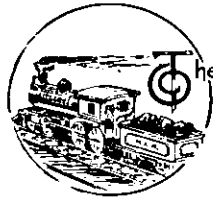


# HEALTH and PLEASURE RESORTS of *WOW* NEW ZEALAND.

WHAKAREWAREWA.

NO. 3.



The picture of Tarkenga station, which appears on this page, should, it might be supposed, have been included in those articles in which we dealt with the formation and opening of the new line. It was, as a matter of fact, unavoid-

ably crowded out of those issues, but being a very interesting picture, its insertion is *apropos* at any time. The sketch was taken by our artist immediately the Auckland train arrived, and shows the mingled interest and contempt with which the natives treated the iron horse. One actually unconcernedly sat himself down on the line, and absolutely refused to budge till the whistle screamed shrill expletions. Almost all that is to be said concerning the sanatorium was included in our last number, but one or two points may be mentioned before passing to the

WONDER OF WONDERLAND—WEIRD WHAKAREWAREWA, whose very name bewrayeth it.

The most popular bath in the Rotorna sanatorium, more especially for persons in good health, is the Blue Bath, of which an illustration is given. The climate of the Hot Lakes district is excellent. We quote the following from the report of the medical officer, Dr. Ginders:—

'The geographical position of the North Island of New Zealand will naturally suggest something of the character of its inland climate at an elevation of 1,000ft. Rotorna is some forty miles from the coast. Its elevation is 990ft. above the sea-level. The atmosphere is drier and more bracing than that of the coast—in winter considerably colder, and in summer perhaps somewhat hotter, but of a dry pleasant heat, free from the moist oppressiveness which characterizes the summer heat of Auckland and other coast towns. The mean temperature of spring is 53deg., of summer 66deg., of autumn 57deg., and of winter 45deg. The relative moisture of the air for the four seasons (taking complete saturation at 100deg.) is—for spring, 74deg.; for summer, 66deg.; for autumn, 67deg.; and for winter, 74 deg. The steam which rises so abundantly and perpetually all over the district no doubt adds considerably to the moisture of the atmosphere. This was clearly shown in the month of June, 1886, when the great eruption of Tarawera took place. The relative moisture for that month was 10deg. in excess of the average, owing to the immense amount of vapour caused by the eruption. The rainfall for the year is about 50in., and the number of days on which rain falls about 140.

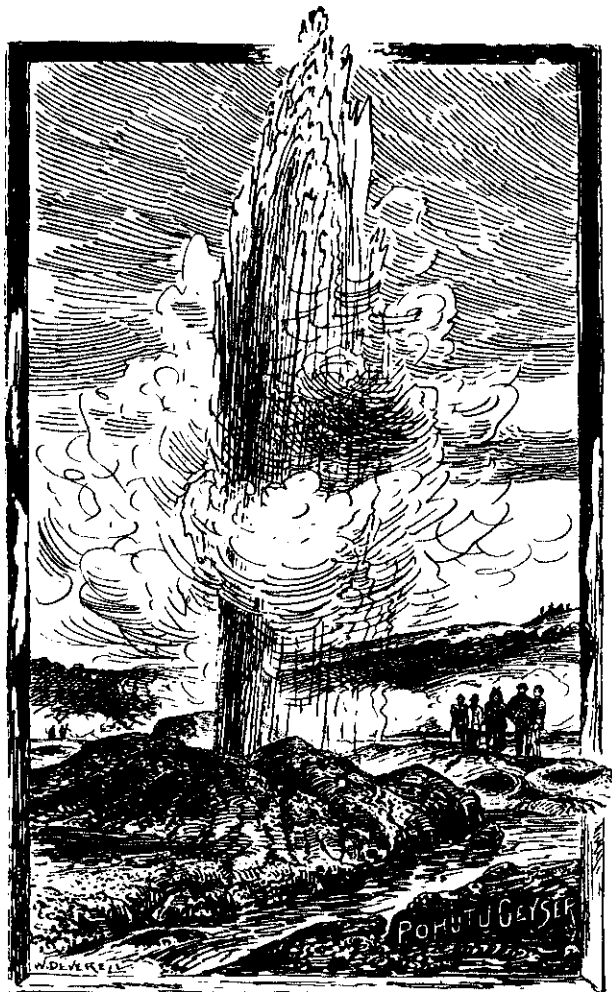
Auckland has 18in. less rain, and thirteen more rainy days. The daily range of temperature is greatest in the summer and least in the winter. This condition maintains throughout the whole of New Zealand, and constitutes one of the greatest charms of its climate. No matter how hot a summer's day may be, the nights are invariably cool. The mean daily range of temperature for spring is 21deg., for summer 28 deg., for autumn 25 deg., and for winter 20deg. These annual means, it must be remembered, are based on observations extending over seven years only, and consequently have only a relative value. For example, the rainfall for the six years ending with the year 1891, averaged 50in. per annum, but in 1892 the rainfall was 67in.; so that for these averages to have an absolute value they must be based on observations extending over a far longer period.'

No writer, no artist could do full justice to the uncanny and turbulent fragment of the earth's surface known as Whakarewarewa. Long before we reach our destination, the now famous Geyser Hotel, of which we shall have much to say very shortly, clouds of steam, rolling masses of snowy vapour, curling into every imaginable graceful shape, have given warning that we are approaching a centre of the

WILDEST THERMAL ACTIVITY. Every now and then some larger jet of steam shoots high into the air, giving notice that one or other of the geysers are performing. The scene is so wild, so desolate, that it is almost a surprise to draw up before the large and very smart-looking building which bears on its face the legend

THE GEYSER HOTEL.  
Ready to welcome his guests stands Mr Nelson, as popular a host, as

genial a gentleman, and as instructive a conversationalist as you shall find in New Zealand. Much of the unquestionable popularity of this first-class hotel—home would be a better word—is due to Mr Nelson's faculty of making *everyone* at home, and a sort of intuition of the personal tastes of every individual guest. He is a man of great attainments, and a splendid linguist. The tourist who makes a friend of Mr Nelson will learn more in half



TARUKENGA, PRESENT TERMINUS OF THE ROTORUA RAILWAY LINE.