



## “**ELLERSLIE,**” Governor’s Bay.

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### TROUT FISHING IN CANTERBURY.

By F.P.M.

TAKING the principal trout rivers of Canterbury from the North, there is this much to be said. Good trout can be obtained in the Clarence, the Waiau, the Hurunui, and tributaries, but to come nearer home and within reasonable distance of Christchurch good fishing can be got in the Ashley. The mouth of this river can be reached in an eight miles drive from Kaiapoi, which is only twelve miles north of Christchurch by train. Good fly fishing can be got within two miles of the mouth of the river, the best taking flies being The Yellow Tip Governor, Black Gnat, Hardy’s Favorite, and Moor-fowl. At and around the mouth of the river, good fish can be obtained with the Minnow, and these will average from 1 lb. to 10 lbs. Coming higher up the stream, we will suppose that the tourist takes train to Rangiora, from which place the river is within a ten minutes stroll. Here the same flies apply, with the addition in the early part of the season of the Blue Dun. Those who may be inclined to go further upstream, in the hope of catching larger though fewer fish, might pursue such tributaries as the Okuku, Karetu, etc., which are all within easy access of Rangiora. Baskets of thirty, or over, are not uncommon in these streams. Coming a few miles further South we strike the Waimakariri River, in which the best fishing is to be obtained within a few miles above and below White’s bridge, some nine miles distant from Christchurch. Here the fish run from 1½ to 16 lbs., and may be caught with artificial minnows of all sorts, of which the Whitebait Phantom is perhaps the best. A good natural bait, however, is always close to the ground in the person of the Maori Smelt, which is easily obtained in the locality. Those who are fond of mountain scenery, and who don’t mind climbing over a few rocks, or getting a bit above their waders at times may find fair sport from Springfield (42 miles west of Christchurch by train), or upwards, where, though the fly has been tried with poor success, the followers of the minnow have often put up big scores. Some five miles north of Christchurch is the Styx River, where fair fishing can be obtained with fly, but as most of the riparian ground happens to

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