

COMMONWEALTH

STEEL MANUFACTURE.

MOORE-HERBERT PROCESS.

CANADIAN RIGHTS PURCHASED

A contract has been signed, purchasing the Moore-Hesketh rights by a powerful Canadian corporation for that country for £375,000, payable in five instalments. [An exhaustive trial of the Moore-Hesketh process for direct production of iron and steel was made in Melbourne on November 19 of last year, in the presence of the Federal Prime Minister and a widely-representative gathering. Mr. Hesketh, the inventor of the process, was connected with the works for the conversion of iron and a quarter of a century ago, when he conceived a direct process, which culminated in the epoch-making invention for which he has now received a colossal sum for the Canadian rights alone.

It is claimed that the new process reduces the cost by the indirect method by 25 per cent., as well as effecting an enormous saving in time.

At the Melbourne trial the test began at 11 in the morning, when the ore shafts were charged with limonite ore from Rylstone (N.S.W.). Within a couple of hours the charge was withdrawn and the molten steel and iron sent into the refining chamber.

One of the essential features in the first operation was the ingenious manner in which the ore in passing through the reducers to the slag bath, was protected from oxidation by a mantle of reducing gas, while another striking feature lies in the fact that, once started, the smelting of the ore and its conversion into steel are carried on without interruption.

Just before four o'clock the charge from the refiner was drawn, and those assembled witnessed the casting of ingots of steel from ore which had gone into the reducers only five hours before. Loud cheering followed the accomplishment of the task.

It was claimed for the process that it would treat New Zealand iron sand without the necessity of its first being converted into briquettes, and as cheaply as ordinary ore.

An offer was received to purchase the Russian rights during the demonstration.]

PUBLICANS COMPENSATED.

REDUCTION LAW IN NEW SOUTH WALES.

The Licenses Reduction Board, during the first half-year under the new system, closed 95 hotels in the city and the country, and allowed compensation amounting to £33,000.

ON THE EVE OF MARRIAGE.

A SAD FATALITY.

Mr. Arthur Streeton, son of a Government official, swallowed a tooth attached to a gold plate, which stuck in his gullet causing death after the necessary operation. He was on the eve of his marriage, and the ceremony took place while he was dying in hospital.

A WARNING TO AUSTRALIA.

Speaking at a dinner in connection with the Chamber of Shipping, Sir William Robson (the new Attorney-General) referred to the passage in the annual report of the Chamber in regard to Commonwealth shipping legislation.

He (the speaker) emphasised the statement that the Motherland cheerfully bore substantially the whole burden of the navy, without which the vast coastline of Australia could not preserve immunity from foreign attacks for twelve months. The Motherland should at least expect a right to trade without practically prohibitive restrictions along the coast it had to guard. (Cheers.)

The statement of Australia should be courteously but clearly informed, he continued, that this legislation would not pass unnoticed, and would not fail, if persisted in, to produce an effect on the public opinion of Great Britain. Australian statesmen would do well to ponder over this matter.

SUEZ MAIL CONTRACT.

The Commonwealth Government has been advised that the new mail contract has been signed and executed by the Orient Company and a London guarantee society.

TIMBER-WORKERS' STRIKE.

In connection with the timber workers' strike, the employers intend to issue writs against the union for breaches of the Arbitration Court awards.

The timber strike has disorganised the butter industry. Orders for boxes are being sent to Melbourne, Brisbane, and New Zealand.

A mass meeting of the timber strikers resolved to ask the Premier to call Parliament together to amend the Arbitration Act.

DANGER OF SUN-BATHING.

The "Sydney Morning Herald" gives this warning:—It is apparently not generally recognised by the younger section of the community which indulges in breaker-swimming and sun-bathing on the beaches that sunburns may cause death. Recently a young man, who had been advised by a medical man to go in for sun-bathing and swimming to restore him to health, died through sunburn. He took his doctor's advice too literally, and, although his skin was white and peculiarly susceptible to the rays of the sun, he made his first trip to the beach his last. He kept his body exposed to the sun in spite of the advice of friends, and was soon well burned all over. Next day he suffered tortures, and very soon his body was one great blister, as if he had been plunged into boiling water. Usually, the blisters caused by the sun yield a watery fluid, but in his case they burst, and blood-poisoning set in. Being in a low state of health, his system was unable to throw off the virus. Many, who have suffered from sunburn, will appreciate the wisdom of advising beginners to practice their sun-bathing with extreme caution.

JEALOUSY AND MURDER.

A man named Kirk, of Broken Hill, shot his wife dead with a revolver and afterwards wounded a man named Hocking so severely that he has small chance of recovery.

Kirk has been arrested. Jealousy is supposed to have been the cause of the crime.

A WHITE AUSTRALIA.

The Agent-General for New South Wales (Mr. T. A. Coghlan), in a long article in "The Times," replies to criticisms with regard to the White Australia policy, declaring that if Australia had not 40 years ago inhibited coloured immigration she would not now be a white man's territory.

THREE CHILDREN BURNED TO DEATH.

A most tragic fire occurred at Minyip (Vic.), by which three children named Wilson, of ages ranging from 15 months to 6 years, were burned to death. A man named Jennings made a gallant attempt to rescue, and saved one child.

CYCLONE IN QUEENSLAND.

A cyclone at Barcaldine demolished four premises and damaged a number of others. A similar occurrence at Chillagoe did a thousand pounds' worth of damage.

RETALIATION ON AUSTRALIA BY BOVRIL, LIMITED.

The Earl of Arran, presiding at the meeting of Bovril, Limited, said they much regretted having to cut down the Australian business owing to the increase in the import duties.

Mr. George Lawson Johnston, vice-chairman, said that Australia for 20 years had been the company's favourite source of supply for raw material, and he thought it would have been the last place to raise its duties against them. He had rather hoped for preference.

WITHIN THE DOMINION.

VISIT OF CARDINAL MORAN.

AN ENTHUSIASTIC RECEPTION.

Cardinal Moran, the premier Catholic ecclesiastic in Australasia, arrived in Auckland from Sydney by the steamer Manuka on Sunday afternoon, and was accorded an enthusiastic reception. The Manuka was reported about half-past four o'clock, and two ferry steamers with a large number of people on board, including Archbishop Redwood, Bishop Lenihan, and the reception committee, proceeded a short distance outside the Heads, picked up the Manuka, and accompanied her to the anchorage, which was reached shortly after five o'clock.

A dense throng of people were assembled on the wharf to greet the Cardinal, and when he made his appearance at the rails, hearty cheers rent the air. The Cardinal and his party, escorted by Bishop Lenihan, then came ashore amidst outbursts of cheering, while the band played Irish national music. The approach to the carriages was lined by a guard of honour composed of members of the H.A.C.B.S. With the Cardinal in their midst. Seated with the cardinal were Archbishop Redwood, Bishop Lenihan and the Very Rev. Mgr. O'Haran, secretary to the Cardinal, and in the next carriage were Bishop O'Connor of Maitland, and Bishop Gallagher, of Goulburn, Rt. Rev. Mgr. O'Reilly and Very Rev. Dean Gilkin. The clergy and members of the reception committee followed in the remaining carriages, which all told numbered 35; and in addition to these there were several private turnouts. For a considerable distance up Queen-street the procession was hemmed in by the crowds of people, and the pace was not increased until Victoria-street was reached. In Karangahape-road and Ponsonby, the Cardinal was enthusiastically cheered, large numbers of people having assembled at various points along the route.

The procession arrived at the Palace gates shortly before eight o'clock. The children of St. Mary's Orphanage were in waiting as a guard of honour, and they cheered the Cardinal as he passed into the grounds, accompanied by the clergy, and the committee. Several hundreds of people were already gathered on the lawn—some of them having hurried up to the Palace on foot, after witnessing the landing at the wharf. Bishop Lenihan addressed the assembly from the Palace steps, and heartily welcomed the Cardinal to New Zealand.

The Cardinal then came forward to the steps, and it was several minutes before he could speak, cheering being renewed again and again. He said: "My Lord—I have to thank you and your priests and people for the enthusiastic reception you have accorded to us. I feel very sorry that the late arrival of our steamer somewhat interfered with the arrangements you had made for our reception. This could not be avoided. However, the manner in which you received us was most gratifying. I shall have further opportunities before I return home to speak to you at length. I shall not detain you to-night, as I learn that you have been waiting throughout the afternoon to receive us, and you must therefore be anxious to return to your homes. I thank you again for the heartiness and kindness which you have so unmistakably shown to us this afternoon."

An impressive scene followed, when the crowds of people knelt to receive the Cardinal's benediction.

Cheer upon cheer was then given for the cardinal, and further cheers for Bishop Lenihan, the visiting prelates and the Very Rev. Mgr. O'Haran. The Cardinal then bade the people good-night, and retired into the palace, whereupon the gathering dispersed.

On Monday evening, 17th inst., Cardinal Moran opened the Grand Dominion Fair, in the Royal Albert Hall, Auckland, which has been organised in aid of St. Patrick's Cathedral building fund.

CAMBRIDGE POST OFFICE.

OPENED BY THE PRIME

The Right Hon. Sir Joseph Ward arrived on Monday, 17th inst., at Cambridge, where he was received by Mr. W. F. Buckland (Mayor, on behalf of

the people, who assembled in large numbers to welcome Sir Joseph. The Premier was accompanied by Messrs Greenslade and Lawry, M.P.'s, and Mr J. A. Young. Directly after his arrival, Sir Joseph proceeded to perform the opening ceremony in connection with Cambridge's new post office. The new building is a two-storey one in the early English renaissance style of architecture, built of brick, with exterior walls covered with rough-cast and coloured cement facings. The contract price was £2,604. The main frontage to Victoria-street is about 41ft, while a tower on the north-eastern corner will shortly contain a clock and chimies.

POLITICAL REFORM LEAGUE.

PRESENTATION TO BR. W. F. MASSEY.

The annual reunion or garden party, held under the auspices of the Political Reform League at Pukekohe on Saturday last, February 15, was attended by about 3500 people, the special train from Auckland being packed, while a large number of visitors were also present from the Waikato.

Amongst those seated on the platform were Messrs. W. E. Massey, F. Mander, John Bolland, and F. W. Lang, M.P.'s, Richard Monk, A. Harding and Haselden, ex-M.P.'s, Captain Allen Bell, Mr. John Schaepler (President of the Pukekohe Reform League), and Mr. H. H. Wily (secretary of the Pukekohe Reform League).

Mr. Schaepler, as chairman, paid a high tribute to the work of the Opposition Leader, Mr. Massey, and said his many supporters in the electorate were desirous of marking their appreciation of his services by presenting him with a silver tea and coffee service. Mr. Schaepler then made the presentation, which was a particularly handsome one, valued at £100, and was inscribed as follows: "Presented to W. F. Massey, M.P. for Franklin, and Leader of the Opposition, by his constituents, as a slight recognition of the services he has rendered to the electorate."

Mr. Massey met with a very hearty reception. He commenced by thanking them, on behalf of His Majesty's Opposition, for attending in such large numbers. He expressed his sympathy with those farmers who had suffered by bush fires, and from the effects of the dry season. The presentation they had made him he would value not so much on account of its intrinsic value as from the fact that it demonstrated the number of friends he had in the electorate. He went on to speak at some length on the political outlook, uttering a special warning against the dangers of Socialism.

Addresses were afterwards given by Messrs. Bolland, Lang, and Mander, M.P.'s, Captain Allen Bell, and Messrs. A. E. Harding and Richard Monk.

A NEW LIGHTHOUSE.

The Minister for Marine, after making full inquiry into the matter, has definitely decided on Cape Brett as the site for a new first-class lighthouse on the east coast. The cost will be something like £8000, and the light will have a sea range of twenty-five miles.

Wellington shipmasters strongly advocated that a lighthouse should be erected at Cavalli Island, but the Auckland shipping people urged the claims of Cape Brett.

SAD CASE OF DROWNING.

A sad drowning accident occurred at Invercargill on Saturday, February 15th, when a young half-caste named James Spence, 22 years of age, lost his life in rescuing a twelve-year-old lad named Buchanan.

Buchanan, when bathing, was carried away by the current. Spence rushed into the water fully dressed, and grabbed the boy, whose struggles greatly hampered him. A swimmer named Daniel Johnston, employed on the s.s. Orari, dived off the wharf and seized the boy, but Spence had disappeared. Fred Towner, who also went to their assistance, narrowly escaped drowning, being exhausted when picked up by a boat. Spence's body was recovered shortly after. Artificial means to restore respiration were tried without avail.