

A LINK WITH THE PAST: THE OLDEST MUSICAL INSTRUMENT IN NEW ZEALAND.
The Crown Studio, photo.

Mr Edward M. Williams, of Roston, Pukehonu, Te Aute, Hawke's Bay, in response to a request for some particulars about this quaint old organ, wrote a most

interesting letter, and gave the following information:—"This organ was the first musical instrument to reach New Zealand, being sent out from England for my father, Archdeacon H. Edwards, by an uncle of the family, in the year 1828, five years after our arrival in the country. I well remember the excitement generally felt during its unpacking and setting up, and the emotional feelings produced when the first musical notes sounded forth, notes so new and strange in the then uncivilised country, and the Maoris stared in utter astonishment at what they called a most wonderful musical box. For some time afterwards many of them used to come round asking to hear it played. The organ was placed in a little chapel which had just been built at Paiaia, Bay of Islands, and for many years it was regularly played at English and Maori services. The Maoris quickly learned the few hymns which in those early days had been translated into their language. These services continued uninterrupted throughout the Maori war in the north. The instrument is a barrel organ, with pipes in front for ornament, and is, on rather was, turned by hand, giving a good volume of sound. There are three barrels, each supplying ten tunes of sacred music. When, in later years, a small church had been built at Pakaraka, whither my father had retired, the organ was removed from Paiaia, and placed in the new building, and here it did duty until replaced by a harmonium. The old organ was given to me by my father, and it was placed in my own house. When I left the Bay of Islands it found its last resting place in the Wanganui Museum, where it now stands, an interesting memento of by-gone days."

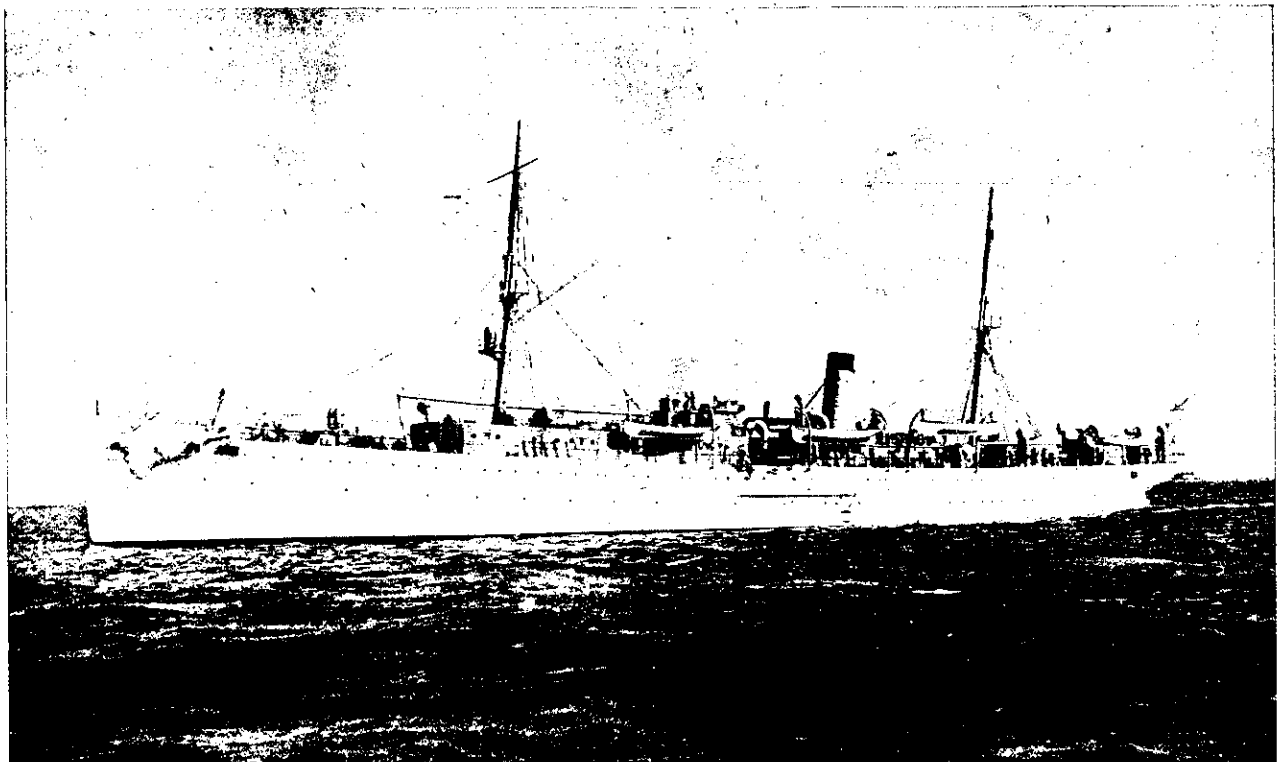
Tragedy in Music.

A terrible tragedy, reminiscent of Tolstoy's "Kreutzer Sonata," occurred on June 8 at Brum, Austria, owing to the mad jealousy of a lover. Joseph Lizal, aged 26, who belongs to a well-to-do family, was engaged to a young widow. She was an accomplished pianist, but Lizal had no ear for music,

and could not distinguish one note from another. On June 8, Lizal's cousin, a violinist, studying in Vienna, arrived in Brum to pay him a few days' visit, and Lizal took him to his fiancée, so that she might hear him play. The cousin played to the accompaniment of the young widow the whole of the afternoon. The widow was enraptured, and though Lizal suggested that the performance might very properly come to an end, she insisted on the violinist continuing. Lizal, in a frenzy of jealousy, instantly drew a revolver and fired at his sweetheart and his cousin, killing them on the spot. He then attempted to shoot himself, but was disarmed by a domestic, and was arrested.



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