

The News of the Week

IN THE DOMINION,

During the past two months 13 pairs of twins were born in Wellington and 12 in Christchurch.

During the Rugby Cup competitions at Auckland over 700 people played the game every Saturday.

At the end of last year there were 99 native schools in New Zealand, with a roll number of 4,183.

It is understood that the British Antarctic expedition ship Nimrod will leave Lyttelton on December 1st.

Cambridge ratepayers have sanctioned a loan of £5,000 for the erection of a town hall and municipal buildings.

Mr. Sidney Jenkins, a carrier residing at Otahuhu, was killed last week by being thrown from a runaway wagon.

According to some of the immigrants who arrived by the Ionic, things are desperately bad at Home, especially in the building trade.

The fog signalling apparatus at Godley Head will be placed in commission as soon as the supplies of regulation ammunition are received.

During the past three weeks the Gisborne registrar (Mr Hill) has registered no less than three pairs of twins, the infants all being boys.

The Auckland City Schools Committee have decided to purchase a number of copies of the Ten Commandments, to be hung in each class-room for the moral training of the scholars.

The Invercargill consolidated loan debentures were quoted on July 30, on the London Stock Exchange, at: Buyers £104, sellers £106, a premium of £2 27/8. This is the highest yet quoted.

A slight collision occurred last week at Wellington between the Waikare and the Kaipara, two lifeboats on the former being smashed and fifty feet of railing on the starboard quarter of the Kaipara carried away.

The Rotorua Rod and Gun Club has written to the Auckland Acclimatisation Society, objecting to the claims of Rev. F. A. Bennett, furthered in Parliament by Mr. T. M. Whitford, M.P., that natives should be granted free fishing rights the year round.

The Bluff correspondent of the "Otago Daily Times" writes: "Fourteen years have elapsed since sealing was forbidden, and the opinion is gaining ground amongst those well able to judge, that the seals have had a fair opportunity of increasing, and that an open season should be proclaimed during the winter months of next year."

It has several times been said at the fruitbrokers' meetings, that New Zealand's trade with Fiji has been slipping away. At last week's meeting, Mr. Tooman said that he had seen the Auckland boats arrive at Fiji with a few tons of cargo and the rest coal, and in watching the arrival of the Sydney boat had noticed that it arrived with a deck cargo of general merchandise and produce. He had seen similar evidences at both Samoa and Tonga.

Rather a startling find was made one afternoon recently under the Choral Hall in Wharf-street, Paeroa, in which building Miss Kenny conducts a private school for young children. The children are in the habit of playing under the school, and while they were doing so on Friday they discovered a package under the floor of the building. Not thinking it could do any harm, they tried to knock it down with an old horsehoe, and eventually succeeded in doing so. When opened, the package, which weighed about 6lb, was found to contain several plugs of gelignite, some caps and some fuse.

The establishment of a crematorium in Wellington is not now far distant (says the "Times"). The subscriptions received amount to about £830, including Miss Bludholme's donation of £400, and to this total has to be added the City Council's contribution of £400. It is estimated that the bare necessities (furnaces, etc.) will absorb £900, but the funds in hand will enable a commencement to be made with the work. The City Engineer has been instructed to report on the most suitable site available, it is hoped to receive still further subscriptions from those interested in this

movement, so that the object of the original donor may be properly carried out.

A naval veteran named Joseph Hervey has just passed away at the Veterans' Home. In 1854 the deceased served on board H.M.S. Hannibal, which vessel, at the commencement of the Crimean War, was engaged in the conveyance of French troops from Calais to the Baltic. Later in the hostilities the Hannibal took a hand in the bombardment of Sebastopol. Hervey settled in New Zealand soon after the end of the war, residing in Hokitika, where he followed gold mining pursuits. An interesting incident of his later years was that just a while before his death he was visited by an old shipmate of the Hannibal, who had been wounded in action. The veterans had not met for 54 years. The deceased, who was an interesting and amiable man, possessed the Crimean medal and clasp and the Baltic medal.

The Union Steamship Company have definitely decided that the ship Dartford shall be used as a training ship on which to instruct cadets for their fleet. A number of applications for places have been received, and from these 12 have been selected, and they will be instructed to make arrangements to join the vessel in Wellington, after provision has been made for suitable accommodation. The Dartford was to have left Newcastle for New Zealand last week, so the establishment of the training ship will soon be an accomplished fact. The Dartford was purchased by the Union Company about the beginning of this year in Sydney, where she has been laid up for some time. The number of cadets will be increased at intervals, until the full complement of 30 or more is reached. The vessel will trade between the ports of the Dominion and the Commonwealth, and even go further afield as circumstances permit.

Dominion Scouts.

The services of the newly-formed corps of Dominion Scouts have been formally offered to the Government. The Wellington division has a membership of 70, while 30 have joined at Palmerston North, and steps are being taken to make a start at Auckland.

About 45 members attended a meeting of the Wellington division last week. Colonel Banchop inspected the men, and said he hoped their services would be accepted. He suggested that they should consider whether they should tender their services as a body or as small units distributed amongst the present companies. The men decided unanimously in favour of the former course.

The Missing Aeon.

The steamer Aorangi, which arrived in Sydney last week from Vancouver, kept a look-out for the steamer Aeon. She cruised round Canton (or Mary) Island, but found no trace of the missing vessel.

Keen Politics.

A strenuous by-election campaign is proceeding at Newcastle to fill the vacancy created by the death of Mr. T. Cairns, junior member for the constituency.

The suffragettes are taking an active part in the fight, throwing all their strength against the Government.

A demonstration was made against a party of visiting suffragettes, and the police were forced to draw their batons to rescue Mrs. Pankhurst from a hostile crowd numbering 6000.

Several were badly mauled in the rushes.

A Gruesome Find.

Last week a gruesome haul was made by a dredge while working in the Wangarua river between the town and the Heads. A human leg, part of the trunk, and some clothing were brought up by the buckets.

The remains are supposed to be those of a young man named Mason, who committed suicide by drowning about 12 months ago, and who left on the river bank a handkerchief tied to a willow tree, a watch and a Bible containing his name. He had no known relatives in the Dominion.

Educating the Maoris.

"The question is frequently raised as to the ultimate good of giving higher education to Maoris, when in so many instances apparently no use is made of such education by those who have received it." Says the Inspector of Native Schools. "As often as it is possible to do so, the Department admits, as junior assistants in native schools girls who have completed their course in a higher school, and I have formed a very high opinion of them as teachers. Boys from the higher schools are gradually finding their way into various trades, some being already in mechanical or clerical divisions of the Government service. I frequently receive applications for employment, some of them quite pathetic in character, from girls and boys who have passed through the schools; and, in most of the cases within my knowledge I can say that the 'return to the whare,' as it is sometimes unfeelingly termed, is the result not of deliberate choice, but of the want of opportunity."

A Legal Quibble.

An unusual legal defence was a case in the Timaru Magistrate's Court last week. William Sapwell was charged with riding a cycle in North-street on the night of August 19, to which (says the "Herald") he pleaded "Not guilty." Sub-inspector Green put in the by-law on the subject, and a witness named Barton stated that, on the evening in question, he was riding from town on the left hand side of the street, when he met defendant riding on the same side without a light, and a collision resulted. Mr. Elmale, representing defendant, asked that the information be dismissed on the ground that the information said that defendant rode his cycle "at night," whereas the by-law said "between sunset and sunrise," and these terms were not synonymous. He quoted authorities to show that night commenced at 9 p.m. and ceased at 6 a.m., and stated that there was no definition in the Police Offences Act to the effect that night was continuous from sunset till sunrise. His Worship upheld Mr. Elmale's contention, and dismissed the case without prejudice, the police intimating at the same time that a fresh information would be laid.

Our Architecture.

"It is contemptible," said his Excellency the Governor in referring to colonial architecture, when opening the Manawatu Art Society's exhibition on Wednesday last. "There is one important form of art which people in New Zealand might strive to cultivate," he said; "that is, architecture. I don't, of course, refer to any town in particular—to Palmerston, or Auckland, or Wellington—but to New Zealand generally. There is nothing more contemptible than the average house which is perpetrated in New Zealand. Why, your houses here are just about equal to those erected in the more respectable portion of the East End of London; even Bromley can beat anything you have got here. Of course, I recognise that one of the great difficulties is that most of the people have not had the opportunity to see and appreciate the grand architecture of the Old World, of Florence, and those other great places, and even of the charming little country towns in the Old Country. There ought to be some better houses here. They are all exactly the same—the same tin roof, painted the same red, and probably the wrong red; the same drab mud colour on the front, and the same horrible tin thing to hold the water in at the back. I can't think that these abominations are built purely for the purpose of saving money. You can't be so needy in Palmerston North. I am not trying to abuse New Zealand, because you all know that I have a very great regard for the country and its people. I am simply referring to this one point, which demands attention." His Excellency referred to one or two charming houses which he had seen in the neighbourhood of Palmerston, and a number in the Hawke's Bay district. He suggested that Palmerston might at some time have an architectural exhibition, where-in could be exhibited designs for houses. It would be the first held in New Zealand.

Electricity From Waste.

The Green Island Coal Company, Dunedin, is formulating a scheme, which, if

successful, will revolutionize industries in that part of the Dominion. For many years, ever since the beginning of lignite mining in Green Island, immeasurable quantities of waste coal, unsuitable for market requirements, and representing hundreds of thousands of pounds sterling, if expressed in monetary measurement, have been buried in waste places in mines, generating danger to minors working in dim light. Now it is proposed to bring the buried slack into the light of day and utilize it to profitable advantage in generating electricity, which will be sufficient not only to work the mining and pumping plant, but will supply motive power for industries in and around Dunedin.

Tauranga Advancing.

Half a dozen tenders have been received for the supply of a gas plant by Messrs. Keene and Reid, who have obtained a gas lighting concession from the Tauranga Borough Council. Messrs. Keene and Reid are reported to be at present making inquiries in England as to the purchase of two steamers suitable for the Wellington-Tauranga trade.

The Demands of Labour.

When the delegates from the recent conference of the Trades Council waited on the Prime Minister and Minister for Labour on Saturday and submitted the resolutions passed, the Prime Minister said the representations would be considered by the Government. It would be impossible, however, to give effect to them all. One of the chief desires of the conference was a 44-hour week for all workers, eight hours on five days and four on the day of the weekly half-holiday. The Government believed in one day's rest a week, but it would create great trouble if that was embodied in the law, and made to apply generally without considering local conditions.

Shrimp Culture at Rotorua.

Reporting on the attempts being made to stock Lake Rotorua with fresh-water shrimps, to take the place of the disappearing koura (very small crayfish), upon which the trout used to feed, Mr. Rutherford, in charge of the Government Hatcheries, says: "The consignment of fresh-water shrimps, got from the Waikato River, at Mercer, last November, has done exceedingly well at the hatchery, the loss being only two per cent. In the nine months. This water appears to be very suitable for them. I would suggest that we make arrangements to get several large consignments from Mercer, and liberate them in the weed that grows in different parts of the lake, where they could get protection from enemies until they had a chance to increase. As the shrimp is much more prolific than the koura, they would multiply very rapidly, and in a few years we would have trout equal in quality to those of four years back. The Maoris on the Waikato River prefer the shrimp to the whitebait for food, and if the shrimp is introduced into Lake Rotorua it will fill the place of the koura."

Keeping Out the Fruit Fly.

Considerable agitation was caused among Auckland fruitbrokers last week owing to the possibility of the fruit cargo arriving this week from Fiji by the Hauroto, being condemned for want of certificates from the shippers to the effect that it had not come from within a mile of plantations affected with fruit fly, such certificate being required by the new fruit regulations issued by the New Zealand Government. The department at first refused to exempt the cargo, but finally did so on the strong representations of the brokers who held several lengthy meetings on the subject.

The Wairuna-Moonah Collision.

As a sequel to the collision between the U.S.S. Company's Wairuna and the ketch Moonah in Auckland Harbour last March, the Moonah being sunk, the Northern Coal Company, owners of the ketch, and the U.S.S. Company in the Supreme Court, Auckland, for £1618 damages. Mr. T. Colter (with and instructed by Mr. M. G. McGregor) appeared for the plaintiff company and Mr. J. R. Reed (with him Mr. A. Hanna) for the defendants. The special jury, before which the case was heard, failed to agree upon a verdict, and the case will come on again at the next sittings of the Court.