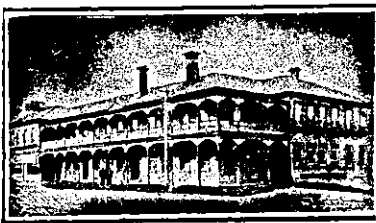


TOURIST AND TRAVELLER.

(Continued.)

Donald Sutherland, who has given up the duties of tourist guide in the Milford Sound country, is the "oldest identity" of the Fiordland National Park, and ought to know more about the loneliness and the privations of life in that great, wild land than any man living. He has spent nearly forty years on the shores of the Sound, and for several years of that period he lived absolutely alone, seeing no living soul for months at a time. He kept himself in food with his gun and his fishing-line, and the Government steamer called in about twice a year with stores. Sutherland has been sailor and soldier in his time. He served in the Armed Constabulary in the Maori War days, and in 1876 he pitched his lonely tent at the head of Milford on the spot where his comfortable house now stands.

Except for certain delicious periods of the year, one cannot honestly praise the climate of Japan, says a recent tourist: but it has certainly divine caprices, and when the sunshine does unexpectedly come, during the chilly and moist months, the light is very splendid, and of a peculiar silvery tone, and the summer days are golden. For this the tea-plant, the young bamboo-shoots, and the other sub-tropical vegetation wait patiently underneath the snows; indeed, all the sun-loving plants of the land have lurked, like the inhabitants to "wait till the clouds roll by." Some of the most beautiful know how to defy the worst weather with a curious hardihood. You will see the camellias blossoming with the ice thick about their roots, and the early plumblooms covered with a fall of snow which is not more white and delicate than the petals with which it thus mingles. The landscape in Japan takes a double character from her sub-tropical latitude and her Siberian vicinity. The zones and kingdoms of the north and south meet as on a border region in the beautiful islands. You might think yourself in Mexico or India on many a July or August day, for the strong sun and the palms and bamboos. On the whole, though a fairly healthy climate, and excellent apparently for children, it must not be greatly praised. Autumn and spring are the best seasons. The June rains are followed by six sultry weeks, called do-yo, which prove very "muggy" and trying, and from November to March the cold is extremely bitter, and the winds oftentimes, savagely bleak. Tokio has 58.33in of yearly rainfall, against 24.76 at Greenwich. Grass lawns, for all that, do not turn green until May. By an unhappy arrangement of Nature, north winds blow steadily in the winter, and the southerly winds pretty constantly all the summer.



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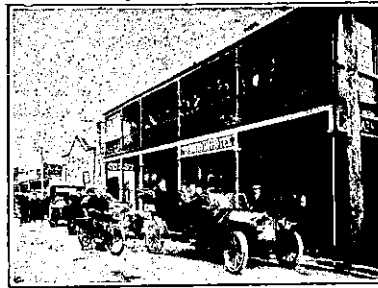
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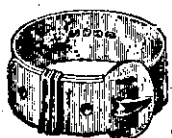
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