



Mr. R. A. F. Murray, geologist, passed through Wellington on Tuesday *en route* to the Thames, Te Aroha, and Coromandel goldfields. He was accompanied by Messrs. Gordon and McKay.

There was a slight fire in the Albert Hotel on Sunday evening. It seems that one of the lady members of the circus left her room with a candle perilously near the curtain. The wind stirring it the slight fabric caught, and considerable damage was done to the clothing and other articles in the room before it was finally extinguished.

The Wellington schools re-opened after the Christmas holidays on Monday last.

If Mr. Kenneth Kennedy can perform what he claims he is able to, his knowledge will be of infinite benefit to the big sheep raisers of New Zealand. He states that he has discovered an effectual remedy for bot-fly, and also that he can cure lung-worm in sheep. He has offered to place himself at the disposal of the Agricultural Department if desired.

No decision has as yet been come to by the Opera House Directors as to who shall succeed Mr. Baird as secretary.

In our interview with Colonel Fox in a recent issue, the Colonel stated that it was possible for a brevet officer to outrank his commanding regimental officer in taking the command of a brigade. The following letter in support of his assertion may prove of interest to our readers:

"To the Editor,

"Sir,—It may interest some of your volunteer readers, who are no doubt numerous, to read of an actual case of a Brevet Colonel taking precedence of his own commanding officer. Brevet-Colonel H. G. Moore, V.C. 93rd Highlanders, was Major of that regiment, and in the absence of the Brigadier (Sir H. Havelock Allan) on several occasions took command of the 3rd Infantry Brigade at Aldershot over the head of his own Colonel.

"Yours, &c.,  
"EMERITUS."

Albert Cohen, parliamentary representative of the Dunedin *Star*, has been spending a brief holiday in Wellington. He returned to Dunedin this week.

A German recently cut off his nose to escape the conscription. This is decidedly an example of the old adage that "a man will cut off his nose to spite his face."

"Phiz," the erratic, inane critic for *Christchurch Truth* says in one paragraph, "Conan Doyle has at length, and not before it was time, killed Sherlock Holmes, the thunder-and-lightning private "detective." I think the universal verdict of readers will be 'Justifiable Holmesicide,' and in another paragraph immediately following, "It is far easier to be an iconoclast than to build." Comment is superfluous. His own criticism on himself is too exquisite to improve on; it would be painting the lily or elongating the ears of an ass.

Edward Farley, the singer, has taken a pub. in Sydney.

The Wellington Reed Band gave a musical outing in the Hospital grounds on Sunday afternoon last. After the performance was over a substantial collection was realised for the benefit of the Hospital funds. The band was under the conductorship of Mr. W. Foster.

£106 10s. was taken at the gates of the Basin Reserve on Saturday last. Although the amount seems large we had anticipated that more money would be taken judging by the enthusiasm that seemed to be manifested in the match. Half the amount will go to the New South Wales cricket team to aid in defraying their expenses.

A meeting of the Wellington Prohibition League was held in Wesley Hall, Taranaki Street, last Friday night to discuss the plan of campaign with reference to the approaching licensing election. A conference of the delegates from the various temperance bodies will be held to-night (Friday). It has been suggested that a local Prohibition organ be started in Wellington. We wish it luck; but we prophesy that if it is anything like the one already in existence its length of duration will be numbered by weeks, and financially, its latter end will be worse than its former. The public want a newspaper and not a howling, ranting, intemperate rag that endeavours to blacken respectable peoples' reputations and continually raves for the acquiring of something as easily obtainable as the moon.

The reopening of the Newtown State School will not take place until February 12th, a postponement having been made in consequence of the alterations to the building not having been completed.

The annual autumn show of the Wellington Horticultural and Florists Society will take place at the Skating Rink on February 21st and 22nd.

At the quarterly communication of the Masonic Grand Lodge, Brother Francis Dillon Bell was nominated to the office of Grand Master. An objection was lodged on the ground that he was not a Past Master but the objection was overridden.

Sir George Grey left Auckland for Rotorua last Saturday. He has been suffering from bronchitis lately and visits the Springs for his health. We fear that the old warrior's capability of entering the arena of public life has gone.

The Wanganui Public Library is to be congratulated on its prosperous condition. There are now over 250 contributors, and the Library is debt-free with a credit balance in the Bank of £51 10s.

Mr. Ronayne, one of the newly appointed Railway Commissioners, was banquetted at Greymouth last Saturday. Furthermore, the citizens of that township intend presenting him with a piece of plate. Is this popularity? or merely the fawning adulation usually tendered to a successful politician and office seeker?

It is asserted that H.M.S. Crescent is to replace the Orlando on the Australian station.

The Novelty Minstrels seems hardly to have been so successful at the Opera House as was expected, and as a consequence some of the former members are lamenting.



"WHY HE DO IT?"

Visitor—"My dear fellow, why do you place that gigantic ugly bust in so prominent a position in your studio?"

Artist—"It enhances the taste of my whiskey old man. Now that women have got the franchise, and the probabilities are that in a comparatively short time we shall have our cigars and liquor cut off. Every time I take a drink I say, 'Here's to you, my lady, it may be the last bottle.'"

Mr. W. McMillan, ex Colonial Treasurer, of N.S.W., is at present in New Zealand and passed through Wellington this week. Mr. McMillan, who is a prominent member of the firm of Messrs. McArthur and Co., is combining business with pleasure in his trip to New Zealand. He will not remain in the colony long as his business and political duties demand that his absence from Sydney should not be an extended one.

We read in the ladies' column of a Sydney contemporary the following fashionable intelligence, "Gentlemen invited to tennis parties are expected to come in tennis costume; the ladies will also wear loose, easy tennis shirts of silk or some other tasty material." How these innovations steal upon us.

In other days when one received an invitation, you would see Just in the corner of the note, These letters four R.S.V.P.

But now an invitation to Tea, tennis, or a quiet flirt, Will probably these letters bear, D. F. S.—don't forget your shirt,