

into the harbour all along the road to Katikati is like the rich land out on the Rotorua road to Te Puke and beyond, some of the best dairying country in New Zealand.

Tauranga's tourist trade is, in peacetime, a source of income for the townspeople. Big-game fishermen who chase the shark and swordfish out in the bay charter their launches here, and thousands of holiday makers come to the beaches that stretch out to the south-east below the Mount.

There is still a large Maori population most of whom are working on Native land-development schemes in the vicinity. Running from the Mount north to the Katikati entrance to the harbour is a long slim island called Matakana, which is wholly settled by Maoris who are either dairying or growing potatoes, kumaras, and maize for the Auckland markets. Normal access is by launch, but at low tide the cream-cans are carried across by dray from the northern tip. On Matakana the Native Department has encouraged and assisted the Maoris to grow crops for which there has been a wartime demand, and it is hoped that they will take to vegetable growing when the war is over.

When milling begins in the *Pinus insignis* forests that cover the seaward side of the island, plenty of labour will be required, but the problem here, as elsewhere, is to find as much useful employment as possible for the Natives on the lands that are left to them.



Miss Alice Maxwell.

Dairying cannot support the growing population of the island. Cropping has already proved profitable, and with a change of emphasis and wise planning may continue to be so.

Perhaps the town's most impressive landmark is a giant aspen in a little park below the Government buildings. According to tradition, it grew from a switch stuck into the ground by a drover some seventy years ago. Though odd limbs have been lopped off, it is a magnificent tree. It was young in 1875 when the town was young; so it has presided over Tauranga's growth from its days of war and poverty to its present security and peace.



Typical Countryside around Tauranga.