

# The News of the Week

## IN THE DOMINION.

Well-sinkers at Aratuki at a spot indicated by the Rev. Mason, "struck" water at 128 feet. Previously wells had vainly been sunk to great depths.

The Whangarei Agricultural and Pastoral Show last week was a great success.

A petition has been lodged for the upsetting of the Licensing poll at Masterton at which No-License was carried by 31 votes. The petitioners allege a number of irregularities.

Six tenders were received for the erection of the new post office in Auckland, but it is understood that they are all higher than the estimated price of £85,000.

Ten boys who have recently completed their term of eighteen months' training on the Government training ship *Amokura* have joined vessels trading out of Wellington.

After several attempts to refloat the steamer *Hawea*, which went ashore at the entrance to the Greymouth bar, the Union Company has decided to abandon the vessel.

The Waitotahi mine at Thames, Auckland, got 302 oz. 1 dwt. of bullion, valued at £829 9/-, from 149 tons of ore during November, which is a better return than last month, although the amount of ore treated is less.

The New Zealand winners in the world-wide essay competition of the British and Foreign Sailors' Society of London are:—North Island: Lenore M. Sutherland (Onehunga District High School); South Island: Gretta M. Isdale (Waitaki Girls' High School, Oamaru). The subject was, "What does the nation owe to Nelson and her sailors?" The prizes are plaques bearing the King's initials and made from copper used in Nelson's old flagship.

A burglar who entered the house of Mr R. Williams, Napier, last week disturbed Mrs Williams, who pluckily fired two shots at the intruder with a revolver. One apparently told, as he dropped his swag, containing a lot of valuables, which he had packed up for transport. Mr Williams was away from home at the time.

When the *Nimrod* was leaving Lyttel-

ton last week for the Antarctic regions to pick up Lieutenant Shackleton and his party a small boy was discovered on board, stowed away among the stores. The would-be explorer was promptly put on board a shore launch, a proceeding which he resented in a very juvenile fashion—copious tears.

Dr. Mackellar is urging the Auckland Hospital Board to pay more attention to the training of nurses in the art of cooking food for invalids, which is much neglected at present. He suggests that the Education Board should be approached and some arrangement made by which hospital nurses undergoing training should receive the benefit of the instruction given at the technical classes under the control of the Department.

In accordance with a resolution passed last month, the sawmills in Southland have been closed down. About 35 mills, employing upwards of 700 men, will be closed down to-morrow. About 35 mills, employing upwards of 700 men, will be affected.

Three youths and one old man were sentenced at the Auckland Supreme Court last week for offences against young girls. One man was sent to prison for seven years, and ordered to receive fifty lashes in two instalments, another to two years, a third to twelve months, and the oldest prisoner, a man of 70 years, received a sentence of three years. The judge was most severe in his remarks, and expressed his determination to put down this crime.

The Hon. Hall-Jones and his family left Wellington on Friday by the *Corinthia* for London, where he will assume the office of High Commissioner in place of Mr W. P. Reeves, who lately resigned. Mr Hall-Jones was one of the most respected members of the Ward Ministry, and his farewell was attended by many expressions of regret at his departure and wishes of success for the future.

The *Bluff* correspondent of the "Otago Daily Times" states that a haul, reminiscent of the old whaling days, was recently made at Mason's Bay, on the west coast of Stewart Island. Two men were off the bay fishing, when suddenly the waters inside became a mass of life and animation. Proceeding to ascertain the cause, they discovered

such a shoal of black fish as has not been seen for many a day. Thereupon, they set about driving the fish on shore, succeeding in stranding no fewer than 320, of full size. They improvised a "try down," and were expecting to cask from 60 to 70 tons of oil.

A sunfish, which has been scientifically designated "*Orthogoriscus mola*," was washed ashore on the Awatuna beach a few days ago (says the Grey mouth "Star"), and was discovered by Mr W. Roux, of the Dominion dredge. The fish is a marine curiosity of great dimensions. He measures from head to tail 10 ft. 6 in., depth of body, 5 ft. 6 in., width of body, 2 ft., and length from the tips of the fins, which are horizontally situated near the tail, 11 ft. 6 in. The weight of the fish is estimated to be about two tons and a half, and some idea of the size of the monster may be gathered when it is stated that it required the power of two draught horses to drag it a few feet on boards.

## The Main Trunk Line.

In addition to the ordinary two days' service, it is reported that the Railway Department, at Christmas time, will put on trains leaving Wellington and Auckland at 7.30 in the evening, which will connect with the ordinary trains at Taurimaru and Ohakune, thus giving practically a through service, though there will not be any sleeping cars on the night trains, and passengers will require to change trains. There is also talk of a three days' service, to enable passengers to get a better idea of the country. The holiday fares will be about £3 18/2 for the return trip first-class, and £2 2/4 second-class.

## A Temporary Arrangement.

A temporary readjustment of portfolios has been arranged by the Prime Minister. The Department of Railways will be taken over by the Hon. J. A. Millar and that of Public Works by the Hon. J. McGowan.

## Poor Pay.

In consequence of statements having been made that dressmakers who have been 17 years at the trade are only receiving £1 2/3, the Dunedin Trades Council decided to take steps to form a dress-makers' union early in the new year.

On Friday the Union Steamship Company's training-ship *Dartford* left Wellington in tow of the cargo steamer *Kamona*, for Kaipara. Following is a complete list of the *Dartford*'s first complement of apprentices—Candidates: N. B. W. Hazard, Pansolby, Auckland; R. M. Wright, Mount Albert, Auckland; E. J. McClellan, Glenmore, Auckland; R. H. Baggott, Wellington; J. A. Bunting, St. Albans, Christchurch; C. F. Carey, Papanui, Christchurch; A. G. M. Christie, Ashburton; E. A. Peters, Dunedin; G. S. Wilson, Dunedin; O. V. Jenkins, Green Island; William Whitefield, Waikaka Valley, Southland; A. T. Adam, Lilydale, Victoria. The lads will receive such instruction in seamanship and navigation as will help them to qualify as officers after serving the necessary time afloat.

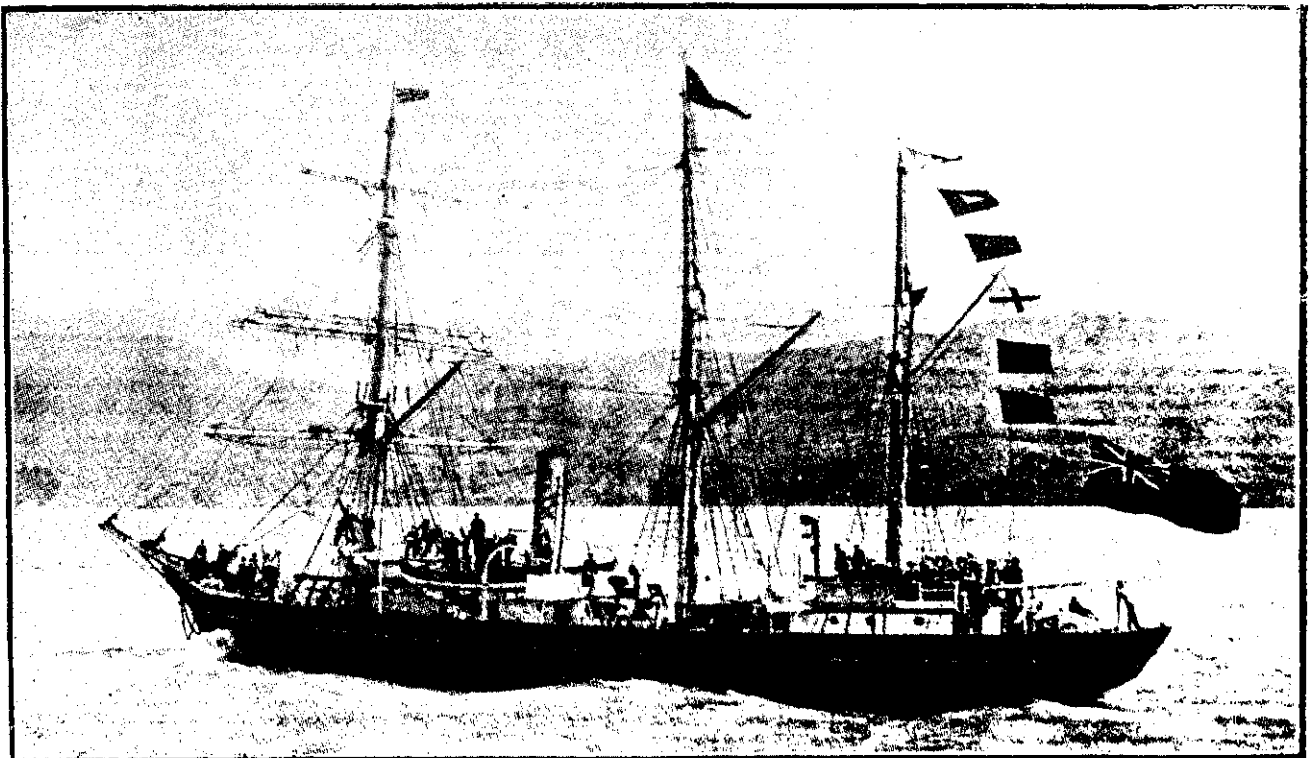
## The Border Brewery.

In reference to the protests against the proposed erection of a brewery just outside the no-license district of Ashburton, Sir Joseph Ward has replied that whatever the law requires the Government will carry out. The Prime Minister has intimated his opinion that whoever is responsible for the proposal is acting unwisely. He is satisfied that it was never contemplated where the people had decided in favour of no-house that practically a defiance of the law should take place.

It is evident, says Sir Joseph, that such a brewery can be legally erected, but he has no hesitation in saying it ought not to be done. He is determined that the will of the people shall be respected, and if it is decided to erect a brewery on the borders of Ashburton, Parliament will be asked to legislate to prohibit it.

## Varsity Judgment.

There is a pretty little sonnet of Shakespeare's, beginning: "Canst thou, O Cruel, say I love thee not . . ." Many people who know Shakespeare esteem this as possibly his best. Not so the Auckland University College Debating Society. They had an "Olla Podrida" last week—one of those affairs where the members submit "original" compositions which are read by someone else to the critical members. The non-competitors vote according to the supposed merit of the effusions. Two ways with more hum-



THE DASH FOR THE POLE: DEPARTURE OF THE NIMROD FROM LYTTELTON.

On Tuesday the Antarctic exploring ship *Nimrod* left Lyttelton to pick up the party under Lieutenant Shackleton, left at McMurdo Sound last February, when the *Nimrod* came North to New Zealand before the ice closed in.