

OUR ILLUSTRATIONS.

GOLD AND GOLD-DREDGING IN NEW ZEALAND.

(Continued from page 39.)

by amusing. For instance, we hear of one mechanical genius who suggested that an iron pipe should be sunk in the bed of the Molyneux, sufficiently large to carry away the whole of its waters. This simple device would, it was stated, enable miners to work the bed of the river on either side of the pipe. Another inventive enthusiast recommended that the Kawarau River should be dammed back at its junction with the Arrow; while others urged that the course of the river should be turned at various points, as suggested in Sir Julius Vogel's "A.D. 2000."

All idea of turning the river at any portion of its course, a costly if not a useless process in any case, has long since been abandoned, owing to the state of comparative perfection to which the modern gold dredge has been brought.

The idea of dredging the river for gold dates as far back as the later "sixties," or early "seventies," when a spoon-bucket dredge was put on the river near Alexandra. This in its primitive form consisted simply of an iron ring and oxidize bag attached to a long pole. The apparatus was dropped in the river, the ring being forced to the bottom by means of the pole, and then dragged to the shore by a rope attached to a winch. An improved spoon-dredge was not long in making its appearance, the winch being placed on a punt, strongly moored in the river. The wash-dirt lifted by this process had to be cradled in order to separate the gold. At first the returns from the various dredges of this pattern were often as high as 70 or 80 ounces a week. The expenses of working, however, were much higher proportionately than those of the modern dredge.

The next improvement was the introduction of a paddle wheel driven by the current to work the spoon-dredge, the dredge being known as a current wheel-er. This did not prove the success that was anticipated, and it was followed by a steam spoon-dredge, which, however, failed to satisfactorily deal with the tailings that were constantly being discharged into the river from the sluicing claims on the banks.

It was not until 1881 that the first steam bucket and ladder dredge was placed upon the Clutha. This was the "Eureka," but unfortunately it was not at first a success. It was speedily followed, however, by the Dunedin Company's large dredge, which was running a year or two ago, although considerably altered and improved from its first appearance. During its 16 years of working, this dredge has obtained gold exceeding in value £60,000.

The gold-dredging boom that reached its height in 1899-1900, really commenced with the phenomenal success of the New Hoy Company in 1889. With a small steam bucket dredge on the Shotover, a tributary of the Kawarau, such extraordinarily rich results were obtained that the £10 shares of the company were soon selling for £250. The immediate consequences were somewhat disastrous, as so many dredges were placed on the Kawarau, in good, bad or indifferent positions, that very many of them failed to pay. A number of these were then placed on the Clutha, between Alexandra and Clyde. This was about the beginning of 1893. Here good results were obtained, and after that the dredging boom went ahead with leaps and bounds, until it reached its flood tide in the unprecedented and phenomenal operations of 1899-1900. Both in Otago and in Westland hundreds of companies sprang into existence, or were in process of formation, for the purpose of dredging the rivers or their adjacent alluvial flats. The demand for dredges was far in excess of the supply. The foundries were working day and night to try to meet the demand, and scores of companies were in operation to whom the dredges under order could not be supplied for three or four years to come. The state of excitement and unrest in Otago and on the West Coast, and even throughout the whole colony, was something unprecedented. The shares of all sorts and conditions of companies

were eagerly rushed for and taken up. Lawyers, teachers, shopkeepers, labourers; in fact, members of every class of the community, were eager participants in the great gamble. Needless to say that this huge wild-cat scramble ended in disaster to the great majority, and in utter ruin to not a few. It is not the purpose of this article to give an account of the great dredging boom. It is sufficient to notice for the present that the collapse of the boom, although it brought loss and ruin to large numbers of shareholders, had the effect of purging the field of numberless wild-cat schemes and companies, and of freeing the dredging industry, to some extent, from the wild gambling mania that had infested it. This industry seems now to be on a permanent footing. The various dredges that are at present in operation are yielding fairly good returns, and the value of their shares is now determined by the actual net returns, rather than, as formerly, by a fictitious competition for shares. While it remains in this condition the future of gold dredging in New Zealand as a permanent industry is assured, and its value to the colony and the community is everywhere abundantly evident.

OUR TIMBER INDUSTRY.—TRIPPING A DAM.

Not the least interesting and exciting operation connected with the important timber industry of the North is that known as "tripping a dam." The huge logs are jacked into some convenient stream after being felled, but as the flow of water is insufficient to carry them down to the sea coast, a substantial wooden dam is erected at some suitable point, and the water backed up till an adequate power is secured, and then the dam is opened, or "tripped." The water surges forth and carries the waiting logs down towards the coast at a great rate. Sometimes it is necessary to "trip" several times before all the logs come down.

FREE TO THE RUPTURED.

A Rupture of 30 Years' Standing Cured. Dr. W. S. Rice, the Well Known Specialist Sends a Trial of His Famous Method Free to All.

There are people who have been torturing themselves for years with trusses. It is hoped their attention will be drawn to Dr. Rice's offer. Mr. Jas. McIntosh, c/o Mr. Cruickshank, Livery Stables, Wymabank, Southland, N.Z., is one of the hundreds of sufferers to his generous announcement, and as a result he is now completely cured of a bad rupture. Although he was 53 years of age, and had suffered from a severe rupture for 10 years, he had the courage and determination to try this new and novel method, and now he lives in peace, contentment and security. Mr. McIntosh looks back to the old days of crude methods, and in comparison finds the wonderful method of Dr. Rice as a marvellous God-send to the present generation.

Mr. G. Inskille, a teacher, Main Road, N.E. Valley, Dunedin, N.Z., was cured of a bad rupture at the age of 69 years. Mr. A. Cooper, a teacher, Maxwell, Ashburton, N.Z., was cured at the age of 36 years, after suffering from a serotinal rupture 6 years. Mr. William Lockwood, High Lodge, Downham, Brandon, Suffolk, England, was cured aged 30 years suffering. By all means write at once to Dr. W. S. Rice (Dept. 1252), 8 and 9, Stonecutter Street, London, E.C., and he will send you a free trial of his remarkable home cure for rupture. There is no pain, danger, operation or loss of time; by starting now you can be cured perfectly in a short time. Thousands have been cured. Write to-day.



Mr. W. S. Rice.

**NOTICE . . .**  
To sufferers from Gout, Rheumatism, Sciatica, Lumbago, and all pains of Head, Face, or Limbs.  
The Old Reliable English Remedy.  
**PATERNGSTER'S PILLS**  
PREPARED BY  
**POINGDESTRE & TRUMAN,**  
71 OLD KENT ROAD, LONDON.  
Renowned for over a Century for quick efficacy, as proved by testimonials from all parts of the world.  
Is sold by all Chemists in the Colonies.

Personal Paragraphs.

His Excellency the Governor will arrive in Auckland on Friday next, accompanied by Captain Scott, of the Antarctic ship Discovery. They will go to Rotorua on the following morning, it is expected, and remain there some days. His Excellency unveils a memorial at New Plymouth on the 28th.

The Premier, according to a Press Association telegram, is not likely to leave for the Chatham Islands for two or three days, owing to the indisposition of Mrs. Seddon.

Mrs Goodhue, of Gladstone-road, Parnell, is at present visiting Rotorua.

Miss Ethel Miles (Wellington) is visiting friends in the Wairarapa.

Mr J. C. Maddison (Christchurch) has been visiting Wellington.

Dr. and Mrs Findlay, of Wellington, are staying in Napier.

Sir George Clifford is in Wellington for a short visit.

Mr and Mrs Crosse, of Dannevirke, are staying in Napier.

Mr. and Mrs. Holmes Dean (Hawke's Bay) are visiting Wellington.

Miss Blair, of Otakeho, is visiting friends in Wanganui.

Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Kimber, of Wellington, are staying in Wanganui.

Dr. Hector is back in Wellington from his trip to the South Island.

Mr and Mrs Sedgwick (Picton) are busy making preparations for a trip to England, for Mr Sedgwick's health.

Mr and Mrs Manning (Nanua, N.G.) and Miss Manning have been visiting Wellington.

Mrs. Bowden (Dunedin) is visiting her sister, Mrs. Ronald Macdonald, "Hambledon," North Belt, Christchurch.

Mrs. W. J. Bruce (Christchurch) has gone to Wellington for a short visit to Mrs. E. Anderson.

Mr W. T. Goodman, of the Dunedin Electrical Tram Service, is in Wellington at present.

The Rev. Canon King, of Dunedin, is in Gisborne, taking a much-needed six weeks' holiday.

Mrs and Miss Martin, of the Bluff Hill, Napier, are visiting friends in Christchurch.

Mrs. R. D. and Miss Gladys Thomas (Christchurch) are spending a week or two at Sumner for a change.

The Hon. G. Maclean (Dunedin) passed through Wellington last week on his way to Sydney.

The Hon. Colonel Pitt (Attorney-General) is back in Wellington, after a trip to the South Island.

Mr. W. C. Sproule, M.A., LL.B., has been admitted to the Supreme Court as a barrister and solicitor.

Captain Pearce, of the Northern Union S.B. Co., is at present in Auckland.

Mrs. and Miss Lascelles (Mount Heron) are staying with the Misses Murray-Ayusley, Christchurch.

On Saturday Mrs. Grieg gave a most enjoyable river picnic in the oil launch for young people.

Dr. Koettlitz, of the Antarctic Expedition, passed through Wellington lately on his way to Rotorua.

Miss Roy (New Plymouth) is the guest of her aunt, Mrs. MacTavish (Wellington).

Mr and Mrs J. C. Chaytor, "Marshlands," Spring Creek, have gone to Nelson to visit friends.

Mr and Mrs Eric Caro have returned from their honeymoon trip to their residence in Temyson-street, Napier.

Mr. and Mrs. Richmond, of New Plymouth, spent a few days in Wanganui recently.

Mrs. and Miss Warburton (Palmerston North) are paying a visit to Wellington.

Professor Kirk (Wellington) has been elected president of the Victoria College Debating Society.

Mr J. Ryan (New Plymouth) has gone to make his home in Auckland, but although it is promotion he will greatly miss in St. Mary's choir, having sung in there for some years.

Bishop Grimes (Christchurch) and Bishop Verdon (Dunedin) paid a visit to Wellington last week.

Mr D. Aitken, of the Union S.S. Co., arrived in Auckland on Friday, and is staying at the Star Hotel.

Mrs Macalister, Picton, paid a flying visit to Nelson to see Mrs C. C. Robertson.

Mrs Antill, of Napier-terrace, has been staying for some time at Kumeroa.

Mr Walter Ross, of Wellington, is visiting Mrs Brewster, of New Plymouth.

Mr and Mrs Eichelbaum, of Wellington, arrived by Takapana on Friday, and are staying at the Star Hotel.

Mr. E. Cowper, of Wanganui, has returned from his visit to the Eupatie City.

Mr. and Mrs. Hugh Speed, of Wanganui, are in Picton, staying at the Mount with Mrs. Speed.

Mr. and Mrs. J. Orford, of Wanganui, are spending a few weeks at Pimberton.

Mr. and Mrs. Wilson, of New Plymouth, are visiting friends in Wanganui.

Dr. Koettlitz, medical officer and botanist on the Antarctic exploring ship Discovery, is en route for Rotorua.

Lady Whitmore and Mrs Dixon intend leaving Napier this week by the Papanui and spending the winter in England.

Mr James Muir, late chairman of the Education Board, left Auckland on April 20 by the Moura for a visit to Canada and the Ilome Country.

At the meeting of the Management Committee of the Auckland Rugby Union last week Mr M. J. Sheahan was elected chairman for the ensuing year.

Mr. A. Rosser, who represented the Auckland Trades and Labour Council at the recent Christchurch conference, returned to Auckland last week.

Captain Reginald Farmer, late of the Union Company's service, went to England last week for a trip, travelling by Australia.

A handsome American oak study-chair has been presented to Mr C. Godber, Wellington, by the members of the Baptist Church.

The Rev. Richard Arkwright (Berkshire, England), is staying with his brother, the Hon. Francis Arkwright, at "Overton," Rangitikei.

Mr J. W. Storey, who has been assistant clerk in the Magistrate's Court at Hamilton for three years, has received notice of removal to Auckland.

Mr. A. H. Turnbull has been re-elected President of the Wellington Harrier Club. Mr. W. H. Pollock, the well-known amateur athlete, is captain.

Mr. and Mrs. Alister Clark and Miss Fitzgerald returned to their home in Australia last week, after spending the summer in Christchurch.

Mr Metcalf, of the Wellington office of the Tourist Department, is spending some holiday leave in this district. He went to Rotorua last week.

Among Wellington residents who are departing to England for a trip is Mr F. Branfill, of the Caledonian Bank, who travels by way of Australia.

Mr. F. W. Barron has joined the Taine as second officer. Mr. Platts having transferred in a similar position to the Waikare.

Mr and Mrs F. M. Leckie, of Wellington, after spending a very pleasant holiday at Rotorua, returned to Auckland last week.

Sir William Armstrong, Bart., who has been touring New Zealand, has left on his return journey to Ireland, via Australia.

Mr and Mrs St. Hill have returned to Hawke's Bay after a pleasant visit to England. Mr and Miss St. Hill, of Porangahau, are visiting Napier.

Mr J. C. Wilkin, managing director of the "Lytellon Times" Company, is at present visiting Auckland. He is accompanied by Mrs. Wilkins.

The Rev. W. O. Robb, pastor of St. Andrew's (Presbyterian) Church, Blenheim, has left for a trip to the Wanganui district.

Mrs Edgar is accompanying her sister, Miss Belle Napier, who is touring New Zealand and giving her successful musical and dramatic recitals in all the larger towns. Mrs Edgar will not return to Napier for several weeks.