

ROUND ABOUT THE COLONY

A Strange Case.

Twenty-seven years ago Mr George Moore, of Waimangaroa, fell on a broken bottle, portions of which entered his body. Recently he was admitted to the Westport Hospital suffering from an accident, and while there Dr. MacKenzie took from his back the last remaining piece of glass—three-quarters of an inch by an inch in dimensions—the remnant of the twenty-seven years old bottle.

The Despised Pine.

The new forests of the province are now being cut for timber (remarks the "Christchurch Press"). At St. Leonards and Mount Thomas, in North Canterbury, the pinus insignis trees planted 30 years ago are being cut down and sawn into boards and scantlings. The timber is expected to be useful for building and carpentering purposes. Some of the trees, it is understood, allow of boards being cut to a width of nearly two feet. A quantity of the timber has already found its way to the market.

Quite Right.

A remit affirming the desirability of paying the Leader of the Opposition in the House a salary of £1000 a year was before the Canterbury Provincial Conference of the Farmers' Union. It was rejected with much emphasis, however, the president remarking that when the proposal was before the last Colonial Conference it met with scant sympathy. Apart from other objections, many delegates thought the Opposition Leader might find the position too comfortable and well-paid, and therefore hob-nob with the Premier with a view to avoiding trouble.

Lessons of Thrift.

An admirable work is being done by school savings banks in encouraging the rising generation to take care of the pence. These institutions are run on a copper basis, but substantial sums are accumulated, nevertheless. At the last meeting of the Canterbury School Committee's Association, for instance, it was stated that the bank at the Opawa School had eighty depositors, and a total saved of £322, after about eight years. At Woolston a bank was started a year ago, and there are now eighty depositors and £47 13/3 accumulated. It was decided to urge the Education Board to afford all possible facilities for the establishment of such banks.

Knocked Over, But Not Shot.

During the height of the pitched battle between No. 1 and No. 2 troops of the East Coast Mounted Rifles on the Repangaere hills on Wednesday (says the Poverty Bay "Herald"), a dramatic and exciting incident occurred. A sergeant of the attacking forces was pushing forward up a steep face in the bold attempt to capture an important position, when a sergeant on the ridge above leveled his rifle, blazed away, and a sure "kill" resulted. Immediately upon the flash of the firearm, the attacking sergeant fell and rolled with a sickening thud to a ledge below, where he lay for at least a quarter of an hour. The incident caused much consternation to the soldier higher up, who had wild ideas of a genuine fatality, which he thought must have been caused by a shot cartridge accidentally getting in amongst the blanks. Hurried investigations, however, relieved all anxiety, for the man was only "dead beat" as a result of nearly a couple of hours' vigorous military tactics on the hills.

A Brave Man.

The plucky action of a New Zealander prevented a serious accident, if not a fatality, in Sydney the other day. An elderly woman was walking down Upper George-street, and, not noticing that an electric car was approaching from behind, commenced to cross the track. The car was almost on top of her, and it seemed that nothing but a miracle could prevent an accident, when Mr. J. F. McCarthy (who was ascertained to be the manager of the Addington Workshops at Christchurch) jumped in front of the car, and with an effort almost threw the woman off the track. The car struck Mr. McCarthy on the shoulder and threw him clear of danger.

Expressive.

Thus a Masterton resident in acknowledging four cases of pears purchased for him at an auction sale not a hundred miles from Napier:—"Thanks for pears. P.N.'s herewith. They are the best 'keeping' pears I ever clapped eyes on—they are firmer than rock, and concrete is a fool to them. I've made about fifty attempts to sink my teeth into one of them, but have miserably failed each time. I then tried to make a dent in one with the axe, but struck fire instead. P. succeeded in getting a chip off one of his and was foolish enough to try and swallow it. It nearly cut his throat on the way down. They would make a splendid masons' plumb bobs—heavy, well shaped and exceedingly durable. My little girl is using them for tops, so it is satisfactory to know that they serve some purpose."

Quick Work.

Twelve months ago the parishioners of St. Mary's, Timaru, resolved to commence the collection of subscriptions for the purpose of completing the church building, at an estimated cost of between seven and eight thousand pounds. It was determined to obtain £5000 in cash or promises before commencing the work. At the annual meeting on Tuesday evening, the committee which had been appointed for the purpose was able to report that as a result of ten months' work it had within £250 of the £5000 minimum, and over £2000 of it in cash, and it was confident of being able to commence the building work early in the spring. On the suggestion of the vicar, the Ven. Archdeacon Harper, it was resolved to hold a gift Sunday, in aid of the fund, on August 26, the anniversary of the consecration of the present building.

What the Schoolboy Doesn't Learn.

The deficiencies of the Dunedin youth who seeks a position in a mercantile office were shown up at a meeting of the Dunedin School Committees' Association recently. A Bond-street merchant said:—"There is a great inarticulate growl about the instruction given in our public schools. On behalf of the merchant class, I may say that when we get a boy from the primary schools in the office, we have to begin and teach him the things he should have learned years ago. I have had a good many boys through my hands for office work, and it is my experience, as well as of all the men I have met, that when we get a boy from the public schools, we have to begin again and teach him simple addition, and it is three or four years before we can break him of the abominable writing he learns at school. It is a third fact that we have to teach him manners."

Two-up at Raurimu.

There was a flutter in the "two-up ring" at Raurimu, on the North Island Main Trunk railway works, recently, just after the last pay. The coins had been spinning merrily for some hours, when suddenly the cry of "A nob" was raised. The penny with two heads had probably been robbing the whole crowd for an hour or two, and the natives immediately, in a state of fury, threw themselves upon the thief and commenced belabouring him, while those on the outskirts set up yells of "Duck him!" "Boat him!" "Knife him!" His pockets were searched, but there was no money in them, and the culprit then challenged the best man in the crowd to fight. The champion underhand axeman of the bush took up the challenge. Candles were procured, and a ring formed, while the pugilists stripped for action. The fight was a very severe one, and the culprit put up such a good exhibition that he was able to withdraw with something better than even honours, and to escape from the crowd. An eye-witness of the incident states that if the crowd had had anything like free access to liquor the thief would have been killed.

The Rest Cure.

Mr Seddon has gone to Australia for three weeks' rest.—News item. Anybody can read for himself how much he is enjoying the rest. A reposeful reception soothed his arrival, followed by a tranquil banquet and a peaceful conference with Australian legislators. Next day he made a serene and unexciting train journey to the Hawkesbury College, and, according to the newspaper reports, spent a calm sequestered hour with the gentle student in his native lair, returning to a further dose of conference and a banquet in the evening, and every day after that so far R. J. Seddon has been making restorative train journeys, taking courses of nerve tonic banquets, and going in for mental recreation in the shape of interviews, shipping conferences, speeches and other forms of quiet rest. By the time he returns he will have had a real enjoyable holiday after his own heart. Meantime, while his back is turned, it will add greatly to his enjoyment and comfort to learn that his friends have seized the opportunity to talk reconstruction and utter valled threats about what is going to happen with Sir Joseph Ward away. The most violent of his opponents would hardly descend to that.—"Christchurch Truth."

Schoolboys on Strike.

The boys who promoted a "strike" at a New Plymouth school on Empire Day "fell in," says the Taranaki "Herald." The boys, 92 in number, after interviewing the secretary of the Board and the chairman of the School Committee, returned to the school, all except four little chaps, arriving about 10.30 and were told by the headmaster that they would be admitted at 11 o'clock. From that time till 2 o'clock, the work of the school went on as usual, as if nothing unusual had happened. At 2.15 all those who had turned up at the proper time in the morning were assembled in the gymnasium, and after a short address by the headmaster as a mark of appreciation, were allowed to go. The others, representing pupils from all the standards from I. to VI., remained, the younger ones being allowed off at 3 o'clock, but those from Standards IV., V. and VI. remaining till 4.30. Mr Dempsey massed those in one room and had a long, interesting and profitable conversation with them, occasionally interrupted by cheers from the Recreation Grounds, where a football match, Star v. Tukapa, was in progress. The master and the boys were in complete sympathy, and the latter seemed to fully realize that their conduct was foolish and unconstitutional. The "strike" is hardly likely to be repeated.

Wild Pigeon's Nest.

In a speech before the Wellington Acclimatisation Society, Mr R. C. Bruce mentioned that he had never found a wild pigeon's nest. Mr A. Hansen writes to the "Post" from the Puncarrow Head Lighthouse as follows:—"While stationed at Puncarrow Point Lighthouse, about twenty-three years ago, I found a colony of pigeons' nests

on a high ridge between the lighthouse and Cronarary. The nests were all built on the bushy branches of the silver pines, which mostly cover the sandstone ridges in the locality. The architecture of the nests was of the usual wild pigeon character, i.e., ragged and open. The eggs and young birds could plainly be seen through the nests when standing beneath them. None of the nests were more than ten feet from the ground—some of them only half that height. The nests contained both eggs and young birds. I took a young bird to the lighthouse and reared it. It became very tame, and would follow me anywhere. I had the bird for about six months, when it disappeared." Mr Hansen adds that there are keepers now in the lighthouse service who can vouch for the accuracy of the foregoing statements.

New Tourist Route.

Mr G. W. C. Moon, the agent of the Tourist Department in Christchurch, who with Mr E. H. Montgomery, the Department's Auckland agent, returned to Greymouth last week from a visit to South Westland, predicts that there will be a large influx of tourists to the Coast during the months that the International Exhibition is open. Although the present hotel accommodation in the southern part of the district is not quite satisfactory, it is understood that it will, in some instances at least, be remedied before next tourist season sets in. As the result of the visit of the Tourist Department's agents it is quite likely (says the "Argus") that a great difference will be made in the tours on the Coast mapped out for visitors. Hitherto many visitors by coach from Christchurch have come no nearer Greymouth or Hokitika than Stillwater Junction, whence they have gone northward to Reefton and thence either to Westport or Nelson. In future stress will probably be laid by the Department on the wonders of South Westland and the beauties of the coach drive from Jackson's to Kumara. Round Colony—Graphic.

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