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TIMARU.

A SHORT notice of the town of Timaru, which is practically the starting point of the Mount Cook road and the centre of an important grain and wool-growing district, may not be out of place here. The name is, of course, a Maori one, being derived from *ti*, the *Cordyline Australis* of the naturalist, or cabbage tree of the settler, and *maru*, a word which in Maori signifies shelter. For many years the port was merely an open roadstead, and the shipowners who had the temerity to use it met with more than a fair percentage of wrecks. But by the expenditure of some £300,000—and, by the way, harbour works are still being carried on there—Timaru now possesses a very fair little harbour, but has to face the constant work and expense of coping with the ever-accumulating shifting shingle, which, coming from the mouths of the Waitaki and other rivers, pursues its resistless northward journey along the coast. In Caroline Bay, the fine sea sand of which was caused by the obstruction which the breakwater offered to the aforesaid travelling shingle, Timaru possesses a safe and convenient bathing place. All the rivers and streams in the neighbourhood fairly teem with trout, and the fisherman will have no difficulty in obtaining reliable information on this subject. There are any amount of drives in the vicinity of Timaru which should interest those who wish to see the conditions under which the growth of grain and stock are carried out in this colony. The principal industries of Timaru are flour-milling, of which the annual output is about 25,000 tons; sheep-freezing to an extent of some 260,000 sheep and lambs per annum; and the manufacture of woollen goods, which accounts for about 1,500 bales of wool per annum. As most of the land in the district is really good, and the climate equable and temperate, one is not surprised to find that the settlers in these parts enjoy more than the usual portion of prosperity.



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