

## AN OCEAN PHENOMENON

### PROBABLY DUE TO EARTH- QUAKE.

Sydney, Aug. 24.

Surrounded by calm seas at a distance of about 224 miles from Sydney Heads, a huge patch of swirling and tumbling water was observed by the master and officers of the steamer Maheno which arrived from Auckland to-day. The cause of the phenomenon is not known, but it is considered most likely that a submarine earthquake was responsible. Seaweed was in evidence, and there were many sharks cruising around, indicating that in all probability fish had been killed or stunned by the force of the disturbance. Before reaching the patch the Maheno did not encounter any unusual current, and after passing it the sea was quite normal. For a considerable time afterwards the swirling waters could be seen, which made it evident that the disturbance was not of a temporary character.

The master of the Maheno, Captain Molyneaux, said that he had never seen a similar patch in mid-ocean before. It had an oily look and appeared to boil at times. I do not know whether it was caused by a submarine disturbance or by

a very strong current. He added, "The sea was calm and there was only a light southerly breeze. I noticed the broken water from my cabin and proceeded to the bridge. The fourth officer informed me that he had seen a number of sharks and a quantity of seaweed. The patch extended for about a mile and a half, and it appeared as if a tide rip was meeting other water. The line of demarcation between the two waters was very clear. A report of the observations will be forwarded to the Navigation De-

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