



*Russell from the hills.*

fishermen completing arrangements for their camps farther down the Bay. You are reminded of that by a notice on one of the buildings "Bay of Islands Swordfish and Mako Shark Club." And, of course, for most New-Zealanders, swordfish and sharks inevitably recall the name of the American novelist Zane Grey, who did much to make the Bay of Islands known as a big-game fishing-ground. His camp at Otehei is one of the places you see if you take a trip in the launch that delivers supplies to the settlers down the Bay each week.

Some big fish have been caught from the Bay of Islands camps, among them half a dozen of various sorts which were, up to 1939 at any rate, according to published figures, claimed as world records for weight. A list of the heaviest fish caught off the Bay up to the same year sounds impressive: striped marlin, 450 lb.; black marlin, 976 lb.; mako shark, 800 lb.; thresher shark, 992 lb.; kingfish, 115 lb.; snapper, 25 lb.; turtle, 1,062 lb.; sun-fish, 803 lb.; hammer-head shark, 800 lb.; and broadbill swordfish, 673 lb. Sharks and swordfish have brought fame to the modern Russell. Well over a century ago it was whalers and whaleships that brought not fame but notoriety to the old Russell.

Kororareka, which was the name early

Russell went by, was the first town in New Zealand. As such it had a brief day of importance as the first capital of the new colony. But it was destroyed in a war with the Maoris in 1845; and in the modern township of Russell only two of the early buildings remain.

They are the English church, built in 1835, and the house of the Roman Catholic Bishop of Oceania, Bishop Pompallier.

The real founder of the European settlement at Kororareka was, as one writer has remarked, a man whose name should not be inscribed on his country's roll of honour. He was Benjamin Turner, an ex-convict who worked as a sawyer. He bought a small section on the waterfront and there, "with a shrewd eye for the profits to be made out of human weakness, he built a grog-shop. It was an instant success. And New Zealand's first town was born."

Captain Cook sailed into the Bay of Islands in 1769. Within forty years of that date whalers were putting into the Bay in considerable numbers. They continued to do so up to the "eighteen forties." It was almost solely with them that the business of the white dealers and Maori barterers at Kororareka lay. More than twenty whaleships were sometimes anchored off the beach at one



*Cows graze under the trees on the waterfront.*