

SUBMARINE EARTHQUAKE

Aorangi Sailed For 400 Miles Through Debris-Strewn Waters.

Evidences of tremendous submarine earthquake were seen by the Canadian-Australian liner Aorangi last Sunday as she steamed for this port. Early in the morning it was noticed that the clear green of the ocean had changed to a dirty brown such as is seen close off-shore when after heavy rains the rivers bring down vast quantities of matter in suspension. The Aorangi, however, was about a thousand miles from the nearest land, in this instance California, and even the washing of dirty linen which has been going on in San Francisco lately could not be held sufficient to account for the phenomenon. As the day advanced fragments of pumice were seen floating about and then the cause of the appearance of the water became evident. There had been an earthquake down below, probably accompanied by a discharge from a sub-marine volcano, and this had flung the deposits lying on the floor of the ocean violently towards the surface. In doing so whole populations of low forms of marine life had been ruthlessly disturbed and killed. For nearly 400 miles the Aorangi sailed through waters in which floated marine matter, barnacles like shellfish growing on marine stalks, and large clusters of a dark green weed. The species of none of these were known, nor were they like anything which those aboard who were acquainted with marine life had ever seen. Some specimens were secured and a full account of the circumstances will be forwarded to the Meteorological office at London.