

one than the average Tarsity student, picked out this pretty sonnet of Shakespeare's, and sent it in as their own. There was great difficulty in getting anybody to read the poetry. Really it bristles with elocutionary difficulties, but the main difficulty was that it seemed such awful "rot." At last one impetuous youth—a distinguished student of sciences, a man of irreproachable character, a very hot-spir as to ballad-mongery—accepted the task, under protest. There was a ghastly silence when the "reading" was done. The audience was grim dead, soundless. Then they took up the marks allotted by the critics. It is literally and absolutely true that Shakespeare came out where many another good man has been found—at the bottom of the list! Then the fraud was confessed, and the students shrank sheepishly out of the room and into more congenial darkness.

Tromaine Poisoning.

Last week Mrs. Arthur Raven, wife of a baker on Clyde-quay, Wellington, her three children, and Ethel Cook, the servant girl, became seriously ill after eating tinned sardines. A doctor was summoned, and, after he had attended to them, they were taken to the hospital.

The New Parliament.

The second ballot for the Bay of Plenty took place last week, with the following result:

W. D. S. Macdonald (G)	2641
J. G. Gow (O)	2204
Majority for Macdonald	437

The results of the voting for Maori members of the House of Representatives are as follows:

NORTHERN DISTRICT.	
Hone Heke (late member)	1183
Hore Te Rangī	333
EASTERN DISTRICT.	
Apirama Ngata (late member)	4136
Tiki Paaka	1481
SOUTHERN DISTRICT.	
Whareata Uru	351
Tane Parata (late member)	356
Charles West	22
WESTERN DISTRICT.	
Honore Kaihā	2035
Pepene Eketeone	1486
Te Heuheu Tukino	1185
Tea	1145
Te Kahu	565

Wealthy Organ-grinders.

Street organ-playing is not an unremunerative occupation, as the public trustee by this time has discovered. A well-known blind barrel organist, whose music was frequently heard in Wellington streets, has passed away, and his estate is being administered by the public trustee. The organ remains were surprisingly large, and no less a sum than £2500 has been carefully invested in city real estate. The testator's wife and family, from whom he had been separated for the past twenty years, are residing in Sydney. It is not long since that another street musician accumulated during his lifetime £4700 in hard cash.

The Nimrod Sails.

Lyttelton was en fête on the 1st December, in honour of the departure of the Nimrod for Antarctica, to pick up Lieutenant Shackleton and the remainder of the shore party left at McMurdo Sound in February last. All the shipping in port and most of the public and commercial buildings displayed flags. The whole of the Nimrod's company were in the highest of spirits, and there is every possibility of the vessel returning to Lyttelton some time during March or April next.

The Rhodes Scholarship.

A meeting of the Professorial Board of the Auckland University was held on Monday for the purpose of selecting the next Auckland candidate for the Rhodes Scholarship. There was only one applicant, Mr. V. C. Aldridge, whom the Board decided to select. The Auckland representative for the Rhodes honours is the sixth and youngest son of Mr. George Aldridge, of Auckland, who has been for twenty-five years pastor of the

Church of Christ now meeting in the West-street Church, Newton. The young student was born in Auckland, and has not yet attained his majority. All his education has been received in Auckland. His career has been brilliant and unchequered. His schooling commenced at the Grammar School, at which institution he gained a scholarship which entitled him to tuition at the Grammar School, where he was always high in the forms. From the Grammar School he graduated to the University, also by scholarship. Last year he put up a record by securing three senior scholarships within the twelve months. The scholarships were for pure mathematics, applied mathematics, and geology. At the present time Mr. Aldridge is president of the Auckland University Students' Association. The candidate has always had remarkable success in his examinations, and is a worthy representative of the North.

The candidate has gained his B.Sc., and has the distinction of being the first to win in one year three Senior Scholarships since the present regulations came into force, in 1883.

The Dinedin Professional Board has nominated Hector Maclean, M.A., of Otago University's candidate for the Rhodes scholarship for the current year. He took first-class honours in mental science. Professor Gilray replaces Professor Benham on the Rhodes scholarship selection committee.

Earthquakes in the Bay of Plenty.

Considerable excitement was caused in the Bay of Plenty last week by a series of earthquakes of unusual severity. The effects were principally felt at Whakataene, and there were evidences of considerable volcanic activity at Whale Island, which lies seven miles off the mainland, opposite the entrance to the Whakataene River.

There were reports of Whale Island being rent by an earthquake, and the outbreak of a volcano, but an investigation showed that though there had been considerable disturbance on the island, and the appearance of the steep rocky seaward face had been quite altered by landslips, there were no signs of thermal action.

The crew of the ketch Albatross, which was at Otiria at the time of the disturbances, had a most uncommon experience, which was described by one of their number to a "Graphic" reporter.

WILL THE TARAWERA OUTBURST BE REPEATED?

"To assume that the Whale Island eruption is a preliminary to a greater catastrophe is perhaps an unnecessarily alarmist view, but the circumstances nevertheless warrant serious attention being paid to any further developments." This was the opinion expressed by Professor A. W. P. Thomas when interviewed by a "Star" representative.

Raurima Rocks and Whale Island, which Professor Thomas points out, are between four and five miles apart, lie almost in a direct line between Ruapehu, Tarawera, and White Island, which is the main line of volcanic activity in the North Island. All deductions, he stated, have to be based upon the accuracy of the newspaper reports, since that is the only information available to work upon. The Professor regards the statement emanating from some fishermen to the effect that a large crevier has appeared in the seaward wall of the island as one of very great importance. Presuming that there, has actually appeared such a fissure, it might possibly be a prelude to a volcanic eruption.

"We have no right to assume that volcanic activity has ceased, or that it is dying out," the Professor declared. "To my mind, the indications may be interpreted in two ways. Either the sea water has obtained access to the heated volcanic rocks, which undoubtedly exist below, and the volcanic steam pressure has accumulated until it has produced this fissure, or else we may have a stage in volcanic development along the main line of activity with a fresh supply of lava working its way to the surface. In such a case a volcanic explosion may ensue such as that which occurred at Tarawera. At present the evidence before us is insufficient to say whether the phenomenon is comparatively a minor one and will quickly subside or whether a more serious event is likely to occur."

Referring to a report that yellow clouds of sulphur were rising from the

island, the Professor remarked that this was hardly feasible. Sulphur clouds would be white, and what has actually been seen is, in his opinion, dust.

It is also pointed out by Professor Thomas that at the time of the Tarawera eruption, apart from the loss of human life, and the damage to property, the country, to the extent of over 6000 square miles, was covered with fine ash, two-thirds of it being over an inch deep. After the Tarawera eruption the Professor visited Whakataene, and the ash deposit there was two inches deep. Whether any permanent harm was done by the ash it is difficult to say. If a volcanic explosion of serious intensity occurred at Whale Island, a north-east wind would probably bring quantities of ash to the mainland, but the damage likely to ensue in that way would not, he thinks, amount to anything serious. In any case, Professor Thomas says the more hopeful view to take is that the worst of the seismic activity is over, and that even in the event of an eruption on Whale Island, no great injury to the mainland need be anticipated.

More Immigrants.

The Arawa, which arrived in Wellington on Sunday morning, brought 330 passengers, of whom 218 were in the third class. Of the third-class passengers 129 were "assisted." There were twenty farmers, and six farm labourers. The capital possessed by those immigrants who were assisted out by the Government is £1,700.

COMMONWEALTH.

The Senate has passed the Iron Bonus Bill through the committee stages.

The Sydney business of the Kauri Timber Company has been purchased by Hudson and Sons.

The Federal House of Representatives has passed the Capital Site Bill through its committee stages.

Owing to inability to raise funds, there will be no Commonwealth team sent to Bisleigh this year.

Sir Geo. Rutherford Le Hunt, governor of South Australia since 1903, has been appointed Governor of Trinidad.

The Federal Government is being harassed over the Estimates by its own followers, especially in regard to increases in salaries.

The South Australian Assembly has passed a Loan Bill authorising the raising of a sum of two and a-half millions for expenditure on public works.

The Government statist estimates the wheat yield at 24,164,000 bushels, an average of 12.84. This gives an exportable surplus of 16,000,000 bushels, valued at £3,000,000.

The Federal Attorney-General is drafting a Bill to amend the Patents Act. It provides as a condition to the issue of a patent that the invention must be manufactured in Australia.

The heaviest flood on record has occurred at Norfolk Island. The low-lying lands are under water. Heavy east-

south-east winds and torrents of rain were experienced from Tuesday to Friday.

Mrs. Fanny Wilson, wife of the manager of Carpentaria Downs Station, has, with the aboriginal, Billy Wilson, been committed for trial on the charge of murdering Nellie Duffly, at Carpentaria Downs Station, on September 28.

Mr. Sydney Buxton, Postmaster-General, in reply to Mr. Honniker Heaton, said that the penny postage delivery of Australian eight ounce newspapers to the United Kingdom was not reciprocal, and did not extend to newspapers from the United Kingdom to Australia.

Chinese Stowaways.

Twenty Chinese stowaways were discovered on the steamer Eastern which arrived last week at Sydney from Hong-kong. They had formed a cavity beneath 300 tons of cargo, consigned to Melbourne. All their faces were covered with revolting sores.

Cruise of the Coronet.

The mysterious yacht Coronet has sailed, from Sydney for Melbourne. It transpires that those on board belong to an American religious body known as "The Holy Ghost and Us," of which Sandford, owner of the Coronet, is founder.

The Coronet is a fine-looking vessel. According to yachting registers, she is 152 tons, and 352 Thames measurement, having been built in 1885 at Brooklyne, Maine. She is 118ft 7in long, 27ft beam, and 11ft 7in depth. The name is given as the "Kingdom Yacht Club, of Portland, Maine." There is a fairly large party on board, including several ladies. From what can be ascertained, she is two years out, and was originally from New York. She sailed round Cape Horn, and encountered severe weather. There were other ships off this famous point, which were having a hard time, but the Coronet made splendid weather of it, and found an anchorage in a bay which they called "Beautiful Bay." A statement has been made that after the vessel left New York she proceeded to the Mediterranean, where visits were made to the spots of interest, and then some of the party went on to Jerusalem.

Sir Thomas Bent's Administration.

Mr. Murray, in moving a motion of want-of-confidence in Sir Thomas Bent's Administration in Victoria, said his charge against the Government was that it had done nothing according to fixed principles. Ever since Sir Thomas Bent's advent it had become more and more a one-man Government. Sir Thomas Bent was weak, vacillating, and extravagant. He had outlived his usefulness as a Leader of the Government.

Mr. Watt charged Sir Thomas Bent with making a false statement in denying that he had purchased land along the route of the Brighton-St. Kilda tramway. He had misled Parliament in stating he had no land along the route, and thus secured the passage of the bill which had

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