

Mr. A. Erskine, of Wellington, has been elected president of the New Zealand Educational Institute.

Fish are undoubtedly plentiful in the Wanganui river, as many anglers make fair catches, while others get bites without always securing their trout.

Said to be the oldest ship in the world in active service, the Copenhagen yacht Constance has been sold to a fisherman of Skaw, in Jutland. The Constance was built 193 years ago, and in her long life she has sailed into almost every port in the world. Her timbers are still staunch, and her new owner declares he can see no reason why she should not sail the seas for a century to come.

A tribute has been paid by a Frenchman to the English traveller. He says he is always happy to find himself in a country that has been "civilised" by Englishmen, who have compelled the hotelkeeper to maintain cleanliness and provide good food. To this he adds that he could cite many towns in France where beneficial changes have been made in consequence solely of the demands of English travellers.

The active volcano, Ngaruhoe, which is such an attraction to visiting tourists, has been living up to its reputation as an energetic-minded sight, during the holiday season. For some time on a recent morning the mountain sent up volumes of steam and smoke at intervals of two or three minutes, and provided a unique spectacle for the onlookers.

New Zealand draws her tourist traffic from many quarters, and if the wondrous beauties of her scenery were more fully known would make a world-wide appeal. Amongst the tourists who passed through Auckland last week was Senhor Francisco Ragand-Nogueira, of Brazil, who has been paying a short visit to the Queen City of the North and intends to proceed to Tahiti before he returns to Wellington, from which centre he intends to make a comprehensive tour of the Dominion.

It is understood that an officer of the Public Works Department will make another attempt to follow the direct track from the head of Lake Wakatipu to Milford Sound discovered by Mr. W. G. Grave and party with a view to testing its suitability as a permanent tourist route. The track was investigated last season at this time of the year, but the matter was shelved on account of expense. The route would be a great improvement to the Cold Lake trips, as it would obviate the necessity of returning by the same route and would provide a circular track through new and wondrous scenery.

It is reported that on a low estimate 4000 to 5000 trout were killed in the Ophi river alone during the holidays. Nearly all were taken on the "worm," the water being discoloured by food, and it proved a certain death dealer. Hundreds of anglers were out, and the pity of the killing was the very large number of small fish that were put into the basket. Some of the heaviest takes were 20 to 40 fish, and the drain on the stock in the river was tremendous. If supply is to be kept up, either the use of the worm should be prohibited or baskets limited to a certain number of fish to each rod.

Some fine sport is reported from Canterbury, and anglers fishing at the mouths of the Rangitata and Ashburton Rivers secured over twenty fish, including some weighing 8 1/2 lb, and 10 lb, while another also landed a 10 lb fish. Good sport was also obtained in the various Ashburton County rivers, one basket of thirty trout being taken by two fishermen in the Upper Ashburton. There has been little success so far at the mouth of the Ashburton River, as the large trout have not made their appearance. However, fair sport has been enjoyed among the herrings and red cod.

Fishing reports from Canterbury state that the Lower Selwyn is in exceptionally fine form, thanks to the thorough scouring out it has received, and although the water is slightly higher than usual at this time of the year, it is rapidly returning to its usual level. An angler recently returned from a visit to Lake Kubicon, reports that the trout there are taking fly in preference to all other lures. The Makara has produced a very large number of fish, despite the fact that there was an exceptionally heavy run of silveries in the river. A sportsman killed a 14-pound trout, and the majority of anglers have each caught a brace or two of fish.

Anglers in the Auckland province report good sport during the holiday season. From the Maungoakiwa stream, near Te Kuiti, in the part reserved this year for fly fishing, splendid fish, up to 7 lb, have been taken, affording excellent sport. Fairly good fishing has also been found on the Waipa river, and the reports from the Upper Wanganui are encouraging. The Auckland Acclimatisation Society received a most enthusiastic letter from a gentleman who spent his holidays in the Waiotomo district, in which he stated that he had fine sport in the Hangatiki river. This stream has not previously been regarded as a fishing stream of any importance. During the holidays many sportsmen, including men from overseas, who will later sample the trout fishing, have given their attention to the kingfish, in the Bay of Islands, and splendid sport is reported to have been obtained by them. Kingfishing is rapidly growing in popularity, and other parties intend spending a few days in the bay during the early part of the New Year.

The servants of a certain London hotel, men who keep alive as perhaps no others can the old traditions of the toll-gate, have recently been telling a story against themselves. A visitor has got past them scot-free. They do not think any the worse of him for it; they honour the foe that comes with fearless eyes. He was a simple old clergyman who took a quiet room on the top floor, "with a view of St. Paul's, please." Obviously he was not hotel wise. He had brought no soap with him and ordered a cake of it from the hotel store, as well as a candle, which he said he preferred to electricity for its "wholesome light." Touching items in his next morning's bill were, "Soap, 1s," "Candle, 6d." The old clergyman looked benignly at the bill, but before leaving his room into his left tail-pocket went the soap, into his right the candle. At the hotel entrance the staff was drawn up in line. The old clergyman approached. From his pockets the clergyman produced the candle and pressed it into the sub-porter's hand, saying, "Sixpence for you." Into the great gold-laced functionary's hand went the soap. "A shilling for you, my friend."

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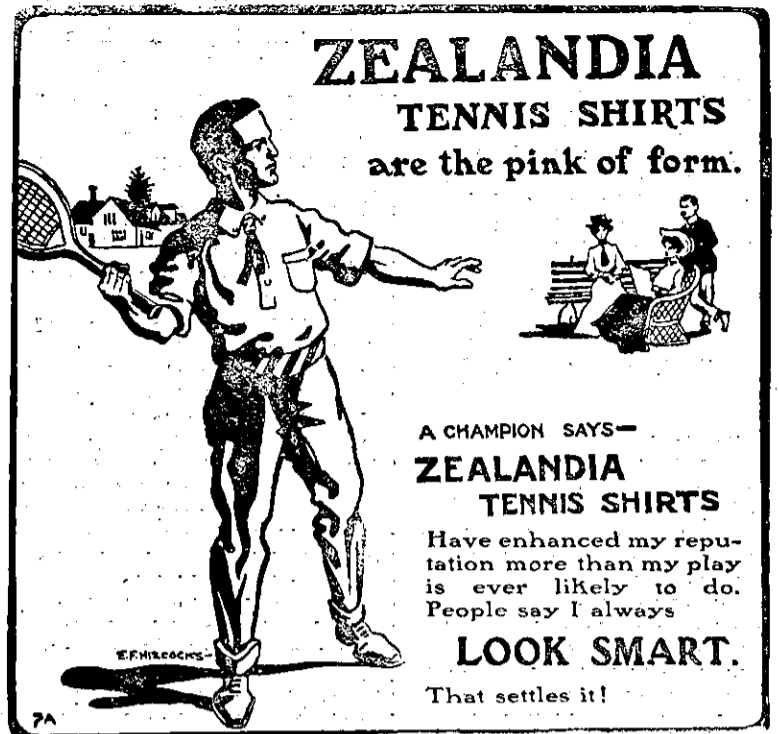
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