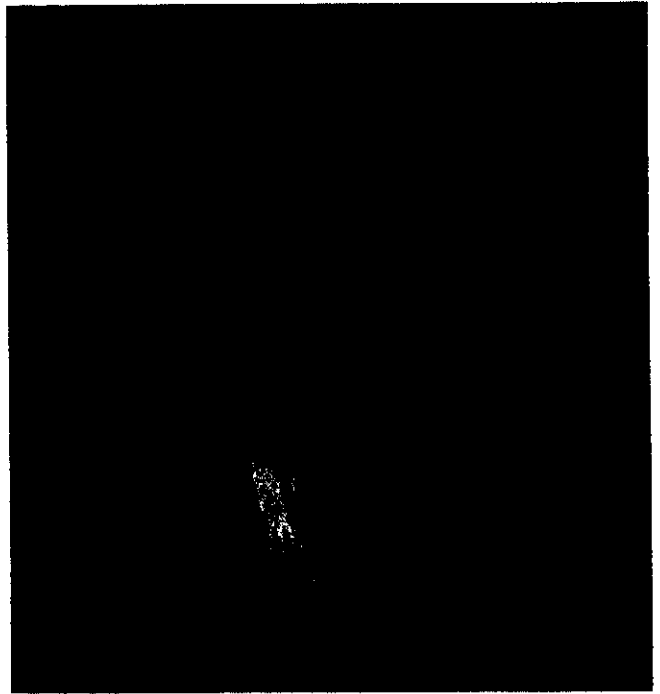




THE MOST RECENT PORTRAIT OF THE LATE EMPRESS FREDERICK.



PELORUS JACK.

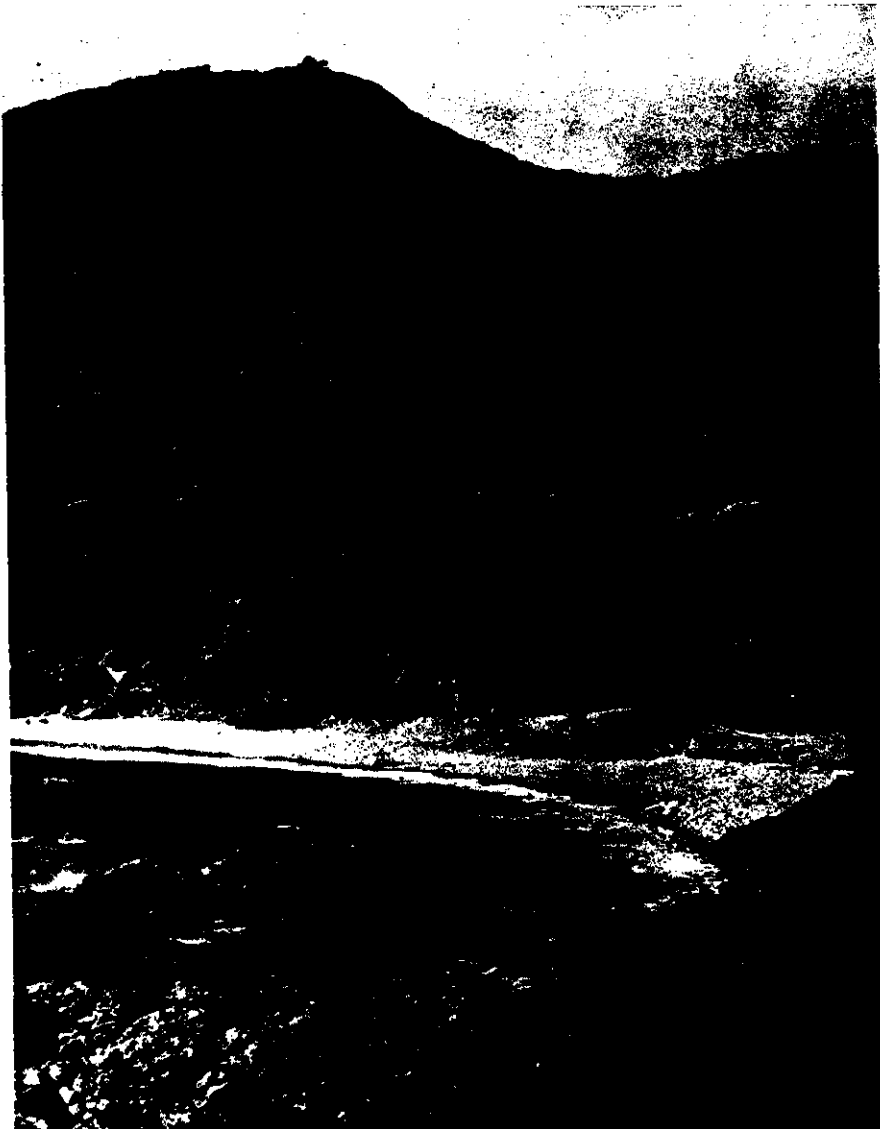
Pelorus Jack.

You cannot travel by any steamer running on the West Coast of the South Island of New Zealand without hearing of Pelorus Jack, and the chances are that you will see him. He is not a man, as his name might suggest, but a whale—a white whale—or “something very like a whale,” and he has his residence in the vicinity of Pelorus Sound and the French Pass. Jack is a sociable fish, who makes it a point of meeting every vessel going through the Pass, and accompanying it some distance on its way. His white form, some 14 feet long, is a familiar object to those who navigate this coast. The accompanying photograph taken, and kindly lent to us by Colonel the Hon. A. Pitt, is an enlargement from a snapshot which was obtained from on board the Mapourika.

French Duels as Fakes.

A French journal has been explaining how it is duels so rarely result in injuries to the combatants. It suggests that the bullets used are frequently composed of mercury and lead, which in weight and general appearance are almost perfect counterfeits except for a slightly silver shade and greasy touch. Though heavy and solid looking the first blow of the ramrod pulverizes them. All sorts of precautions are taken against this kind of deception. Pistols duels are never fought with revolvers or weapons requiring cartridges which do not present the necessary quantities, but such duels are fought with old-fashioned muzzle-loading pistols. Indeed, it is not unusual for seconds to agree on some celebrated “armurier” who shall furnish a sealed box of weapons containing two pistols sealed and certified, a number of similarly certified charges of powder and bullets. Trickery would, therefore, seem impossible.

In spite, however, of all these precautions the benevolent fraud goes on. There are usually four seconds, two for each combatant. As it is easier for two men to come to an understanding than four, the pair that have agreed to prevent bloodshed manage to take charge of the loading while their confederates are listening to the last nervous recommendations of the principals.



FANTAIL POINT, COROMANDEL COAST.