenty dollars on a battery.