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The Week in Review

The commercial outlook all over the world seems to be distinctly brighter than it has been for some time past. In South Africa there is a very marked revival of prosperity, and the sharemarket is quite active again. Many securities, for long considered practically valueless, have recently advanced by leaps and bounds, till some are now actually higher than they were before the great Baring failure. England also appears to be recovering from the acute depression of last year, and Government supporters are hopeful that they may yet avoid the threatened change in fiscal policy. Throughout the whole of Australasia prospects of a good season are distinctly encouraging, and this, combined with better prices at Home, ought to remove entirely any financial stringency that may still exist. A record wheat harvest is anticipated in the South, and reports go to show that in Auckland the butter yield is better than it has ever been. In Australia the wheat promises well, and the rise in the price of wool and the general recovery throughout the Commonwealth from the effects of the great drought give every hope for the coming year. Mr. Taft's election has caused renewed industrial activity in the United States, and even in Venezuela and the other turbulent republics of South America a more settled prosperity seems to be imminent. The New Year has opened well as far as the commercial world is concerned. We can only hope that it may close under circumstances equally auspicious.

New Zealanders are not the only people who like to have a growl at the Railway authorities for the discomfort entailed by the overcrowded state of the trains at holiday times. It appears that in New South Wales, while the Railway Department has been congratulating itself on having put up a record as regards the number of passengers carried last Boxing Day, the passengers themselves are anything but inclined to share in the congratulations. Very little accommodation appears to have been provided for first-class passengers, and thousands of people who paid for first-class tickets, were compelled to travel in the already overcrowded second-class carriages. Not only so, but even in the inferior class they were not given a seat, but were compelled to stand the whole journey, and we are told that the platforms of the carriages were crowded to a dangerous extent. If the railway authorities sell a ticket entitling the holder to a seat in a first-class compartment, it seems only just and reasonable that they should carry out their contract and not leave the unfortunate passenger, whose money they have taken, to battle for standing room wherever he can get it or else be left behind on the platform. The traffic at holiday times is naturally exceptional, but it is not unexpected, and adequate steps should be taken to meet it.

President Fallieres by his persistent refusal to sign the death-warrant has been held largely responsible for the enormous increase of crimes of violence in France, and especially in the streets of Paris. Murders and attempted murders had become of almost daily occurrence, and in Paris the "Apache," or gangs of hoodlums, had become more and more daring from the knowledge that if caught they would never be executed. In a single day they committed no fewer than ten murders, all of them of a singularly brutal and ruthless nature. The French Chamber of Deputies decided last year that drastic steps must be taken to put

an end to this new reign of terror, and they passed by a one-third majority a resolution in favour of enforcing the death penalty. As a result of this decision, the President has been compelled to abandon his former attitude, and twenty-two convicted murderers were sentenced to be executed. The crowd cheered as the victims were being led to the guillotine, and one of the condemned men just before his death admitted that he had committed 250 crimes, and that the sentence was a just one. However repugnant the idea of capital punishment may be, there is no doubt that the dread of the death sentence acts as a most powerful deterrent to men who but for it would commit murder on the slightest provocation. The President's ill-advised leniency had cost the lives of numerous innocent people, and he doubtless recognises by now that the sternest justice may in the end prove to be the most really merciful course to pursue.

It is very much to be regretted that the miners at Broken Hill should have alienated so much of public sympathy from their cause by their many acts of violence and wanton destruction of property. For on the face of it the men appear to have had a good case. The Mine owners, in spite of the award given and agreed upon, decided to reduce the men's wages on the ground that they could not pay the rate awarded. The men construed this as a lock-out, and in all probability public opinion would have been entirely with them had they conducted themselves in a peaceful and law-abiding manner. But the tactics they have pursued have received and merited almost universal condemnation. Much of the blame, however, for these deeds of violence must be laid at the door of the irresponsible agitators, who have sought to rouse the passions of the men by inflammatory speeches. The arrest of Tom Mann and others shows that the authorities are fully alive to the dangerous influence exerted by some of those who whilst professing sympathy with the working classes are in reality their most dangerous enemies.

It is very much to be regretted that, in view of the recent rise in the price of wool, the results of the Auckland wool sales held on Wednesday last cannot be considered altogether satisfactory. Buyers made great complaints about the bad classification, even going so far as to allege a certain amount of dishonest baling. This, they said, had had a bad effect upon the sales, and had caused a marked distrust as well as a disinclination on the part of several buyers to make any bids. This was especially noticeable in purchases made for America, these purchases being on a very limited scale. On the other hand, many of the wool-growers deny that the wool was badly packed or classified, and they lay the blame elsewhere for the poor prices realised. Not a few consider that there are too many sales in Auckland, and they urge that two would be sufficient, instead of three, as at present. They seem inclined to think that the buyers were trying to depress the market, and the lack of American bidding is attributed to the high duty of 54 per lb. on imported wool. However this may be, the fact remains that the sale was a distinct disappointment to the growers, and in their own interest they should make the fullest inquiries into the causes, and endeavour to remedy any admitted defects.

There is one feature of the recent General Election that deserves more attention than seems to have been generally paid to it. This is the great increase in the number of members who are committed to a definite programme of national defence. Nineteen members are unconditionally pledged, and sixteen more have promised favourable support to the movement. It is not a party question, and both political parties are well represented. Indeed, there seems to be a very strong feeling throughout the Dominion in favour of some form of compulsory military training, though not in the form of conscription as it is understood on the Continent. At present it cannot be said that we have anything adequate in the nature of a defence force. We have been spending for some years past nearly a-quarter of a million per annum on defence, and we have nothing to show for it except a volunteer force under 20,000 strong. We have 50,000 rifles, but it is estimated that our reserve supply of ammunition would, at the best, only last 10,000 men for a fortnight. There are not 30 pieces of really effective field artillery, and the commissariat transport and army medical departments are practically non-existent.

In England there seems also to be a growing feeling that the voluntary system has not proved adequate to the demands that might be made upon it in the event of an invasion. The territorial army has not been a success, and Mr. Haldane, by his unwise cutting down of the regular forces, has not tended to reassure public opinion on the vital question of defence. Lord Roberts, in November last, pointed out that it would be quite possible for 200,000 men to be assembled at German ports without any fuss of public notification, and embarked before we could prevent their departure. He also referred to the fact that there were 80,000 Germans in England already, all of whom trained to military service, and these would co-operate with their countrymen in the event of hostilities being declared. He contended that the citizen army should consist of at least 1,000,000 men. Admiral Fimms has also expressed the opinion that an invasion of England would be quite possible. During the recent manoeuvres, when in command of the attacking fleet, he had succeeded, under cover of a thick fog, in conveying a force, supposed to represent seventy thousand troops, to the Scottish coast. He agreed with Lord Roberts that no matter how strong and powerful the navy might be, a sufficient and efficient command of the land was necessary to ensure peace and security at home. We have for so long enjoyed the blessings of peace that we are apt to imagine that these blessings will continue for ever, but the situation is threatening both in Europe and in the East, and the best and surest guarantee of peace is to be found in being thoroughly prepared for war. A weak country invites attack; that country alone can dwell secure which can exhibit on its shield the proud motto, "Nemo me impune lacessit."

The recent conference of the Primitive Methodist Church showed that this body has made great progress in its work during recent years. The denomination dates back to the year 1811, when Hugh Bourne and William Clowes founded the Church. Bourne was a man of considerable literary attainments, as well as a fluent linguist, whilst Clowes was mainly noted as a preacher. The main feature of their work was intense evangelical enthusiasm; powerful, fearless preaching of the gospel, and open-air work. The Church grew, and spread to America, Canada, Australasia, and Africa. The first minister in New Zealand was the late Rev. R. Ward, a man who was both a saint and a hero. For some time he

worked in New Plymouth, but in 1840 he came to Auckland, the voyage, which was made by schooner, occupying seven days. There are now 75 churches and 89 other preaching places. The churches, schools, and parsonages are valued at £75,000. There are 39 ministers, and nearly 3000 members. There are 83 Sunday schools, with 613 teachers and 5500 scholars. The Church has done an immense work amongst the poor, and has ever taken a foremost place in all matters affecting social and temperance reform.

The annual report of the Panama Canal Commission, recently issued, shows that serious and unexpected difficulties have been encountered, and these have necessitated some change in plan as well as causing considerable delay. One of the most serious troubles was a large land slide, which is thus described in the report:—"On October 4 the Cucaracha slide, which had caused more or less inconvenience since the work was begun by the French in 1884, started to move toward the east edge of the canal at a rate, at first, of fourteen feet in twenty-four hours, decreasing toward the close of the month to about four feet in the same period of time. About 113,000 cubic yards of material moved so as to effectually stop the transportation of material through the 'cut' to the south, and necessitated the handling of all material over the single-track portion of the Panama Railroad via Empire to the south. Work was prosecuted, without interruption, day and night, by steam shovels and improvised hydraulic means, and by the end of the month sufficient space was gained on the moving mass to permit the passage of dirt trains to the south over the old route. The total area of the slide was approximately 34,455 square yards, and it was estimated that about 600,000 cubic yards were in motion." The engineers, however, are hopeful that they will be able to prevent such catastrophes in future, and that the canal will be finally completed before 1915. Its importance can hardly be over-estimated, and everyone will be glad to learn that there is every prospect of this gigantic project being carried to successful termination.

Turkey has at last accepted Austria's offer of compensation for the annexation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, and there is every indication that she will also accept compensation from Bulgaria. Servia has also considerably modified her former threatening attitude, so that there seems to be every prospect of a pacific settlement of affairs in the Balkans. As regards Servia, we may assume that she has been influenced by the pressure exerted by Russia, and also by the fact that Italian interest has been diverted from the Balkans owing to the recent stupendous earthquake in Sicily. Turkey is face to face with great financial difficulties, and a loan is said to be absolutely necessary. Under these circumstances war would be disastrous, and she is willing to make great concessions in order to escape from further monetary embarrassments. At present it would seem as if the main outcome of recent affairs would be the rise of a Bulgarian Empire that may yet take a prominent part in the councils of Europe.

The annual statement of the Napier Harbour Board shows that the port is making rapid progress, and goes far to justify the Chairman's confidently expressed opinion that it will one day become the third port in the Dominion. Napier has gained considerably in trade by the action of the Government in taking over the Manawatu railway, and also by the subdivision of large estates, hundreds of people having made homesteads

on land that formerly possessed but a few occupants. The revenue of the Board, exclusive of rates, interest and Government grants, increased last year by the large sum of 16,303 12s. 8d., although the amount raised in 1907 had constituted a record. It is proposed to raise a loan of £200,000 for the completion and equipment of the breakwater harbour, and it is estimated that the total amount of interest on the loan will be more than met by the increase of revenue. In four years the revenue of the Board has nearly doubled, having increased from £20,000 to £39,000, and, with the many improvements proposed, and those already being carried out, there seems little reason to doubt that the port will rapidly become one of the most important in the colony.

In Auckland on Friday last an important meeting was held of the Auckland Brewers and Wine and Spirit Merchants' Association, and of the Licensed Victuallers' Association. Mr. A. M. Myers presided, and after a serious discussion had taken place for a period of about five hours it was decided to abolish barnaballs and private bars, making due allowance for present interests, and also to serve no youth under 20 years of age, and not to supply women unless boarders. There is very little doubt that these reforms will appeal to the large moderate section of the community, those who do not desire absolute prohibition, but who wish to see reform in the manner in which the trade is conducted. The resolutions show that those entrusted with the public sale of liquor are fully alive to their responsibilities, and it is probable that the permanence of their reforms will shortly be secured by direct legislation now that the trade has itself adopted them.

Literary Advertising.

Some of the more bustling publishers in England are adopting all sorts of "dodges" to get the public interested in their authors, aside from the purely literary attractiveness of the novel, itself. For instance, one firm is offering a prize for the best twelve-word telegram describing the personality of the author of a certain book; another publisher offers a prize of £5 for the best drawing of an imaginary portrait of "a mysterious novelist, whose identity is not disclosed." A third one, not to be outdone, offers a prize for the exact height of the author; and the most accurate surmise as to whether a certain book is written by a man or a woman. With all these inducements before the public it is a little difficult to choose which scheme gives the largest reward for the smallest amount of brain fag. For a novelist to get his or her book read by King Edward is one of the best guarantees of success. His Majesty, however, has little time to select his own books, and wisely deputises one of his women friends to do his literary recruiting for him. One of the King's "book-tasters" is the wife of the Premier, Mr. Asquith. She has long held this honoured post, and reads nearly everything in the novel line that comes under the King's notice. In fact, before her marriage, as Margaret Tennant, she became the King's literary adviser. It is not generally known, but King Edward is quite a devotee of the modern novel, with a predilection for the French school.

Concerning "Punch."

Do you think "Punch" is quite as good as it used to be? was a question put by the "Jewish Chronicle" to Mr. Walter Emmanuel, the writer of Mr. Punch's "Charivaria." "That is rather a delicate question to put to me," was the reply. "However, my contribution to its pages is such a trifling one that perhaps I may be allowed to answer it. In my opinion, "Punch" is not quite so good as it used to be. It is very much better. "Punch" of to-day, taking pictures and letterpress combined, is stronger than it has ever been. And this is only what one would expect, with an editor of the mental calibre of Owen Seaman. When people depreciatingly compare the "Punch" of to-day with that of the past, it is because, in thinking of the past, they take a whole volume, in which they find many good things; while the "Punch" of to-day is judged by a single number. Judged volume by volume, the modern "Punch" is, in my opinion, certainly superior to its ancestors."

Our Illustrations

WELLINGTON ROSE AND CARNATION CLUB'S CARNATION AND SWEET PEA SHOW.

The club's summer show this year proved quite equal in all respects to its predecessors. Carnations are always a great attraction, and, with the lovely varieties of sweet peas now in commerce, exhibitors are able to put up some particularly fine displays.

The roses exhibited were remarkably good for this time of the year, Mr. Hirschberg securing the special prize with three good blooms, "Betty" being quite an especial feature of his exhibit. *Cactus dahlias* were few in number; in fact, the season is a late one here for dahlias. A nice exhibit was staged by Bellevue Gardens, while Miss Taylor's champion bloom of "J. H. Jackson" was also a very fine one.

In carnations, about 1000 blooms were staged, Mr. H. A. Fox winning the champion prize for "best carnation in the show" with a very fine bloom of "Lara." The same exhibitor staged over 100 blooms in competition, including some superb white ground picotees, the best of which were Mrs. H. Baillie and Rev. Godby. The former is a bloom of exceptional substance, with narrow purple edge, and while of excellent type it has the merit of coming fully three inches in diameter. This exhibitor also showed some very fine Yellow Ground Fancies.

Competition was very keen in the amateur and novice sections of carnations, but there is room for considerable improvement here to which the club will do well to give its attention, with the object of encouraging exhibitors to reach greater perfection with their blooms; and a better style of setting same up. In this section, Mr. J. B. Finlay was awarded the prize for premier bloom with a real good specimen of "Mrs. H. Baillie" (White Ground, Picotee). Mr. F. Gale winning the silver rose bowl with 30 points for most successful amateur exhibitor, Mr. J. B. Finlay coming second with 20 points. In the novice section, Mrs. H. D. Crawford's exhibits were certainly the best, but this exhibitor would do well to cultivate a greater variety in future.

Messrs. Jeffery and Laursen's table of about 250 fine carnation blooms "for exhibition only," was greatly admired, as also was another table of over 200 carnation blooms staged by Bellevue Gardens.

Sweet peas certainly held the pride of place in the show. Mr. C. Trevethick was the most successful exhibitor, winning the £10 10/- solid silver trophy for 12 vases distinct varieties. His exhibit contained some wonderfully good blooms of Mrs. Hardscastle Sykes, Evelyn Henus, Julia Ingman, and many other well-known varieties. His exhibit staged "not for competition" was a real treat, and earned the remark from the judge that it was the finest exhibit of sweet peas ever staged by one exhibitor in New Zealand. Mr. J. J. Kerlake's exhibit of 9 vases for the Sydenham, Ltd. (Birmingham), silver trophy was good; his vase of "Helen Lewis" being about the best of its kind in the show. The National Sweet Pea Society's Silver Medal was awarded to Mr. H. A. Fox's six vases of Waxed Standards, while J. Wyn Irwin secured Evans and Sons' silver cup for six vases peas grown from their seed. The most prominent varieties of sweet peas shown were: John Ingman, Helen Lewis, Countess Spencer, Mrs. Hardscastle Sykes, Elsie Herbert, Evelyn Henus, Etia Dyke, Princess Spencer, Frank Dolby, and Phenomenal.

Ladies' decorated tables, which are usually a very strong class, were few in number, but all were very pretty. The prizes were awarded by ballot as follows: 1st Mrs. A. Laursen, 2nd Mrs. James, 3rd Miss Olive Spilman, 4th Mrs. Jeffery.

Mr. H. Pools exhibited some nice orchids, and made a real good display of palms, ferns, and pot plants. Messrs. Cooper, Ltd., also had an attractive trade exhibit.

The judges were: Sweet peas, Mr. E. Austin; carnations, roses, and dahlias, Mr. S. Cousins, of Dunedin.

An Impromptu Performance.

On Christmas Eve, 1837, an old man with a stout cane walked slowly through the most fashionable quarter of Paris. His right arm closely pressed to his side, as if it were some sacred thing, an oblong object wrapped in a checkered cotton handkerchief. He was thinly clad, shivering and emaciated. He was buffeted about by the scurrying crowds, apparently at a loss which way to turn. He noticed the checkered handkerchief, and disclosed a violin and bow. He raised the instrument, and started to play a sentimental strain; but the result was only harsh and inharmonious sounds. The street gamins chaffed him. With a sob, he fell down upon the steps, resting the instrument upon his knees. "Oh, Heaven!" he cried, "I can no longer play!"

Three young men came down the street, singing a tune then popular among the students of the Conservatoire de Musique. One of them accidentally knocked off his hat, and a second stumbled against his leg. The bareheaded old violinist rose proudly to his feet.

"Pardon, monsieur," said the third young man. "I hope we did not hurt you?"

The speaker picked up the old man's hat.

"No," was the bitter answer.

The young man saw the violin.

"You are a musician?"

"I was once." Two great tears trickled down the old man's cheeks.

"What is the matter? Are you ill?"

The old man faltered for a moment; then he held out his hat to them.

"Give me a trifle, for the love of Heaven! I can no longer earn anything by my art. My fingers are stiff, and my daughter is dying of consumption and want."

Down in his pockets went each one of the trio. They were but poor students, and the result was only sixteen sous. This was the combined capital of the two; the third had only a cake of resin.

"This won't do," declared the one who had apologised for the accident. "We want more than that to relieve our fellow artist. A pull together will do it. You, Adolphe, take the violin and accompany Gustave, while I go round with the hat."

A ringing laugh was the answer.

They pulled their hats over their faces and turned up their coat-collars, in order to avoid recognition. Adolphe took the violin from the old man's trembling hands. Gustave straightened out his shoulders. In a moment the first notes of the "Carnival de Venise" were floating out upon the night air. Such masterful music did not customarily come from the instruments of street players.

Windows of the palatial houses flew up, and heads were thrust out of the openings. Strollers coming down the street stopped, and those who had gone on retraced their footsteps. Soon a good-sized crowd had gathered. Gustave sang the favourite cavatina from "La Dame Blanche" in a manner that held the audience spellbound. It "rained money" into the hat when the song was finished.

"One more tune," whispered the treasurer of the enterprise. "Bring out those bass notes of yours, Adolphe. I'll help you out with the baritone part, Gustave, my brave tenor. The heavens will open, and larks ready-tongued fall into the old man's mouth. We'll finish up with the trio from "Guillaume Tell." And, mind, now, we're singing for the honour of the Conservatoire as well as for the sake of a brother artist."

The three young men played and sang probably as they never played and sang in their after-life. The most critical of audiences was enthralled.

Life came back to the old man. He grasped his stick, and, adapting it as a baton, used it with the air of one having authority. He stood transfixed when they had done; his face lighted up, his eyes glistened.

The proceeds of the entertainment netted five hundred francs. Many of the wealthy listeners had thrown gold pieces into the old battered hat.

Then they gave him back his hat and its contents, and wrapped up the instrument in the old checkered handkerchief.

"Your names? Your names?" the old man gasped. "Give me your names that I may bless them on my death-bed."

"My name is Faith," said the first.

"And mine Hope," said the second.

"And mine Charity," said the treasurer of the enterprise.

"You do not even know mine," continued the old man, regaining his voice.

"Ah! I might have been an impostor; but I am not. My name is Chapeuc. For ten years I directed the orchestra of the

Opera at Strasburg. It was I who mounted "Guillaume Tell." Since I left my native Alsace misfortune has followed me. With this money my daughter and I can go to the country, and there she will recover her health, and I will find a place to teach when she can no longer perform. You—all of you—shall be the greatest of the great."

"Amen!" was the hearty response of the students, as they shook the good man's hand.

Despite their attempt at disguising, the young men had been recognised by one who afterward told the tale.

They were known to fame in later years as Gustave Roger, the great tenor, Adolphe Herman, the great violinist, and Charles Gionod, the great composer. The old man's prophecy was fulfilled.

Josh Billing's Philosophy.

One of the most discouraging features of modern civilization that I meet with, is the average kumby hotel.

Impromptu wit is the scarest kind of wit in market, and allwiss surprises the man who utters it as much as the one who hears it.

All philosophy teaches me not to attack things allwiss on the front side where they are well guarded, but loaf around on the rear side of them where they ain't a-looking after me.

Most of the newspaper kriticks are like the striped snax—they hav the malice, but not the tooth.

All opnyum ov kats remains unchanged—I consider them a kuesid mistake.

One grate reason why there iz so little happiness iz bekanse there iz so little imocense.

I don't kno that a man's conscience iz infallible, but it cums the nearest to it ov emything human.

What makes a heap ov trouble in this world is there iz so menny people who spend their inkum before they git it.

I don't kno as it pays to be even a good clown. Clowns seem to be az bad of az liars; when they tell the truth nobuddy will believe it.

The grate majority go out of this world just az they cum into it; not more than twelve or fifteen people, perhaps, kno or care emything about it.

It iz so much easier for a genuine humourist to amuze others than to even satisfy himself.

The man who overrates himself iz pretty sure to underrate others, and thus make two blunders insted ov one.

Give me a clear conscience, good health, and a stiff bank-account, and emy man may be President who wants to be.

The whole world iz hunting after pleasure, and the grate mistake people make iz, they are satisfied with an inferior article.

The virtuous liv three distinct lifes—the one they look bak upon, the one they now enjoy, and the one that is waiting for them.

A man haz no right to be proud even ov a good deed. Let him humble himself before it, for he can't tell how long it will be before he will do a mean one.

Cunning and wisdom are often confounded, but there iz nothing so plenty az cunning, nor nothing so skarse az wisdom.

Men ov real knoledge are more anxious to git sum more than they are to sho what they hav got.

All those men who hav acquired a fortune and kept it owe more to ekonomy than to shrewdness.

If you are going to make amuzements a stiddy bizness, chasing butterflies iz just az sensible az emy.

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Sayings of the Week

The question of missions was vitally concerned in the destiny of the Church, and unless the missionary spirit was apparent they must fail. No man or woman should be regarded as beyond redemption, and the Church should strive to reclaim them. The power of the Gospel had been manifestly impressed by its victories in the London slums, and it was the same doctrines which were preached in the Dominion. A passion for souls was a lacking element to-day, more attention being paid to the occupation of territory than of hearts. The souls of the people must be saved in the cities and in the back blocks.—*The Rev. S. Henderson, Primitive Methodist Minister.*

A very considerable share in the development of the new science of radio-activity had been taken by men born in Australasia. Easily first among them stood Professor Ernest Rutherford, of New Zealand, to whom the world owed many fundamental conceptions of the subject.—*Professor Bragg, President Australasian Scientific Association.*

The fight for the world's markets is becoming fiercer, and our primary producers, if they are to hold their own, ought to be placed on as good a footing in this respect as their rivals, and the telephone is one of the most valuable aids to the farmer in his business. Moreover, the telephone would materially reduce the sense of utter loneliness and anxiety attendant on the life of women in the back districts, induce more settlers to take up land in the backblocks, increase the prosperity of the cities by fostering and increasing country trade, and save many valuable lives now lost through want of medical advice.—*Mr. E. Hall, Secretary Auckland A. and P. Association.*

In regard to pigs, the extent of tuberculosis in New Zealand is about three times that found in the United States, or even that in Denmark. This is almost entirely due to the class of food consumed. I have urged for years, but without effect, that the skin-milk should be sterilised at the factories. This process has been in vogue in Denmark for some years, and has now been adopted in many of the United States, and with the most gratifying results so far as prevention of the spread of the disease among pigs is concerned. Why it should be delayed in this country is a mystery.—*Mr. J. A. Gilraih, Chief Veterinarian.*

It is certain that the country will not be content unless the proposals regarding the navy are adequate, and we must be prepared for considerable further demands upon the taxpayer.—*Lord Brassey.*

Let the people, the people who are not able to attend philharmonic and orchestral concerts, be allowed the opportunity of hearing good orchestral music—and Sunday is the day of the week when they are best able to hear and appreciate it. Is not good music as excellent a religious medium as many other so-called aids to religious thought and inspiration? Encourage such Sunday entertainment—do not prohibit it.—*Mr. Lewis de Groen.*

A good brass band on the march is splendid; it is inspiring and effective. But at a concert, and especially an indoor concert, its stirring music is like to develop to something less than a concord of sweet sounds, so that if you possess a nervous system, you think of leaving. This is because a brass band has no colour; it is all tone, and, consequently, its limitations for rendering high-class music are obvious. With the military band, the soft reedy tones of the clarinet, the colour of the oboe, horns, French horns, etc., and the harmonising blend of the whole unit is such that equally on the march and on the platform you must take your hat off to a properly constituted military band, once you hear it.—*Mr. Lewis de Groen.*

Wellington is so frightfully parochial that they would not listen to anything there.—*Mr Hoare, Christchurch.*

There appeared to be a large amount of latent talent in the ranks of brass instrument players in New Zealand, and if the best players could be brought together permanently New Zealand could own one of the finest bands in the world. It might be possible for the Government to subsidise the good players and so secure to the country one glorious band. The suggestion might not be a practicable one at present, but there were possibilities in it.—*Mr. W. Short, King's Trumpeter.*

A good many North Island farmers are going over to Australia, and with the scientific methods which New Zealanders are introducing over there, it will only be a short time before Australia will be able to produce wheat of such quality and in such quantity as to be able to send it over to New Zealand and sell it cheaper than it can be grown here.—*Mr. A. C. Thompson, Christchurch.*

When the right cross of sheep for breeding fat lambs is generally adopted over there Australia will capture the fat lamb trade, as the land is so much cheaper and the expense of rearing lambs so much less than it is here. A fortune can be made from sheep in Australia in a very short time.—*Mr. B. F. G. Cochran, Timaru.*

He was not in favour of encouraging Sunday trains. Men were hard worked now, and he did not wish to impose additional burdens on them. Sunday was a day of rest.—*Hon. J. A. Miller.*

There is a good prospect of the long-delayed opening of the Panama Canal in 1915, if the present rate of progress is maintained. Hitherto cholera, yellow fever and malaria have played havoc with the workers, but these scourges have been practically eradicated, and the casualties from disease among the 40,000 workers now employed (6000 are European navvies, chiefly Spaniards) have been reduced to a minimum.—*Dr. Vaughan Cornish.*

The United Kingdom is now a dumping ground for the surplus products of America and Germany in particular, and of other countries to a lesser extent, and the workers are thrown out of employment, and are unable to buy even the cheap imported goods. Mr Chamberlain's protection policy must be adopted before long, and this was the only thing which would effect any permanent amelioration of the industrial conditions.—*Mr J. Lillo, managing director of the South Canterbury Woollen Mills.*

The Theosophical Society took no part in political matters, not in the controversies between different faiths. Its spread, however, would probably deeply affect public opinion on many important points. Its study would lead men to the conclusion that evolution was a real thing in all departments of human life, mental, moral and physical; hence to the assurance that reincarnation assured equal chances to all men. There was no injustice anywhere when the whole vast cosmic programme was seen.—*Mr A. W. Maurais, Dunedin.*

They found the whole of humanity naturally divided into two great types—those on the outgoing path, characterised by a disposition to grasp, and those on the path of return, characterised by the disposition to give. In all egos that were past the hindmost point in their evolution, and were on the path of return, the disposition to give rather than to grasp, and to live for others, became more and more marked, till the most highly-evolved of our race had ever been ready to give up their very lives for the good of humanity and to find their highest joy therein.—*Miss H. Home, Dunedin Theosophical Society.*

Trains had to be run to pay. He did not say a train should pay every day, but where there was loss over three months the general public should not be called upon to make good the dead loss for a section of the community.—*Hon. J. A. Miller.*

At a time when there was so much theological unrest, and when there were so many non-church-going people, it must provide food for anxious reflection on the part of every man desiring the best for the people, and he did not think there had ever been a time in English history when the churches had been more active in their work, more liberal, and more self-denying, or more thoroughly in sympathy with every movement for social betterment of the masses than was the case to-day.—*Rev. C. H. Laws, Methodist Minister, Dunedin.*

He had recently been looking over some examination papers in which the candidates had been asked to recount the stages of man. One child wrote as follows:—"There are three stages of man. The first is when we are young, and we think of all the wicked things we are going to do when we grow up; that is the age of innocence. The second is when we have grown up and done all the wicked things we thought about when we were young; that is the prime of life. The last is when we are old and repeat: that is detage."—*Professor Muirhead.*

Considering the rate at which Wellington has been receiving population from overseas and by natural means during the year, the increase of ten marriages was less than it should be, and the same remark might apply to the births. He did not know why the young men were hanging back, but the figures indicated that they were. It was a new record, it was true, but an unsatisfactory one. With respect to deaths, although the population had increased substantially during the year, the number of deaths recorded had decreased by 149; which could only be regarded as entirely satisfactory, and was the best tribute to excellent sanitary conditions of the city and the work of the Health Department.—*Mr G. G. Hodgkins, Registrar, Wellington.*

The moral I would draw from the friendship towards the Turkish people is that public opinion in this country is stirred not by racial animosity, but by ideas and causes. We never were anti-Turkish in the sense of having racial animosity. I believe that this is equally true at this moment with regard to every other nation. As far as popular sentiment is concerned there is no barrier between us and any other foreign people. We have no territorial ambitions to bring us into conflict with them, we have no past injuries which rankle, and we have no scores to pay off against and foreign nation.—*Sir E. Grey.*

Instinct seems to tell me one thing about the woman of the future. Her freedom, which she will surely win, will not rob her of her woman's love of home. Man, after he has battled with and been buffeted by the world, returns with an ever-growing longing for the peace and beauty of his home environment. Woman, when the wider look of life lies open before her, will surely find the bonds of home life drawing more tightly round her. Woman will always be woman; hard, unsympathetic facts of life will make her home seem more of a haven. Will women's beauty grow? I think it will be more refined in the future. In 100 years' time a type of extreme daintiness will, I believe, prevail. The greater use of her brain will "spiritualise" the future woman. Her face will be alight with intelligence.—*Madame Melba.*

If England should get into trouble, Australian soldiers were all ready to fight for the Empire. In the case of a European war, Australia's help would not be required, but if it were it would be ready.—*Lieut.-Col. de Messurier.*

They had reflections cast at the Auckland growers which were not deserved, and it was, perhaps, desirable to consider the proposal emanating from one man that growers should combine to send the whole Auckland clip home direct. To his mind, it was very unfair to cast aspersions as had been done. In his opinion, three sales were unnecessary in Auckland, and two sales in the season would be enough. If that were done they would perhaps have an attendance of more than two or three buyers, and so found a keener competition.—*Mr Isaac Gray, of the Auckland Agricultural Association.*

Lord Kitchener had stated that if trouble broke out in Northern India, he would have the Australians to rally round him again. He protested against instilling into the rising generation regard for the Australian flag at the expense of the Union Jack.—*Col. Campbell, of the Union Jack.*

There is no desire to overwork our judges, but, on the other hand, it is the duty of the Government to take care that the very heavy expense of an additional judge shall not be incurred until one is really wanted. Of that necessity the Chief Justice should be the best judge.—*Hon. Dr. Findlay.*

I again recommend the extension of the Ocean Mail Act of 1891, so that satisfactory American ocean mail lines to South America, Asia, the Philippines, and Australasia may be established. The creation of such steamship lines should be the natural corollary of the voyage of the battle fleet. It should precede the opening of the Panama canal. Even under favourable conditions several years must elapse before such lines can be put into operation. Accordingly, I urge that the Congress act promptly where foresight already shows that action sooner or later will be inevitable.—*Ex-President Roosevelt.*

What do I think of Ngata as a colleague on the Native Land Commission? Well, I have been closely associated with him for the past two years, and have had unusual opportunities of studying his character. I can only speak of his industry and earnestness in the highest possible terms, and I consider him a very able man indeed.—*Sir Robert Stout.*

People outside India, maybe, wonder why the natives are not entrusted to a greater extent with a share in the government. The difficulty is the amount of dishonesty and corruption among the natives. Oh, it is terrible! Natives who go to London and pass their examinations and return to India to enter coveted positions in the civil service (Hindus generally) are very frequently found guilty of bribery and corruption, and discharged. Bribery is so fearfully common that an Indian cannot believe that English servants do not accept bribes. An Indian cannot believe that a civil servant is not in his position for the purpose of feathering his own nest.—*Canon Hooper, Anglican missionary.*

The British Government has passed new laws which empower the Indian Executive to put down sedition with a high hand, and these strong measures have been taken just in time. But we all know that in the minds of Asiatics any forbearance on the part of a government is always put down as a consequence of fear, and now I am just a little afraid that certain concessions of a democratic tendency made by the British Government will be interpreted by the people as a sign of fear, and that they will regard such concessions as having been extorted by their acts of violence.—*Canon Hooper, Anglican missionary.*

The Housewife's Health is Precious

The happiness of the whole family depends greatly on the health and strength of the housewife. If she is weak and worn out, trifling and nervous, she cannot be the wise and patient adviser of her children, the congenial companion of her husband, the calm mistress of her many trying household duties that she was when in perfect health.

For such women nothing equals

Stearns' Wine of Cod Liver Oil

the peerless tonic and appetizer which is so pleasant to the taste that it agrees with the most delicate stomach, yet is certain in its strength-renewing and body-building effects. It has not even the faintest taste of cod liver oil, and millions of people in all parts of the world unite in praising its value as a restorer of health and vigour. Get it at your chemist's, and be sure you get STEARNS'—the genuine.

The rates of remuneration for ship-building at present were simply contributions towards unemployment funds. He did not think there was a firm in the country making its charges out of the average ship. The disappearance of some firms and the balance-sheets of others showed what a terrible state things had come to. When they read in the papers of great firms desperate for work, putting in prices which avowedly did not cover their bare labour and material, they might well ask: What did the future hold? One thing was certain, the British shipbuilder and his employees could not afford to relax one muscle or close their eyes to anything that could be done to improve the quality of their work.—*Vol. J. M. Denny, of Denny Bros., shipbuilders.*

The demand for a statement of a candidate's religious belief can have no meaning except that there may be discrimination for or against him because of that belief. Discrimination against the holder of one faith means retaliatory discrimination against men of other faiths—the inevitable result of our real freedom of conscience and a reversion to the dreadful conditions of religious discussion which, in so many lands, have proved fatal to true liberty, to true religion, and to all advance in civilisation.—*Ex-President Roosevelt.*

In the course of a long life she had been brought into contact with all classes of women—white women, black women, brown women, and yellow women. If everyone of these women had done the work that lay to her hand to the best of her energy, she would have little time or inclination to mix herself up in direct politics. Let us resist this effort to break up our homes and our families, and let us place ourselves in the proud position of being able to use our very utmost for our homes, our surroundings, and the Empire at large.—*Lady Jersey.*

The holding of office is a mere incident in the life of those who are devoted to reforms. The reform is the essential thing. If one can advance reforms by holding office, then the holding of office is justifiable; if one can best advance reforms as a private citizen, then the holding of office is undesirable. The world owes me nothing; I have been abundantly compensated for what I have been able to do. My life will not be long enough to repay the people for their support, and for the confidence which they have expressed.—*Mr. W. J. Bryn.*

It is the amazing superstition of culture which thinks of religion as dull, and colourless, whereas its appeal rests on the imperishable fact that life is an adventure, a real live adventure, with its hopes and its fears, its pains and appalling risks, but its "pearl of great price" for the winning. Dull indeed! It is the cultured and nervous unbelievers who are dull, worn out with the daily effort to keep Christ out of their lives, and wearied with their self-conscious intellectualism.—*Rev. J. N. Figgis.*

England has no national opera house; then she has not enough local orchestras of first-class excellence; then she grossly misunderstands Wagner at first (this sin has, however, amply been atoned for since); then music is grossly neglected in elementary schools; then the Church neglects her own ancient music; then the musical criticisms in the Press are so hastily as to be almost valueless; and, lastly, the publishers fill their windows and catalogues with royalty songs and musical comedies to the neglect of really serious and valuable works.—*Sir Charles Stanford.*

He was more than ever convinced that an association such as the Auckland Agricultural and Pastoral Association could not devote its funds to a better purpose than the collection and dissemination of some portion of the great and valuable store of agricultural knowledge now available in the world at large. In this way much could be done to promote the settlement of the land and the prosperity of the people.—*Mr. E. Hall, Secretary Auckland A. and P. Association.*

New Zealand contains fine material for mounted rifles, and the volunteer force contains a large proportion of this arm, which, though not of much necessity for coast defence in any numbers, would be of great value in New Zealand in case of invasion and of very considerable value to the Empire if properly organised, well officered, and trained for service abroad.—*Major Hobday.*

Musings AND Meditations

By Dog Toby

AN EXPANDED TELEGRAM

THE clergyman who edited the religious paper was in a fix. Just as he was sorting out and reading over the usual mass of copy preparatory to sending it to the printers, he had received a wire from a country parish. It was, like all six-penny telegrams, short, and to the point, and ran as follows:—"Print account opening new church Wednesday. Bishop preached." It was signed with the name of the vicar, but contained no further information of any kind, and the editor did not know in the least how he was to write an account of an affair at which he had not been present, and of which he had received no details.

In his dilemma, he consulted an experienced journalist, who, after glancing at the telegram, expressed surprise at the editor's perplexity. "What more do you want, my dear fellow?" he asked. "There's enough in that telegram to fill your whole paper, if you only work it properly. See here!" He sat writing quickly for some minutes, and finally produced, under the heading of "Parish News," the following setting of the item: "Our parish had a red letter day on Wednesday last, when the new church, which is now finally completed, was formally opened by the bishop of the diocese. The bishop and attendant clergy, robed in the vestry, and the choir sang a processional hymn as they moved slowly up the church. The building itself does great credit to all those concerned in its erection, and, though some will probably still be found who cling to the memories that clustered round the old edifice, there is no denying that this new and handsome structure is a great improvement on its predecessor. Many old and well-known parishioners have been liberal in their gifts, and the funds have been largely augmented by various social functions that have been held in connection with this laudable object. Where all have been so generous, it would be invidious to single out any single names for special mention. All have given, according to their means, and the humblest offering may represent more real sacrifice than some of the larger donations."

Here he stopped to remark: "You don't know the names of any big pots who gave, I suppose? Good thing to shove in names when you can—helps to sell the paper. Don't know any. Very well let it rip at that."

He then continued his writing—"Of the service itself, it is unnecessary to speak in detail. Suffice it to say that it took the form usual on such occasions, but it was rendered doubly impressive by the devout and reverent attitude of the congregation, and the solemnity of the ritual. A specially noticeable feature of the service was the beautiful singing in which all the congregation joined most heartily. When the Bishop gave out his text, an expectant hush fell over the vast audience, you could almost have heard a pin drop, so great was the stillness. And indeed the discourse was one worthy of the great occasion which called it forth. We can safely say that it will long remain in the memory of those who were privileged to hear it. The offertory, which will be devoted to the building fund, was a large one, and testified to the well-known liberality of the parishioners. Church work in the parish has made great strides of late, thanks to the devoted energy of the vicar, and a new building was urgently required to accommodate the largely increased congregations. We hope to see the church always as well filled as it was on Wednesday last, and we trust that when the bishop next visits us we shall be able to au-

nounce that all the outstanding debt has been liquidated. Too much praise cannot possibly be given to all those devoted men and women who have worked so hard and so ungrudgingly towards raising the funds necessary for this great undertaking, but we feel sure that they must have felt more than repaid when they saw how faithfully and well those entrusted with the erection had done their work."

"I fancy," said the journalist, "that what I have written will about fix up the parish news part of the business. You see, I really hadn't much to go on. Now I suppose you want a leading article on the affair."

But the editor stayed the hand of his versatile and obliging friend. He began to feel that if he allowed him to go on the whole of the paper would be taken up with the expansion of the few simple but suggestive words contained in the telegram. So he thanked his professional brother, and departed, wondering how any man could write so much out of so very little.

For Air Navigators.

An enterprising Paris firm is busy with a bird's-eye map of France, on which, for the use of aeroplanists and balloonists and air-navigators generally, the direct distances from town to town will be marked in clear figures. Now that the navigation of the air is a thing of the near future, people are realising how difficult it is for the captain of an airship to find out exactly where he is, and maps will not be sufficient for this purpose. Travelling at the rate of fifty miles an hour, which is a speed already made by airships of all kinds, it is quite impossible to recognise a landscape from above. The French Aero Club is offering prizes for the invention of an airship's compass. The ordinary compass is no good at all. For some reason, as has already been proved on motor-boats, the action of the motor's magnet influences the ordinary compass so that no reliance can be placed on it. In the motor-boat race from Algiers to Toulon the boats had to follow torpedo-boats. They would not find their way across without them. In the race from Boulogne to Folkestone, where all the competitors had ship's compasses, most of them lost their way across the Channel, and one of them spent all day rushing round Calais and found himself off Cape Grisnez in the evening, while several went to Dover by mistake instead of to Folkestone. So an airship compass will be a very necessary thing in the immediate future.

Curing a Degenerate.

Dr. Northrop, Dean of the Hahnemann Medical College, at Philadelphia, announces that he has cured a criminal degenerate by a brain operation. The man was formerly a respectable citizen, but in 1891 he was struck on the head by a piece of falling timber, and immediately became a typical degenerate. He drank a bottle of whisky daily, stole his employer's money, and finally was discharged for stealing £800. Dr. Northrop operated in January, 1907. He found that the dura mater was adherent to the plate of the skull, and that the membranes were glued together in a solid mass. The patient became normal on his recovery from the operation. He is now a total abstainer, has got his old position back, and has been promoted twice for industry and excellent work.



SUFFERING IN SILENCE

Many women go through life always ailing, weak and unhappy. The languor and bloodlessness of girls and young women, with headaches and faintings; the nervous ailments, back pains and failure of strength of wives and mothers; the trials of matrons in later years—at all these ages the CAUSE of suffering is usually IMPOVERISHED or IMPURE BLOOD.

Dr. Williams' Pink Pills for Pale People have helped many women to the joy of health, because these Pills supply New Good Blood to the starved veins and tired nerves; making weak women bright and well.

The value of Dr. Williams' Pink Pills for women is shown in the case of Mrs. Charlotte Hickton, Cinnamon-st., Reefton, who says:—

"Five years ago, before coming to New Zealand, when I was living in Corowa, N.S.W., I took Dr. Williams' Pink Pills because I was in a bloodless state and very ill. For two years my strength was almost gone. I was pale and listless and suffered a lot with headaches, which prostrated me. My appetite was gone and I had to force myself to eat. I was a poor sleeper and often lay awake the whole night. I suffered a lot with my nerves, and it did not take much to set them a-tangling; a little fright was enough to upset me. I was always completely worn, without energy, so that the least work was irksome. I got very low spirited and miserable, and did not take much interest in anything. If I exerted myself I got very short of breath and was easily exhausted.

"I was willing to do anything to get back my health, so that when a friend advised me to try Dr. Williams' Pink Pills, I got some, and the first box made a big improvement in me. Three boxes restored me to good health, and ever since I have been keeping splendid."

The price is 3/ per box; 6 boxes 16/6, and if you have trouble in getting them send a postal note for the amount to the Dr. Williams' Medicine Co. of Australasia, Ltd., Wellington, and they will be sent post free by return mail.

BANK OF NEW SOUTH WALES

(Established 1817.)

| Head Office: | |
|----------------------------------|----------------|
| GEORGE STREET, SYDNEY. | |
| Paid-up Capital | £2,493,720 0 0 |
| Reserve Fund | £1,530,000 0 0 |
| Reserve Liability of Proprietors | £2,000,000 0 0 |
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Directors:

The Hon. Charles K. Mackellar, M.L.C., President.
The Hon. Reginald James Black, M.L.C.
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The Bank allows Interest on Fixed Deposits, collects for its Customers Dividends on Shares in Public Companies, and Interest on Debentures; undertakes the Agency of other Banks, and conducts all customary Banking Business; also Issues Letters of Credit and Circular Notes, negotiable throughout the world.
J. RUSSELL BREXON, General Manager.

The Club Smoking Room

By HAVANA

PEOPLE talk a lot," began the city magnate, "about the congested state of our cities, and slum dwellings, and all that sort of thing, but they don't seem to do much to remedy the matter. The man whose work is in the city must be able to get in cheaply and quickly, and, as far as our suburban train services are concerned, we seem as if we wanted to place every possible obstacle in his way in this respect, and make travelling not only slow, but expensive. Fancy a train taking an hour and a-quarter to go 14 miles, yet that is what happens in scores of cases, and not only so, but the distance from one place to another is often doubled by the roundabout route selected in laying the railway line. I know of one place, a nice little spot, too, and an ideal place for suburban residences, where the residents find it far quicker to drive to town than to take the train. They can never hope to develop a place as long as this sort of thing keeps up."

"It strikes me," said a new arrival, "that you people put up with the deuce of a lot of discomfort and inconvenience on your railways, just because they happen to be Government concerns. You see a private company has to study its patrons, or else it soon feels it in diminished dividends, and the shareholders kick up a bolshery at the annual meeting. But you people might protest till all was blue, and nobody would care a hang what you said or did. If the thing doesn't pay, you have to make good the deficit out of your own pocket. You can travel to and from Brighton on a second-class season for one and ninepence a day, or less, if you work the thing properly, and that is a distance of 50 miles. Here you often pay as much to travel a quarter of the distance, and it takes as long to go ten miles as it does to go fifty in England. Not only so, but there seems to be no relying on the time-table, as trains come and go more or less at their own sweet will, and you cannot describe the accommodation on suburban trains as being the height of luxury."

"I know," remarked an estate agent, "that there are any amount of places near our cities, which would make admirable suburbs if we had better transport facilities. We seem to limit our suburbs to places three or four miles away from the centre of the city, but there is no reason why we should not extend the area to twenty or even thirty miles. All we want is better provision in the direction of cheap fares and quick travelling. A good deal is done in this direction by private enterprise in the shape of ferry companies and tram companies, but they necessarily are limited in their scope. Still, I believe private enterprise has done more to create suburban residential areas than the Government railways have done. The promoters of these concerns deserve every penny they have made out of enhanced land values, because they have enormously benefitted the whole community, and have increased values all round in the districts served. It is all nonsense to say that a train ought to pay in three months or else be knocked off. You have to create a suburb, and often wait years before it really grows to anything, but when once it gets a proper start you can rely on getting your money back with good interest to boot."

"Perhaps," said the engineer, "we shall soon all be travelling about in motor-cars, and then we shall be independent of trains. Edison claims that his new storage battery will make motoring

cheaper than driving, and that every working man will go to and from his work in his own motor. You will be able to travel for less than a half-penny a mile, and the whole concern will be arranged on the principle of press the button, and the machine will work. Or we may all be angels in the sweet bye-and-bye, and fly about on aeroplanes. The phrase, 'he simply flew to the rescue,' will have to be taken quite literally then. There would be one good thing about it, at any rate, and that is that people wouldn't be perpetually grumbling about bad roads. If we had universal motoring, people would make more fuss than ever over the roads, but if we can induce them to take to airships, mud and clay will trouble them no more. In fact, the softer and sloppier the road, the better for them; it would not be so hard to fall on as a metalled road, if anything went wrong with their machine."

"You know, really," suggested the new chum, "I don't want to seem rude, don't you know, and of course you are a new country and all that sort of thing, and a jolly nice little country, too, but really you don't do much to make the trip on the Main Trunk line very enjoyable. Of course one expects to rough it a bit in the colonies, drink tea out of a billy and all that sort of thing, but that Auckland and Wellington trip is a bit too ghastly. The train I came by was packed; the guards didn't even seem to know where we were going or whether we changed anywhere or not, and there was such a beastly squash at all the refreshment rooms that a chap couldn't get a chance of even a sandwich, let alone a B. and S. I suppose all the holiday people made a bit of a difference, but all the same something should have been done to make things a bit better. It's a deuced long journey, and if people are to be herded together like cattle and left without food or drink they will prefer to go by boat."

The last speaker consoled himself for any lack of stimulant from which he may have suffered on his railway trip by taking a long draught from the glass at his elbow. He then went on: "All the same, I have had a jolly good time out here, take it as a whole. I should say that a fellow could get as good sport here as anywhere, and it needn't cost him much, either. In England everything is so beastly expensive; you can't turn round without meeting some cadger holding out his hand for a tip for doing nothing. And if you go abroad the beastly lingo always beats you, and you are robbed right and left because you don't understand a word they say. I must say that people have been jolly decent to me here, and fellows seem to go in for sport for the love of the thing, and not just to show off as so many men seem to do at Home."

"You ought to settle out here," said a sporting member. "You could get jolly good shooting and any amount of fishing. We have golf and tennis, and cricket, and, of course, football, if you care about it. You could buy a nice little place in the country, and live at your ease as a country gentleman on a quarter the sum it would cost you in England. I often wonder more fellows don't come to New Zealand, instead of settling down in poky little places in some remote English county. I suppose they miss their people, and home ties, and all that sort of thing, but if you settled here you could get married and make a home of your own; then you wouldn't miss your people so much."

"It all depends," put in the cynic, "You might miss them more. Our friend is evidently a keen fisherman, but all the same he may have a strong objection to being hooked himself."

Stamp Collecting

The following prices were paid for New Zealand stamps at auction in London recently:—1d dull carmine, London print of 1853, £3; the 2d vermilion Lozange watermark, £2 10/-; the 2d of 1872, N.Z. watermark, unused, £2 4/-; 6d black brown, on pelure paper, 1860 to 1862, rouletted, £2 4/-; ditto, 1/- green, £3 15/-; 2d lilac blue, £3 5/-; and 6d black brown, with serrated perforation, issued 1862, £3 3/-.

The following new stamps are reported from Roumania:—40 bani, dark green; 1 leu, grey-brown; and 2 lei, red on red paper.

In order to distinguish them more easily from the 3 and 74 cent stamps, 15 and 20 cent stamps of Holland are issued in two colours. The 20c has already appeared in yellow-green and grey. A postage due stamp has also appeared of the value of 61 cents, blue type, current design.

A pair of the 2d blue stamps of Mauritius, on blue paper, issued in 1848, sold for £8 at auction in London. The stamps showed a large margin on one side.

The 15c violet and brown stamp of Norway has now superseded the provisional one formerly in use.

The 2d deep blue stamp of Victoria, issued in 1860, on laid paper, sold for £3 10/- in London at auction.

For use in the Danish West Indies, 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 40, and 50-bit stamps are being issued.

The "Philatelic Adviser" states that the contract with the postage stamp printers having run out, the Government of Columbia has placed a fresh contract with the Litografía Nacional de Bogota. The new stamps will be similar to those now current, but rather larger in size.

A 1d. stamp, British Central Africa, of 1898, red and blue colour, and not perforated, sold for £2 at auction in London.

Abyssinia entered the Postal Union on the 1st of November, 1908, and in consequence there was a new issue of stamps with the value in "piastres" instead of "guerche," the value of each being the same. It was stated that on the 1st of November also all the obsolete stamps were burned. Let us hope such was the case. Prior to the 1st of November, some provisionals were issued over-printed "piastre." One was in pale blue and rather blurred, the other in bright ultramarine, being much clearer. This surcharging was stated to be necessary owing to the fact that the entire supply of 1 guerche stamps was exhausted, and there were not sufficient of the 1 guerche stamps to use in their place. This is the only provisional, and the 7,000 overprinted were distributed amongst all the post-offices in Abyssinia. In consequence of the shortage of stamps the Postage Due overprinted "Taxe a Percvoir" were allowed to be used as ordinary postage stamps.

With regard to the stamps of New Caledonia the following is a translation of what originally appeared in the "Revue Postale":—"The supply of 5c. and 15c. stamps having given out, the Governor requested the Director of Posts to send him a list of the stamps which remained in the reserve stock and were in little demand, in order to take some sheets of them for surcharging purposes. The Director sent to the post-office printer one sheet of 2c. brown on straw, one sheet of 30c., and one sheet of 40c. (1893 type), each containing 150 stamps. The printer had two surcharges supplied to the sheet of 2c. stamps, namely, 75 of 5c. on 2c. and 75 of 15c. on 2c., and then sent this sheet to the Governor, who, on the pretext that two surcharges on the same value were unsuitable, kept half the sheet for himself while the Director took the other half. The consequence is that those precious surcharges are only to be found in the hands of a few privileged persons and their friends."

Origin of the Collar.

It is now beyond doubt that Mr. Hannah Lord Montague was the inventor of the detachable linen collar. Hannah Lord was born in Canada, Columbia County, United States, in 1784. Her husband was a large man, scrupulously particular in matters of dress—even to the point of fastidiousness—and in those days, before the invention of the sewing machine, and when there were no public laundries, the making and washing and ironing of his shirts formed no small item in the work of the household. Mrs. Montague was resourceful, and in casting about for devices to lighten her household duties, she hit upon the idea of a detachable collar, which might be fastened to a neckband on her husband's shirts, and washed and ironed separately.

In 1829, the Rev. Ebenezer Brown, a retired Methodist clergyman, who had settled in Troy, and started a small dry goods store, quick to take advantage of the popularity of the new separate collar, opened a small workshop in the rear of his store, where his wife and daughters and one or two other women cut out with scissors, stitched by hand, and washed and ironed the collars, which he disposed of by peddling. This was in reality the first collar shop.

WINCHESTER

GREASELESS BULLET CARTRIDGES

SMOKELESS POWDER



By doing away with the lubrication on the bullet, one of the prime causes of the deterioration of the powder is removed, and the accuracy, reliability and keeping qualities of the cartridges greatly increased. It also prevents fouling of the barrel and working parts; and the cartridges are much cleaner to handle. Winchester Greaseless Bullets are made of a special alloy, which gives exceedingly satisfactory results. A trial of Winchester .22 Short, .22 Long, .22 Long Rifle, .22 Winchester, .22 Winchester Automatic Rimfire or B. E. Caps, Conical Smokeless Powder Cartridges will convince you of the value of Winchester Greaseless Bullets.

FOR SALE BY ALL DEALERS.

The News of the Week

IN THE DOMINION.

William Christopher Maidens and William Alfred Luck were found guilty at Waikato last week of being concerned in the recent seizure of an illicit whisky still, and were fined respectively £60 and £50.

Three Felling milk vendors were fined last week one pound up to three pounds fifteen shillings upon charges of selling milk adulterated with water. In one case the adulteration was to the extent of thirty per cent.

During last year there was the substantial increase of 163,424 tons in the inward merchant shipping of the port of Auckland over the figures of the previous twelve months.

The plague of caterpillars in North Canterbury is described by one writer as being of "Egyptian virulence." The whole district was from Cheviot to Atterbury. The grubs devoured grass as well as grain, and moved in dense masses from one paddock to another.

A married woman named Miller, and her daughter, were driving near Havelock last week, when the horse became unmanageable, smashed the trap, and threw both ladies out. Miss Miller was unhurt, but her mother fractured her skull, and died in the evening.

At a meeting of the Cambridge Borough Council, held last week, the proposed town hall, library, and municipal buildings were approved, and Mr. A. B. Herrold, architect, was authorised to call alternative tenders in brick, concrete blocks, or reinforced concrete, to be completed eight months from the date.

The daughter of Mrs. Norman, Mata-pouri, Whangarei, was playing on a log and lay last week, when it rolled over, and pinned her to the ground by the face. The mother managed to roll the log away, and found that the child's jaw was broken.

A female servant in a Dunedin suburban home took advantage of the absence of the family on their holidays to pose as the owner of the furniture, and successfully raised the sum of £30 on the job. She is now being anxiously enquired for by the gentleman who advanced the money.

A complaint comes from Wellington to the effect that there is a dearth of employment. "Britons are coming in; New Zealanders are going out; too little work; too much immigration" is the way a trade union secretary sums the matter up. An officer of the Labour Department says there is a dearth of employment in the cities, especially for un-killed labour, but in the out-districts the stress was not felt to any great extent.

The Official Assignee at Wellington says that from his point of view business during last year was sounder than many people imagined. There were thirty-eight bankruptcies during that period, being four more than in the previous year, but with two exceptions, none of them failed for large amounts.

The jury which enquired into the big fire of January 3rd, at Wairoa, says the building occupied by the East Coast Mail newspaper was set on fire by some person unknown.

One of the most pathetic ceremonies ever witnessed in New Plymouth took place last week, when the remains of 21 of Taranaki's early settlers, militia, and regulars—men who took part in the Maori wars and several of whom were killed in action—were removed from the old Catholic burial-ground in the centre of the town, where they had reposed for the last half-century, to Te Hengi Cemetery for reinterment. The bodies were identified by the names on the plates, which were in a good state of preservation.

The anomaly of having the names of trouper from the Gisborne district, who were killed in the South African War, engraved on the monument erected on the Kaiti beach, Gisborne, in memory of Captain Cook, is to be removed by covering up the names with slabs of granite in keeping with the rest of the monument, which will henceforth call to memory the great navigator who made his first landing in New Zealand at about the spot where the monument stands, instead of serving the double purpose which excited so much comment.

The intercolonial steamers are now landing large numbers of Australasian tourists in New Zealand. The Manuka, which arrived from Sydney yesterday, had 503 passengers in all classes, a record number for any steamer trading between Australia and New Zealand. The Manuka's accommodation was taxed to its utmost capacity, "shakedown" being brought into requisition. As many as 301 of the Manuka's passengers travelled in the steerage. A large proportion of this number were immigrants from the Old Country, who were transhipped at Sydney from the steamers Suezic and Pericles.

The quantity of wool sent away from New Zealand by steamers that cleared the port of Wellington last week exceeds any shipment for a corresponding period. So far this season it amounts in all to about 50,000 bales. This large quantity, valued at an average of 8s, £11 per bale, equals over half-a-million sterling. The greater proportion of the wool is for the London market, the rest having been sold at the recent wool sales. The Opawa has taken the lion's share, some 17,732 bales, of which Wellington contributed 10,244 bales. The Arawa took 16,479 bales, the Rimutaka 8663, and the Star of New Zealand about 7000 bales.

The story has been industriously circulated, telegraphs our Wellington correspondent, that the project for a dairy school at Palmerston North had been quietly shelved. The "Post" insinuated that the scheme had either been indefinitely delayed or abandoned. When the attention of Sir Joseph Ward, who exercises Ministerial control of the Department of Agriculture, was directed to the matter, he replied in this strain: "I suggest that you ask the 'Evening Post' to state upon what authority it makes the statement referred to. I have heard nothing of it." Answering a query from the "Matawatu Standard," the Premier declared that he knew nothing of the statement, and suggested that it was without foundation.

H.M.S. Cambrian (Captain Vaughan Lewis), is booked for a long cruise comprising some 30,000 miles, "mostly" in the tropics. The warship remains in Auckland until February 7, when she sails for Rarotonga, and during her stay in that vicinity will visit the island (some 670 miles from Rarotonga) where the British flag was recently hauled down by some natives. The Cambrian will take in Tahiti and Honolulu en route to South America, which she visits in the interests of the British flag and commerce. On her return journey she will be joined at Honolulu by H.M.S. Flora, from the China station, and the vessels will sail together for Colombo, visiting Easter Island, Fiji, Thursday Island, and Batavia, en route. At Colombo, which it is hoped to reach in September next, the crews of both the Cambrian and the Flora will be paid off.

Shipmasters and Shipowners.

The conference ordered by the Arbitration Court between representatives of the Auckland shipmasters and shipowners on a large number of points with regard to the wages paid to the latter terminated last week. The conference was opened prior to the Christmas holidays, and then adjourned.

In conversation with Mr. W. G. Smith (secretary to the Auckland committee of the Shipowners' Federation), a "Star" representative learned that as a result of the conference an amicable settlement has been arrived at on nearly all the points submitted to it for consideration. The only exceptions are with respect to the wages paid to masters of sailing vessels in the intercolonial trade, and of the ferry steamers plying in the Auckland Harbour. Both of these matters will accordingly be left to the decision of the Arbitration Court, to which the report of the conference is to be submitted.

Hutt Licensing Poll.

An inquiry is proceeding into the recent local option poll at the Hutt, Wellington. The allegations of the No-license party, who are petitioners against the election, are to the effect that grave irregularities took place, such as double voting, lost voting papers, tampering with a paper, and gross carelessness.

Liquor on Kawau Island.

A peculiar case was heard before Mr R. W. Dyer, S.M., in the Police Court Auckland, when Thomas E. Hallett, the present lessee of the Manson House at Kawau, was charged under five informations with having sold liquor without being licensed to do so. A plea of guilty was entered, but it was explained that it had been represented to Hallett that the island of Kawau was not within the limits of New Zealand, that it was an Imperial grant of Sir George Grey, and had been left out of the jurisdiction of the New Zealand Government by an Imperial Act.

Mr. Dyer in giving judgment, said of course the defendant had pleaded guilty, and there was no question about the sale. It was contended, however, that the defendant thought he was within his legal rights in selling without a license.

There had, he continued, been certain rumours of what might be done, but a man like the defendant should have correctly ascertained his position. Personally he thought that the defendant had taken the risk. He did not think that the defendant really considered that he was honestly within his legal rights in selling without a license. The defendant was fined £50 and £1 5s. 6d. on the first charge, and was convicted and ordered to come up for sentence when called upon, on the other four. "If there is any more trouble of the kind at Kawau," said Mr. Dyer, "and liquor is sold without a license, he will go straight to gaol without the option of a fine."

A Sensational Incident.

A man named Wm. Russell was charged at the Paeroa Police Court last week with threatening behaviour during a picture show at Karangahake a night or two ago. In the middle of the entertainment Russell produced a revolver and cleared the hall rapidly by firing promiscuously.

During the hearing of the case, Mr W. Forrest, one of the Justices, was examining the weapon when it went off, greatly to the court's surprise. However, it was found the cartridge had been a blank one, and that no valuable lives had been in jeopardy. Russell was fined £2, costs 7/-, or seven days.

An Important Meeting of the Liquor Trade.

A meeting of the members of the Auckland Brewers and Wine and Spirit Merchants' Association, and of the Licensed Victuallers' Association of Auckland, was held last week in the Federal Hall, at which were present all the members of the wholesale trade, and nearly every member of the retail trade. It was the biggest meeting of those engaged in the liquor traffic ever held in Auckland, and was characterised by much earnestness. Mr Arthur M. Myers presided. After serious discussion had taken place for a period of nearly five hours, resolutions were carried, embodying the following reforms, which it will be seen are of a most far-reaching character. They are to be carried into effect on the first of next month:—

1. Abolition of barmails. It is proposed to keep a register of all barmails at present employed in the City of Auckland, and to employ hereafter none except those whose names are on such register. A copy of this register will be handed to the Licensing Committee.
2. Abolition of private bars when present leases expire, except in the case of a lengthy period, when a special date is to be fixed.
3. Raising of the age limit at which youths can be served with liquor in hotels from 18 to 20 years.
4. No woman to be supplied with drink for consumption on premises unless a boarder.

Scow Zingara Sunk.

The auxiliary scow Zingara, loaded with 170 logs, struck the rocks at Paku, inside the Tairua Bar, while attempting to get out at noon on Friday. As she to get out at noon yesterday. As the tide fell, she slipped off the rocks, and sunk in midchannel.

The crew are all safe. The Zingara was a three-masted scow of 184 tons. She was owned by Messrs. A. F. Jagger and D. Gouk, of Auckland, and was built by Mr. C. Bailey at Auckland in 1906.

Thames By-Election.

The election of a representative to the House of Representatives, made necessary in the Thames electorate through the retirement of the Hon. Jas. McGowan, has been fixed for next Thursday week, January 28th. Nominations will close to-day, and it is therefore evident that there will be a short campaign.

Bathing Fatality.

A drowning accident occurred at Brighton, Dunedin, on Sunday, the victim being William Jeffs, aged nineteen years. The deceased and three companions, named Alfred Clark, John Griffiths and Herbert Perry, were bathing at the usual place, when Jeffs swam out some distance by himself, and found the current too strong to allow him to get back.

When it was seen that he was in trouble, Perry swam to his assistance, and Jeffs said, "Try to save me, Herbert." Perry got hold of deceased three times, but the current was so strong that he had to let go. Perry just managed to reach the shore in an exhausted condition.

There is a rock about 200yds from the scene of the accident, but it was impossible to reach it. The body has not been recovered. Deceased was a son of James Jeffs, livery stables proprietor, and well known in racing circles.

The High Commissioner.

Mr W. Hall-Jones, the new High Commissioner for New Zealand, has arrived in London.

Port of Napier.

The annual statement of accounts of the Napier Harbour Board discloses a very prosperous year. The debit balance increased from £1572 to £4081, but during the year no less a sum than £21,000 was spent on harbour works out of revenue, which showed an increase of £6303. The rent account of the Board, as the result of the opening up of the Wharemoarangi reserve, is increasing rapidly. The trade of the breakwater shows a marked improvement, 482,787 tons of shipping having been berthed during the year, an increase of 66,000 tons, while the cargo and live stock handled was greatly in excess of the 1907 figures.

In regard to the poll for the proposed loan to complete the breakwater, the chairman anticipates that in view of the very buoyant state of the revenue no increase in the rate will be necessary.

A Much-Discussed Village.

Ohakune, the stop-over town of the Main Trunk express, lays claim to be the most discussed place within the Dominion at the present time, and one or two facts in reference to it may be of interest to the travelling public whose business or pleasure takes them to the township in question. That Ohakune is forging ahead may be gathered from the fact that a village homestead settlement close to the town, of a total area of 500 acres, was recently submitted on the renewable lease system in sections varying in area from 2 to 20 acres, and the whole of these have been taken up. This goes to show that many people have great faith in the future of the district. Sunday is observed on something like Continental lines. As the whole week is fully given up to business Sunday is devoted to pleasure, and all and sundry, from the youngest inhabitant to the oldest, roll up to watch the football or cricket matches played on the beautiful domain adjoining the town. The townspeople provided the funds for the erection of a very fine public hall and public school, now attended by over 100 pupils, which is one of the architectural features of the place. The Government is urged to take prompt steps to settle the native and Crown lands surrounding the place in reasonably small allotments, and thus avoid a state of stagnation such as can be seen, for instance, at Ohingaiti, where something like 30,000 acres of the very best native lands have been leased for a long term at about 4/- per acre to three gentlemen, who amongst them only employ six hands.

The Otira Tunnel.

Mr Murdoch McLennan states that very satisfactory progress is being made on the work of the tunnel at Arthur's Pass. The tunnel has been pushed in for about 24 chains at the Otira end. Water-power has been laid on, and the plant is now ready.

for working. At the Bealey end the work to-day. At the Bealey end it is hoped that the machines will be working at the end of this month, or the middle of February.

Mr McLean states that the men are contented, and are getting along well. Only eight or ten men out of about 150, left for the holidays, and most of those were married men who wished to go to their families.

The recent award of the Arbitration Court, Mr McLean said, is distinctly satisfactory to himself, and he believes that it is also satisfactory to the men. By their actions, at any rate, they have shown that they are contented. He has offered to pay £1 a foot bonus for every foot over 66 tunneled in one week. The week before last 74 feet were done, and the sum of £8 will therefore be distributed amongst 23 or 24 men, which will be at the rate of about 1/2 a day. Before the holidays 57ft or 58ft a week was the rate of progress. Mr McLean believes that 100ft can be done, and with an average of about 70ft or 75ft a week at the Oira end, and something less at the Bealey end, the big contract will be completed at the end of its term in five years.

Hospital at Taihape.

The question of the erection of a cottage hospital at Taihape has been before the Waingauhi Hospital Board for a long time past. Settlers offered £500 towards the cost of erecting a building and the annual sum of £100 towards maintenance. The Board decided that upon this offer being put in writing by persons whose guarantee was satisfactory to the Board, steps would be taken to erect a cottage hospital at Taihape without delay.

Storm on the West Coast.

Reefton district was visited by a storm unequalled for years. Two days' steady rain culminated on Thursday in a terrific downpour. In two hours the creeks, already greatly swollen, became roaring torrents, sweeping down trees and bridges and washing away everything movable. The damage done is enormous.

The Whangarei Carnival.

The Whangarei Carnival Committee met last week, and went into the financial position.

It was shown that the receipts amounted to £976, and the liabilities to £1257. Thus there was a deficiency of £281 shown. The position may be improved £20 when all the accounts are in. There is a sum of £277 guaranteed, which it is considered will be collected without difficulty, with which to meet the deficiency.

The Boot Trade.

At a conference of bootmakers from different parts of the Dominion, in Christchurch last week, it was decided to amalgamate the three bodies, which have hitherto guarded the employers' interests, and the new body will be known as the Bootmanufacturers' Federation of New Zealand. The following are the first officers:—President, Mr. J. A. Prostek (Christchurch); vice-president and president-elect, Mr. T. Hodgson (Auckland); secretary, Mr. A. H. Bridger (Dunedin); treasurer, Mr. W. McKinlay (Dunedin); executive committee, the president, vice-president, treasurer, and James Hannah (Wellington).

A conference between representatives of the New Zealand Boot Manufacturers' Federation and the New Zealand Bootmakers' Federation took place at Christchurch, the business being to discuss details in connection with a proposed industrial agreement to take the place of the existing award of the Arbitration Court. The representatives of the Bootmakers' (the employees) Federation asked for considerable additions to the award—more favourable conditions, and greater restrictions outside the operation of their own individual work. As a result, the conference failed to agree in the matter of an industrial agreement.

At a meeting of the executive of the New Zealand Federated Boot Trade Union held subsequently a resolution was carried to the effect that as the employers would not "concede a fair rate of wages and conditions or employment" to the workers, the necessary steps be taken to secure the abolition of duty on imported boots and shoes.

The meeting was further of the opinion that the only solution of the boot

and shoe trade difficulties was for the Government to start State boot factories throughout the Dominion, and the federation would again offer to loan the Government £2000 for the purpose.

The manufacturers issued a lengthy manifesto in reply to the men's demands in the course of which they point out that the demands for increased pay and reduction of hours for those branches previously included in the award amount to over thirty-four per cent, upon the amount provided for in the old award, and in addition to this, it is sought to include all unskilled workers at the fullest rates provided for competent workers, which, together with the abolition of the improver clause, would in the opinion of the employers' federation, result ultimately in the absolute ruin of the industry.

The manufacturers regard the two proposals for the establishment of State boot factories, and the abolition of the duty on boots and shoes imported into the colony, as most inconsistent with one another. If free trade were granted, the State factories could not possibly keep open in competition against the world, and the employees would be thrown out of employment. In conclusion, the manufacturers state:—"The manufacturers challenge the closest investigation by the proper authorities in the public interest both with regard to the conditions of labour, and the net results of manufacturers arising out of the industry."

The position in the trade is considered serious.

More Immigrants.

Another large complement of immigrants to New Zealand landed in Auckland last week from the s.s. Mamari, numbering in all 377. Of this total no less than 261, including 65 children under 12 years of age, were assisted. Some 113 of these 261 were nominated by relatives in New Zealand for assisted passages, and for these work must of course be guaranteed by the nominators. The present batch includes a number of large families, many of these consisting of from nine to thirteen members.

The following are the bookings to the various ports in the Dominion:—Auckland, 120; Wellington, 90; Lyttelton, 60; Port Chalmers, 30; Napier, 24; Waingauhi, 16; New Plymouth, 13; Westport, 5; Picton, 4; Gisborne, 4; Timaru, 3; Nelson, 2; Greytown, 1. Amongst the arrivals are 36 farmers, 14 farm labourers, and 38 domestic servants, many other occupations being represented in each case by from one to four or five members. Twelve are wives who are joining their husbands in New Zealand.

Wreck of the Kia Ora.

The enquiry into the wreck of the scow Kia Ora, which was lost on the east side of Kawau Island, Auckland, during a heavy easterly gale, all hands but one being drowned, was concluded last week. The Court found that the cause of the disaster was the negligent navigation of the master, who should have gone outside Canoe Rock, instead of trying to sail between it and the Kawau in such a night. There was a suggestion of insobriety, and Mr. Kettle, the Chairman, said the Court had some difficulty in arriving at a decision. A recommendation was added to the finding to the effect that the owners of vessels should be required to report to the Collector of Customs any master or officer who is of intemperate habits, or who is in a state of intoxication when on duty, or who is discharged for drunkenness.

The Price of Wool.

The second wool sale of the season, held at Auckland last Wednesday, was the largest ever held in the province, the total number of bales offered being 7230, an increase of more than 2000 bales over the January figures. The coarse wool suffered a drop of from half to one penny, while the competition for the finer sorts showed a considerable falling off, the American buyers refusing to operate to any considerable extent, owing in many cases to the unsatisfactory nature of the preparation of the fleeces for sale and the packing. Some of the brokers who were interviewed after the sale said the wool generally was not so well got up as in some of the Southern districts, and in view of the increased American demand it was desirable that it should be made as attractive as possible. One of the largest wool growers

in the Waikato, speaking to a "Star" reporter, said that the charges of false packing levelled against the Auckland farmers, were without foundation. There might be isolated cases, where the bales were packed with an intent to mislead the buyers, but, in the vast majority of cases, the only genuine complaint that could be made was that the wool was not properly classed. And, in this direction the farmer in question points out that non-clasching must exist amongst the small lots. The best price offered was twopenny farthing for a lot of thirty bales, which was passed in. Romneys sold up to eight and a-half, Shropshires to eight and a quarter, Lincoln six and a-half, and lambs' wool eightpence. Belles and pieces sold very badly. Owing to the fall in values, a great many lots were passed in, the price offered failing to reach the reserve placed upon the lots catalogued.

The matter came up for discussion at the meetings of the Auckland Agricultural Association, and the allegations were repudiated. It was pointed out that the dates of the Auckland sales were not conveniently fixed, with the result that the big buyers could not attend, being away at Christchurch, where a larger catalogue was held, and it was decided to see if the brokers could not arrange more suitable dates. The Association also decided to have a properly graded wool exhibit at the next Auckland Winter Show, with an expert to explain matters.

At the third of this season's wool sales, held at Christchurch last week, there was a decline of about a halfpenny in superior wools as compared with the previous sale, but medium sold up to recent quotations or else in the grower's favour. The prices realised by pieces constituted a record for the season.

The Antwerp wool sales last week opened with good competition on English and German account, prices improving five to ten centimes for merinos and ten centimes for cross-breeds. Of La Plata wool, 2650 bales were offered, and 1392 sold, while a further 250 bales were sold after the sales.

The Financial Barometer.

The banking averages for the December quarter last year show that there is again a substantial increase in the advances and discounts a very heavy decrease in the free deposits or current account balances, and shrinkages in note circulation and metal reserve. New Zealand is holding its own, but there is still reason for exercising care and caution. With beautiful returns from the agricultural and pastoral industries, and lessened imports, there is bound to be a revival in trade, and a return to prosperity.

Miss Ada Ward.

Ada Ward, the prominent actress, who some time ago renounced the stage for the Salvation Army, will visit Dunedin next April in the Army's interests.

Napier's Needs.

The Hon. A. W. Hogg last week investigated a number of requirements in regard to Public Works, more particularly the necessity for a bridge over the Esk River, and the deviation of the road at Tangoio to avoid the sea washout. These two works are considered necessary to give permanent communications with the district. Mr. Hogg left for Wellington to-day.

Our Flax Export.

The figures for the past year in connection with the flax industry in Auckland district show a serious falling off in the output as compared with that for 1907, and to this must be added the fact that lower prices had to be accepted for what flux was produced. The relative figures are as follows:—In 1907, 47,750 bales passed through the hands of the Government grader, or about 6717 tons, but in 1908 the quantity was 21,247 bales, or 3555 tons, a decrease of 3162 tons for the year just ended. The annual returns of the Agricultural Department show that while there was such a falling off in the hemp graded, Auckland topped Wellington. During 1908, 43,692 bales of flux were graded in Auckland, and 42,741 bales at Wellington. Another interesting item in the returns is the fact that Wellington only exported one bale of superior and 13 bales of "fine," which proves clearly that the higher grades of flux are not wanted, but good, strong, clean hemp suitable for twine and cordage purposes. Canterbury and Blenheim

are still producing a little fine flax, but it seems certain that our hemp market will not recover so long as 25 to 30 thousand bales of Manila hemp can be put into London each week at comparatively low prices.

A Long Voyage.

On Tuesday of last week a bottle, which had been dropped overboard from the Corinthic 12 months before, was picked up on the Otaiki beach. The message which the bottle contained was addressed "Henri Swift, Marton." The find was only recorded in the "Dominion," and some days later the long arm of coincidence was manifested in the following letter which appeared in the paper's columns:—"I was surprised on reading my 'Dominion' to-day to see that the bottled note I threw overboard in mid-ocean (about half way between Capetown and Hobart) from the s.s. Corinthic, had arrived in New Zealand, and within 1000 miles of Marton the place I was coming to in New Zealand. It is 12 months ago this month since I threw it over, and it seems wonderful to think it has travelled upon the ocean at the very least 5000 miles, or maybe 20 times as far. Could you help me to recover the message, to add to my stock of curiosities from various parts of the world?—Yours respectfully, Henri G. Swift."

The Tourist Traffic.

Tourists from overseas are not so numerous this summer as has been the case for a few years past. Speaking to a business man whose duties bring him into contact with the touring public, an explanation for the falling away was received by a Wellington reporter. England, he said, was considerably upset by the industrial ferment which had followed the financial panic of a year ago. The new conditions anticipated as the possible outcome of the proposed licensing legislation at Home have only served to accentuate a certain anxiety among the moneyed classes. America, which sent a good many tourists a couple of years ago, had also had its money troubles, and New Zealand had suffered in its own little way (as London and Paris had in a very big way) from the slackening in the tourist traffic. New Zealand's summer inflow has, in years past, come from Australia. Even there, however, an influence has been at work to check the number of trippers to the Dominion. This influence is the tourist bureaus which the different States have instituted for the purpose of bringing home to the Australian public places of interest and scenic charm within their own gates. Since the establishment of these agencies the tendency of Australians to visit New Zealand has apparently become less.

Railway Retrenchments.

Several paragraphs in different papers suggesting that retrenching is going on in the railway service were brought under the notice of the Hon. J. A. Millar (Minister for Railways), who said there was no need to keep on men who were taken on specially in connection with the extra work required for getting the Main Trunk Line and rolling stock ready. The ordinary staff was not being reduced—only extra hands, and to make it as easy as possible the Department spread reductions over a period of two months—January and February.

COMMONWEALTH.

Youthful Suicide.

A sensational incident occurred at Elsterwick, Victoria, last week. A schoolboy named Budge, 12 years of age, deliberately placed his head on the fins in front of an advancing engine. The driver had no time to pull up the engine, which passed over the young suicide's head, decapitating him. The lad's motive is unknown.

By One Vote.

The N.S.W. Labour Council has now secured the right to order a general strike without reference to the various unions. This large power was only obtained by one vote. The new president, Thyer, declared himself a Socialist.

The Broken Hill Trouble.

Broken Hill was startled by a heavy explosion last week. It was found that the water main supplying Black Ten mine had been blown up by dynamite. Counsel for the combined Barrier unions on Thursday applied to Mr. Justice Higgins for a rule nisi to restrain the Proprietary Company from continuing the lock-out until the matter comes before the Federal Arbitration Court. Mr Justice Higgins was not satisfied that a case for an injunction had been made out. The Proprietary might, apart from the industrial dispute, be said, by closing down for business reasons. He granted the rule nisi, returnable on the 22nd, in order to give the company a chance of showing cause.

There are now over 300 police at Broken Hill. While the police were searching in the vicinity of the recent explosion another bomb, fully charged, with a 12in. fuse attached, was found. It is rumoured that some other mines intend to close down shortly.

An ice wagon belonging to the Barrier Ice Company was blown to fragments by dynamite on Sunday. The outrage is believed to be a reprisal on the company for supplying ice to the Proprietary mine.

Cost of Defence.

The total cost of Australian defence last year, exclusive of the naval subsidy, was £882,000. There were 22,644 men under arms, which was 0.425 less than in 1901, while the cost of administration was greater by £9542 than in the last-mentioned year.

THE OLD COUNTRY.

The new issue of half-a-million stock by Dalgety and Co. has been fully subscribed.

Reuter's Agency states that the Imperial Government does not intend to regain Imperial control of Esquimaux.

The Meteorological Office is daily receiving systematic telegrams describing the weather conditions from many steamers crossing the Atlantic.

Lord Glenesk, who died in December, left an estate valued at £379,533. Practically all of this is left to his daughter, the Countess of Bathurst.

A three days' international aeronautical conference has commenced at the Hotel Kitz, in London. There are forty delegates present from different countries.

The Union Bank of Australasia has declared a dividend of 10 per cent. and a bonus of 2 per cent: £10,000 is written off the colonial premises account, £20,000 added to the reserve, and £37,000 carried forward.

The Colonial Office's Visual Instruction Committee has issued seven lectures on the United Kingdom, illustrated by lantern slides, also lectures on the colonies and India, the cost of which will be defrayed by a special fund.

The Rev. Baxter, prophetic editor of the "Christian Herald," has obtained £500 damages for libel against the newspaper "Mind," for describing him as a charlatan.

Under the Prevention of Corruption Act Samuel Harris, a general merchant, of Barbican, a district of London, has been sentenced to six months' imprisonment for offering the clerk of a collecting firm money to declare that goods from Germany were below the invoice value.

Aviation.

The Aeronautical Conference has decided to found prizes totalling £48,000 for aviation competitions, and appointed a committee to discuss with various Governments the regulation of the traffic of aerial navigation.

"We are on the eve of tremendous changes in methods of warfare. The development of aerial navigation is bound to bring about wonderful results. Just what the full effect will be I cannot forecast, but the airship cannot help but play an important part in the civilisation of the future." The foregoing is the prophecy made by Victor H. Metcalf, former Secretary of the Navy, in an interview at Los Angeles last month. "The navigation of the air," he continued, "has been accomplished beyond all question. Even with its present engines, the Wright aeroplane, I am convinced, can make

200 miles at a flight, and can be perfectly controlled." He said that all that remains to be done is the working out of the details, such as devising a new method of starting the aeroplane and perfecting motive power. Metcalf said he hoped the various powers would do away with mines and torpedoes, even if disarmament is not agreed upon. Continuing, he said the development of the airship and aeroplane will have more to do than anything else with disarmament, as the only possible way to meet a fleet of aerial craft would be with a similar fleet. In regard to the fleet in the Pacific, Metcalf said that with the increase in the size of the navy, a fleet will be maintained in the Pacific similar to the one in the Atlantic. He said that at the same time additional naval bases must be provided.

The Paparoa Fire.

A survey of the latter aboard the steamer Paparoa, upon which a fire broke out while on a voyage from New Zealand to London, is proceeding. The contents of Nos. 1 and 2 holds were affected by smoke. The damage to No. 3 hold varies greatly, but a considerable quantity is unfit for consumption.

Getting Slack.

The Bishop of Chester (Dr. F. J. Jayne), in a speech delivered to-day, said that unless the Territorials were maintained on an adequate footing it was highly probable that the country would be driven to compulsory service. This would, he believed, have a beneficial influence on the national physique and character, which greatly needed discipline.

Curing Drunkards.

The report of the Departmental Committee on the working of the Inebriates Act notes a decided failure to apply the provisions of the Act.

It suggests that offenders be treated according to a graduated scale, beginning with measures of the mildest character and increasing the stringency if leniency proves ineffectual.

The committee also suggests some new methods of dealing with criminal inebriates.

The committee further holds that no permanent settlement of the difficulty is possible except on a basis of State responsibility.

The Inebriates Acts, 1898 and 1899, made compulsion legal in the case of such drunkards as by repeated drunkenness in public or by crime brought themselves within reach of legal procedure. The Licensing Act, 1902, gave power to commit a wife who was an habitual drunkard to a retreat. In his report for the year 1905, issued by the inspector under the Inebriates Acts, Mr. R. Welch Branthwaite, said that the committee of habitual drunkards to prison had proved useless and inhumane, and that the only chance of reform for habitual drunkards was early committal to special medical treatment and avoidance of prison routine. Chronic and irremediable drunkards should be permanently detained. There are three kinds of institutions to which inebriates may be sent: viz.—(1) Certificated Inebriate Reformatories, (2) State Inebriate Reformatories, which are for the worst cases, and, (3) Licensed Retreats, in which there has been marked improvement in late years. There are four Male Reformatories in England and Wales (at Warwick; Brentry, near Bristol; Newdigate, near Dorking; and Cuttal, near York), and 12 Female Reformatories (at Aylesbury; Brentry, near Bristol; Duxhurst, near Beigate; East Harding; Farnfield, near Horley; Horfield, near Bristol; Whalley, near Blackburn; Chesterfield; Aekworth, near Pontefract; Ashford, Middlesex; Lewes; and Cuttal, near York. In 1905 there were 443 committals. In Scotland there is a State Inebriate Reformatory at Perth, besides local reformatories at Girgint, Greenock, and Lanarkshire, and the Scottish Labour Colony, Dumfriesshire. There were 45 committals in 1905.

Not always Suitable.

The British Passenger Agents' Association has sent Mr. Wade, Premier of New South Wales, a strong protest against entrusting the selection of emigrants for New South Wales to the Salvation Army.

At their meeting, called to discuss the subject, the members reviewed the consequences to Canada of a similar scheme, and claimed that the results would be the same in New South Wales.

An Auckland Loan.

The City of Auckland is issuing £0,000 4 per cents. at 100.

Frozen Meat Trade.

The New South Wales Colonial Consignment Company's annual review of the frozen meat trade anticipates that lower prices will rule during the current year than those previously during 1908. The review advances as a reason for this the statement that the purchasing power of the mass of the people is restricted, and the rate of meat consumption can only be maintained at low prices.

Depression.

The "Times" states that the business of the London banks' clearing-houses showed a shrinkage of £61,000,000 compared with 1907.

All the provincial clearing-houses show a proportionate reduction. The railway receipts also showed a heavy reduction.

Frozen Meat Trade.

Weddell's review of the meat trade anticipates that beef and lambs may maintain their prices. Mutton does not promise well. The prospects are that the supply will be larger and the demand lesser than they were a year ago.

Reforming the Lords.

Mr. Winston Churchill (President of the Board of Trade), speaking at Birmingham last week regretted that militant Radicalism had fallen into the grip of a narrow-minded set of Liberal-Unionist politicians without a single generous principle of government.

Mr. Churchill did not deny that the recent by-elections had involved a sensible reaction of feeling of an unfavourable character, but such elections were insufficient to deflect the Government's policy one hair's-breadth.

The Government would only dissolve at a time most advantageous to the general interest of the progressive cause. He ridiculed the air of solemn humbug with which the Marquis of Lansdowne habitually invested the proceedings of the House of Lords.

Effective and far-reaching reform of the House of Lords must be the issue at the general election, whatever the result. No Liberal Government at any future

time would assume office without securing guarantees that such reform would be carried out.

After claiming that the Government had done much legislatively, and was able to do much more, Mr. Churchill challenged the House of Lords to force a dissolution by rejecting the next Budget. If they really desired a speedy appeal to the country, personally he would be quite content to see the battle fought as speedily as possible upon the plain and simple issue of aristocratic rule against representative government, and between the reversion to protection and the maintenance of freetrade, and between a tax on bread and a tax on—well, never mind what.

The statement was received with laughter.

The Coal Trade.

A hundred representative North-east coast shipowners met at Newcastle last week, and resolved to form an international combination to regulate the supply of tonnage to the demand.

Mr. Walter Runciman, the chairman, stated that nearly two million tons of shipping were idle, and dividends had dropped nearly 30 millions.

The British Army.

Lord Lucas, Under-Secretary for War, in a speech at Belfast, said that Britain was able to immediately send 100,000 men abroad, but that there was still a shortage of five thousand officers.

Fastest in the World.

H.M. torpedo boat destroyer Tartar, steaming under war conditions, exceeded a speed of 38 knots per hour.

No other vessel afloat has equalled this speed, and the world's record still lies with the British Navy.

H.M.s. Tartar, one of the larger type of torpedo boat, was launched in June, 1907, and her official trials, when she developed a speed of 36 knots, were carried out a year ago. Evidently her war trials were withheld until the engines had time to settle to their smoothest running. The Admiralty recently decided not to build such fast destroyers, and the nine vessels of this type are being built for a speed of twenty-five knots, a saving of about £20,000 each.

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He ought to know. John not only plays billiards; he plays billiards so excellently that his opinion on tables is the most authoritative in the world. He swears BY Alcock's and AT some of the others. In his enthusiasm he has said that he would sooner play on an Alcock than on any other. The famous firm holds a certificate of the superexcellence of the Alcock tables signed by this famous player.

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EUROPE.

The Prussian Minister of Finance, in his Budget, estimates the deficit for the coming year at £7,800,000.

The Krupp works at Essen have commenced the construction of aerial torpedoes on the pattern recently purchased from a Swedish inventor.

A bill is being passed through the French Chamber of Deputies providing for the adoption by France of legislation on the lines of the British Patents Act.

The Kaiser, addressing the Grenadier Guards in Berlin, of which the Emperor Francis Josef is honorary colonel, eulogised the Austrian Emperor's loyalty to the Triple Alliance, and remarked that more arduous days might come when a true ally would be of great value.

Waking Up.

The Grand Vizier (Kiamil Pasha) informed the Turkish Chamber last week that German instructors had been engaged to reorganise the army and British officers to reorganise the navy, making them more in conformity with the country's needs.

The Government considered that the new regime had completely changed the aspect of the Macedonian problem, and expressed a hope of the immediate solution of the Bosnia and Herzegovina difficulty.

A favourable issue of the situation with Bulgaria was hoped for, and he anticipated a solution of the Cretan question, with the co-operation of the protecting Powers, on the basis of maintaining and safeguarding Turkish rights.

The Chamber passed a vote of confidence in the Cabinet.

The Sultan of Turkey's son and nine other officers are to join the American navy to study naval matters.

The Porte purposes employing British, French and Italian officers of gendarmerie in Macedonia for re-organising the police of the district. Foreign officers will also be employed in many of the surrounding vilayets.

Killed on The Alps.

An avalanche in the Schall Alps, Grisons, killed Dr. Spicer, son of Evan Spicer, the well-known paper maker. Another son narrowly escaped being swept away by the same avalanche.

A Female Spy.

Fraulein Petersen, governess in a German naval family, and the accomplice of the traitor Dietrich, who was arrested some months ago, has been sentenced at Leipzig to four years' imprisonment for treason, the charge being one of espionage, it is supposed in the service of France.

Dietrich was sentenced to five years' imprisonment on a charge of plotting to reveal to France the secret of the manufacture of German smokeless powder.

Reprieved.

The Czar has reprieved the thirty-two workmen who were sentenced to death at Ekaterinoslav in the earlier part of this year for taking part in the railway strike of 1905, the men having been court-martialled and sentenced after having quietly pursued their avocations for three years.

Other death sentences have also been commuted, and many terms of penal servitude have been reduced.

The last terrorist plot against the Royal family and high officials was attributed to the many executions and heavy sentences in Russia.

The Russian Loan.

Of the impending Russian loan of fifty-six millions sterling, six millions will be reserved for the London market, £1,200,000 for Amsterdam, and the remainder will be floated in France.

Of the French allotment, thirty-two millions will be devoted to the redemption of the five per cent Treasury bonds issued in 1904.

Mine Disaster.

An explosion occurred in the Daman Anka colliery, at Visdanem, Hungary, last week.

There were two hundred miners on duty at the time, and of these 50 were killed by the explosion or burned to death in the fire.

Indifferent to Money.

Father John of Kronstadt, the famous Russian cleric, who died a fortnight ago, left a fortune of £200,000.

His library was found to be strewn with bank notes and cheques, which had been carefully placed among books and manuscripts.

Enormous gifts had been showered upon the deceased during his lifetime, but he was quite indifferent to money, and had neither cashed the cheques nor invested the money given him.

More Earthquakes.

The great catastrophe in Calabria and Sicily has been followed by severe earthquakes in Northern Italy.

The shocks were felt right across the peninsula, a great area being affected. Genoa, Milan, Venice, Florence, and Padua all felt the shocks severely, and the smaller towns and villages of northern Italy were all shaken.

Much damage to property has been done in all the towns mentioned.

At Imola, near Bologna, the shocks were very severe, and a panic occurred among the inhabitants.

So far no loss of life has been reported.

The "Clean-up."

The Turkish Grand Vizier has accepted Austria's offer of compensation for the annexation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, after vainly claiming another half a million.

The Vienna Bourse is greatly excited over the settlement, stocks rising considerably when the announcement was made.

The Russian Ambassador to Constantinople has informed Kiamil Pasha, the Grand Vizier, that £650,000 is the sum that Bulgaria is able to pay as compensation to Turkey on the declaration of her independence.

He expressed the hope that the Porte would accept the offer.

The British, French, and German Ambassadors spoke in similar terms.

A Strange Scene.

An enormous crowd treated the quadruple execution in Paris last week as a popular fete.

They shouted "Death to the murderers" as they were led to the guillotine, and cheered the fall of each head.

Just before his death, Abel Pollet, one of the condemned men, admitted a list of 250 crimes.

Studying Explosives.

The rooms of two students, sons of a university professor, near the Tarskoe Selo station, St. Petersburg, were raided by the police last week.

Fifteen pounds of dynamite and apparatus for the making of bombs were seized.

Germany to Brazil.

The first section of the German cable to Pernambuco, the easternmost portion of the Brazilian coast, will shortly be laid from Boskum, one of the East Frisian islands, and thence westerly to Tenciffe, in Germany.

The cable will proceed thence to Monrovia, capital of Liberia, on the coast of Africa, this section being also laid this year, while the third section, from Monrovia to Pernambuco, will be laid early in 1910.

King Edwards Visit to Berlin.

The German commercial middle classes desire to specially welcome King Edward on his visit to Berlin during the second week in February.

The Merchant Elders propose to hold a reception in the great hall of the Stock Exchange.

Reparation.

The Russian Government's compensation to Mr. Nicolas Luxembourg, a nationalised British subject, for wrongful arrest and imprisonment at Odessa, amounts to £1000.

Mr. Nicolas Luxembourg was arrested last year, on his arrival in Odessa, on a charge of being concerned in the revolutionary propaganda. He was in prison for a month, and was then released through the efforts of the British Consul at Odessa, after proof of his naturalisation had been produced.

Death of Roshdestvensky.

The death is announced by Reuter's St. Petersburg correspondent of Admiral Roshdestvensky, the commander-in-chief of the Russian Baltic fleet which was annihilated in the battle of Tsushima on May 27 and 28, 1905.

Admiral Roshdestvensky, whose death was prematurely announced in May last, figures prominently in the history of the war in the Far East as the commander of Russia's forlorn hope, and he will always be remembered, in England in particular, in connection with the "North Sea incident," when his panic-stricken ships, in steaming out of the Baltic, fired on a number of poor, undefended British fishermen who, all unsuspecting their danger, were plying their calling over the Dogger Bank. Though his last exploits clouded his career the admiral made his mark and gained his position in the fleet not by favouritism, but by his bravery as a young officer, his hard work, and his reputation as a tactician. He was a native of Moscow, where he was born exactly sixty years ago, and after passing through the recognised course of professional training, he suddenly made his name in the Russo-Turkish war of 1877-8. He was already recognised as a gunnery expert, and was in command of a gunboat named the Vesta. He behaved with extraordinary daring in attacking the larger Turkish ironclads, and gained the coveted St. George's Cross. He subsequently served as naval attaché at the Russian Embassy in London for several years, where he made many friends, and during the Sino-Japanese war he was Admiral Alexieff's second in command in the Far East. It was during his service as captain that he attracted attention as a tactician, and, in the light of later events, it is curious to recall that in conversation and in professional lectures, he always advocated a bold attack as being the best defence. A stern disciplinarian, he was a singularly silent man, who kept his own counsel.

Six years ago he commanded the Russian Squadron which was present at Reval on the occasion of the meeting of the Czar and the German Emperor, and he manoeuvred his ships with a skill which was the subject of general remark at the time, and led to his appointment forthwith as an aide-de-camp to the Czar. Shortly afterwards the admiral was selected as chief of the headquarters staff, and thus was at the head of the Intelligence Department when the war with Japan broke out so dramatically. When Admiral Makaroff was killed, Admiral Skrydloff shut up in Vladivostok, and the main part of the Russian fleet imprisoned in Port Arthur, Roshdestvensky was selected to take the command of the miscellaneous assortment of ships which came to be known as "the Baltic Fleet." He was responsible for the organisation of the force, with all its glaring defects, and he commanded it during its long journey to the Far East—an achievement in itself remarkable, and reflecting no slight credit on the admiral's organising skill, persistency, and intrepid courage. Then after months of unending anxiety, he met his fate in the Sea of Japan. It is unnecessary to recall the battle in which Admiral Togo and the Japanese Fleet won all the laurels. When the Russian admiral's flagship was sinking, he, wounded, was transferred to a torpedo boat destroyer, was overtaken by the victors, and captured, was taken to Japan, and remained there a prisoner in hospital, to be at last returned to his native country after the conclusion of peace, put on his trial, and his whole career, not without brilliant incidents, buried beneath the condemnation of a court-martial of his brother officers.

ASIA.

Yellow Gaining Ground.

Dr. Sven Hedin, the famous explorer, who has just completed a lengthy tour of discovery in Central Asia, interviewed at Moscow, said that British influence was waning in Tibet.

The country is, he says, becoming a Chinese province. It is garrisoned by Chinese, and there are many Chinese officials in the country.

Japan's Aims.

Prince Ito, Japanese Resident-General in Korea, in the course of a striking speech at Taika, strenuously combatted the idea that Japan was aiming to over-

throw Korea and make the kingdom a province of Japan.

He declared that the sovereigns of Japan and Korea were in mutual fraternal relations, and that he would be grieved if friction arose between the two peoples.

AFRICA.

Mulai Hafid, the new Sultan of Morocco, has welcomed the French military mission to Fez.

The vast majority of the people of the Transvaal are opposed to the unification of South Africa unless Pretoria is made the capital.

The Mullah Once More.

The Somali Mullah is again giving trouble.

Last week he looted 20,000 camels and killed many natives friendly to the British.

Fearing that the British protectorate may be attacked, 300 of the King's African Rifles have arrived at Berbera from Nyassaland, also an Indian contingent of 400 from Bombay.

Dangerous Work.

Reuter's Capetown correspondent reports that a number of natives fiercely attacked the Anglo-German boundary commissioners, who are delimiting the frontier of the Cameroons and British Southern Nigeria.

After five days' fighting, the natives were dispersed, the British and Germans losing five killed and 19 wounded.

AMERICA.

Reuter's Washington correspondent reports that Mr. Elihu Root (American Secretary of State) and Mr. James Bryce (the British Ambassador at Washington) have signed a treaty settling the difficulties between the United States and Canada regarding the use of common waters upon the Canadian lakes.

Information Wanted.

At Senator Furaker's instance the United States Senate has ordered the Secretary of the Treasury, Mr. Geo. B. Cortelyou, to furnish a detailed report of how President Roosevelt disposed of the 600,000 dollars emergency fund placed at his disposal at the time of the financial panic in November, 1907.

The Colour Line.

Bills introduced into the Californian Legislature empower the segregation of Japanese and Chinese by municipalities, bar Japanese children from public schools, and put various business restraints upon them.

President Roosevelt characterises the measure as a piece of folly, bad faith, and inquiry.

The Japanese Press is evincing great indignation on the subject of this legislation.

Mine on Fire.

An explosion in a coal mine at Switchback, Virginia, killed 50 men.

It is feared that another 100, who were below at the time, are doomed, the mine having caught fire.

Panama Canal.

Senator Hopkins has introduced into the United States Senate a bill authorising the issue of Panama Canal bonds to the value of £100,000,000. He refused to admit any likelihood of a sea level canal.

In his final message to Congress, President Roosevelt, referring to the canal, said: "The work on the Panama Canal is being done with speed, efficiency and entire devotion to duty, which make it a model for all work of the kind. No task of such magnitude has ever before been undertaken by any nation; and no task of the kind has ever been better performed. The men on the isthmus, from Colonel Goetzals and his fellow-commissioners through the entire list of employees who are faithfully doing their duty, have won their right to the ungrudging respect and gratitude of the American people."

U.S.A. Navy.

The Naval Committee of the United States House of Representatives has reported in favour of the appropriation of only 29,000,000 dollars (about £9,000,000) for the construction of two, not four gigantic battleships, as recommended by Mr Newbery, Secretary for the Navy.

Fatal Demonstration.

A demonstration against the Light and Power Company at Rio de Janeiro developed into riots, which extended over three nights, against the violent police methods of quelling the disturbances. Many of the rioters were killed or injured.

Secret Service Work.

During 1908 the United States Congress appropriated nearly a million and a-half sterling for secret service work. The total appropriation for prosecuting fraudulent officers and preventing frauds in the various branches of the public service exceeded £4,700,000.

The Unwritten Law.

Thornton Haines, who in August last held back the crowd at the muzzle of his revolver while his brother, Captain Haines, fired six shots at William Annis, a New York publisher, whom the latter accused of dishonouring his wife, has been acquitted at Flushing on a charge of being an accessory before the fact. Captain Haines is now awaiting trial.

Railway Smash.

A sensational disaster, involving heavy loss of life, occurred near Denver, Colorado, on Saturday. A passenger train collided with a heavy goods train, which was going in the opposite direction, the impact being terrific. The drawing-room car of the passenger train was telescoped by the force of the collision, and of its 60 passengers only one was left alive, the 68 being either killed outright or so seriously injured that they died within a few hours. The only passenger to survive the collision was a six-year-old girl, who was found alive under her mother's dead body. The wreckage caught fire, but the officials of the trains speedily extinguished the outbreak by means of snow from the drifts alongside the line.

The Strenuous Life.

There have been murmurings amongst army and naval officers in America against an order recently issued by President Roosevelt that all military and naval officers should periodically ride 90 miles in three days. In order to demonstrate the reasonableness of the order, President Roosevelt yesterday rode 98 miles through mud and slush in 17 hours without showing fatigue. President Roosevelt's gospel of the strenuous life occasionally lands his personal entourage in trouble. Recently, as a means of training for his hunting in Africa, he led a party of officers on a rough cross-country tramp. His following consisted of about 60, old and young, slim and otherwise, including Major-General Bell himself, Secretary Garfield, and Mr Robert Bacon, and they went for a long tramp through rock, creek, and park. In rougher days, Mr Roosevelt led the officers through what is described as "a cross-country walk," "mountain cliffs," "Marathon run," "obstacle race," "step-climber," and "water jump." Wading and splashing through rock, creek and returning home in drenched clothes was one of the many trials the officers submitted to. The President beamed throughout; the others did not.

Strong Language.

Senator Tillman's speech in the Senate was the most striking episode of the debate on President Roosevelt's message to Congress. The galleries were packed, a riotous rush being made to secure admittance. Senator Tillman, replying to the President's attack, denied doing anything illegal in connection with the Oregon land transactions. He accused President

Roosevelt of personal malice, calling him a dodger and a coward.

While, he said, President Roosevelt shielded his dear friend, Mr Harriman, who held two million acres of the public domain, he attacked him (Senator Tillman) for wanting to buy 1440 acres. He demanded a searching investigation into the whole business.

The speech was heard in silence, and there was no applause.

Recently President Roosevelt published details of an investigation by post office inspectors and by secret service agents of the connection of Senator Tillman with an alleged land grab in Oregon. President Roosevelt declared that Senator Tillman used his influence as a Senator in an effort to force the Government to compel a railroad corporation to relinquish the control of land grants from the United States, in order to enable him and his family and his secretary to profit by the purchase of the land. Mr. Roosevelt also alleged that Senator Tillman frequently used his "franking" privileges in the conduct of his private business.

The "New York Evening Journal," W. R. Hearst's paper, publishes a notable article defending President Roosevelt from the many attacks now being made upon the retiring President.

The "Journal" remarks: "Now that President Roosevelt is leaving office every Trust jackal is biting his heels. But the people know that President Roosevelt has spoken the truth in his denunciations of Wall-street and the Trusts."

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| 6 0 0 | 15 | Dalgety and Co. .. | 6 10 0 |
| 1 0 0 | 11 | N.Z. and River Plate .. | 1 12 0 |
| COAL— | | | |
| 0 7 6 | 26 | Hikurangi .. | 0 15 6 |
| 0 10 0 | Nil | Northern Coal Co., Ltd. .. | 0 13 0 |
| 1 0 0 | Nil | Tampiri Mines .. | 0 18 6 |
| 0 10 0 | Nil | Drury Brick & Pottery .. | 0 2 8 |
| 1 0 0 | Nil | | 13 0 0 |
| 3 10 0 | 14 | Westport .. | 6 17 6 |
| GAS— | | | |
| 5 0 0 | Nil | Auckland (10c paid) .. | 19 6 |
| 5 0 0 | Nil | Auckland .. | 14 10 0 |
| 5 0 0 | Nil | Christchurch .. | 9 15 0 |
| 1 0 0 | Nil | Helding .. | 0 15 0 |
| 1 0 0 | Nil | Gisborne .. | 2 10 0 |
| 1 0 0 | Nil | Hamilton .. | 2 10 0 |
| 10 0 0 | Nil | Napier .. | 25 0 0 |
| 5 0 0 | 5 | | 5 7 6 |
| 5 0 0 | 5 | | 5 8 0 |
| 5 0 0 | Nil | New Plymouth .. | 5 5 0 |
| 1 19 0 | Nil | Thames .. | 15 7 6 |
| 10 0 0 | 76 | Wellington .. | 15 12 6 |
| 4 5 0 | 42 | | 11 6 0 |
| 4 10 0 | 4 | Palmerston North .. | 7 10 0 |
| SHIPPING— | | | |
| 2 10 0 | Nil | Union Steamship .. | 1 15 6 |
| 8 0 0 | Nil | New Zealand Shipping .. | 6 10 0 |
| 0 14 6 | Nil | Northern S.S., P.T., .. | 0 14 6 |
| 0 7 0 | 76 | | 0 7 3 |
| 1 9 0 | Nil | Devonport Ferry .. | 1 10 6 |
| WOOLLEN— | | | |
| 4 0 0 | 1 | Wellington .. | 3 2 6 |
| 6 0 0 | Nil | Kaipoi .. | |
| 3 10 0 | 14 | Mosgiel .. | 2 17 0 |
| TIMBER— | | | |
| 1 13 0 | Nil | K.T. Co., ex div Paid .. | 1 12 0 |
| 0 15 0 | 18 | | 0 14 0 |
| 1 0 0 | Nil | Leyland, O'Brien Co., .. | 1 2 0 |
| 0 14 0 | 21 | Mountain Rimu Co., .. | 1 12 6 |
| 1 0 0 | Nil | Parker-Lamb .. | 1 6 0 |
| MEAT— | | | |
| 7 10 0 | 24 | Cent-rbury .. | 8 0 0 |
| 10 0 0 | Nil | Christchurch .. | 10 15 0 |
| 5 0 0 | Nil | Wellington Meat Ex. .. | 5 0 0 |
| 4 0 0 | Nil | | 5 0 0 |
| 2 12 6 | 23 | | 2 9 0 |
| 1 0 0 | Nil | Gear .. | 2 9 0 |
| 4 0 0 | Nil | | 9 6 0 |
| 5 0 0 | Nil | Wanganui .. | 5 2 0 |
| MISCELLANEOUS— | | | |
| 1 0 0 | Nil | Auckland Elec. T. Prof. .. | 1 10 0 |
| 1 0 0 | Nil | | 2 0 6 |
| 1 0 0 | Nil | New Zealand Drug .. | 2 0 0 |
| 2 10 0 | Nil | Sharland & Co., Ord. .. | 1 0 0 |
| 2 0 0 | Nil | | 1 0 0 |
| 0 14 0 | 6 | Union Oil .. | 1 0 0 |
| 1 0 0 | Nil | Colonial Sugar .. | 42 10 0 |
| 1 0 0 | Nil | N.Z. Paper Mills .. | 1 20 0 |
| 1 0 0 | Nil | N.Z. Portland Cement .. | 1 8 6 |
| 0 14 0 | Nil | Wilson's .. | 1 15 0 |
| 1 0 0 | Nil | | 1 15 6 |
| 5 0 0 | Nil | Donnachie Hope .. | 1 10 0 |
| 4 0 0 | 1 | Ward & Co., .. | 8 0 0 |

PERSONAL NOTES.

Mr H. Utting has been appointed Clerk to the Mount Albert Road Board. Mr Justice Chapman and Mrs Chapman are visiting the Hot Lakes district. Mr and Mrs Holmes, of Parnell, are paying Rotorua a short visit. Mrs and the Misses Ireland, after a very short stay in Auckland, have gone on to Rotorua. Mr C. E. Button, late Judge of the Supreme Court, arrived in Auckland from the South last week. Mr Haselden, who was a candidate for Ohinemuri at last election, is standing for the Thames vacancy. Sir Wm. and Lady Stewart leave Wellington on February 12 for Durban, to visit their son. Mr. F. Mander, M.P. for Marsden, is at present on a business visit to Wellington. Dr. Ewbank, of England, who is touring New Zealand, is at present visiting Rotorua. Mr J. W. Glennie has resigned the position of bandmaster of the Waihi Federal Band. Mr. H. H. Metcalfe, of Auckland, was a passenger from the South by the West Coast steamer on Sunday. Dr and Mrs Marten, of Adelaide, who have been visiting Wellington, have proceeded to Rotorua. Mr H. P. K. Wyatt, assistant officer in charge of telegraphs at Auckland, is at present on a visit to Napier. Mrs. Russ and the Misses H. and B. Russ, of Christchurch, are on a visit to Auckland and Rotorua. The Very Rev. Dean Smyth, of Hastings (Hawke's Bay) is at present on a visit to Te Aroha. Mr C. E. Major, ex-M.P. for Hawera, intends taking a trip Home, and will leave in April next. Mrs. Isidore Alexander, and Mrs. Eliot R. Davis returned to Auckland on Sunday last by the Manuka, from a trip to Australia. The Hon. C. H. Hollack, of Adelaide (South Australia), accompanied by the Misses Hollack, is at present on a visit to Rotorua. Mr. Thorne, who has been on the staff of the Post and Telegraph Office at the Thames for some time, has been appointed postmaster at Taumarunui. Mr. R. H. Crudge, of Symonds-street, leaves for the Old Country to-day, via Australia and South Africa. He expects to be away for about six months. Captain Norbury, of the s.s. Rarawa, is once more convalescent, although he will not resume his duties for a few weeks yet. Mr and Mrs. W. R. May, of Richmond, are to leave Wellington by the Moeraki on January 21, en route to England. Mr and Mrs. T. Cotter and the Misses Cotter, Remuera, are leaving for a trip to England at the end of March. They expect to be away about a year. Messrs. Roy Muir, of Wellington, and O'Reilly, of Hastings, who are proceeding to Edinburgh to study medicine, left for England by the Rimutaka last week. Mr Horace Hastings, a well-known resident of Invercargill, leaves for Auckland towards the end of the month. It is Mr Hastings' intention to settle in this city. Mr. A. J. Edmunds, solicitor, of Cambridge, leaves there next month to establish himself professionally at Helensville, North Auckland. Mr. Frank Reynolds, son of Mr. R. Reynolds, of Trecarne, Cambridge West, who has been on a lengthy trip abroad, has returned home. Mr J. H. McAlister, chief clerk in the Marine Department, has been appointed private secretary to the Hon. A. T. Ngata. Mr Raymond P. McIntyre, the well-known Christchurch artist, left for London by the Arawa. He intends to gain European experience. Mr L. Keith, the oil boring expert, who has had the charge of the Bonithon well in Taranaki, is about to visit Gisborne in connection with oil matters in that district. The appointment of the Hon. W. Hall-Jones as High Commissioner for New Zealand in the United Kingdom is gazetted. His term of office dates from December 1, 1908, to June 14, 1911. Mr. R. R. Richmond, C.E. in charge of Tokanau Native Surveys, left Wellington to-day for the North. He intends, in the near future, to pursue investigations with regard to the practically unknown gold-bearing Kaimanawa ranges. The Mayor, Mr. A. M. Myers, having now closed the lists opened for the relief of the sufferers, a cheque for £106 10/-

the amount collected at the Auckland "Star" office, was forwarded to him this morning. Mr. L. Willis-Allen, a well-known New South Wales farmer, arrived in Auckland by the Manuka on Sunday accompanied by his wife. He intends making a tour of New Zealand by motor car. Professor Adamson, dean of the faculty of law at Victoria College, arrived in Wellington last week from a month's trip to Australia. He was accompanied by Mrs. Adamson. Mr. A. F. Foote, accountant in the Carterton branch of the Bank of New Zealand, has been transferred to the bank's Woodville branch. He will be succeeded by Mr. S. H. Poole, of Mania. During the absence in England of Mr. J. G. Andrews, assistant clerk of the Executive Council, the position is being filled by Mr. James Bishop, chief secretary to the Prime Minister. Mr. C. Clapcott, engineer to the Onslow Borough Council, Wellington, was the recipient last week of a marble clock from the mayor and councillors, to mark the occasion of his recent marriage. Mr and Mrs H. W. Anderson, of Kingston-on-Thames (England), who have been visitors to Wellington, have left for the West Coast, and will afterwards visit the Hot Lakes district. The Rev. W. G. Baker, vicar of Brightwater, has (says a Press Association telegram from Nelson) been appointed Archdeacon of Waimena, in succession to the late Archdeacon Wright. Mr W. Jeffries, the defeated candidate in the Opposition interest, for the Geraldine seat at the recent election, was presented by his supporters at Temuka last evening with a purse of 150 sovereigns. Mr. L. Webber, local manager of the Auckland Fresh Food and Ice Company, was last week presented by the staff with a handsome framed photograph of the employees of the firm, prior to his departure on a trip to England. Miss Ritson, of the correspondence staff of the Labour Department, Wellington, who has been promoted to the staff of the Minister for Railways, was presented by the staff with a handsome gold bangle as a mark of the respect in which she was held by them. Mr. P. J. Hennessy, a well-known business man in Poxton, intends taking a trip through the United States and the Old Country about April next. Mr. Hennessy will be accompanied by his eldest daughter. Mr. T. S. Weston, senior, has been appointed Crown Prosecutor at New Plymouth, in place of Mr. Kirk, who recently became a stipendiary magistrate. Mr. Weston was formerly a District Judge, and is a member of the Representative Commission. Lieutenant-Colonel Loveday (Officer commanding New Zealand Public School Cadets) has left Wellington for the South on a tour of inspection for about twelve days. Almost immediately on his return, he will leave to commence a round of cadet inspections in the Auckland province. Dr. Hardwick Smith, who is succeeding Dr. Ewart as medical superintendent of Wellington Hospital, commenced his duties last Friday. Dr. Ewart has concluded his term, and is now in Dunedin, where he is to take part in the examination of nurses. Leaving Wellington for London by the Tahiti on January 28th are Lieutenant H. S. C. Knox, the Navy League lecturer; Mr. H. E. Evans (son of Captain Evans), of Bell, Gully, Bell, and Myers' staff; Lieutenant-Colonel Lambton and Captain Pakenham, of the Imperial Army; and Dr. Ross and family, of Masterton. Nurse A. Hei, who recently left the Napier Hospital to study at St. Helena Hospital, Christchurch, has been successful in passing the State examination in midwifery. Nurse Hei was the first Maori nurse to successfully complete the full nursing course. The appointment is gazetted of Lieutenant William John Shannon, 16th Lancers, as second aide-de-camp to Lord Plunket, in succession to Lieutenant E. L. Lyon. Lieutenant Shannon joined the 16th Lancers on October 3rd, 1900. Their Colonel-in-Chief is General His Majesty Alfonso XIII., King of Spain. Miss Coady, postmistress at Kawhia for the past seven years, who has been transferred to Wellington, was presented on behalf of the residents of the district with a purse of sovereigns. Mr. F. Gibbons, Thames, will succeed Miss Coady,

Mr. Hudson, secretary of the Government Insurance Department, has been appointed deputy commissioner, vice Mr. D. M. Luckie, who recently retired on superannuation. The latter became deputy-commissioner in 1889, and is a well-known journalist.

Colonel A. Pote-Penton, of the Ordnance Board, Woolwich Arsenal, and formerly Commandant of the New Zealand Forces, has been appointed to the important command of the Royal Artillery at Malta, with the local rank of Major-General.

Mr. H. N. Holmes (general secretary of the Y.M.C.A., Wellington) was last week in Hamilton, where he has been assisting the Y.M.C.A. to furnish its new rooms. The secretary of the Y.M.C.A. at Hamilton is Mr. T. Vincent. After an absence of two years, Miss Florence Quinn arrived in Auckland by the Manuka on Sunday, after a visit to her home. She has just concluded a successful appearance in grand opera under the Abrogro management.

Mr. A. S. Adams, of Dunedin, is now on a visit to Rotorua, and is expected to arrive in Auckland this week to take part in a temperance rally, to be held in St. James' Hall. Mr. Adams was for six years president of the N.Z. Alliance.

Mr. Wallace Wilcocks, chief officer of the Amokura, has been appointed Assistant Marine Superintendent at Lyttelton, and Mr. Brindie, late of the mission steamer Southern Cross, has filled the vacancy on the training ship.

Amongst the recent callers at the Government Tourist Bureau, have been—Mr. J. W. Easton and Miss Easton (Sydney), Mr. E. R. Spriggs (Killara, N.S.W.), Mr. J. B. Lawton (Melbourne), Mr. T. B. La Barte (Singleton, N.S.W.), Messrs. D. M. and W. Gunn (Christchurch), Mr. and Mrs. S. J. Gordon (Wanganui).

Dr. E. H. B. Milson, who acted as locum tenens for Dr. Albert Martin, Wellington, whilst the latter was absent from the Dominion on a recent visit to Europe, has gone to Palmerston North, where he intends to commence the practice of his profession.

Mr. Charles Crutch, inspector of permanent way on the Hawera-Wanganui section, is retiring from the Railway Department after thirty-two years' service. He was presented with a handsome illuminated address and a purse of sovereigns at Hawera on Saturday.

Bishop Verdon, who is in charge of the Otago and Southland Roman Catholic diocese arrived at the Bluff this morning, says a P.A. wire from Invercargill, after his diocesan visit to the Pope. He was informally welcomed by his clergy, parishioners, and the Hibernian Society. To-morrow the Bishop will be officially welcomed by the diocese at the Cathedral, Dunedin.

Dr. Collins, of Gisborne, late of Auckland, is taking an extensive motor tour over Dominion roads, commencing from Napier, last week. He will motor to Wanganui, via Palmerston, then to Lyttelton, and after taking steamer to Dunedin and Queenstown. On the return journey he will motor from Wellington to Gisborne, via Waitoa.

Mr. S. H. Smith was, on Wednesday last presented by the firm and fellow-employees of Messrs. Turnbull, Hickson and Gooder, Wellington, with a handsome marble clock, to mark the occasion of his marriage.

Another old colonist has passed away in the person of Mrs. William Ferguson, of Ellerslie, at the ripe age of 78. Deceased arrived in the Dominion in 1859 in the ship Northumberland. After residing in Grey-street, Mrs. Graham and her husband went to Motutapu Island, residing there for six years, then removing to Ellerslie, where she has resided continuously for the last 44 years. Deceased is survived by twelve children, ten of whom are living—five sons and five daughters—thirty-three grandchildren, and seven great grandchildren.

Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Condlime, of Masterton, who leave Wellington to-morrow, on a tour of the work, were entertained by a large gathering on Masterton bowling green last week. During the afternoon Mrs. Condlime received a presentation of a handsome travelling bag given on behalf of the ladies of Masterton, among whom she is very popular.

Mr. Bernard Smith, late secretary of the Wellington Law Students' Association, who has been a member of the staff of Messrs. Martin and Atkinson, solicitors, Wellington, for the last six years, has severed his connection with that firm, and started in business as a solicitor in Picton.

Two members of the Queensland Upper House, the Hon. T. C. Beirne, M.L.C., and the Hon. Peter Murphy, M.L.C., were through passengers by the Ulmaroa, which arrived at Wellington last week, from Sydney. They will make the Sounds trip on the Waikare, and will afterwards visit Rotorua and Auckland.

Dr. W. A. Chapple, ex-M.P. for Tuaepeka, and Mrs. Chapple were entertained at a social at Beaumont last week, when the former was presented with an illuminated address. They were entertained at Alexandra on Thursday, when Dr. Chapple was presented with an address and Mrs. Chapple with a gold brooch.

Mr. James Lindsay, for 30 years headmaster of the Oamaru North School, died suddenly from heart disease last week at Moeraki, where he was spending his holidays. Deceased was 62 years of age. He joined the service of the Otago Education Board in 1870, and, before coming to Oamaru, received appointments at Dunedin, Middle, William-st., and normal schools.

Mr. J. P. Firth, Principal of Wellington College, in company with Mrs. Firth, spent a portion of the college vacation in Sydney. They returned home by the Ulmaroa last week in excellent health.

Professor Haswell, of Sydney University, who has been in the habit for many years past of spending part of his summer vacation in New Zealand, arrived in Wellington last week, accompanied by Mrs. Haswell.

On the eve of their departure from Mohaka, Hawke's Bay, Mr. and Mrs. Grenside were entertained at a farewell social by their many friends in that district. The distinctive feature of the gathering was the presentation of a silver-mounted polished oak salad bowl, and silver biscuit barrel to Mr. and Mrs. Grenside, and a pair of silver table napkin rings to Miss Merrylees.

The death took place in Nelson recently of Mrs. Caroline Gannaway, widow of the late Mr. John Gannaway, who was well known in Wellington shipping circles. The members of her family are:—Mr. W. Gannaway, inspector of telegraphs; Mr. Charles Gannaway, assistant postmaster at Wellington; Mr. Fred Gannaway, of the Telegraph Office, Christchurch; and Mrs. Thomson, wife of Mr. J. D. Thomson, of the Lands Office at Nelson.

The Rev. J. E. Orr, M.A., of Wairoa, having continued his studies since coming to the Dominion five years ago, has secured the degree of B.D. from the London University (says the "Outlook"). This is said to be the first B.D. of the London University that has been won in the Dominion if not in the colonies, and the "Outlook" suggests it should be an incentive to our students and younger ministers to pursue their theological studies further, and win the higher rewards of scholarship.

Dr. and Mrs. T. Hope Lewis have changed their plans, and have decided, after all, not to break up their home in Auckland. They have returned to the Northern city, after a pleasant sojourn with their daughter, Mrs. Guy Williams of Masterton, who has had a house-party for the Christmas and New Year holidays (says the Wellington "Times").

Mr. W. H. Gavin, son of the late Assistant Controller-General, and for many years an officer of the Public Works Department, has just returned to New Zealand from the United States to accept an appointment as engineer for Messrs. McLean Bros. at the Arthur's Pass tunnel.

Mrs. Harrison Lee (Mrs. Cowie), the well-known Australian temperance worker and writer, left Australia a few days ago for England. Mrs. Lee intends to conduct a month's mission for the Good Templars in Ceylon, and a similar mission at Port Said and in the Holy Land, afterwards proceeding to Italy and Switzerland, prior to visiting the United Kingdom. She will probably return in September, and then settle in New Zealand.

Mr. Boyne, postmaster at Taihape, was given a send off last week, on the eve of his transfer to Woodville. Reference was made to the fact that when Mr. Boyne took charge of the staff it numbered only three; the number had now reached 17. His zeal and efficiency were highly eulogised, and he was presented with a gold watch, Mrs. Boyne receiving a silver cake basket.

The Rev. C. E. Schafer, of Broken Hill, New South Wales, is visiting the Dominion to study the effects of its licensing legislation. He expresses himself highly gratified with what he saw and heard of the working of No-License in Invercargill, Oamaru, and Ashburton.

Messrs. G. Kendrick, W. Raine, and C. E. Tobin, past students of St. John's College, Auckland, were ordained by Bishop Wallis as assistant curates for work in Wellington diocese. The ordination took place at the morning service at St. Mark's last Sunday. Mr. Kendrick is to be licensed to the parish of Palmerston North, Mr. Raine to St. Matthew's, Masterton, and Mr. Tobin to St. Mark's, Wellington.

The death is announced by Press Association message from Christchurch, of Mr. John Baldwin, who from 1882 up till a few years ago occupied the position of headmaster of the Sydenham State school. The deceased, who was born at Basingsbroke in 1840, arrived in New Zealand in 1874, having been engaged by Lord Lyttelton for educational service in Canterbury. The deceased probably laid the foundations of the State school cadet system, as it was his wont every year to take a large contingent of schoolboys over to Governor's Bay for an encampment on military lines.

Following upon the retirement, through ill-health, of Principal Light-house-keeper Don, the following changes have been made in the New Zealand lighthouse service:—Assistant-keeper Duthie from Centre Island to the charge of the Mokoianu Station and to be succeeded at Centre Island by Mr. Te Pone, who has just joined the service; Principal-keeper McNeil from Mokoianu to Akaroa Heads; Principal-keeper Parington from Akaroa Heads to Nugget Point; Principal-keeper Field from Nugget Point to Portland Island; Principal-keeper McLeish from Portland Island to Moeraki; Principal-keeper Hart from Moeraki to Egmont.

Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Blomfield, of Auckland, have just celebrated their golden wedding amid the rejoicings of children, grandchildren, and other relatives, and the felicitations of numerous friends. Mr. Blomfield arrived in Auckland by the ship Gertrude in 1862, in connection with the Albertland Special Settlement Scheme. He remained in the city instead of going on the land, and when the Thames Goldfields opened, went with the first rush, and built the first wooden structure at the Thames. Subsequently, he was engaged in the erection of mining buildings and batteries. His mother, who came to New Zealand in the same ship, is still active at the advanced age of 96 years. Mr. Blomfield is 73, and his wife sixty-eight.

Dr. Macdonell, surgeon in charge of the a.s. Manawai, which arrived from London on Friday, is a well-known practitioner at Hastings, Hawke's Bay. Accompanied by Mrs. Macdonell, he left New Zealand by the R.M.S. Ionic in the early part of last year, and has been visiting England, Scotland, France, and Belgium. In London he was studying at the larger medical schools and hospitals, being specially attached to Soho Hospital. His chief impression carried away from these institutions was the marvellous erudition and skill of the specialists. Having in former years acted as surgeon to the Shaw Savill Co., he was offered and accepted the surgery on the Mamari. Mrs. Macdonell was a saloon passenger by the same vessel.

LONDON, December 11.

Mr. John Craig, F.R.C.S., Superintendent Surgeon of Mercury Bay Hospital, is in London just now. He came to this country for a year's study at the hospitals, and has spent the greater part of the time at the Dublin Hospital, as that is his old college. He passed the examination for the Fellowship of the Royal College of Surgeons of Ireland on November 21st, taking a very high place in the list of successful candidates. As his time was devoted entirely to study, Mr. Craig has done very little travelling. It is 20 years since he last visited Ireland, and he noticed a great change for the better. The masses of people that make a country are immensely improved, and that courteous manner, so characteristic of the Irish people, made a strong impression on him. He found himself received at once by all the leading surgeons as an old friend, and they gave him complete opportunities to witness all the latest improvements of operative technique. Mr. Craig has now come to London to see and study at the hospitals here. He was much pleased to meet an old New Zealand doctor who practised in Gisborne with him, Dr. Weiby Fisher, F.R.C.S.E. Through the latter's kindness he has been able to see a great deal here. Mr. Craig intends leaving for New Zealand in about a month.

"Who's Who" for 1909, which is out this week, devotes about half a column to Mr. P. A. Vaile, the well-known New

Zealand author. The list of his publications is given as follows:—"Modern Lawn Tennis," "Sverre or the Flight of the Ball," "Great Lawn Tennis Players," "Woman, the Adorer," "The Stroke, and Science of Lawn Tennis," "Wake Up, England," "Modern Golf," and "America's Peril." Mr. Vaile tells me that the two latter are in the publisher's hands now, and that in addition to these he is under contract with Messrs. A. and C. Black to write for that well-known firm the book on New Zealand in their celebrated series of "Peeps at Many Lands." Mr. Vaile intends to make this as attractive as he possibly can, for he thinks books such as these do much to popularise a country. The volume will be illustrated by about a dozen coloured plates of New Zealand, from paintings, by Messrs. Wright Bros., of Auckland, whose beautiful pictures in the Hon. W. Pember Reeves' book have been so much admired. We shall thus have a book on New Zealand written and illustrated entirely by Aucklanders, and published by one of the oldest and best-known houses in England, with a guaranteed circulation of ten thousand at least.

Mr. Harry Rowntree, of Auckland, who has come to the front rapidly in London as a black and white artist, and who is now a frequent contributor to "Punch" and other magazines, is represented in the London Sketch Club's annual exhibition of sketches. The exhibition is held in the club's upper room, which is partly a studio, partly a club-room. Every Friday the members meet, and the subjects being fixed beforehand, exercise their gifts of imagination for the space of an hour and a half. After this stimulating exercise, there is a supper, and thereafter friendly talk and much burning of tobacco as the various pictures are passed round for criticism. Mr. Rowntree's contribution to the annual show is a delicate little drawing in tender mood called "Sere and Yellow"—a sympathetic study of a lonely old woman pleading along a country road.

Mrs. J. A. Nielsen, of Auckland, and her son, who were exhibitors of kauri gum, greenstone and New Zealand curios at the Franco-British Exhibition, gaining a Grand Prize and two gold medals, have gone on the Continent for a holiday trip. They will return to London after the arrival of Mr. Hall-Jones, to confer with the new High Commissioner regarding next year's Imperial Exhibition at Shepherd's Bush. I understand that they propose to have a stall at this exhibition, whether there be a New Zealand pavilion or not. At the Franco-British Exhibition the Nielsens, after bringing their fine collection all the way from Auckland to Shepherd's Bush, were not allowed to set up a stall for the sale of their greenstone curios in the New Zealand pavilion, the sole rights for such sales having already been granted to a London firm of jewellers. They were not told of this before leaving New Zealand. As it was, they had to secure a site in the Crown Colony building, which was in no way connected with New Zealand, and the handicap to their business was thus considerable.

Mr. S. N. Ziman, the New Zealand Rhodes Scholar for 1908, has been elected to an honorary mathematical scholarship at Balliol College, Oxford. I understand that Mr. Ziman intends qualifying for the Indian Civil Service.

Mr. Baxter, the London manager of the Bank of New Zealand, has been seriously ill with pleurisy and pneumonia. At one time his condition was critical, but I understand that he has safely "turned the corner," and is now on the road to recovery.

The Colonial students attending the University at Oxford as Rhodes Scholars (seventy-eight in number) have been elected Honorary Fellows of the Royal Memorial Institute during the period which they held their scholarship.

Recent callers at the High Commissioner's office:—Mr. John M. Mettaly (Invercargill), Mr. Sidney G. W. Rytch (Wellington), Mr. Edward Spencer (Wellington), Mr. Cecil L. A. Hanks (Wellington), Mr. Bernard C. Arrowsmith (Christchurch), Mr. John Craig, F.R.C.S.E. (Whitanga), Mr. D. Campbell (Christchurch), Mr. Thos. Falvey (Wellington).

The high distinction of Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons of England has been gained this week by three New Zealand University men—Mr. W. E. Carswell, M.B., Mr. A. J. Crawford, M.B., and Mr. B. Glendinning, M.B., B.S. Mr. Glendinning, who is an old Napier boy, was appointed Physician to the Queen of Spain a year or so ago. He graduated at Durham University and Guy's Hospital.

Our American Letter.

CHRISTMAS.

NEW YORK, December 12, 1908.

Less than two weeks from Christmas at this writing, and the usual premonitory symptoms of the event are everywhere in evidence. In the shops and on the streets are throngs of buyers, looking for articles to please the fancy, but the general opinion seems to be that the amount of spending money is not indicative of general prosperity. The usual pots hung from tripods at the downtown street corners, guarded by emissaries of the Salvation Army and similar organisations, invite contributions; the big exchanges solicit donations for the support of the hospitals, the magazines teem with Christmas stories, and the heads of households worry themselves as usual in regard to the division of limited financial resources for gifts. But clerks in the big shops say that the demand for bargains is greater than ever before; that in fact, it is the poorest Christmas in a long time, excepting possibly last year's. The same story comes from all the Atlantic coast. The demand for even cheap jewellery is small, and manufacturers in that line report very little doing east of Chicago, although trade in the middle west and the south is said to be about normal, with a fair number of orders.

The fact of Christmas and New Year's Day coming on a Friday this season, makes a long week end, for most of the exchanges and many business houses will close over the Saturday also. In the case of Thanksgiving Day, which always falls upon the last Thursday in November, the cessation of business until the following Monday would be too long for most concerns, and so the commercial wheels are always in operation again on the Friday following. On Thanksgiving Day the practice of juvenile masquerading showed no abatement from the custom in New York. This is, perhaps, a distinctively New York feature of Thanksgiving Day, but from early morning children, even of half-grown size, may be seen upon the streets in all manner of fantastic attire, very often with boys in girls' clothes and vice versa, soliciting gifts. They are generally masked, and in some cases present quite attractive appearances, so that many persons give them small change. After New Year's Day, which is generally observed in New York and throughout Canada, but not in the New England States, the next regular American holiday will be Lincoln's Birthday, on February 12, followed by Washington's Birthday on February 22.

THE PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS.

With the opening of the last session of the 60th Congress at Washington this week, came the last annual address of President Roosevelt, who goes out of office on March 4, to be immediately succeeded by President Taft and the 61st Congress. The nation faces a heavy deficit and an unparalleled estimate for expenditures, caused principally by the Panama Canal construction work and the increased cost of the navy. The postal deficit alone is the largest in the history of the United States, amounting to \$5,910,279 dollars for the last fiscal year, although the receipts were \$7,883,657 dollars greater than in the previous fiscal year, and reached a total of \$91,479,633 dollars. Nearly ten million dollars of the deficit is accounted for by increased compensation to employees.

The change of administration at Washington has already struck terror to the breasts of many Government employees who know that favouritism extends to the remotest post of every Department; and that, even though the same political party is retained in power, the fact of there being a new President, with a new Cabinet and many new Congressmen exerting fresh influence, means numerous changes in positions as places for friends are demanded. It is consequently not at all surprising to find that commercial houses now advertising for help wanted receive many replies from men at present holding Government positions, but planning to make a change.

DECREASE IN MARRIAGES.

It is interesting to note a decrease in the number of marriages in society here of late. The annual publication known as the "Social Register for New York" has just made its appearance for 1909, and records a diminution of twenty per cent. in the number of marriages among persons whose names appear in its pages, compared with last year's record. That percentage refers to New York city, but in the society world of the United States at large for the year, a decrease of seven per cent. is noted. In the "Social Register" for New York for 1909, the number of marriages is announced as 602; while the number of marriages noted last year was 763. In Philadelphia among the persons whose names appear in the "Register" for that city, there were 224 marriages this year, as against 242 last year. In Washington there were 131 this year, and 132 last year. In Boston there were 147 this year, and 167 last year. The new issue of the "Social Register" for New York contains 29,000 names. The most radical increase is in the number of children between thirteen and seventeen years old, whose names appear in the book for the first time. Two hundred and ninety-eight women, whose names were in the "Social Register" of 1908, have died since that volume was published, as have 249 men. The death-rate both in this and in other cities remains practically unchanged. In the cities covered by the Social Register Association, 616 women and 738 men died last year, as against 572 women and 762 men who died the year before. The reduction in the number of marriages chronicled in the "Social Register" for 1909 is thought by the compilers of the volume to have been due to the financial conditions which prevailed throughout the country, and which were especially acute in this city.

FOOTBALL FATALITIES.

Another American football season is over with a record of ten players killed and 272 injured. Still the colleges, high schools, and athletic clubs, seem to show no diminution of interest in the game. In the record-making year preceding the revision of the game, 24 players were killed, and 200 injured. Although the number of dead this season is not so large as in 1905, 72 more mishaps than were reported in that year have been recorded. Here is the summary, with fatalities classified:—College players killed, 3; injured, 153. High school players killed, 2; injured, 74. Athletic members killed, 5; injured 46. Principal injuries—Broken collar-bones, 40; broken legs, 20; broken arms, 16; broken jaws, 6; broken noses, 20; broken ribs (individuals), 15; concussions of the brain, 12; torn ligaments, sprains, etc., 71; dislocated shoulders, 22; lockjaw, 1; insanity, 1; miscellaneous—teeth knocked out, scalp wounds, cuts, 23.

EIGHT YEAR RECORD.

| Year. | Deaths. | Injured. |
|-------|---------|----------|
| 1901 | 7 | 74 |
| 1902 | 15 | 106 |
| 1903 | 14 | 63 |
| 1904 | 14 | 206 |
| 1905 | 24 | 200 |
| 1906 | 14 | 100 |
| 1907 | 15 | 106 |
| 1908 | 10 | 272 |

Deaths have been caused in open playing in almost every instance with the exception of one. The exception was the fatality to Charles Meecker, of Great Bend, Kan., a spectator at a game, who was run over by the players, and so seriously injured that he died on November 8, two weeks later. Two players died from spinal injuries, one from paralysis, caused in an open tackle, one from a broken neck, two from concussion of the brain, two from internal injuries, caused by strains and kicks in vital parts, and one player fell dead of heart failure. Fatalities and injuries have been greatest among college players—three dead, and 153 injured. This has been the rule every year since the practice of keeping record began in 1901. This is chiefly accounted for because the players are heavier, and the playing more intense than in games between high school teams and athletic clubs, in spite of the fact that the players usually are more carefully trained.

DOGGY INTELLIGENCE.

A curious result of the use of gasoline for the propulsion of automobiles and launches has developed in American cities, which is that dogs cannot now distinguish their own vehicles by the smell. All autos smell the same, and dogs who travel in them are, it is now found, very apt to get mixed up. A dog may be always trusted to know his own horse as well as his master, but with autos so much trouble has been experienced that in several places the authorities have been appealed to, and it is expected an ordinance will be passed insisting that some method shall be adopted by which a fairly intelligent dog will be able to recognise the odour of his own car and not cause trouble with others.

In an endeavour to put a stop to "joy riding," that is, use of an automobile by a chauffeur without permission of its owner, a magistrate imposed a fine of 250 dollars, and a month's imprisonment the other day, upon a convicted chauffeur. Garages at which autos are kept are now also adopting a record system of the time each machine is in use, so that the owners may know the facts.

A HUGE PRISON.

New York's new penitentiary, which will be erected on Riker's Island, will be constructed next year. Building operations will begin on March 1 next, and 4,000,000 dollars will be expended in the construction of the buildings. Great interest attaches to the new city prison, for the reason that the site upon which the penal institution will be located is made ground. After building a stone crib around the sixty-three acres of the original island, the city authorities filled it in in low places with refuse, until the area of the island has been more than doubled. When finally completed, the buildings will house two thousand men and five hundred women. It will be the largest prison in the world, the United States Penitentiary at Leavenworth, Kan., ranking next in size. The general lay-out of the building is that of a cross. The administration building will face the pier, and will connect directly with the central guard house, from which will extend the four cell wings.

That Canada has been making steady strides in agriculture has been evident by the reports from all the provinces, and it is notable that the old province of Nova Scotia, though her principal sources of wealth are coal, iron, lumber and gold, has not again behind in farm produce. It has been again demonstrated that the advantages of this province, both in proximity to the best markets and in fertility of soil, once it is brought under cultivation, are equal to anything in the north-west. Besides upwards of 600,000 barrels of apples, bringing an average price of 2 dollars a barrel at port of shipment, Nova Scotia this year produced 1,824,000 tons hay, 8,800,000 bushels potatoes, 8,550,000 bushels turnips and other root vegetables, 4,050,000 bushels oats, 412,000 bushels wheat, 558,000 bushels buckwheat, 224,000 bushels barley, 55,800 bushels beans, 28,500 bushels peas, 30,000 tons fodder, a large quantity of small fruits and considerable live stock and dairy produce. Farmers in Nova Scotia pay labour 12 dollars to 25 dollars a month with board for yearly engagements, and 25 dollars to 35 dollars in summer without board for extra help.

One of the methods adopted by the Canadian Government for the encouragement of agriculture is the free distribution of samples of superior seed. The quantity of oats sent is 4 lbs., and of wheat or barley 5 lbs., sufficient in each case to sow one-twentieth of an acre. The samples of Indian corn, peas and potatoes weigh 3 lbs. each. Applications addressed to the Director of Experimental Farms, Ottawa, may be sent in any time from December 1 to February 15, after which the lists will be closed, so that the samples asked for may be sent out in good time for sowing. No postage is required on mail matters addressed to the Central Experimental Farm, Ottawa.

A notable increase in agriculture as well as manufacture in Canada is found in the tobacco industry. It transpires that in two counties of Ontario the growth of tobacco increased from 600,000 lbs. in 1897 to 7,500,000 lbs. in 1906, and the crop the past two years has shown still further increase. This tobacco has

been recognised as especially suitable for conversion into plug for chewing and smoking. The production is all being consumed in Canada, and has materially lessened the demand for foreign tobacco. Parliament, as claimed, has made some important changes in the tariff that will operate in extending and enlarging the production of tobacco, not only for home consumption but for export.



District Lands Office, Auckland, 7th Jan., 1909.

IT is hereby notified that application has been made by Mr. Thomas, of Waitomo, for that area of Crown Land, being 90 acres more or less, part of Section 4, Block X, Orahiri S.D., and that the said application will be considered by the Land Board at their meeting in February, in terms of Section 120 of "The Land Act, 1908."

JOHN STRATTON, Commissioner of Crown Lands.

NORTHERN STEAMSHIP COMPANY LIMITED.

Weather and other circumstances permitting, the Company's steamers will leave, as under:—

- For Russell. CLANSMAN Every Monday, at 7 p.m.
- For Russell, Whangaroa, and Mangonui. CLANSMAN Every Wednesday, at 5 p.m. No Cargo for Russell.
- For Awamui, Waikarara, Houhora, Whangaroa, and Mangonui. APANUI Every Monday, at 2 p.m. No Cargo Whangaroa and Mangonui.
- For Whangaruru, Helena Bay, Tutukaka, and Whannaki. PAEHOA Tuesday, 15th Dec., 1 p.m.
- For Great Barrier. WAIOTAHI Every Wednes., midnight
- For Waikato and Coromandel. LEAVY AUCKLAND. ROTOMAHANA Tues., 15th Dec., 2.30 p.m.
- ROTOMAHANA Thurs., 17th Dec., 7.15 a.m.
- LEAVE COROMANDEL, VIA WAIHEKE. ROTOMAHANA Wed., 16th Dec., 11 a.m.
- ROTOMAHANA Sat., 19th Dec., 6.30 a.m.
- FOR WAIHEKE. Every Saturday, at 2 p.m., returning Every Monday, arriving about 9 a.m. Monday Morning.

FROM ONEHUNGA.

- For Hokiangua. CLAYMORE Every Thursday.
- For Raglan, Kawhia, and Waitara. WAITANGI Every Monday or Thursday.

WHANGAREI SERVICE.

- DECEMBER.
- Steamers leave Whangarei as under:—
- | S.S. NGAPEHU | S.S. COROMANDEL | Leaves |
|------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------|
| Train Whangarei to Whangarei | Mangapipi, Paruru Bay | Leaves |
| Goods Train. | Pass. Train | Leaves |
| 1st-0.15 a.m. | 1 p.m. 11 a.m. | No str. |
| 3rd-0.15 a.m. | 1 p.m. 11 a.m. | 1 p.m. |
| 5th-0.15 a.m. | 1 p.m. | No str. 1 p.m. |
| 8th-0.15 a.m. | 9 a.m. 7 a.m. | No str. |
| 10th-0.15 a.m. | 9 a.m. 8 a.m. | 10 a.m. |
| 12th-0.15 a.m. | 11 a.m. | No str. 11 a.m. |
| 15th-0.15 a.m. | 1 p.m. 11 a.m. | No str. |
| 17th-0.15 a.m. | 1 p.m. 11 a.m. | 1 p.m. |
| 19th-0.15 a.m. | 1 p.m. | No str. 1 p.m. |
| 22nd-0.15 a.m. | 9 a.m. 8 a.m. | No str. |
| 24th-0.15 a.m. | 9 a.m. 7 a.m. | 9 a.m. |
| 25th-No cargo. | 7 a.m. | No str. No str. |
| 29th-0.15 a.m. | 1 p.m. 11 a.m. | No str. |
| 30th-No cargo. | 2 p.m. | No str. No str. |
| 31st-11.45 a.m. | 7 p.m. 11 a.m. | 11 a.m. |
| 31st-No cargo. | 10 p.m. | No str. No str. |

JANUARY, 1909.

1st-No cargo. 3 p.m. No str. No str.

3rd-No cargo. 2 p.m. No str. No str.

*Goods outward by steamer leaving on following dates, viz. 8th, 10th, 12th, 22nd, and 24th, must leave up-country stations by afternoon train previous day.

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CRICKET.

N.S.W. Beats South Australia.

The cricket match between South Australia and New South Wales was concluded last week. New South Wales' first innings totalled 447. South Australia, whose first innings totalled 272, made 192 in their second—Gehrs 46, Dolling 88 and Woodford 25, being the chief contributors. New South Wales, having one wicket down for 19, have thus won by nine wickets.

Professor Marshall, of Dunedin, lectured before a representative gathering on "The Earth Movement of the South-west Pacific" last night.

The Australian Eleven.

A number of representative cricketers in Sydney last week met the Board of Cricket Control and discussed the terms of payment to members of the Australian eleven to visit England. Nothing as to the proceedings was allowed to transpire.

It is believed that the Board of Control adheres to its original terms for the English visit.

A member of the Board has received a cable from an English authority stating that the M.C.C. strongly supports the Board, and characterises the players as nutcrackers.

A great deal of feeling has been imported into the subject of the Board's terms in Australia, and it is regrettable that English authorities have begun to call the players names for a very human proceeding—trying to do as well for themselves as is possible. Nothing of what occurred at yesterday's conference between the Board and Noble, Laver and Hill, representing the players, has transpired. While the conference was pending certain players who are not amongst the certainties, but who have good chances of selection which will amount to a certainty if any other players refuse the terms, have let the Board know, through agents, that they regard the terms as fair, and that they are willing to accept them. They are making the position plain for the reason that it is believed that, other things being equal, the loyalists to the Board will have the best chance of selection. In other words, if Brown and Smith are equal in point of cricketing ability, and Brown is a supporter of the Board and Smith is not, then Brown will be selected. The split has been hastened no doubt by the early announcement made by Hartigan that he considered the terms reasonable and fair to the players.

At a meeting of the Managing Committee of the New Zealand Cricket Council last week, a letter was read from Mr. W. P. Melhorne, honorary secretary of the Australian Board of Control for international cricket, in which it was stated, in reply to the Council's letter of October 30, inviting the Australian team to play a series of matches in New Zealand on its way to England, that the Board regretted the invitation could not be accepted. The Board would, however, be prepared to arrange for the visit to the Dominion of a second eleven of Australia this season, the Council to pay all travelling and hotel expenses, and 5/- per day to the players for personal expenses.

The committee decided that owing to the lateness of the season the team suggested would fail to prove financially successful, and that the Board of Control should be advised to this effect, at the same time suggesting that such a team would be acceptable early in the season.

It was also resolved that the honorary secretary should be instructed to write to the Board of Control, inquiring the terms upon which the Australian team now about to visit England would, on its return, play a series of matches in New Zealand.

The Heathcote-Williams Shield.

At a meeting of the managing committee of the New Zealand Cricket Council held last week it was decided to award Heathcote Williams Shield, presented by Mr. Heathcote Williams, of Napier, for competition among the primary and secondary schools, to the Christchurch Boys' High School. It is now open for any school to challenge the holders.

Flanhet Shield Matches.

At a meeting last week of the Otago Cricket Association, convened to discuss the match between Otago and Auckland, the president (Mr. C. E. Smith) called on Messrs. T. T. Ritchie (manager) and C. G. Wilson (captain of the Otago team) for their report. Mr. Ritchie stated that he had given the Auckland association to understand that the Otago team had not come 800 miles to play a drawn game. After the toss he and Wilson interviewed the Auckland captain, and made it quite clear that the game was on no account to be a draw. They both left believing the matter to be adjusted, but Auckland would not allow the match to be played out, and insisted on drawing stumps at six o'clock. The association evidently did not recognise the captains in the matter.

The president could find nothing in the rules referring to a draw, and concluded that the framers of the rules had never contemplated such a thing. By not informing the Auckland Association that they had authorised the captain and manager to act in the matter of time, they had placed themselves out of court so far as an appeal was concerned.

It was resolved that a report be drawn up by the captain, manager and president, and that the council be asked to take such steps as might be required in the way of collecting information.

Auckland.

The championship matches under the auspices of the Auckland Cricket Association were resumed on Saturday, when the sixth round of the cup contest was concluded.

In the senior grade, North Shore resumed their first innings against Parnell, and carried the total from 50 for no wickets to 232, of which Hadden compiled 101, W. Philson 28, Dacre 25, L. Prime 22, J. A. Kallender 20. A Kerr took four wickets for 90 runs, C. Olliff two for 51, and Fairburn one for 43. Parnell's first innings the previous Saturday had realised 184, and in the second they had 90 up for the loss of three wickets when time was called, Fairburn making 25, Olliff 22 and Hutchings 20. Woodward took two wickets for 26 runs, and W. Bush one for 28. North Shore won on the first innings, thus securing a two-point win.

A two-point win was also scored by Eden in their match with University. In response to Eden's big total of 347, University could only muster 94, of which Graham supplied 24, Wallace 22, and Robinson 19. Brooke-Smith captured four of the Varsity wickets for 27, Robinson three for 31, and Cummings one for 22. The follow-on of University realised 148 for four wickets, the chief scorers being Graham 68 not out, Robinson 63.

Relf practically won the match for Eden Colts against Grafton. With six wickets down for 57, the Colts' chances of passing their opponents' total of 201 did not look too promising, but Relf piled on a very serviceable 127, which changed the aspect, and the Colts registered a two-point win. Alexander made a creditable 41, and the 22 put up by Slatter was very acceptable. Of the Grafton bowlers, Mason took eight wickets for 90 runs.

Ponsonby, batting two men short, failed to reach the City score of 250, and only succeeded in putting on 90, of which Francis made 25, and Hennis 24. Stenson had six wickets to his credit for 37 runs. In the follow-on Ponsonby were more unfortunate still, and they only added 46 to their total, City thus securing the only three-point win of the day in the senior grade.

Among the second-grade players, Parnell A suffered their first defeat of the season, Grafton beating them by eleven runs on the first innings.

Eden scored a three-point win over University. The University innings realised 127 and 117 respectively, while Eden made 413 in their first innings for seven wickets, at which stage the innings was declared closed.

Ponsonby beat Eden B by seven wickets, the scores being Eden 77 in the

first innings and 92 in the second, while Ponsonby compiled 85 in their first venture, and in the second made 95 for three wickets.

Among the third grade teams, University beat City by 70 runs, and Parnell beat Eden A by one wicket.

LAWN TENNIS.

Auckland Champions.

The provincial championships have now been decided, and leave the following list of winners:—Men's singles, S. Upton; men's doubles, J. P. Grossmann and E. Mickson; combined doubles, H. Keith and Miss Woodroffe; ladies' doubles, Miss Cooper and Miss Harvey. The men's doubles and combined doubles have passed into entirely new hands, as none of the winners in these events have ever before been successful in those classes. Congratulations are due to Miss Woodroffe and E. Hickson for their first appearance in the honours list. The others are familiar to us as intermittent winners of some years' standing.

Coming to the Front.

Two very promising young lady players became prominent at the Nelson tournament, namely, Misses Wellwood and Braithwaite. The former gives every indication of being a future champion. She is described as having more freedom of style than even Miss Powdrell, and a stronger service. Her drive appears to be capable of improvement, as it is hit from very low down on the bounce. Miss Braithwaite is an excellent volleyer, and has much natural cleverness for the game. Both these ladies come from Hastings.

Among the men, no bright particular star seems to be in the ascendant. A. G. Wallace, with more practice, would go far, but his leisure time seems limited. H. W. Brown, of Wellington is an improved player, but lacks endurance.

A bad Habit.

There was a good deal of technical foot-faulting at the Auckland tournament. The rule on the point is—

"The server shall serve with both feet behind the base-line, and within the limits of the imaginary continuation of the centre service, and the side-lines. It is not a fault if one only of the server's feet do not touch the ground at the moment at which the service is delivered. He shall place both feet on the ground immediately before serving, and shall not take a running nor a walking start."

That is to say, when about to throw up the ball and strike it, you must put both feet on the ground, during the motion of the racket; one foot may lift, but both feet must nevertheless remain behind the service line until the racket has struck the ball. The player may lean over the line at any angle, which the laws of gravity will allow, but both feet must be behind the line, and one on the ground at the moment at which the ball is struck.

Taranaki Tournament.

Splendid weather prevailed for the Taranaki tennis tournament on Saturday, and there was a very large attendance. Mr. Frater, of Auckland, won the men's handicap second grade singles. The men's championship will be concluded to-day. Saturday's results were as follows:

Ladies' Championship Singles.—Third round: Miss Powdrell beat Mrs. E. Jones, 6-2, 6-1. Final: Miss Nunneley beat Miss Woodrell, 6-3, 6-0, 6-3.
Men's Championship Singles.—Second round: Bratford beat S. Powdrell 7, 5, 6-3; H. W. Brown beat L. J. Taylor, 6-2, 6-1. Third round: S. J. Smith, a bye from Nelson, beat Bratford, 6-2, 6-0; Fisher beat Jennings, 3-6, 6-3, 6-3; Parker beat Brown, 6-1, 6-0. Semi-final: Wilding beat Smith, 6-0, 6-1.
Men's Championship Doubles.—Second round: Parker and Brown beat Taylor and Jennings, 6-4, 6-0; Fisher and Wilding beat Jones and Caplan, 6-3, 6-2.
Ladies' Championship Doubles.—First round: Mrs. Jones and Miss Powdrell beat Miss Simpson, 6-1, 6-2. Second round: Mrs. Payne and Miss Nunneley beat Mrs. Carr and Miss Brewster, 6-2, 6-0; Mrs. Jones and Miss Powdrell beat Miss Thompson, 6-2, 6-1. Final: Mrs. Payne and Miss Nunneley beat Mrs. Jones and Miss Powdrell, 4-6, 6-4, 7-5.
Combined Championship Doubles.—First round: Miss Powdrell and Fisher beat Miss Carr and H. W. Brown, 6-1, 6-2. Second round: Brewster and Black beat Miss D. Simpson and Dr. Fookes, 6-4, 6-1. Second round: Miss Nunneley and Wilding beat Miss Brewster and Black, 6-2, 6-3.
Player unknown. Wilding and Carr the semi-final of the champion singles. The winner plays Wilding.

BOWLING.

The Northern Association's Tournament.

The annual tournament of the Northern Bowling Association was held this year at Napier, and proved one of the most successful gatherings that have taken place under the auspices of this body. The Napier Club managed to secure the championship, after a keen match with Fielding in the final, Fielding taking second honours, and Bluff Hill third. The final was played on the Napier Green on Friday last, between Napier and Fielding, and great interest was taken in the match, which was closely followed by a large crowd of spectators. Napier scored abundant runs, which was greeted with enthusiasm. Following were the teams:—Napier: R. Holt, A. E. Wrightson, J. P. Smith, B. Bull (skip), Fielding; W. Irving, G. Manning, G. Stewart, G. Bagwell (skip). The result which ended in Napier's favour by 24 to 21, was in doubt until the last ball.

The recovery of the Napier team was a brilliant exhibition of skill, and caused the spectators to greet enthusiastically. Fielding also played a splendid game, but failed against the dogged persistency of their opponents. All the Napier team played with much skill, while the bowling of Stewart (Fielding) was a treat to witness. Bull (the Napier skip) was carried shoulder high of the green by his enthusiastic supporters.

In the afternoon Fielding the winners in the C section met Bluff Hill the winners in the A section in a match for second position in the champion four. Both teams had been defeated by Napier. The match was distinctly good, and attracted considerable attention, but Fielding, opening on the first ball with three up, held the advantage throughout. Holt III made a great effort to catch their opponents, but Fielding were not to be denied, and won by 15 to 13.

About 50 bowlers met in the evening, when the question of entertaining at the tournament was discussed. A motion regarding "manpower" was put forward for the champion fours was withdrawn on its being stated that the matter would receive the committee's attention.

The following table shows the position of the clubs:—

| A SECTION. | Wins. | Losses. |
|------------------|-------|---------|
| Bluff Hill | 9 | 1 |
| Victoria | 7 | 3 |
| Sturford | 7 | 3 |
| Waiwera | 6 | 4 |
| Remuera | 6 | 6 |
| Turangaui | 4 | 6 |
| Eltham | 4 | 6 |
| Whitaker | 4 | 6 |
| Pahiatua | 3 | 7 |
| Petane | 2 | 8 |
| B SECTION. | | |
| Napier | 11 | 1 |
| Carlton | 8 | 2 |
| Upper Plains | 6 | 4 |
| Hastings | 5 | 5 |
| Haycock | 5 | 5 |
| Thurston | 5 | 5 |
| Hawera | 4 | 6 |
| Palmerston North | 4 | 6 |
| Patea | 3 | 7 |
| Newtown | 2 | 8 |
| C SECTION. | | |
| Fielding | 10 | 1 |
| Wangarei | 8 | 3 |
| Gisborne | 8 | 3 |
| Greenwicks | 6 | 5 |
| Farndon | 6 | 6 |
| Kelburne | 6 | 6 |
| Wellington | 6 | 6 |
| Masterton | 6 | 6 |
| Bainevick | 4 | 7 |
| Manning | 3 | 8 |
| Greytown | 2 | 9 |
| Karori | 1 | 10 |

Auckland.

The final of the president's cup at the Remuera green, played last Saturday, was won by Messrs. Hood, Robertson, Hanna and Sanderson (skip), who defeated Messrs. Headdy, Smallbone, Baxter and the Rev. W. Beatty (skip), by 21 to 10. Messrs. M. Casey, J. Beeroff, Gardner, and V. Langford, of the Ponsonby, challenged Messrs. Baddedeley, Fletcher, Cutler, and C. Laurie, of the Carlton, holders of the Edwin Stars, and succeeded in defeating them by 27 to 11.

Auckland Association Tourname.

RE ARRANGEMENT OF DRAW.

At the meeting held on Saturday evening at Mr. A. M. Bryden's office to consider the advisability of playing the prominent matches at the Auckland Provincial Bowling Association's grounds, the following resolutions were decided to play the prominent matches in one section. The A section draw of the open fours was slightly altered, rounds one and two being transposed. The following is the rearrangement of draw:

PENNSANT MATCHES.

PONSONBY GREEN.

To commence at 8.30 a.m. each day. First round: Auckland v. Ponsonby, Epsom v. Rocky Nook, Devonport v. Grey Lynn, Carlton v. Mount Eden, Otahanga a bye. Second round: Auckland v. Epsom, Devonport v. Rocky Nook, Carlton v. Grey Lynn, Otahanga v. Mount Eden, Ponsonby a bye. Third round: Auckland v. Devonport, Ponsonby v. Epsom, Carlton v. Rocky Nook, Otahanga v. Grey Lynn, Mount Eden a bye. Fourth round: Auckland v. Carlton, Ponsonby v. Devonport, Otahanga v. Rocky Nook, Mount Eden v. Grey Lynn, Epsom a bye. Fifth round: Auckland v. Otahanga,

Ponsonby v. Carlton, Epson v. Devonport, Mount Eden v. Rocky Nook, Grey Lynn v. Epsom...

OPEN FOURS. AUCKLAND GREEN. A Section. First round: Bradley (Onehunga) v. Eyre (Devonport)...

Section B. As originally drawn. Champion Singles. Sections C and D will be played on Mount Eden green...

Afternoon tea will be provided on all grounds at a charge of 6d. All players on other grounds than Auckland and Mount Eden are requested to provide their own lunch...

RIFLE SHOOTING.

Auckland Mounted Rifles. A shooting match was held on Saturday between the Avondale and town troops of the A. Squadron 1st A.M.R. and resulted in a win for the town troop by 53 points.

Table of rifle scores for Avondale Troop and Town Troop, listing names and points.

NO. 2 NATIVE RIFLES. No. 2 Company Native Rifles held a number of shooting competitions at Porepore on Saturday...

CAPTAIN RICHARDSON'S CUP. (SECOND STAGE). Lance-Corp. W. Durrell, 37 at 200yds. 41 at 500yds. handicap 14, total 92.

BERGANT PHILLIPS' TROPHY. (SECOND STAGE). Private W. Bates, 35 at 200yds, 34 at 500yds, handicap 25, total 94, first.

WEEKLY ROOSTER. Sgt. W. Phillips, 43 at 200yds, 45 at 500yds, handicap 4, total 92.

NO. 3 NATIVE RIFLES. The No. 3 Native Rifles fired a match at Porepore on Saturday, for a cash prize presented by Col. Seret. Stevenson.

Table of rifle scores for No. 3 Native Rifles, listing names and points.

AKARANA RIFLE CLUB. The members of the Akarana Rifle Club fired for the usual weekly trophy competitions at Porepore on Saturday afternoon...

Mr. R. Grant, who compiled 94, and as this is his second success, the medal becomes his property. The following were the principal scores:

Table of scores for MR F. H. COMBES' TROPHY, listing names and points.

Table of scores for MAJOR MYERS' MEDAL, listing names and points.

ATHLETICS.

Mr. Louis S. Robertson, the Scottish light-weight champion wrestler, was among the passengers who arrived by the Federal-Houlder-Shire liner Cornwall last week in Wellington.

A Revival in Auckland.

The executive of the Auckland Amateur Athletic Club are holding regular meetings, when the call of the secretary is responded to by the best committee meetings that have been held by the club for the last twelve years.

The date of the Marathon Meeting has been altered from the 13th to 20th March owing to the former date being already taken by the Championship Rowing Regatta fixture to be held at Mirreer on that date.

The Executive of the Auckland Amateur Athletic Club very courteously, and with a true spirit of sportsmanship, shifted their meeting a week forward.

A number of men are training earnestly for the great Marathon Race from Howick to Auckland, while the president and secretary are receiving many letters from athletic enthusiasts in the country...

The Controlling Centre.

Christchurch and Wellington amateur athletic bodies each claim the distinction of being the council of the New Zealand Amateur Athletic Association.

QUESTION OF HEADQUARTERS.

Christchurch and Wellington amateur athletic bodies each claim the distinction of being the council of the New Zealand Amateur Athletic Association.

The attitude of the Auckland Association was discussed, and doubt was expressed as to whether the centre would continue its support to the Christchurch council after the present season.

It was resolved to point out to the Auckland centre that the council could not deal with the suggestions, but presumed that the centre would deal with them in due course.

At a meeting of the Wellington centre of the N.Z. Amateur Athletic Association, the chairman made the following explanation of the attitude of the Wellington centre in the matter of the dispute...

aware, and as the Canterbury and Auckland centres have also realised, is that our late Athletic Association Council adopted an illegal and unconstitutional attitude in connection with the election of a council to be the authority of the association...

The Wellington delegates represented thirty-seven out of fifty amateur athletic clubs. The question of headquarters was not involved in any way, reference being made to the election had been denied them, there was no council in existence, the one nominated being properly ignored.

The Professional Dispute.

The Executive of the New Zealand A.A. (Invercargill) decided to declare the Wanganui Caledonian Society's meeting an unregistered meeting, and to disqualify all competitors thereat...

The N.Z. Sports Federation will be asked to endorse the disqualification, and those disqualified will not be permitted to take part in any class of sport affiliated to the Federation.

FOOTBALL.

Professionalism Discounted

The Scottish Rugby Union has cancelled its annual match with England, one of the six internationals for the Calcutta Cup which have been played without intermission since 1890.

The grounds of the cancellation are that the E.R.U. sanctioned payments to the All Blacks and Wallabies of a guinea per week each, in addition to their travelling and hotel expenses.

Mr. MacMahon, manager of the Wallabies, states that allowances to footballers on tour were unthought of in Australia until the visit of the Rev. Mullineux's team, the members of which all received daily allowances for expenses over and above the cost of board and travel.

Mr. MacMahon reminds the Scottish Union that the team captained by D. K. Bedell-Stevright, one of Scotland's foremost internationals, also received allowances during its tour of New Zealand and Australia.

The committee of the S.R.U. was unanimously of opinion that these payments are contrary to the principles of amateur football and amount to professionalism.

The Wallabies were simply following the English Union's rule, and they were confident that they were not infringing the laws of amateurism in any shape or form.

The Australian Footballers.

Batley defeated the Australian League players by 12 points to 5, the home team scoring three goals and two tries to the Australians' goal and a try.

The Wallabies beat a British and Chifon team by one goal and two tries (11 points) to one try (3 points).

SCULLING.

The Sculling Championship.

In conversation with an Ellitham "Argus" reporter, Arnd stated that he had heard Webb's people were prepared to put him forward in another match for the championship.

Fogwell-Welch Match.

In connection with the Fogwell-Welch match, to be rowed on Easter Monday at Akaroa, it is very probable that arrangements will be made for W. Webb to act as pacemaker and also trainer for Welch. The latter is very anxious to secure Webb's services, and there is every prospect of the ex-champion of the world assisting the Akaroa sculler.

ROWING.

West End Club's "At Home."

The trials fours rowed by the West End Club, Auckland, in connection with their at home, were won by G. L. Dixon's crew, who led H. Rowe's crew by a length, A. Carlaw's crew being third.

AQUATICS.

Royal N.Z. Yacht Squadron.

Rawene and Kotiri scr., Ngatira 14m., and Wairere 54m., were the only starters in the R.N.Z.Y.S. race on Saturday for the thirty feet and under class of yachts.

Ponsonby Cruising Club.

Ronaki finished first in the Ponsonby Cruising Club's ocean race on Saturday last, with Alva second and Gladly third, but on time allowance the placing was Ronaki and Gladly a tie for first prize and Alva third.

North Shore Rowing Club.

The final of the trial fours held on Saturday by the North Shore Rowing Club was won by T. Davis, G. Buchanan, P. Kessell, J. Williams, and A. Hongard (cox), who defeated W. Logan's crew by half a length the finish being a mere keen one.

Motor Launch Races.

The New Zealand Power Boat Association held a series of launch races in the Harbour on Saturday, for trophies presented by the vice-commodore (Mr. Jagger) and the rear-commodore (Col. White).

Under 7 knots: Mr. A. J. Parker's Cygnus, 1st; Mr. J. Cooper's Winif, 2nd; Mr. W. R. Twigg's Sport, 3rd. Also started: Eagle 3m, Euna 6m, Nelson 8m. The finishing times were: Cygnus 3h 2m 27s; Winif, 3h 4m 14s; Sport, 3h 5m 2s; Euna, 3h 5m 28s; Nelson, 3h 6m 58s; Euna, 3h 6m 58s; Eagle, 3h 13m 40s.

SWIMMING.

Waiatema Club's Carnival.

The Waiatema Swimming Club's third carnival of the season was held in the Albert-street baths, Auckland, at an attendance sufficient to tax the seating accommodation to the utmost.

Electric Handicap, 50 yds. — McLaren 1, Underwood 2. Six competed. A capital finish. Time 32s.

Novice Handicap, 50 yds. — Reid 1, Underwood 2. A well contested race. Time, 32.5s.

100 yds Championship of the Waiatema Club. — M. E. Champion 1, A. O'Hare 2, B. W. Kean 3. Six competed. From a beautiful start, Champion put himself in the lead by half a yard before 30 yards had been covered, and kept his advantage up to the 36 yards mark, where Kennott and Kean were both within a yard of him. Returning to the starting point, Champion easily maintained his own lead, and 75 yards had been covered, O'Hare had advanced to second position. Making for the tape O'Hare further increased his advantage over the third man (Kean), but Champion was more than equal to the reverse, and won easily by a yard and a half from O'Hare, who led Kean by little more than a head. Champion's time was 1m 6.25s, 2.25s longer than his own previous record of 65s for New Zealand, which he holds jointly with H. Creaghe (Dunedin). The world's record is held by C. M. Daniels (New York) whose time is 55.2.5s.

City Football Club No. 2, 1. Seven teams competed. A keen struggle ensued in this race, and the finish was very close.

Boys' Handicap, under 17. 50 yds. — F. Baker 1, Matthews and Stewart, dead heat, 2. Seven competed. Won on the tajs. Time 35s.

One Year Handicap, 72 yards. — Weston 1, Champion 2, Nisbet 3. One of the best races of the evening. Time 52s.

40 yds Championship of Waiatema Club (12 laps and 10 yards of baths). — M. J. Champion 1, S. W. Kean 2, P. J. Kennott 3. The only competitors. Champion was at once in the lead after a few yards had been covered, and the end of the second lap found him two yards ahead of Kean, who led Kennott by a similar distance. At 150 yards, Champion was 15 yards in front of the other two, who were now swimming abreast, these positions being unchanged as the 200 yard lap terminated. With Kean and Kennott still together, Champion, swimming easily, led by 20 yards at the eighth lap, and 25 at the tenth, winning the race by that margin. Kean, who had left Kennott during the eleventh lap, was seven yards in front of the third man. Champion's time was 6m 23s, as beyond his previous New Zealand record of 6m 35s.

Fifteen-minute Handicap, 100 yds. — C. Weaver, 13s, 1. S. Dickey, scratch, 2. Won very easily. Time, 54.1.5s.

Balloon Race. — Francis 1.

Suspended.

Zoltan de Halmey, the Hungarian swimmer, who formerly held the 220 yards amateur swimming championship of Great Britain, has been suspended by the Hungarian Swimming Association for failing to attend a meeting of the association to answer questions regarding infringements of the laws of amateurism.

Australasian Championships.

In the Australasian swimming championships at Sydney, C. Healy (N.S.W.) won the 100 yards race in 58 3/4 sec., beating Hardwicke (N.S.W.) by 2 1/2 yards, Beaurepaire (Vic.) won the half-mile race in 11 min. 36.2.5 sec., defeating Hardwicke by 40 yards.

BOXING.

Fitzsimmons is Reinstated.

This is how the American sporting writers refer to Fitzsimmons' return to the ring. "Fitzsimmons has escaped from the boneway again, and is on his way to Europe to collect 25,000 dollars for four fights. Two of the goes will be with those prize royal boots, Jim Roche and Gunner Moir. Well, nobody is sorry to see the old speckled trout grab a little cash in his old age. If the King wants to see a go between a centenarian and a hunk of cheese, he can have it as long as he pays for it. It's no use to tell a farmer that the brick he is buying is gilt-edged. It only makes him sore.

"But after this don't let any of the Kink's subjects say that this is a sucker's village. It's true that our fair city falls for some awful rough stuff now and then, but not anything like this. The municipal hook may be a little rusted from the want of use, but if Rully Robert and Gunner Moir should knock at our gates the harpoon-thrower would surely answer the clamour of the people and do his duty.

"However, we shouldn't worry. The laugh is on the Kink. It's his money, and Robert can use it. We don't care who he put the bee on as long as we're not stung."

VOLUNTEER NOTES

(By RIFLEMAN.)

The Engineers go into camp at Fort Cartley on the 23rd inst., and will remain under canvas for 16 days.

Sol. Sgt. Gibson, of the Victoria Rifles, has resigned from active service in the corps, and will go on the reserve strength.

It is stated that in all probability payment will be made to all volunteers who attended the Easter manuvres this year, irrespective of the proportion of company strength attending.

Capt. Carpenter, A.A.G., will probably visit Cambridge on or about Friday, the 22nd inst., for the purpose of examining those officers who are up for promotion on their practical knowledge of military duties.

A meeting of the officers commanding squadrons of the 2nd Regiment A.M.R. will be held in Hamilton on Friday, February 12, when, amongst other matters, arrangements for the Easter and annual training camps will be made.

The detachment of No. 3 Company A.G.A. have returned from their trip to the Kaitiaki and Maketu districts, after a very successful and enjoyable visit, during which they competed in several rifle matches.

Several promotions take effect this week in No. 1 Company Garrison Artillery. Corporal West becomes sergeant, Gunner Marshall becomes corporal, and Gunners Cockrane and Hipkins have been raised to the rank of bombardiers.

The examinations for the No. 2 Co. Garrison Artillery take place on the last Monday of this month. The company is also holding paid daylight parades on Saturdays, the first being on the 23rd inst. The company is taking the company through the annual camp, which commences on February 5.

Captain Richardson, artillery instructor for the Dominion, will arrive in Auckland on the 22nd inst. at the company's (Garrison Artillery) camp, which commences at Fort Bastion this week. He will remain through the camps of Nos. 2 and 3 Companies, the former at Fort Cartley and the latter at Maketu, Takapuna, both being under canvas together.

As a result of the win by the Victoria Rifles No. 3 team of the championship in the teams' match at the recent rifle meeting, the Auckland Rifle Club will be the first and second teams of the corps are on the move to arrange a re-trial of marksmanship, the team with the lowest score to find a shooting trophy for the corps.

Col. Bell, O.C. the Second Regiment A.M.R., is at present on a tour of inspection in the Waiatema of the Government Property in the possession of the regiment. Some time ago, the New Zealand Defence Council invited applications from officers of the defence forces who were desirous of proceeding to England to undergo a twelve-month course of military instruction, with a view to being promoted to the New Zealand and instructional staff. Three applications have already been received from local officers. It should be repeated that all such applications must be received by the O.C.D. before the time of their arrival at Wellington by February 25th.

With the approach of the Garrison Artillery camps, attention is once more directed to the duty of the members to make themselves thoroughly acquainted with the recent circular (dated October 24th, 1908), from Captain Richardson, artillery instructor, who has travel much to say in the way of instruction and advice as regards the annual encampment. Lieutenant-Colonel Patterson, O.C. Garrison Artillery, is desirous of all giving special attention to the study of the remarks made by Captain Richardson in this connection.

Some 83 applications (including officers) have been received by the promoters, for enrolment in the new Highland Rifle Corps, for which arrangements are under way, and, as this will be proving for the first time considerably the required number, the nucleus of a second company is expected to remain after the first is formed. Mr. P. M. Mackay, who is actively participating in the work of formation, states that the uniform selected is that of the 42nd (Black Watch), and that the probable date for the acceptance of the new corps, which will be known as the Auckland Highland Rifles, will be within two or three weeks.

A White Paper recently issued by the War Office, gives particulars of the amounts granted by colonial Governments to their rifle associations. In it may be seen how much more thorough is the system of encouragement to shooting overseas than it is at home. Canada gives an average of 32 million dollars annually, nearly one-half of which goes to the Canada Rifle Association, whose teams do so well at Bisley, and who produce such a network of marksmanship-instructors throughout the Dominion. This association also receives 100,000 pounds of ammunition free. New Zealand gives its chief association £600, and when a team is selected for Bisley, a special grant of £1650 is usually made. Australia has spent an average of £8000 a year during the last few seasons in grants to clubs, quite apart from ammunition and other advantages. The Cape of Good Hope gives £2500; the Transvaal, £1000; Ceylon, 500 rupees; East Africa keeps up a voluntary rifle association of £2100 last year; Hongkong, £20,000 dollars; Jamaica, £525; Nyasaland, £100; and Rhodesia, £2200.

VOLUNTEER RIFLE CLUB.

FORMED IN AUCKLAND.

Some time ago Captain J. Potter, of the A Squadron, 1st Regiment, Auckland Mounted Rifles, was approached by members of several volunteer corps in Auckland, with a view to the formation of a Volunteer Rifle Club. The project took practical form at a meeting of the Shooting Committee of the A Squadron, held last week,

when it was decided to form a club, to be known as the Auckland Volunteer Rifle Club.

The objects of the club are to promote shooting matches every Saturday during the season for trophies on the Penrose Range. All members of corps in Auckland are invited to assist in the promotion of the club, and it is expected that the club will undoubtedly prove of immense advantage to volunteers generally throughout the district. A meeting has been fixed to take place on the second week in August, 1909, when a committee will be elected, each corps affiliated to have an equal number of representatives. The annual subscription has been suggested as 5s for each corps, and every member of such corps may compete free at all matches, the entrance fee being 10s for each member of a volunteer corps not affiliated. All further information may be obtained from Captain Potter, to whom applications should be made for affiliation.

It is sincerely to be trusted that adequate support will be offered by the members of the various corps in this worthy object. The advantages to be derived in the promotion of such a scheme are so generally over-estimated, and the weekly shooting matches, open to all members of the affiliated clubs, and, on payment of an entrance fee, to other volunteers, will afford extensive opportunities of acquiring marksmanship. Proficiency will, I am sure, be soon forthcoming, and it may be regarded as certain that, with such chances offering, rifle shooting is bound to go ahead rapidly, together with the growth and progress of marksmanship. All interested in the work will undoubtedly join in wishing the new club every success.

EASTER ENCAMPMENT.

I learn from Colonel Wolfe, O.C.D., that, subject to the approval of the chief of the general staff, the site for the Easter Encampment was last week definitely fixed for New Lynn. The situation in the vicinity here (Colonel Wolfe states) very kindly afforded all assistance, by according permission for the use of their land, and a good camping ground has been arranged for about a mile from New Lynn station, towards the south. As stated in this column last week, the camp will this year partake more of an instructional nature with regard to tactics and defence, and it is probable that the manoeuvres may extend even as far out as Henderson. It will thus be seen that the camp will this year be much more conveniently situated for purposes of both instruction and transport than was the case last year. The units concentrate on the Thursday, April 8th, and commence work on the Friday.

A meeting of the proposed Auckland South African Scouts was held last week in the Drill Hall. Correspondence was read by Capt. Colbeck, intimating that the services of the corps could only be accepted by the defence officer on the understanding that the corps be attached to and part of the present regiment of Auckland Mounted Rifles. There are 60 men who saw service during the South African war who have sent in their names as willing to serve in a Scouts Corps, but they are not in favour of being attached to any other body. It is stated that there are already one or two independent corps in Auckland, and these men claim that if they are willing to serve as scouts, they should not be compelled to attach themselves to any other corps. The meeting decided to make further effort to have what the men desired agreed to, and for that purpose it was arranged that a deputation should wait upon Mr. W. B. Leyland, as president of the National Defence League, to see if he could do anything in the direction of having the services retained for the defence of the Dominion of men who had seen actual service in the field. The meeting decided that it could not serve under the conditions set forth in the correspondence, and forwarded a request that the New Zealand Defence Council should reconsider its decision in the matter.

ONE THING AT A TIME.

The passionate rhythms of "The Merry Widow" waltz floated through the office, and the boss looked up from his desk impatiently. "Frederic," he said, "I wish you wouldn't whistle at your work. 'I ain't workin', sir,' the office boy retorted calmly. 'I'm only just whistlin'."

Tunnelling the Alps.

A lot of interesting information is contributed to "Chambers' Journal" for October by Mr. H. G. Archer on the railway constructed and projected through the Alps. The following are great Alpine tunnels at present constructed:—Mont Cenis (1857-70), 7 miles 1,730 yards; St. Gotthard (1872-80), 9 miles 469 yards; Arberg (1878-83), 6 miles 550 yards; Albula (1899-1903), 3 miles 1,150 yards; Simplon (1898-1905) 12 miles 537 yards. It will be obvious that a high level tunnel through the immense barriers formed by the Alpine ranges entails long and steeply-graded ascents to its portals. The Mont Cenis tunnel has a maximum altitude of 4,248 feet above sea-level. The highest point reached by the St. Gotthard tunnel is 3,787 feet. The Arberg line has climbed up to an altitude of 4,300 feet by the time the centre of the tunnel is reached, and its approaches are almost as steep as those on the St. Gotthard. But while the Simplon tunnel is the least steeply graded, and therefore the most economical to operate, of any transalpine railway so far constructed, the tunnel itself achieves a fresh record in respect of depth. The depth of its axis beneath the surface averages 3,740 feet, and where the frontier between Switzerland and Italy is crossed attains the phenomenal depth of 7,000 feet. The deepest point in the St. Gotthard tunnel is 6,076 feet, in the Mont Cenis 4,900 feet, and in the Arberg 1,600 feet.

The cost of the Simplon tunnel (says Mr. Archer) as at present constructed, was £3,120,000. During the short time that has elapsed since it was opened such an enormous stream of traffic has flowed along the new route that it has been decided at once to proceed with the duplication of the line by enlarging the auxiliary tunnel to its full dimensions, which task will occupy about three years and cost another £1,000,000, and also with shortening the approaches from the north.

What is known as the Loetschberg railway, will be a fifth great Alpine tunnel, piercing the Bernese Alps. The object of the Loetschberg line is to shorten the approaches to the Simplon from central Switzerland, Germany, and north-western Europe generally. The south-bound traveller who enters the Continent at Calais or Boulogne will no longer pass through Paris on the other hand, he will be borne through Berne, the capital of Switzerland. By this means the length of the direct journey between Calais and Milan will be shortened from 725 miles to 672 1/2 miles, while that between Paris and Milan will become 511 miles instead of 523 miles in length. The great tunnel will pierce the Schafberg, a peak 8,440 feet in height, and pass underneath the Gastern valley and the Loetschberg Pass, emerging at Goppenstein, in the lower part of the latter pass. The distance from portal to portal is 8.53 miles, and the alignment of the perforation is dead straight. At the summit of the perforation, which reaches an altitude of 4,900 feet above sea-level, there will be a perfectly long stretch, where, if necessity arises, trains can be shunted or transferred from one track to the other. The total length of the Loetschberg railway from Frutigen to Baron will be 20 1/2 miles; and besides the great tunnel there will be thirty-three others, forming about 22 per cent. of the total length of the line of access to the former. The entire contract has been let by a syndicate of Parisian capitalists for the sum of £3,500,000 sterling, and the work must be completed and ready for traffic by 1st September, 1911.

A Deaf and Dumb Band.

The only brass band in the world whose members are deaf and dumb is in America. This remarkable band belongs to the New York Institution for the Deaf and Dumb. To teach a person who is afflicted in this way to play an instrument and get him to understand something of musical notation, would appear at first an impossible task, and it was only accomplished after many months of patience, being of necessity taught with the utmost exactness, the pupils developed a confidence of execution not found in the average musical student. Certain rules were laid down which the deaf-mute had to follow explicitly; and the result was absolute correctness in playing.



In exchange for this advt. we will present you a copy of "The Librarian" free of charge. It contains a list of all the books in the library of the Librarian, and is a most valuable work. It is published by the Librarian, 18, Baker Street, London, W.

Music and Drama

The concert of the Royal Welsh Singers is in progress in Auckland, while the paper is in the Press, and any detailed criticism must therefore be left till a later issue. One thing, however, may be said with certitude, and at once, that never before in the Dominion have our people had a chance of hearing such singing. It is admittedly as near perfection as could be demanded by the most exacting, and comes as a perfect revelation to the average music lover. The success of the New Zealand tour is a foregone conclusion, and the one and only trouble is to make sure of a seat at one or other of the performances. To do this it is necessary to act promptly, for there is going to be a rush, not only in Auckland, but everywhere; so be prepared.

In Auckland, at the Opera House, West's Pictures, running in opposition to two other moving picture shows, not to mention the Williamson Musical Comedy Company, have contrived to do good business. The show is certainly a good one, the pictures being well selected, and the inevitable chase films having a soupçon of originality to help them through. The appetite for this class of picture is apparently insatiable, and the management cannot be blamed for gratifying it; but it is a pity all the same. The continued vogue of the cinematograph is resulting in our being able to recognise, and welcome, the chief actors who take part. This is noticeable in the Pathe films, which rise head and shoulders above those of all rivals. The "jeune premier" in several of their comedy films is easily picked out. He is a most capable actor with a simply marvellous capacity for facial play.

Looking-glass luck has, after all, proved true in the case of Mr Bert Gilbert, who broke a mirror during his shooting gag in "Jack and Jill" on the first night. He was much cast down thereat, though Mr Gerard Coventry heartened him up with the tale of a ladybird that crawled all over the script the first day he opened it. Now he has to acknowledge the truth of the superstition, for, only a few nights after, he was out of the cast through illness, and remained out for nearly a week. He is back now, as well as ever, but with his "corrected impressions on old wives' tales" re-corrected to the original.

After long and arduous study in the Old World Miss Vera French who, before she reached her teens, left New Zealand with her violin in search of fame, has made the name it was prophesied she would, and now she is about to return to the land of her birth, under the aegis of no less an artist than Melba. Miss French, who was born in Auckland, is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. E. French, and niece of Mr. George Ellis, of Repurua, and will be remembered by musical people as playing in Herr Zimmerman's orchestra at the early age of six. She showed such remarkable talent that she was sent home to receive adequate tuition, and soon justified the confidence reposed in her. When she was twelve she secured the highest possible number of marks at the R.A.M. London examination, and carried off the gold medal, which had not been won for three years, and since then she has gone on advancing in her art. She made a most successful debut in London, and gained the praise of many eminent critics. The "London Standard" said of her: "After studying with Sevcik, Miss French was a pupil of Samoilin's, and has acquired the freedom and accuracy of technique which these celebrated masters impart to their pupils, and moreover, she possesses a refined and graceful style, which should place her very high in the ranks of contemporary violinists. She was heard in two concertos, namely, Mozart's in E flat major, and Vieuxtemps's in F sharp minor, in addition to a Bach aria and pieces by Esaye and Wieniawski. Her performances of these showed that she has distinct gifts of technique and expression, as well as a musical temperament, which make her interpretations artistic. Her tone is of silvery sweetness,

while a feature of her playing is its grace and refinement." Miss French has been chosen by Melba as her violinist for her colonial tour this year, and it goes without saying that the young New Zealander will be warmly welcomed home.

Grace Le Rue, a well-known actress, will never allow a dressmaker to design any of her gowns, as she maintains that she knows best what she can wear. She makes elaborate water colour drawings of her ideas, and stands over the modiste while they are being executed.

"Jack and Jill" is so crammed full of good things (writes Mr George Tallis) that the spectator is lost in bewilderment as to when the procession is to stop. Every ten minutes or so some mystifying novelty like the faceograph, that gigantic countenance of a merry, laughing girl, or the surf bathing illusion, sets him wondering how it is done, or an extraordinary mechanical change, like the change of the seasons, with its marvellously rapid alternations from winter to summer and back again, and the magic hill, in which the impression of climbing upwards is so cleverly conveyed, wins from the audience spontaneous and unstinted applause. Then, too, there is the unexpected appearance of that huge fowl, that Mr Walter Stanton "impersonates," so realistically, the surprise of the giant family's entrance, the appearance of Mr Bert Gilbert down the chimney of Shoe Villa in a cloud of soot, the resurrection of the scarecrow, and a dozen other novel effects, that add a piquancy and point to the general performance. In short, of "Jack and Jill" it may be said with truthfulness, that it is the unexpected which always happens.

Mr Bland Holt has had at Oamaru something like a repetition of his Adelaide experience when he rode a bicycle off the stage, and tumbled over into the stalls. On Wednesday last, during the performance of "The Great Millionaire," in the last act in the scene which introduces a race between two motor-cars, the first car got across the stage safely, but the pursuing car, the occupants of which were Mr Bland Holt and Mr Maxwell, got out of hand, and instead of stopping in the middle of the stage, made straight for the footlights. Mr Maxwell jumped out and tried to hold the car, but Mr Holt stuck to the steering wheel, and with the car dashed over into the stalls. The car turned a complete somersault, with Mr Holt underneath, and fell with a terrific crash into the stalls. Mr Holt had received a severe shaking, a cut on the forehead, and a bruised shoulder. The accident caused something of a panic, particularly in the front stalls, where ladies screamed and fainted. In the pit forms were broken by people trying to get to the windows. The orchestra-rail was smashed, and the musician who was playing the double-bass had a narrow escape, the car rolling almost on top of him. The car was lifted back on to the stage and the play proceeded as if nothing unusual had happened. Mr Holt, who had had such a narrow escape, met with a great reception on his reappearance. Mr Holt spent rather a bad night, but he is expected to be quite recovered in a few days.

Mr Cairns James, the well-known professor of elocution, lectured to the London section of the Incorporated Society of Musicians and maintained that modulation or inflexion in speech was founded on a wholly musical basis. Numbers of people would say they were not musical, but whether they knew it or not they were accustomed to use musical effects in the ordinary inflexions of the voice. All speech was musical, although in many cases it did not seem to be so. The ordinary individual who made use of the upward inflexion in asking a question was actually producing a musical variation of tone. A great deal, he continued, could be learned from the close observation of children's speech. Children employed speech naturally, and used a most astonishing amount of modulation or inflexion. Music appropriate to the sentiments of a speech was easily heard and appreciat-

ed by the audience. According to the inflexions of the voice so the speaker suggested the thoughts to his audience, and if he insisted on not using proper inflexions, he could not hope to make the audience feel that what he said had any conviction in it whatever.

A scheme for the establishment of a Shakespeare Memorial National Theatre is being prepared in London. The details of the scheme are not yet divulged, but it may be said that a public fund is contemplated, and that the committee believe it possible that someone will endow the proposed theatre with whatever sum may be required afterwards. Two sub-committees appointed to work out the details of the new scheme include among their members Lord Lytton, Lord Escher, Mr. Arthur W. Pinero, and Mr. Bernard Shaw.

After a brilliant two years in Australia and New Zealand, with Mr. J. C. Williamson, Harry Phydora had not been in London two weeks before business took him to America, where a most deplorable motor accident happening to his principal, he was quite unexpectedly free for Christmas; but not for long. Immediately it became known, Mr. Brammall, acting for his syndicate, put the cables at work, the result being Phydora engaged at a very large salary to play the Nurse in "Fishes in the Wood" at the Shakespeare Theatre, Clapham, making his third (not consecutive) season at this house.

"I have seen two great plays in Paris," Mr. Charles Frohman said to a London "Standard" representative on November 15, "Bernstein's 'Israel' and the detective and gentleman thief play, 'Arsene Lupin,' and I have secured them for the English-speaking world. This fact has already been announced, but I will now tell you why the two plays are great. Bernstein is the Sardou of to-day, so far as the suspense is concerned, and I think he goes the late great dramatist one better, because he builds his climaxes without melodrama—he builds naturally. His dialogue also is natural and true. The cry to-day is that we have no big melodramas, and the reason in my mind, is that the builders of melodrama have not advanced with the builders of the modern natural plays. If you could get Bernstein to write a melodrama, the stage would secure just that modern touch that is required to make melodrama big at the present time.

To have written three hundred compositions, including overtures, string quartets, songs, and a comic opera, is a feat which anyone would be proud of achieving.

Yet this has been accomplished by little George Szell, the wonderful eleven-year-old boy musician, of Budapest, who made his first appearance in England at the Albert Hall recently as a pianist and composer.

In spite of this enormous mass of work—and he is also said to have sung forty songs when he was eighteen months old—young Szell does not seem to have suffered.

His talents as a pianist are of no small order. He has acquired an excellent technique and an admirable sense of expressing his feelings.

His powers of theme-development and mastery of orchestration are astonishing in one so young. He claims an intimate knowledge of every instrument in the orchestra.

There can be no doubt as to the work being his own creation, for proof is afforded in the shape of an original theme which was given him as a test, and which he at once cleverly improvised in the forms of a concert-overture, polonaise, and minuet.

The reception which the great audience gave the little fair-haired maestro was one of intense enthusiasm.

By the last English mail, Messrs. J. and N. Tait received the news of the death of Mr Walter Brearley, who was a member of the Bosses of the Barn Band, and on the recent tour of Australia and New Zealand by this organisation, made many friends in this part of the world. Mr Brearley died in Manchester some few weeks ago.

At the Christchurch singing competition, Mr. J. Cutheart, of Wellington, won the gold medal for his singing of a Scottish song. "A good tenor voice, and a good reading," was the judge's verdict.

Miss Meredith Meredro, principal boy of Meynell and Gunn's "Cinderella" pantomime at the Theatre Royal, Melbourne, receives many letters of all sorts every day. Some are missives from admirers; many express the admiration of young girls who would like to be on the stage, and ask how to get there; many others request autographs or photos. Miss Meredro feels rather particular about giving away her autograph promiscuously. She once gave her signature on a sheet of paper, enclosed with the letter, and shortly after she discovered that the recipient had written above it, "Pay to bearer the sum of fifty pounds," and presented it at her bank.

In their efforts to help British composers and to popularise their works, Messrs. Jan and Boris Hambourg have hit upon a most novel and interesting idea. Some time ago they selected an old Irish folk-song, "The Londonderry Air," as a theme for a composition, each part of which was to be the work of a separate composer. Thus, Mr. Frank Bridge wrote the Introduction and Allegro, Mr. Hamilton Harty a Scherzo movement, Mr. J. D. Davies a movement of variations, Mr. Eric Coates a "Tempo di Minuetto," and Mr. York Bowen the Finale.

Bernard Shaw's "Arms and the Man" has been made into an operetta under the title of "The Brave Soldier," with text by Herr Jacobsohn, and music by Oscar Strauss. It was produced with success at Vienna, the composer and artists being repeatedly called before the curtain.

Mr. Charles Carter, the New Zealand tenor, who has been successful with the Moody-Manners Company, was last month in London taking part in the opera, "Madame Butterfly" as Lieutenant Pinkerton.



Spencer Pianos

HAVE BEEN SUPPLIED TO THE FOLLOWING

MEN-OF-WAR.

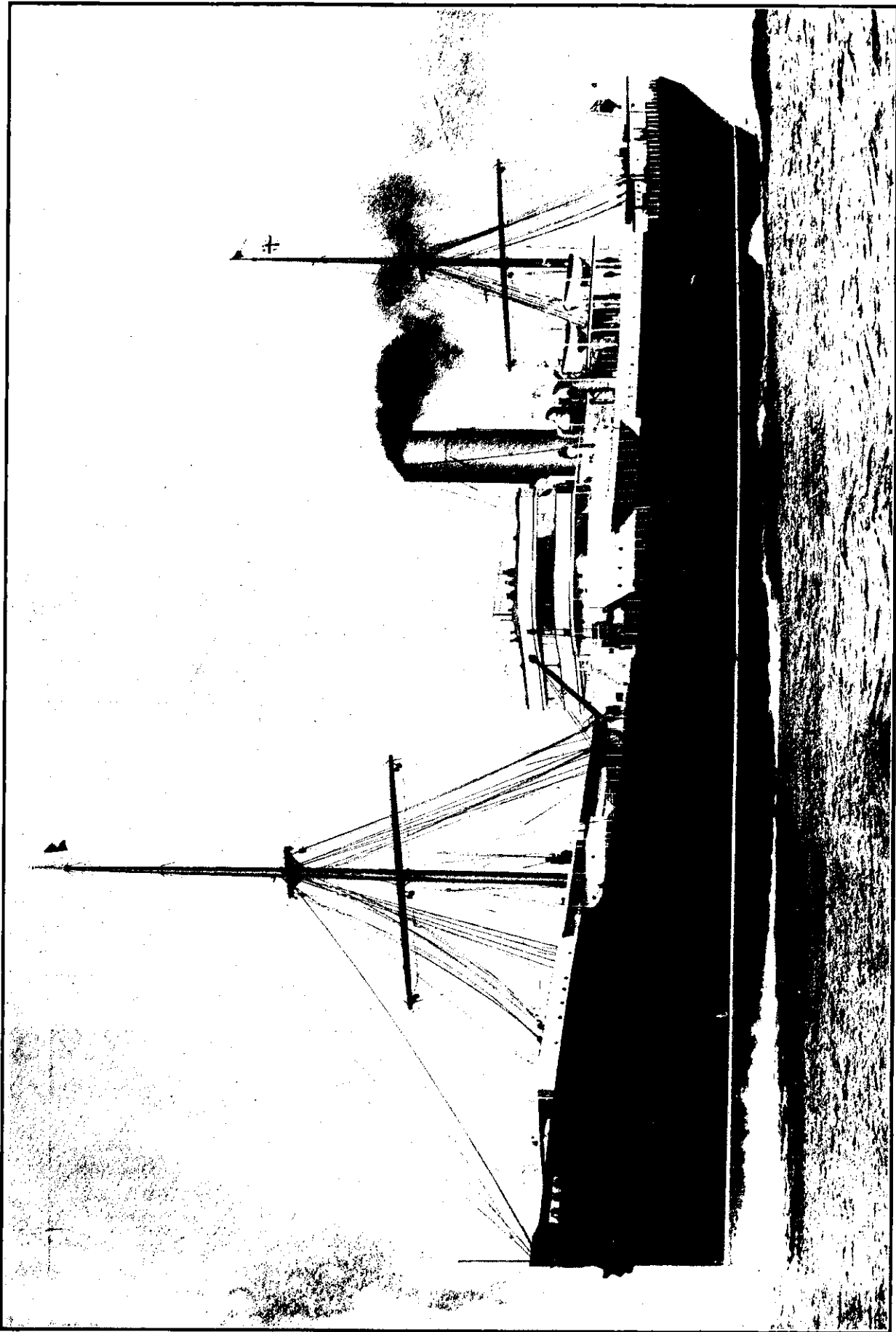
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|--------------------|--------------------|
| H.M.S. "Albatross" | H.M.S. "Hindustan" |
| "Albatross" | "Indefatigable" |
| "Andromeda" (3) | "Ironclad" |
| "Argonaut" | "Jupiter" |
| "Ariane" | "Kent" (2) |
| "Barham" | "King Alfred" |
| "Barwick" | "Majestic" |
| "Canopus" | "Pembroke" |
| "Centurion" | "Pomona" |
| "Comuswealth" | "Prince" |
| "Creedy" | "Purwarf" |
| "Diadem" | "Prince of Wales" |
| "Drake" | "Prince George" |
| "Dread" (3) | "Requin" |
| "Esmouthe" (3) | "Russell" |
| "Gladiator" | "Spartiate" |
| "Glorious" | "Superb" |
| "Good Hope" | "Sutlej" |
| "Goith" | "Terrible" |
| "Griffin" | "Thesus" |
| "Hecate" | "Venerable" |
| "Hermes" | "Vindictive" |

Also H.M.S. "DREADNOUGHT."

SOLE AGENTS FOR THESE PIANOS:

LONDON AND BERLIN PIANO COY.

215-217 QUEEN STREET.



THE NEW ZEALAND SHIPPING COMPANY'S NEW TRIPLE-SCREW TURBINE STEAMER, WHICH ARRIVED ON HER MAIDEN VOYAGE TO THE DOMINION ON SUNDAY.

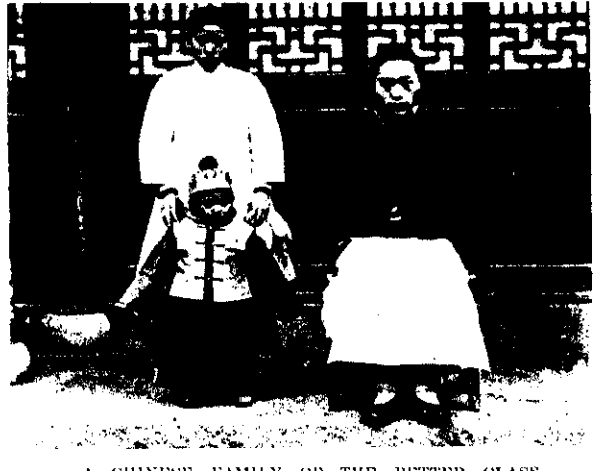
The *Oraki* is a triple-screw steamer, two wing propellers being driven by duplicate sets of reciprocating triple-expansion engines, which exhaust into a low-pressure steam turbine, and provide the power for driving a central screw. In connection with the trials of the vessel an additional point of interest resulted in the fact that the owners were able to draw a convincing comparison between the performance of the *Oraki* and those of two of their earlier ships, the *Orari* and the *Opawa*, under exactly similar conditions, the average mean speed of the *Oraki* on trial being 13.02 knots, and of the *Orari* and *Opawa* 14.6. The hulls of the three vessels, each of which is about 11,000 tons gross, are absolutely identical.

Everyday Life in the Flowery Land.

These interesting little Snapshots of the Chinaman at Home were taken by Lieut. Col. G. W. S. Patterson during his extensive tour through out of the way districts in this much discussed country.



AN OLD IDENTITY.



A CHINESE FAMILY OF THE BETTER CLASS.



THE SORT OF ARTICLE THE CHINESE ARMY IS TURNING OUT.



A BUDDHIST MONK IN DISGRACE.

This form of punishment is peculiar to the east, and is called the Kang.

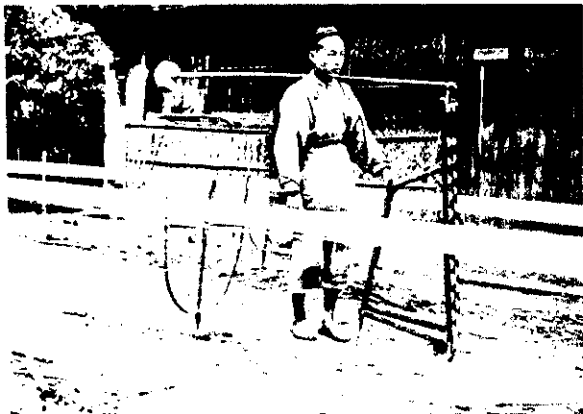


TEA SELLERS.

A cup of tea in China costs a cash, a brass coin with a square hole in it, and it takes 200 cash to make a two-shilling piece.



BEAUTIFULLY DECORATED GATEWAY AT THE ENTRANCE TO A MANDARIN'S PALACE.



A SOOCHOW SILK WEAVER AT HIS LOOM.



SPINNING SILK FROM THE COCOON.

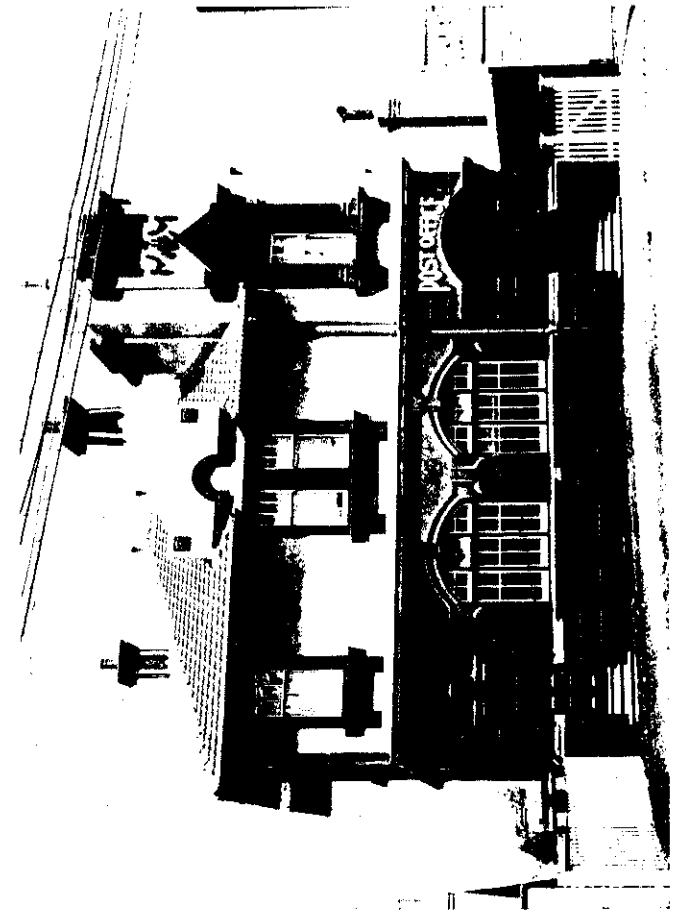
much favour, not only amongst Blenheim people, but amongst outside communities. Agents for the Crown Cement Company, they retailed 1,000 barrels during the last quarter. Recognising that rough timber was the coming commodity, Messrs. Bythell and Co. immediately secured the agency of Millar's West Australian Hardware Co., and they are doing satisfactory trade in that. In all of these works this eminent firm employs over 60 hands, and it is to this

A Blenheim Representative Industry.

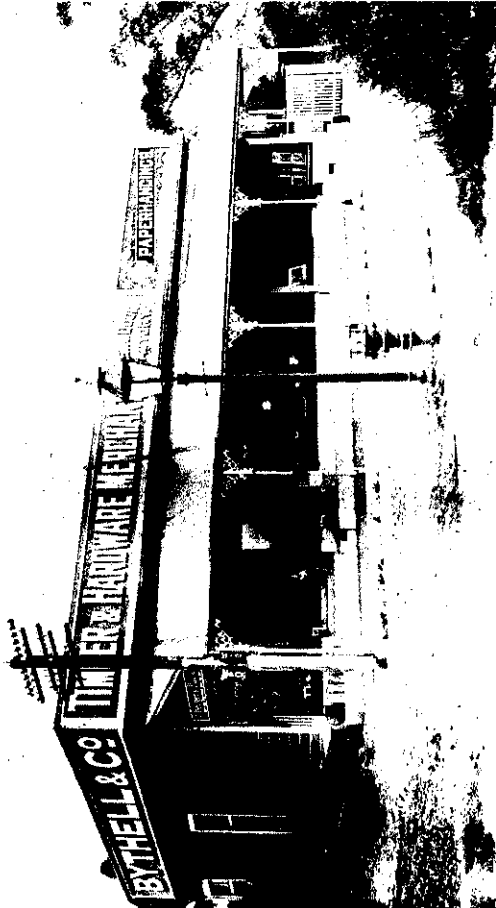
Covering a frontage to Maxwell-road of 200ft and two acres of land for the timber yards, the very handsome establishment of that up-to-date firm, Messrs. Bythell and Co., cannot fail to arrest the attention of all passing that way. The firm, which runs the Blenheim Sash and Door Factory—a factory well found in Hornsby-Street 37 h.p. gas engine, which, on a 50ft shaft, effectually drives, under the expert eye of Mr. Hodson (foreman) all the different machinery used for planing, morticing, tenoning, shaping, round and saw-hand, ripping, emery wheels, grindstone for tool-sharpening; also getting rid by an overhead tube contrivance of all chips, shavings and dust; also turns out to the infinite satisfaction of clients contracts for well-sinking, artistic sawing, and manufactures water-tanks, boxes, windmills, frames, pictures, and provides everything required in house-building. They also manufacture riving, down-pipes, etc., and hold their own patent for a spotting bracket, which is finding



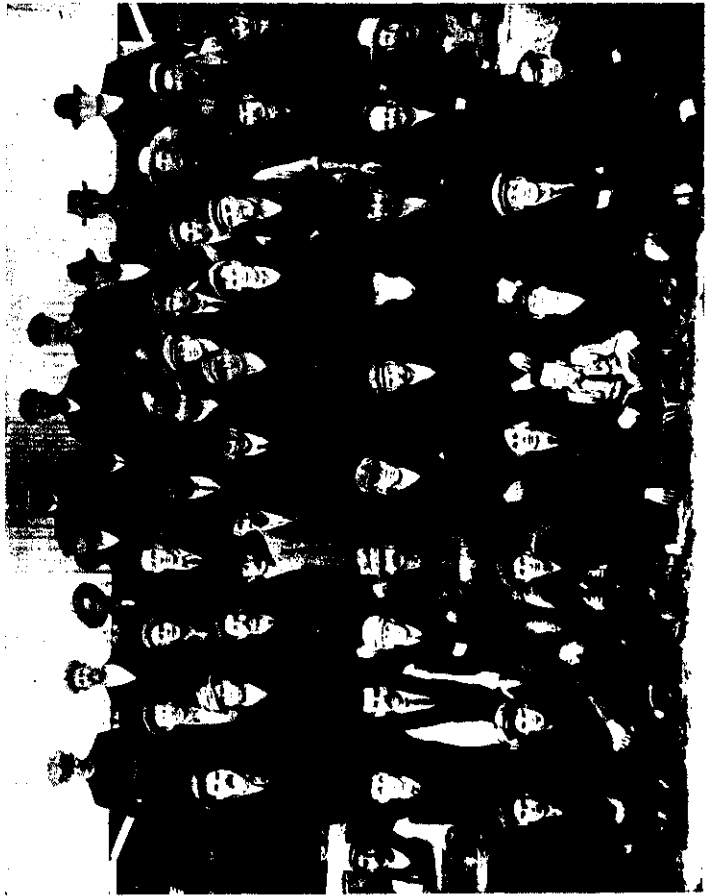
THE VERY SUCCESSFUL NORTH WARD FOOTBALL TEAM, WILKINGBRIE.



THE NEW POST OFFICE, NEWMARKET, RECENTLY OPENED FOR BUSINESS.



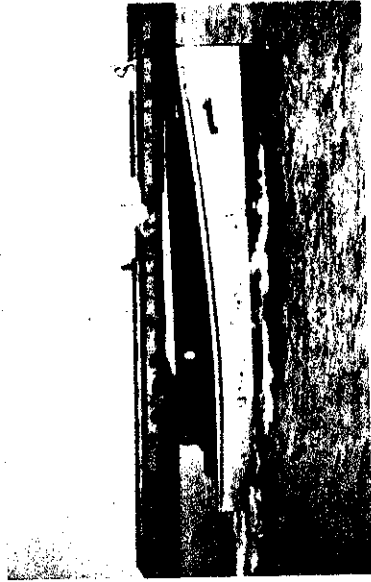
MESSRS. BYTHELL AND COMPANY'S HANDSOME BUSINESS PREMISES, BLENHEIM.



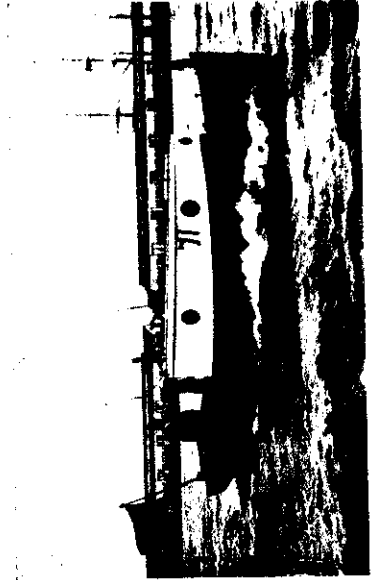
McCosker, photo. EMPLOYEES AT MESSRS. BYTHELL AND COMPANY'S TIMBER MILL AND FACTORY, BLENHEIM.



MR. J. REDDS SEABIRD—which won the race for boats over 8 knots, from scratch.



MR. BROOKFIELDS IMPERIAL—second under 8 knots.



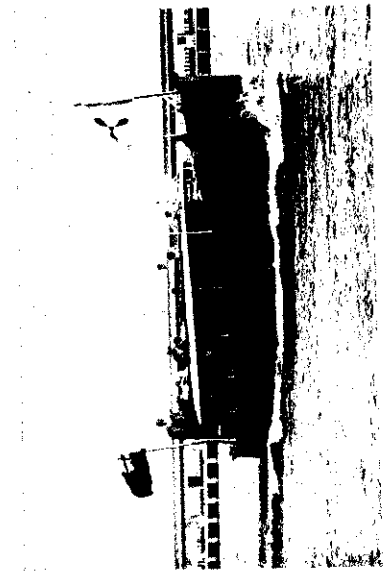
MR. LOCKIE'S BLUEBELL—second under 6 knots.



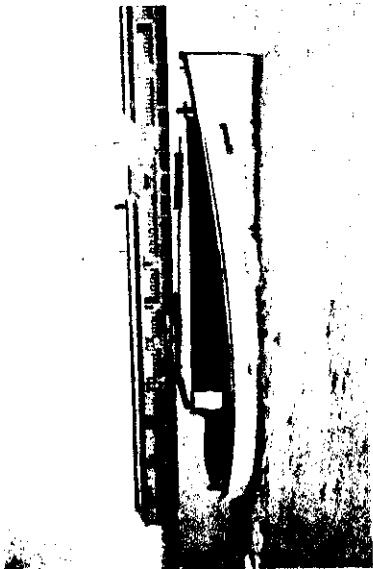
MR W. R. TWIGGS SPORT—Third under 7 knots.



MR. J. COOPER'S WINNIE—second under 7 knots.



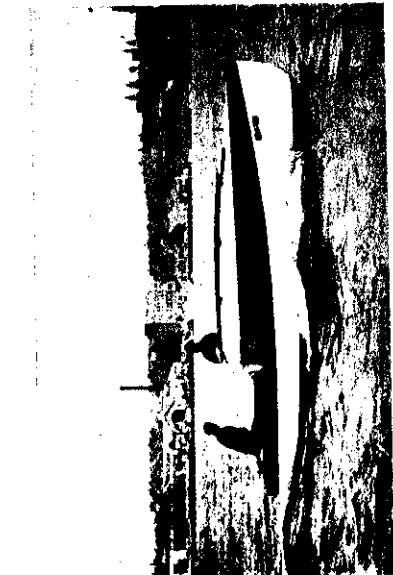
COMMODORE A. BRETTS ALLEYNE—second in race for boats over 8 knots.



MR. C. BAILEYS ALICE—first under 8 knots.



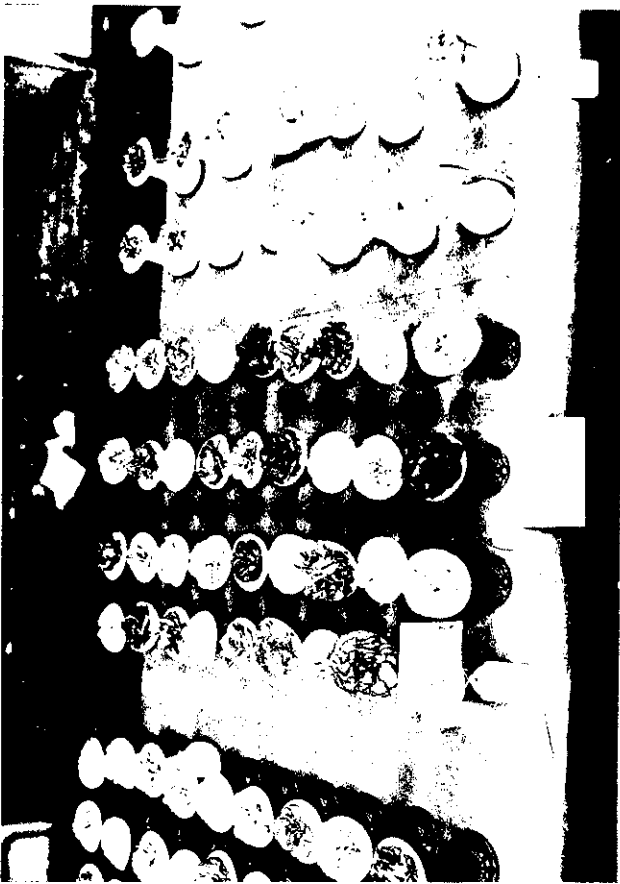
MR. DRYLANDS PERFECTION—first under 6 knots.



MR. A. J. PARKER'S CYANET—first under 7 knots.

MOTOR-BOAT RACING—THE EVER-INCREASING POPULAR AQUATIC SPORT IN AUCKLAND.

SOME PLACED BOATS IN LAST SATURDAY'S CONTESTS.



MR. H. A. FOX'S FIRST PRIZE EXHIBIT OF 36 BLOOMS, INCLUDING CHAMPION BLOOM "LARA," SHOWN IN THE CENTRE WITH CARD.



A GENERAL VIEW OF THE SHOW. See Our Illustrations.



ONE OF THE SWEET PEA TABLES, 130 FEET LONG.



ONE OF THE ROSE TABLES.

Muir and Muirday, photo.

WELLINGTON ROSE AND CARNATION CLUB SHOW.

Diamond Wedding Celebration.

We hear occasionally of "Golden Weddings," but it is seldom indeed that the term of matrimonial happiness extends to sixty years. The rare event of a Diamond Jubilee, however, was celebrated by Mr. and Mrs. John McLean, of Auckland, last week. Mr. McLean, founder of the well-known firm of railway and marine contractors, John McLean and Sons, was born in Argyshire, Scotland, 84 years ago. He went to Cape Breton, Canada, in early life, with his parents, and came to New Zealand in 1860 in the "Helen Lewis," with a party of 240 special settlers from Nova Scotia, who were pioneers to this country by the Rev. Norman McLeod. After arrival he entered into various employments, took his share in the country's defence during the Maori War, and tried his luck, with not much financial success, at mining upon the opening of the Thames goldfields. Nearly forty years ago Mr. McLean entered upon the



Bullitt, photo.
MR. AND MRS. JOHN McLEAN, OF AUCKLAND.

Who celebrated their diamond wedding last week.

business of contractor, more especially in connection with the construction of bridges and wharves, admitting his sons, Murdoch and Neil, into partnership at a later period. The progress of the firm has been uninterrupted ever since, until it now stands at the head of the list of New Zealand contractors, having in hand works representing a million pounds sterling, including the Otira Tunnel, the largest work of its kind south of the equator; a big graving dock and a ferro-concrete wharf at Wellington, and other important contracts. The venerable partner of Mr. McLean's fortunes is now in her 83rd year, being one year younger than her husband. Of the considerable number of married people who arrived by the "Helen Lewis" in 1860, many of them younger than Mr. and Mrs. McLean, they alone remain united, and both are hale and active considering their advanced years. Many messages of friendly congratulation from all parts of New Zealand were received on the occasion of the happy celebration.



VETERINARY SURGEONS PRESENT AT THE PROFESSIONAL BANQUET TENDERED TO MR. J. A. GILRUTH IN WELLINGTON, PRIOR TO HIS DEPARTURE FROM THE DOMINION.

FRONT ROW: Messrs. P. M. Edgar (Wanganui), J. Kerrigan (Dunedin), C. J. Reakes (Acting-Chief Veterinarian), J. A. Gilruth, J. G. Clayton (Christchurch), A. R. Young (New Plymouth), G. Spillman (Petone).
BACK ROW: Messrs. H. S. S. Kyle (Auckland, Christchurch), H. A. Reid (Wellington), C. J. Sanderson (Ashburton), T. G. Lilloe (Hastings).



NEW ZEALAND'S PUBLIC SERVICE DEPARTMENTAL HEADS.

FRONT ROW: Mr. C. W. Hirsthouse (Chief Engineer, Roads Department), Colonel A. Hume (Inspector of Prisons), Messrs. T. Ronayne (General Manager N. Z. Railways), H. J. H. Blow (Under Secretary to the Treasury), J. H. Richardson, Commissioner and Inspector of Customs, G. Alport (Secretary, Marine Department), D. Robertson (Secretary, Post and Telegraph Department). SECOND ROW: Messrs. A. Barron (Land Purchase Inspector), J. D. Ritchie (Secretary for Agriculture), W. C. Kensington (Under Secretary for Lands), G. F. E. Campbell (Valuer-General), T. Humphries (Surveyor-General), J. W. Poynton (Public Trustee), P. Hayes (Commissioner of Taxes), W. Hume (Commissioner of Police), T. W. Fisher (Under-Secretary Native Department), R. W. Hudson (Engineer-in-Chief, Public Works Department). THIRD ROW: Messrs. C. A. St. G. Hickson (Commissioner of Stamps), G. Hughes, M.A. (Inspector-General of Schools), E. J. Van Duzen (Inspector-General), John Mackay (Government Printer), Frank Hay, M.B., C.M. (Inspector-General of Mental Hospitals), F. W. Mansfield (Chief Electoral Officer), J. M. Mason, M.D. (Chief Health Officer), R. E. Hayes (Registrar of Friendly Societies). FOURTH ROW: Messrs. T. H. Hamer (Under-Secretary for Mines), T. E. Dome (General Manager, Department of Tourist and Health Resorts).

Muir and MacKintlay, photo.

"Photographs from My Camera."

**SOME PICTURES FROM HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN'S BOOK,
JUST PUBLISHED.**

Queen Alexandra has for a long time been a most enthusiastic photographer, and a great deal of interest was caused when it was announced that Her Majesty had decided in the cause of charity to allow the publication of a book of reproductions from the collection she has made. The enormous edition printed by the "London Daily Telegraph" Company, which published the work, was quickly sold out, and the proceeds are to be devoted to several charities named by the Queen. Those who have not yet been fortunate enough to secure a copy of this charming little book should do so, as the occasion is unique in the history of Royalty.



PRINCESS VICTORIA AND MAC.



PRINCE ARTHUR OF CONNAUGHT.



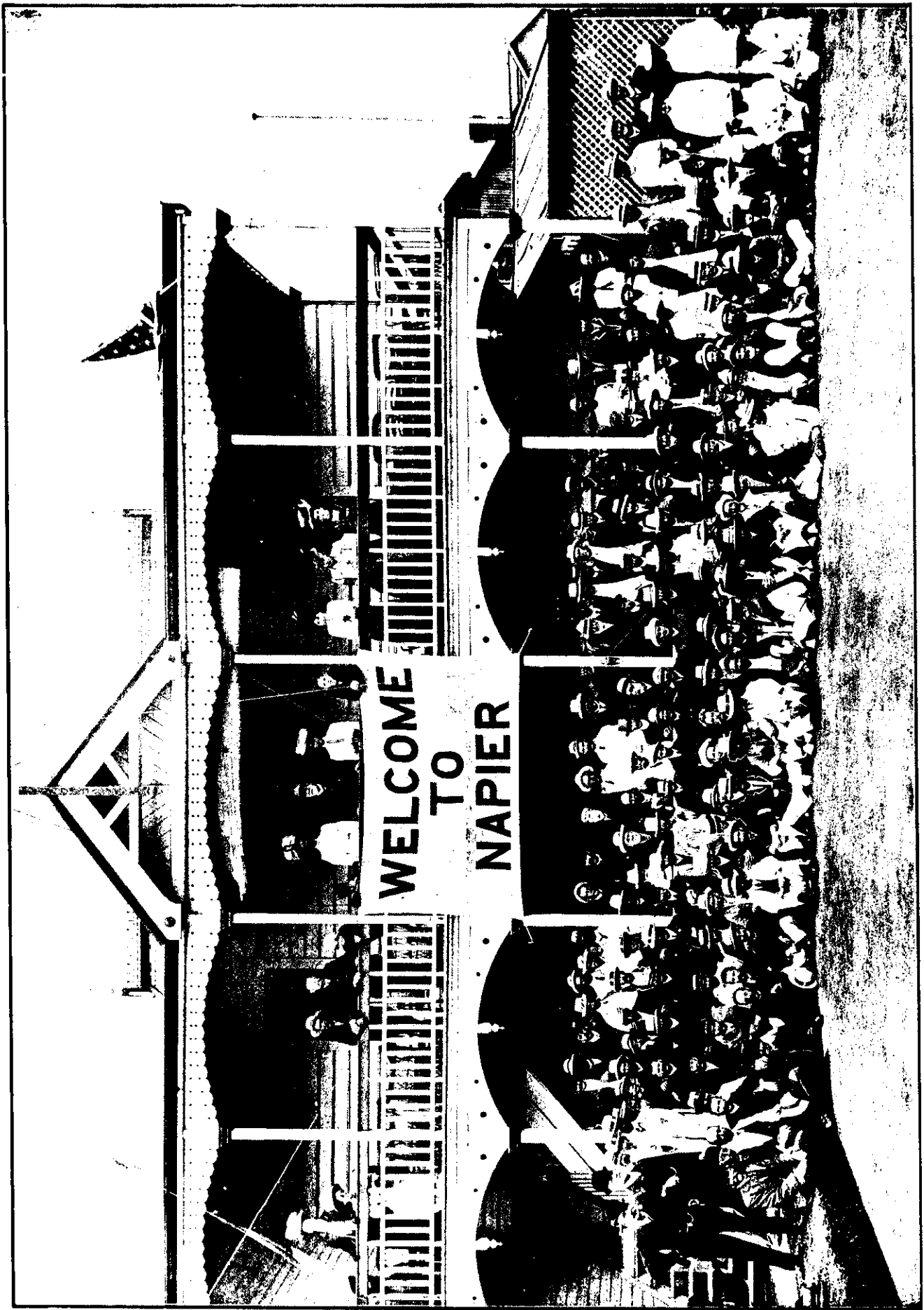
FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: LADY CATHERINE COKE, CAPTAIN WELSH, THE PRINCESS OF WALES AND HIS MAJESTY THE KING.



THE KING AND PRINCE OF WALES AND THE LATTER'S TWO SONS.



HIS MAJESTY AT BALMORAL WITH SIR DIGTON PROBYN AND SIR HENRY KNOLLAS.



NEW ZEALAND BOWLING ASSOCIATION CHAMPIONSHIP TOURNAMENT AT NAPIER.

GROUP OF BOWLERS AT THE NAPIER BOWLING CLUBS GREEN.



NAPIER: FIRST IN CHAMPION FOURS.



FEILDING: SECOND IN CHAMPION FOURS.



BLUFF HILL: THIRD IN CHAMPION FOURS.



WELLINGTON TEAM.



CARLETON TEAM.



MASTERTON TEAM.



WANGAITI TEAM.

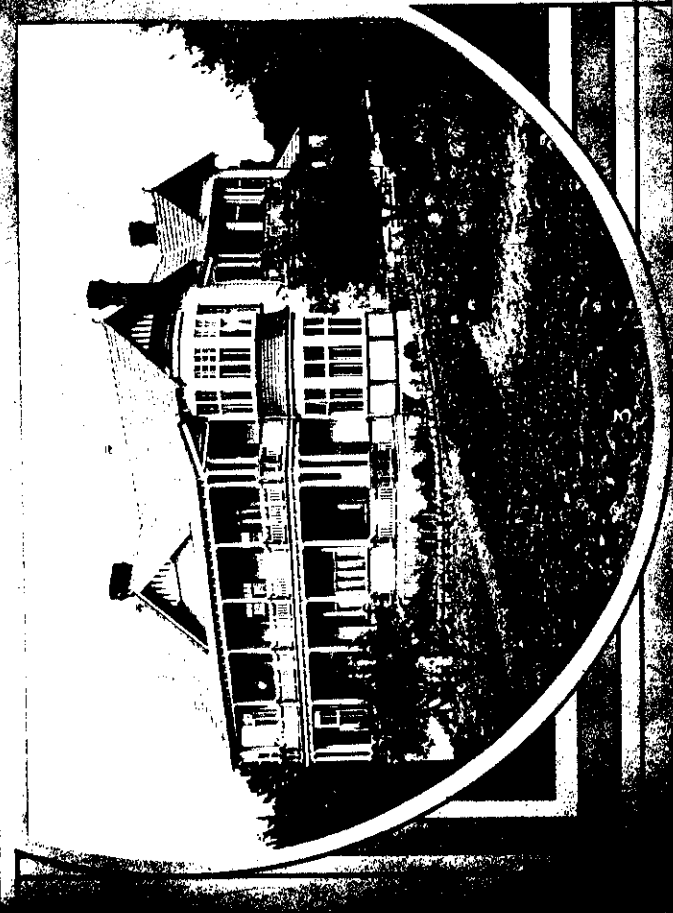
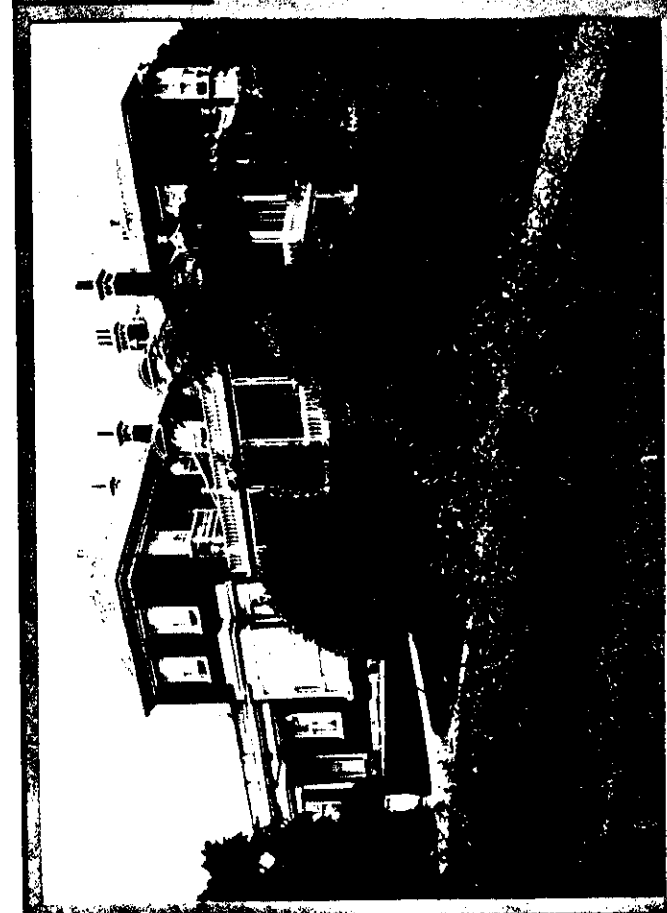


GISBORNE TEAM.



KELBORNE TEAM.

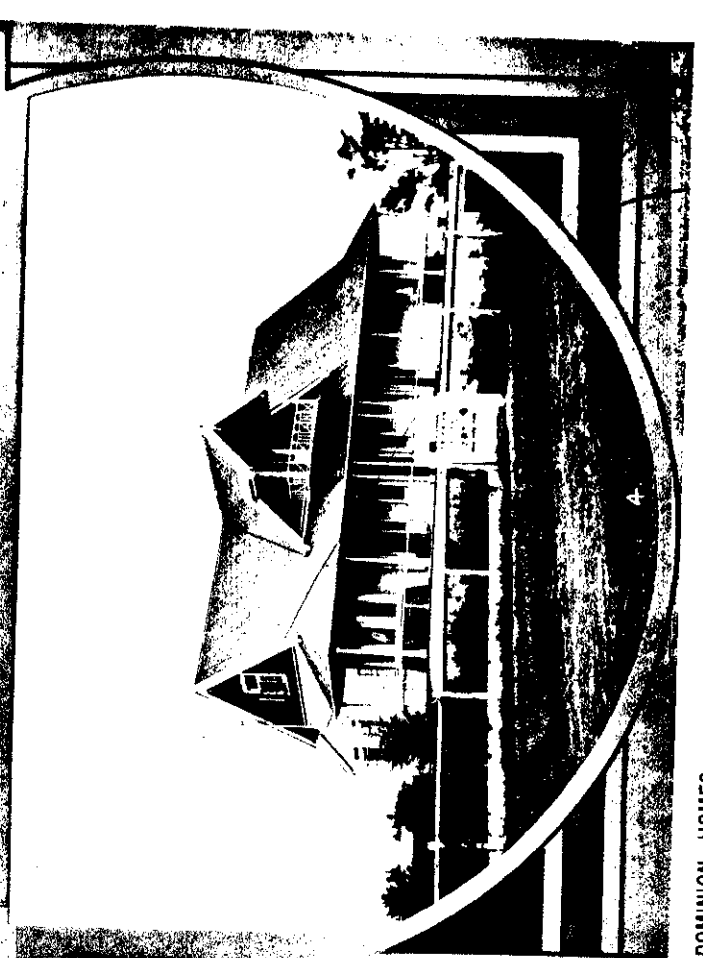
NEW ZEALAND BOWLING ASSOCIATION TOURNAMENT AT NAPIER. SOME COMPETITORS AND THE WINNING TEAMS FOR THE CHAMPION FOURS.



SOME PRETTY DOMINION HOMES.

A FEW EXAMPLES OF THE STRIKING VILLAS AND RESIDENCES THAT GRACE THE AUCKLAND SUBURBS.

- 1. Mr. R. H. Abbott's place off Owen's Road.
- 2. The Hon. E. Mitchellson's, Remuera.
- 3. Mr. F. S. Culling, Victoria Avenue, Remuera.
- 4. Mr. J. C. Spedding, and Mr. Geo. Elliott (in the background), Market Road, Remuera.



SOME PRETTY DOMINION HOMES.

A FEW EXAMPLES OF THE STRIKING VILLAS AND RESIDENCES THAT GRACE THE AUCKLAND SUBURBS. 1. The residence of Mr. W. H. Grove, Epsom. 2. Mr. James Stewart, Avenue Road, Epsom. 3. Mr. J. F. Kerr, Epsom. 4. Mr. H. G. Garlick, York Avenue, Epsom.



A UNIQUE PICTURE: MOB OF GOATS ON MACAULAY ISLANDS, KERMADEC GROUP.

There is no bush on Macaulay Island, it having been burned off years ago by whalers in order to let grass grow for goats, which they liberated for the benefit of shipwrecked mariners. There are thousands of goats now, and not enough grass, and they are in very poor condition. The mob here shown were frightened by a party from the *Hinemoa*, and took refuge on the rock shown. The *Hinemoa* is seen at the foot of the cliffs.



See "Drama."

MISS VERA FRENCH,

The gifted Auckland girl who is about to pay her first visit to the land of her birth since she left it as a child to achieve fame with her violin. She is coming out this year as violinist with Madame Melba's concert company.



MADAME ADA CROSSLEY, THE GREATEST OF LIVING CONTRALTOS, NOW BEING GREETED WITH ENORMOUS ENTHUSIASM DURING THE TOUR OF THE DOMINION.



NOT OUTSIDE THE LICENSING LAWS: THE MANSION HOUSE, KAWAU.

A charge of selling liquor without a license was preferred last week against the owner of Kawau. The defendant said that it was generally supposed that Kawau was under Imperial rule only, and that the owner had not to obey New Zealand licensing laws. The magistrate considered that the owner should have made certain before placing trust in so unlikely a proposition, and inflicted a fine of £30, remarking that any further offence would mean gaol without the usual option.

THE HOUSE OF COMMONS

THE MOST INTERESTING PLACE IN THE WORLD AT THE PRESENT TIME—ITS MARVELLOUS HISTORY AND MATERIAL BEAUTY—THE FINEST HALL IN THE WORLD—A MEMBER'S ACTIVITIES AND OPPORTUNITIES—THE "GOOD THING" OF PARLIAMENT.

By THE EDITOR OF "WORLD'S WORK."

Illustrated Chiefly from Photographs by F. Frith and Co.

ALTHOUGH the names of the House of Commons and the House of Lords are household words all over the English-speaking world, and in fact beyond it, the inner workings of these remarkable institutions, which are so typical of the British race, are as a sealed book to the multitude. The shriekful attempts of the Suffragettes to literally storm the fort, and wrest *vi et armis* the votes which the members refuse to disgorge through persuasion, and the struggle that is going on between the democratic forces in the Lower House and the aristocratic forces in the Upper lend particular interest to these historic establishments.

It is not generally known that the House of Commons is part of a Royal palace—the Palace of Westminster. A Royal palace has stood on this site for ten centuries. William the Conqueror added to it, and William Rufus celebrated Christmas in Westminster Hall in 1099. Henry III. fed six thousand poor there in 1235, and the golden-haired Richard II., reformer and reactionary, idolised and dethroned, while Chaucer revealed or created the exquisite language that is our greatest heritage, rebuilt the Great Hall at Westminster after its injury by fire in 1299, and added the roof which stands to-day "unparalleled in the world for originality of conception, scientific construction, and beauty of effect." Westminster Hall is to me a never-fading delight, by far the most beautiful hall I have ever seen, and it is a pity that an unreasonable regulation should forbid the public to pass through it on their way to the Strangers' Lobby of the House.

FIRE HAS BEEN THE RECURRENT ENEMY OF THE PALACE OF WESTMINSTER,

and new members should specially notice the cloisters in which they will hang their coats, for these, among the most exquisite examples of Gothic architecture in the world, with Westminster Hall and St. Stephen's Chapel in the crypt, were the only parts of the building that survived the terribly destructive fire of 1512. To skip several centuries, another fire in 1834 necessitated the construction of a new building, and the present Palace took its origin in the thirty-four resolutions of a Select Committee in 1835, and the construction of the magnificent edifice we know was commenced by the construction of the dam in 1837. The plans of Sir Charles Barry were selected, the cornerstone, which is at the angle of the Speaker's house, where it touches the terrace, was laid on April 27, 1840, and the new House of Commons was first used in the Session of 1852.

The historian of the Palace of Westminster has to employ many superlatives in his description of this truly wonderful building. It contains no fewer than five hundred rooms, with eighteen separate residences for different officers of Lords and Commons. The Victoria Tower, the entrance of which is

RESERVED FOR THE USE OF THE SOVEREIGN

on State occasions, and the chambers of which are devoted to the safe-keeping of innumerable official documents, is "the largest and highest square tower in the world." The clock in the north-west

tower is "by far the largest, most powerful, and most accurate public clock in the world." Its minute hand is 14ft long and weighs 2½ cwt; "Big Ben," the great bell, weighs 13½ tons. Its hammer, which weighs 4 cwt and cracked it at one of the first strokes, strikes it at the exact moment of the completion of each hour. It takes two men five hours three times a week to wind the clock. The Central Tower contains, above the Stranger's Lobby, "the largest Gothic octagon vault known where a centre pillar is not used."

The interior of the House of Lords is "without doubt the finest specimen of Gothic civil architecture in Europe." The House of Commons is not inferior in design, but, as befits the more democratic nature of its business, less splendid in decoration than what Lord Beaconsfield, in a phrase which has become classic, called "the gilded chamber."

I have thus hastily touched upon a few prominent points in the story of the Palace of Westminster, and quoted a few facts about its physical characteristics, in order to bring home to the reader its wonderful and indeed unapproached historic splendour, and its remarkable material interest. No man with ever so little knowledge of it, if he has any historic sense at all, can visit the House of Commons, still less can he live and work in it, without a deep feeling of reverence for the vast traditions which sanctify the place. But while such traditions work wholly for good, there are plenty of traditions of Westminster which are merely very old bad habits. To many of these is due the fact that business moves so slowly in Parliament, and that energetic men chafe and fret over the waste of their days as members. These traditions, however, are perhaps controversial, rather than descriptive, and, therefore, I treat of them in another part of this magazine.

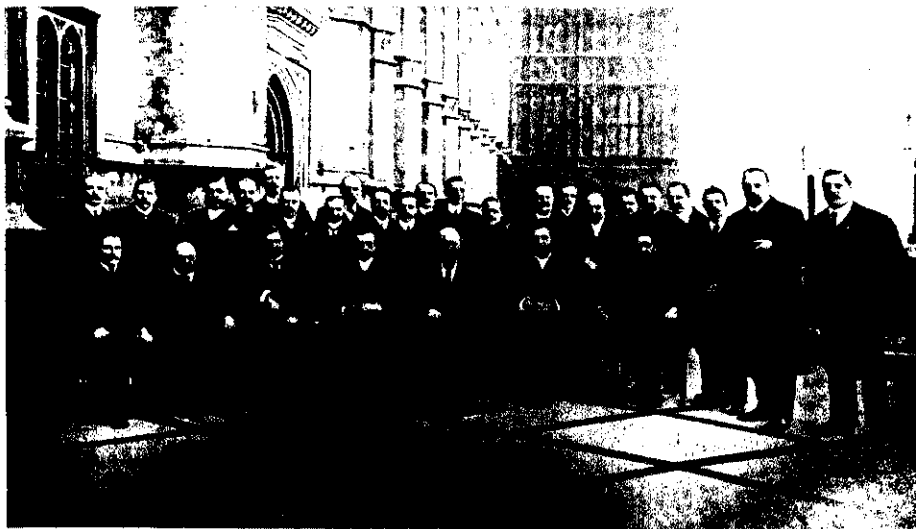
A MEMBER'S LIFE IN PARLIAMENT

falls naturally into two parts: his political work in the House, and his social and personal life at Westminster. As regards the former, the first discovery a new M.P. makes, to his great surprise, is that the Chamber to which he has been sent is not big enough to hold him. At least, not without compelling him to take vigorous and sometimes undignified steps to secure a seat. The material House seats 306 persons, and the political House contains 670 members. There are, therefore, at all times 364 members for whom there is no room on the floor. On either side there is a long member's gallery, the two seating 122 persons. But, of course, no member can take any part in the proceedings of the House from this elevated position, and indeed each gallery only commands a proper view of the side of the House



THE RIGHT HONOURABLE JAMES WILLIAM LOWTHER, M.P.

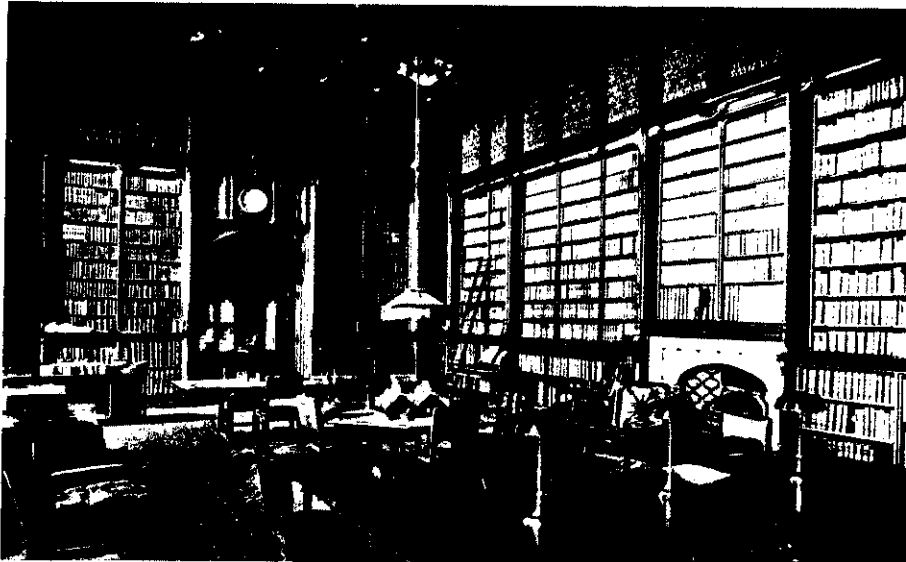
Speaker of the House of Commons.



THE MOST INTERESTING GROUP OF THE NEW HOUSE: THE INDEPENDENT LABOUR PARTY.

A photograph taken on the Terrace on the opening day of Parliament.

Seated (left to right): W. T. Wilson (West Houghton), Alex. Wilkie (Dumfries), J. Ramsay MacDonald (Leicester), A. Henderson (Barnard Castle), J. Keir Hardie (Merthyr Tydvil), D. J. Shackleton (Clitheroe), Will Crooks (Woolwich), Back Row (left to right): J. H. Jenkins (Chatham), C. W. Bowerman (Deptford), J. Hodge (Gorton), J. Parker (Hull-fax), G. D. Kelley (S.W. Manchester), W. Hudson (Newcastle), G. J. Wardle (Stockport), G. N. Barnes (Glasgow, Blackfriars), F. W. Jowett (West Bradford), G. H. Roberts (Norwich), C. Duncan (Barrow-in-Furness), T. P. Richards (West Wolverhampton), S. Walsh (Ince), A. H. Gill (Bolton), P. Snowden (Blackburn), T. Sumnerbell (Sunderland), J. T. Macpherson (Preston), T. Glover (St. Helens), J. A. Seddon (Newton).



THE LIBRARY OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.

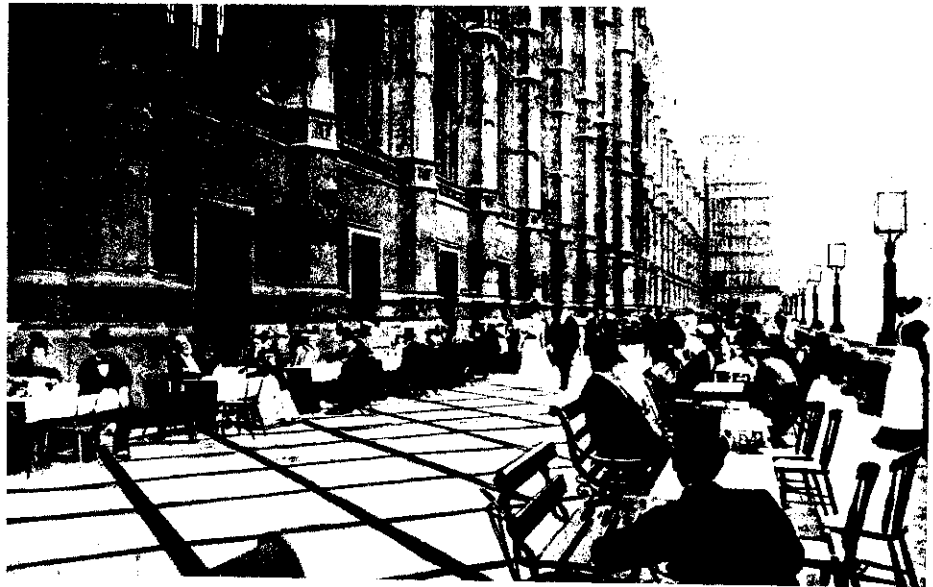
facing it. There fore, these are at the best only spectators' seats, and cannot rightly be included in the seating accommodation of the House. An excellent proposal, according to the plans of Mr. Barry, the son of the original architect, was made by a select committee in 1868 to build a new Chamber in the so-called Commons' Court, which adjoins the present House, at a cost of only £120,000, but it was dropped. The smallness of the House has, of course, the advantage that members are much nearer to one another and the speaker, and that, therefore, speaking and debate are easier than in a large chamber. And, as a matter of fact, it is not often that the House is uncomfortably crowded, for, at any time, only a proportion of members are actually listening to the debates, the remainder of them either being away from Westminster, or in other parts of the building. A religious sanction is necessary to the securing of a seat, for a member must not only place a card upon the seat he wishes to occupy for the day, but he must be in that seat at prayers, and then stick a smaller card into the little brass frame on the back. That ceremony gives him the seat for that day.

The second discovery made by a new member is that his powers of initiative are vastly smaller than he imagined. Before his election, he confidently promises his constituents that he will do certain things in the House, introduce bills to accomplish various reforms, denounce various evils, and so on. Easier promised than done. A member can "in-

roduce" virtually any bill he likes, but with very rare exceptions it is waste paper. To speak on any subject he has only the debate on the Address, when he may talk of anything he likes, and one or two other opportunities of no great value during the session. Otherwise he is confined strictly to the subject immediately before the House. Furthermore, when the topic upon which he desires to speak is before the House, it is probably a matter of general interest, and, therefore, a large number of other members also desire to speak upon it. It may well happen, in consequence, that he may rise again and again during the debate, until the time for it has expired, or the closure has been moved, without being called upon by the Speaker. Then to his own disappointment and annoyance is added the reproach of his constituents who wonder

"WHY OUR MEMBER DID NOT SPEAK."

A member can, it is true, move the adjournment of the House, but to do this he must get the Speaker to agree with him that his subject is a matter of "urgent public importance," and the Speaker often fails to perceive any "urgency." Bit by bit the private member's rights have been taken from him—in many cases of necessity, in the interest of public business; in some cases improperly, in order to strengthen the ex-

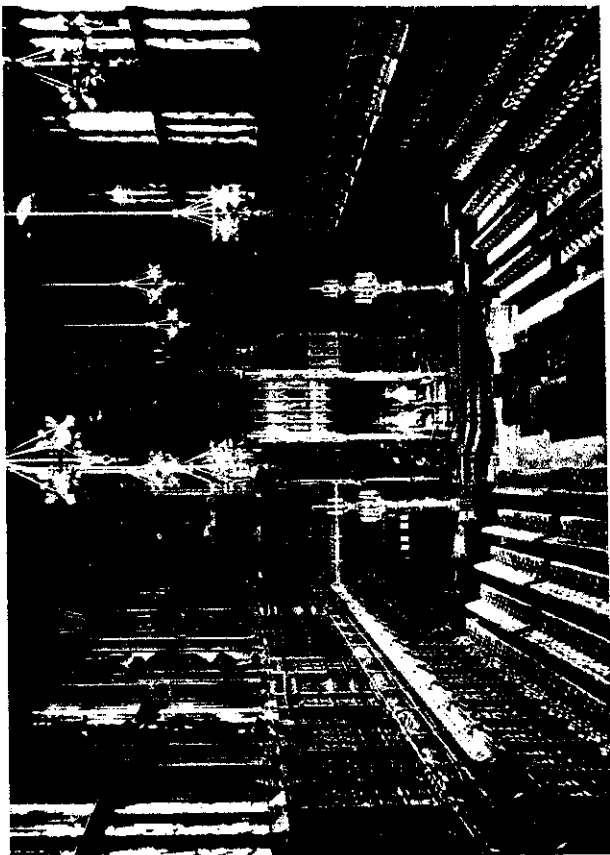


THE PLEASANTEST SOCIAL FUNCTION AT WESTMINSTER: "TEA ON THE TERRACE."



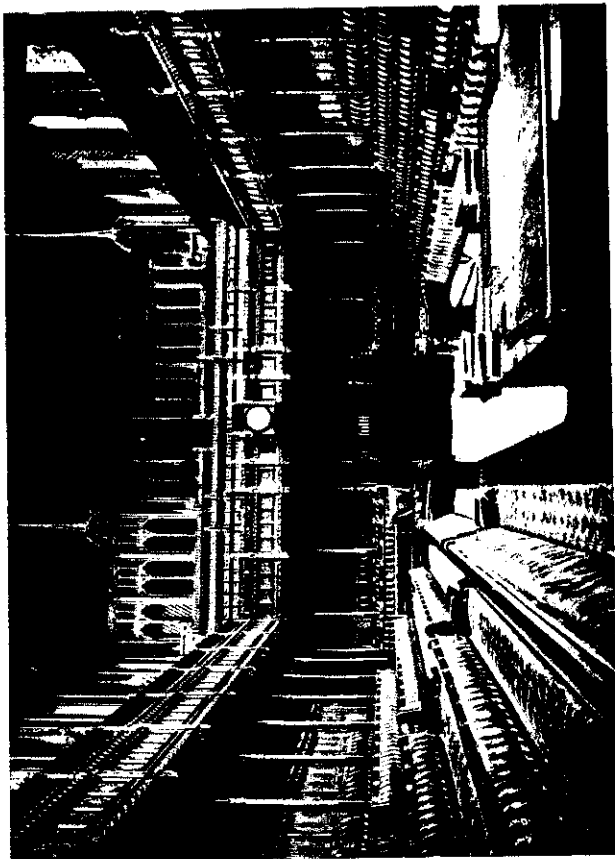
THE HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT FROM THE RIVER.

ecution against the individual—until almost the only field of activity where a member can range at will is in putting questions to Ministers. But even here he runs up against rules and traditions which trip him up at many points. He may not ask very long questions. "The Speaker does not like such long questions," he is told by the Clerk; he may not ask a Minister to express an opinion; he may not ask what a Minister would do in a hypothetical case; he may not put an argument into a question; he may not quote a newspaper, or indeed use quotation marks at all; he may not put a supplementary question unless it arises directly out of the Minister's reply. In fact, while putting effective questions to Ministers is a most useful and powerful weapon, and gives rise to many of the most interesting and important moments in Parliament, it is a weapon which calls for much skill in the user. Some members are very expert in its use; others always blunge with it. The expert questioner is much in request among his colleagues to draft questions for them. Many a time have a Minister and the permanent officials of his department been thrown into consternation by the appearance on the order paper of a question showing that a Member has information which they fondly believed to be hidden in their own bosoms, especially if the questioner is a man not likely to be put off with evasive replies. An-



THE HOUSE OF LORDS.

The King and Queen sit upon the two gold chairs on the Throne, the Prince and Princess of Wales upon the two side chairs. The Woolsack, where the Lord Chancellor sits, is the square seat with the small back, immediately in front of the Throne. The peeresses' galleries are on either side.



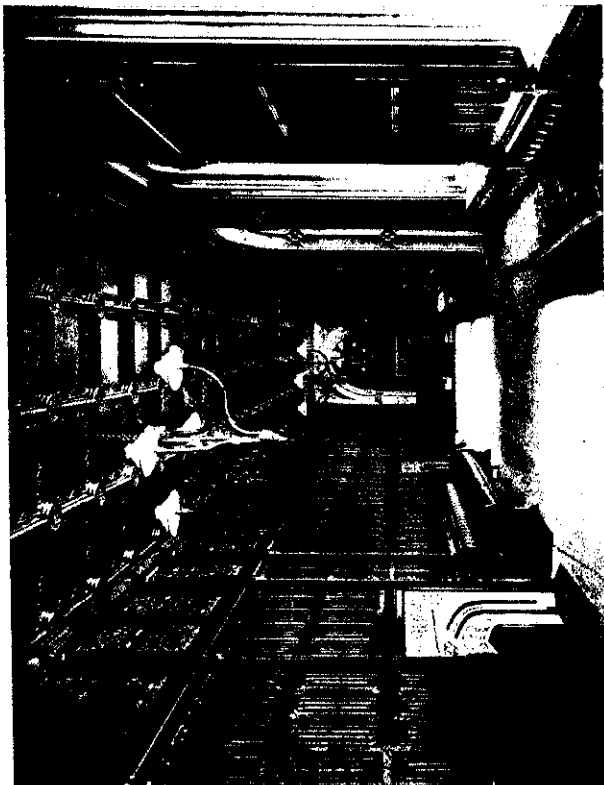
THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Taken from the Press Gallery above the Speaker's chair. The Sergeant-at-Arms sits in the leather chair on the left, behind one of the cross-benches. The side galleries are for members, the end galleries for strangers.



THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.

From the Strangers' Gallery. Showing the Speaker's Chair, the three chairs of the Clerks in front of him, and the two famous despatch-boxes, in front of which, on the Speaker's right, sits the Prime Minister, and on his left, the Leader of the Opposition.



THE "NO" LOBBY.

Members when voting pass on either side of the desk at the end, and their names are ticked off a printed list by two clerks. During a division these lobbies are crowded, and electric fans are set going to ventilate them.

swers to questions are, of course, written in the Department concerned, and are read by the Minister in the House.

There is a widespread belief among constituents that in some way or other—they do not quite know how—a Member "makes a good thing" out of being in the House. The Member himself soon realises that the "good thing" consists of giving his time and money without stint, and that, beyond the honour of being a Member of Parliament—one of the highest honours to which a citizen can aspire—and beyond having the lofty privilege of helping to mould laws for what he believes to be the welfare of the people, it is, for him, a case of a "give," and no "receive." Of course, he is almost the only Parliamentarian in the world who receives no payment from the State. Opinions differ as to whether we or other nations are wiser in this respect, and there is much to be said on both sides. But there can be no difference of opinion on this point: a Member has actually to pay for the polling-stations in which the electors vote, for the clerks who superintend the voting, for the counters who enumerate the votes, and even for the very posters in which the returning officer publicly announces his election. This is a preposterous tax upon him. If there is one thing the State ought to pay, it is surely the cost of registering and counting the votes which send the people's representatives to Parliament. At present every penny of this has to be paid in advance by the candidates when they are nominated. The votes which elect a Member cost him about 3/- a-piece. In other countries a Member gets a travelling allowance; this country, nothing. In other countries he can post letters from the legislative building to his constituents, on political business, free of charge; in this country he has to buy stamps for every letter. A British M.P. gets absolutely nothing except free writing-paper and envelopes at the House of Commons, unless—to be very exact—he may be supposed to enjoy something of the £1000 a year which

therefore, the Member who has not a large assured income, or other people to earn it for him, makes a further and considerable sacrifice in the public interest. Occasionally Members may be heard to remark to each other that if their constituents realised these things, possibly the requests for subscriptions, even for religious and charitable objects, to say nothing of sports and pastimes,

powers, to make the lot of one's fellow men happier, that Members gladly make every sacrifice, and give ungrudgingly of their time and means, and health. The only thing they do resent is that if they die in the people's harness not one word in memory or in regret is officially spoken in the House where they may have laboured half a lifetime. The Parliamentary epitaph of a Member runs in these words:

"That Mr Speaker do issue his Warrant to the Clerk of the Crown to make out a new writ for the electing of a member to serve in the present Parliament for the borough of —, in the place of Mr —, deceased."

Jack Robinson.

"Jack Robinson" has long been a favorite synonym for rapidity of speech or action, but possibly few people who use the phrase are aware that "Jack Robinson" was a real, live person.

As a politician John Robinson was a great favorite with George III. His political career was a long one, for he was a member for Harwich during 26 years.

He was on one occasion bitterly attacked by Sheridan, who, denouncing bribery and its investigators, replied to the cries of "Name, name," by pointing to Robinson on the Treasury bench, exclaiming at the same time, "Yes; I could name him as soon as I could say Jack Robinson;" and thus originated the saying still current at the present day.

Post-prandial Habits.

The diner who delights in the post-prandial habits of a cup of coffee, a liqueur, a glass—or more—of port, and a cigar, will read with gratification that the "Lancet" is inclined to look kindly on his little failings.

Of course, the expert journal feels itself bound gently to suggest that "the man who regularly drinks coffee, port, or liqueur after dinner is physiologically worse off than the man who does not," but having thus cleared its conscience, it adds that there are grounds on which the man of post-prandial habits may justify himself.

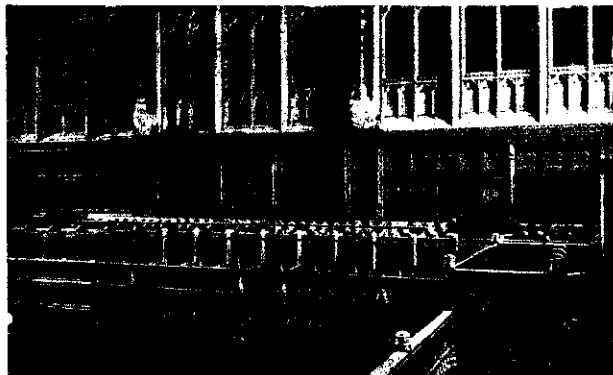
"Indeed, considered entirely from a physiological point of view, the effects of a moderate indulgence in coffee, liqueur, or tobacco may even be favourable. The liqueur is, after all, a carminative containing essential oils which, while soothing, increase the activity of the gastric circulation. They also frequently relieve the 'flatness' due to fermentation and the products of gas.

"Coffee, though it serves to keep the mental faculties clear, and to stave off drowsiness, acts very often unfavourably by delaying digestion (which may account for its wakeful qualities), but is an antidote to alcohol. The last quality, it is to be feared, often furnishes the reason of coffee being taken after dinner.

"Finally, the smoking of tobacco, in the view of some authorities, increases the secretions of the alimentary canal, while favouring intestinal movement and the function of the kidneys."



THE OPENING OF PARLIAMENT.—BLACK ROD GOING TO SUMMON COMMONS TO ATTEND IN THE HOUSE OF LORDS.



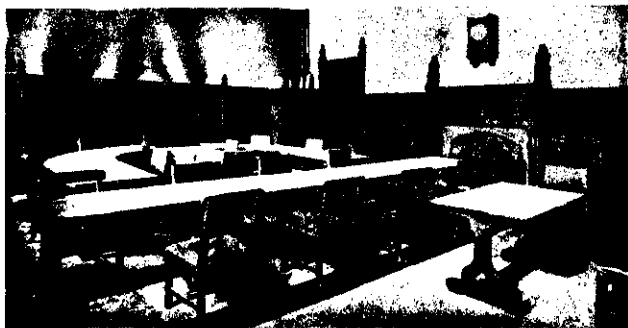
THE PRESS GALLERY, AND THE LADIES' GALLERY.

Ladies sit behind the brass trellis visible in the picture.

the State gives to the Kitchen Committee of the House, though as food and drink are charged for at ordinary rates one does not see what this subsidy does. Moreover, no man can attend to his duties in the House, and do justice at the same time to much personal business—

would not be so numerous or so pressing.

Still, so great are the honour and privilege of Membership, so supremely interesting is the work, and so gratifying is the consciousness that one is working, to the best of one's lights and



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THE HOUSE OF LORDS.

EXTRACTS FROM AN ARTICLE BY T. P. O'CONNOR, M.P.

The Well-known Irish Journalist and Member of Parliament Describes Britain's Hereditary Legislative Body—its Powers and its Customs.

The House of Lords, like all English institutions, is the slow growth of centuries; modifying some of its characteristics now and then and at long intervals, but in the main remaining pretty much as it began. Like the House of Commons, it finds its first roots in the

House of Commons, however, was abandoned when the clergy received the right to settle their own affairs in convocation. The abbots were excluded after the Reformation. A certain number of bishops—the Archbishops of Canterbury and York, and the Bishops of London, Durham and Winchester have always a right to be summoned; other bishops take their places in turn; but they must not exceed a certain number—twenty-six.

This section of the assembly is distinguished from the rest in many ways. They sit, for instance, on one particular set of benches—those immediately to the right of the woolsack, where sits the lord chancellor, presiding officer of the assembly. The bishops also, unlike the other peers, have always to appear in full dress; that is to say, in their lawn sleeves. They have a right to vote with

THE LORDS TEMPORAL.

The lay peers—or the lords temporal, to give them their technical title—may consist of any number. And their numbers have varied much at different epochs in their history. In the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries there were from fifty to sixty. After the Revolution of 1688 the number was a hundred and fifty; when George I. came to the throne it was a hundred and seventy-eight; and the fortunate possessors of titles at that period proposed that this number should be made the maximum. The effect of such a proposal would have been to create a close corporation; and doubtless, though they did not see it, the peers, if allowed to carry out this project, would have long since ceased to hold the great powers they still exercise. For this would have meant, of course, that the house would have consisted entirely, or almost entirely, of members of a comparatively few great families; and these families, by concentrating a monopoly of such power in their own hands, would have aroused so much resentment, and the body they formed would have become so unpopular, that it could not have lasted.

The proposed limitation was violently opposed in the House of Commons and had to be abandoned; and the number of lords temporal, instead of decreasing or remaining stationary, was gradually increased. In the reign of George II. there were no fewer than three hundred and eighty-eight new creations. It was the genius of the younger Pitt which did more than anything else to transform the character of the House of Lords, and by doing so, to secure its perpetuation and its strength. He foresaw how indefensible the institution would become if it had been confined to a few great families; and he initiated accordingly the

The manufacturer of the well-known Bass' bitter ale is Lord Burton; the head of the other great brewing-house of Allsopp is Lord Hindlip. A certain number of great sailors and soldiers have found places there, from Nelson and Wellington in olden days to Roberts, Wolseley, and Kitchener to-day. In this way the House of Lords has undoubtedly gained in strength; for it has always a certain democratic element in it; it always can make some claim to be representative of the success of genius in the great professions.

THE POWERS OF THE LORDS.

The powers of the House of Lords are almost coequal with those of the House of Commons. The one respect in which it occupies an inferior position is that the House of Commons is supreme in all matters of finance. The House of Lords can reject, but it cannot amend, a money bill. This fact has occasionally enabled the Commons to defeat the opposition of the Lords. One of Mr. Gladstone's hardest struggles, for instance, was the effort to abolish the duty on newspapers, which had for many generations made the creation of the cheap newspaper practically impossible. The Lords rejected his proposal when it came before them; but he tacked it on to a money bill—with the result that they had to accept it. They did not like the particular clause which abolished the paper tax, but they dared not face the derangement of the finances of the country by rejecting the whole bill; and they had no choice between accepting the bill as a whole or rejecting it as a whole; they could not pick and choose.

In appearance the House of Lords is extremely imposing—far more imposing than the House of Commons. Indeed, everything is done to make the inferiority of the popular and representative house to the hereditary house conspicuous. For instance, in the House of Commons, all the upholstery is subdued and almost dingy in colour; the seats are in dark green. In the House of Lords the seats are all in blazing and opulent scarlet. Even in the corridors which lead to the House of Lords, you see the upholstery in this blazing scarlet; wherever there is even a chair belonging to the House of Lords, it is in the same material.

When you enter the House of Commons for the first time, your impression is likely to be one of extreme surprise that so august and powerful a body



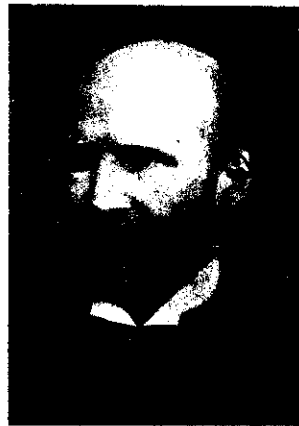
LORD LOREBURN,

(Formerly Sir Robert Reid), the present Lord Chancellor.



THE EARL OF CREWE

Lord President of the Council, a prominent figure on the Liberal side in the House of Lords.



LORD TWEEDMOUTH,

First Lord of the Admiralty.

new policy of creating peerages for the great trading and middle classes. In this way the chamber has acquired new strength at every epoch, and new advocates. Wealth has been ranged on its side by the fact that wealth has been able to have its doors opened for admission. The legal profession has been brought to its side—to a certain extent, at least—by the fact that a great advocate or a great judge has always a good chance of joining its ranks. Any trade, so long despised, has supplied many of its stoutest defenders, because trade has often been ennobled.

Take, for instance, one great trade—that of brewing; the number of peers who are or have been brewers is large.



THE EARL OF ROSEBERY,

Prime Minister from March, 1894, to January 1895.

should sit in an apartment so small and so modest. As a matter of fact, the House of Commons is not only small,

old Saxon Witenagemot—the assembly of tribes which discussed the different matters of public interest. When Norman feudalism succeeded to the reign of the Anglo-Saxon, the House of Lords took on itself a somewhat new complexion. The ownership of land was associated with title; and as the owner of the land held his court for his tenants, who did him service, the king held his parliament for the purpose of holding counsel with the lords who held their lands on condition of rendering him service both personally and by their retainers. For some centuries, the sovereign was supposed to have the absolute right of choice as to whom he should summon to his great council, and some authorities contend that he has the same right still; indeed, the unlimited creation of peers by the sovereign—who, in reality, of course, would be made by the administration of the day—has often been suggested as a means of overcoming the opposition of the House of Lords to some measure which has been passed by the House of Commons. As time has gone on, the habit has become a law that the persons summoned to the House of Peers are those who have received a title from the crown or inherited it from a predecessor.

THE LORDS SPIRITUAL.

The peers are of two orders—lords spiritual and lords temporal. The lords spiritual are the bishops. In ancient Catholic times, the clergy had a right to be represented in both Houses of Parliament; in the House of Lords by the bishops and the abbots of the great monasteries; in the House of Commons the lesser clergy were represented by proctors. The representation in the

the other peers, and they do so vote; but, as a rule, they take little or no part in general debates.

It is a singular fact that though the majority of the lay peers are members of the Church of England, and though they would all fight strenuously against any attack on the privileges of that church, yet they are without any sense of reverence for the bishops. The whole air of the House of Lords, when a bishop is addressing it, is quite different from the aspect which it assumes during a speech from a lay peer. There is a subtle and indescribable sense that the bishop is regarded as a somewhat vulgar and base-born intruder, who is tolerated rather than cordially accepted. The bishops themselves seem to feel this somewhat hostile attitude; and most of them have a certain shamefacedness when they stand up to address the house. Presenting an appearance of curious singularity with their abundant lawn sleeves—making, when there are many of them on the benches, a great patch of white in the assembly—they always seem to me to suggest a flock of sheep or of geese; cackling but timid, intimate and yet afraid.



When the teeth are cleaned with Odol
the whole mouth is rejuvenated
and the body is by a bath.

but it is far too small; there are not seats for more than two-thirds of the members. On a crowded night members have to climb up to the surrounding galleries. On one occasion, when Gladstone introduced his first Home Rule Bill, the members took refuge in the empty space between the two sides of the house, and planted chairs there. The ceiling of the House of Commons, moreover, is low; the acoustics were found to be so bad that a second ceiling of glass had to be placed under the first; which leaves a very low-ceilinged hall.

A MAGNIFICENT CHAMBER.

When you enter the House of Lords from the House of Commons, the sensation is somewhat the same as if you were passing from a modest chapel-of-ease to a great cathedral. Everything in the chamber suggests spaciousness and opulence. The ceiling is very high; on the great wall at the back huge and beautiful historic pictures greet the eye. The throne, with its seats for the king and the queen—draped except when the sovereigns open Parliament—is a magnificent seat, worthy in its size and its splendour for the persons of monarchs; the door through which you enter is a splendid and massive piece of beautifully carved brass. Everywhere you have the sense of something like the magnificent distances of Washington, the American capital.

There are some other great differences between the appearance and structure of the House of Peers and those of the House of Commons. In the latter, ladies still have only a very limited accommodation—some forty to fifty seats, which have to be won by ballot. The ladies' gallery has in front a great grill, which prevents its occupants from being seen, and, to some extent, prevents them from seeing or hearing. Moreover, the low ceiling and the smallness of the space in this gallery often make it a veritable Black Hole of Calcutta, a visit to which usually means a violent headache. The House of Lords, on the other hand, has a large gallery on both sides; and here the peeresses are privileged to sit. On a great night, there are few sights so dramatic and as picturesque. The peeresses appear here dressed as for a gala night

at the opera; ambassadors have their places not far from them; and with the lofty ceiling, the richly upholstered benches, the tall candelabra that stand up at various points in the hall, and the great and conspicuous pictures, you

in the House of Peers; but of course, as representing royalty, they cannot manifest any partizanship. The great soldiers who are elevated to the peerage are also supposed to remain outside party politics. For the convenience of these classes there are in the House of Peers what are known as the cross benches, standing between the two sides, and representing detachment from party.

Unrestrained, then, by any rules of order, there is room in the House of Lords for that exuberant and lawless manifestation of individuality which brings out the foibles, follies, and eccentricities of its members. If a peer be a little de-

Nothing could be farther from the truth, for it is more like an assembly of boisterous schoolboys than anything else, House of Commons. There are those who think that the House of Commons is an orderly, silent, decorous assembly. It is as responsive, as changeable, as noisy as an organ on a breezy night. In the House of Lords you seem to have reached the spectral quiet, the bloodless phantoms, of the Elysian fields. Such a thing as a loud cheer is almost unknown there. To exhibit emotion or excitement would be regarded as bad manners. Slowly, frigidly, amid dead silence, the different leaders address the house; if now and then there is a sign of applause it is but a faint echo of the thunderous tumult of the popular chamber.

The House of Lords is richer than the House of Commons in striking or curious personalities; for no member of that body has to pass through the searching and cruel analysis of popular election. You see there all kinds of anachronisms in persons, in thoughts, in clothes. This peer wears a hat, the shape of which belongs to the eighteenth century; this other man has the long whiskers and the stock of the early Victorian epoch. In a corner you may catch sight of a curious drab-coloured man, with a drab beard, a drab complexion, and appallingly bad clothes. This is the Marquis of Clanricarde, who stands for a type of Irish landlordism that is almost as dead as the dodo; but still lives to curse and be cursed by his tenantry on a vast estate in the west of Ireland.

Look at them steadily and well; with their coats of ancient garb, their strangely shaped hats; their frigid speech; for it is possible that we of this generation are gazing at an institution which, in its present shape and composition, will be numbered among dead things that have no resurrection.

THE LIBERAL LEADERS.

The chief figure on the Government side, for the moment, is the Marquis of Ripon. Here is one of the finest figures of contemporary politics. A marquis, a large landholder, son of prime minister, he has all his life been a con-



EARL CARRINGTON,
President of the Board of Agriculture.



THE MARQUIS OF RIPON,
Lord Privy Seal, the foremost figure of the Government side of the House of Lords.

have a mingled sense of a great religious ceremonial in a fine cathedral, a dramatic performance, and a historic tournament in which some mighty historical issue is to be decided; where the fate of empires and of coming generations trembles in the balance.

The House of Commons, as is often said in debate, has only two lobbies; that is to say, a man has to belong to either one or the other of the two great parties in the State—at least when it comes to a division. In the House of Lords they have to make provision for the peers who are not entitled to express any political preference. Princes of the blood—for instance, the Prince of Wales at this moment—have a right to a seat

ment—whenever sometimes happens—his mental weakness does not prevent him from addressing the House of Lords.

The debates in the House of Lords are absolutely different from those in the

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sistent and almost extreme Radical in opinion. As Viceroy of India, he first attempted to enlarge the liberties of the native population, with the result that he had to pass over long roads of roses as he left the country, where he is worshipped to this day. He is almost eighty years of age, has weak health, and has recently lost a wife to whom he was devoted for half a century; but he often speaks with all the fire of youth.

A figure which has attracted a great deal of attention in the last year is the Earl of Crewe. He is the son of a man of letters, who began life as Richard Monckton Milnes, and ended as Lord Houghton. It was as Lord Houghton that the present peer also began; but the death of his uncle—the Earl of Crewe—enabled the government of the day to pass on the title to him. Here is a typical grand seigneur in appearance and manner. Lord Crewe is perhaps the handsomest man in the House of Peers; very tall, very slight, with beautifully chiselled and regular features; fine, brilliant, prominent eyes; and a manner so frigid, so polite, and such a delicious combination of courtliness and sarcasm as to make even Lord Lansdowne look and sound plebeian. He conducted the Education Bill with extraordinary skill and good temper last year; and he is already indicated as a man who may reach anything. He was handsome and attractive enough in his fortieth year to win the love of Peggy Primrose, as the second daughter of Lord Rosebery was called—a fascinating young woman, half grande dame, half coquette in appearance, with much of her father's attractiveness, with his sense of humour, his whimsicality, and perhaps his waywardness.

Where Presidents Live.

THE WHITE HOUSE, AND THE MEN WHO HAVE BEEN ITS TENANTS.

The White House at Washington, officially described as the "Executive mansion of the President of the United States," where Mr. Taft will follow Mr. Roosevelt as tenant, was built by an Irishman, and is said to be modelled upon the Duke of Leinster's house in Dublin. It is a building with a stoop front and a portico supported by Corinthian pillars, and Mr. Bryce, the present British Ambassador to America, describes it as having the air of a large suburban villa rather than of a palace.

To an American President with a recollection of its past the White House should serve as an argument for maintaining a sufficient American navy, for once upon a time, not long after it was first built, the "Executive mansion" was burned down by invaders, who, it is scarcely necessary to say, were British soldiers.

The house was first begun in 1792, and the first President to occupy it was John Adams, second President, who took up his residence there in 1800. During the war between America and Great Britain—from 1812 to 1814—the British soldiers captured the American capital, President Madison was about to give a banquet the evening the Englishmen marched into the place. The dinner was duly eaten, not by the President's guests, but by the

officers of an English regiment. The White House and all the public offices were then burned down.

MANSION REBUILT.

Four years later the White House was restored and again inhabited by an American President, the famous Monroe, and it has ever since been the more or less peaceful home of George Washington's successors.

It is even less pretentious from an architectural point of view than Buckingham Palace, and very much smaller, for it is only a two-storeyed building, 170 feet long by 80 feet deep, with a range of conservatories on its west side. The gardens round the house are 75 acres in extent, and on Saturday afternoons a part is open to the public and a band plays.

For many years Americans have been discontented with the White House, but in spite of criticism it remains unaltered. Congress spent some thousands of pounds in redecoration when Mr. Roosevelt began his second term of office, but the expenses of the White House are scanned with an eagle eye by many economic senators, and any definite proposal for building a "palace" for the President would probably be rejected without a scintilla.

A few years ago it cut down from £20,000 to £12,000 an estimate by Mr. Root for White House repairs. The President's salary is £10,000 a year, and out of that he has to pay the ordinary expenses of official housekeeping, except the salaries of housekeeper, steward and cook. It is said that some of the Presidents showed a balance etc the good on their White House accounts, but Mr. Roosevelt is believed to have spent some thousands of his own money in entertaining.

PRESIDENTS AS HOSTS.

Although the President and his wife are not looked upon as leaders of society in Washington, at least one President, before Mr. Roosevelt, made a reputation as a host. This was President Arthur, who was elected Vice-President when Garfield was elected President, and who, on Garfield's assassination in 1881, succeeded automatically to the Presidency, as Mr. Roosevelt fell into the place of Mr. McKinley. Now, no one had ever imagined that General Arthur was ever going to be President, any more than Mr. Roosevelt was expected to step into Mr. McKinley's shoes. General Arthur was a genial New York clubman and flaneur, and his chief claim to fame during the three and a-half years he continued in office as President was his lavish hospitality at White House. His "little dinners" became famous among diplomatists. But a New York newspaper said two or three years ago that "even the gaiety of the Arthur Administration has been surpassed, during Mr. Roosevelt's reign."

Another famous White House host was President Hayes, whose wife was a leader of the temperance movement in the States. The President's guests never found anything stronger than water on the White House table during those years, but the President did his best to make up for this by providing the choicest food.

MANY WEDDINGS.

The White House has been the scene of weddings, but never of deaths, al-

though both Lincoln and Garfield were assassinated in Washington. President Cleveland went out from the White House to be married. Miss Nellie Grant was married from the White House during her father's Presidency, and the wedding of Miss Alice Roosevelt—"Princess" Alice—in the White House will live long in American memories as the most splendid event in White House history.

Many of the most famous men who have visited America in the past century have dined at the White House, including King Edward VII, who was there as Prince of Wales. Another eminent visitor was the late Duke of Devonshire, then Marquis of Hartington. His host was President Lincoln, the heroic Father of the North. Lord Hartington had made the error of wearing the colours of the South while at a ball in Philadelphia, and President Lincoln, whether by intention or otherwise, secured his revenge by addressing his guest throughout the visit as "Mr. Partington."

Nearly every President of the United States has planted a tree in the White House grounds, but the most noted tree, after Washington's elm, is the "bulletin tree" just outside the White House gates. On its trunk were nailed the bulletins while President Garfield was lying at death's door.

There is little ceremony about the White House. A few policemen form its only guard. Every day dozens of people attend there by appointment to see the President, who receives them in a board-room opening out of his business office.

Two or three times a week the White House is open to the world. The President holds his reception, and it is the birthright of every American that he can walk through the White House on that day and shake hands with the Chief Magistrate.

English Books in France.

There is an extraordinary run just now in France on English novels. For some years past the French novel has been built so much on the Bourget type—sacrificing the story to psychological analysis—that readers have have become a little

tired of it. The tide is changing, and many clever French writers are working hard now at novels with stories in them. But meanwhile the output of stories has been below the demand for them, and French publishers have bought largely from England and America.

It is an extraordinary fact that in five of the most important papers in Paris to-day the feuilletons should be translations from the English. The "Temps" is publishing "My Friend Prospero," by Henry Harland; "La Liberté" is publishing "Lady Rose's Daughter," by Mrs. Humphry Ward; the "Journal des Debats"; "The Tangled Skein," by Baroness Orczy; and the "Figaro" has just begun the publication of "The Shulamite," by Alice and Claude Askew. The French papers are not always quite accurate in their spelling of our British names, and that, no doubt, is why the "Echo de Paris" describes its feuilleton "J'He au Poison," (which is the French for Mr. A. T. Quiller - Cope's "Poison Island") as adapted from the English of A. T. Quiller Quion. It is, no doubt, the author's pseudonym of "Q." which has misled the French paper.

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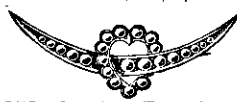
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A Joke That Missed Fire.

By MAX ADELER.

Cooley's oldest boy is a little too fond of playing practical jokes. The other evening he went up into a third-story back room, in which the hired man sleeps, and, fixing a piece of stout twine to the bedclothes, he ran it down-stairs into his own room, with the intent to remove the covers from the hired man as soon as that individual got into bed.

The Cooleys had just taken down their winter stoves, and they had the parlour stove standing temporarily at the head of the third-story stairs. The man discovered the string just as he was retiring, and comprehending the motive of the intended trick, he quietly untied it, and fastened it to the stove. The boy meantime had gone to bed, and forgotten about the string. But about ten o'clock Mr. Cooley, who was up-stairs getting apples in the garret, caught his foot in the string as he was coming down the steps. He fell, and pulled the stove over after him, and the next moment Cooley, a pan of apples, and about forty pieces of stove, stove-pipe, grates, and brick lining were rattling down-stairs, with a noise like a volley of musketry.

As Cooley lay on the landing, with a pile of apples and cast-iron heaped upon him, Mrs. Cooley, and the boy and the servants came rushing out to ascertain what on earth was the matter. As they approached, Cooley said:

"Terrible, wasn't it? Awfullest earthquake we ever had in this country!"

"Was there a real earthquake?" asked Mrs. Cooley. "I didn't feel a shake."

"Didn't feel it!" exclaimed Cooley, tak-

ing a stove-leg out of his shirt-collar and brushing the soot from his clothes. Didn't feel it? Why, my gracious! The house rocked like a cradle. I thought she'd go clear over every minute. It's the worst shock I ever felt. Sent me skipping downstairs with things a-rattling after me till I thought the roof had tumbled in. There's something queer about these natural convulsions. These scientific men say that the shake always moves in waves from east to west, so that if it comes from the—

"Hello! what's this?" exclaimed Cooley, discovering the twine wrapped around his leg. "Who tied that string to that stove?"

As he looked around inquiringly, he observed his oldest boy suddenly mount upon the hammister and glide swiftly down to the first floor, where he stood waiting for an offensive movement on the part of his father. Then Cooley leaned over the railing, and shaking his fist at him, said:

"You wicked little scoundrel! If you ain't a candidate for the gallows I'm no judge! You come up here and go to bed, and to-morrow morning I'll tan your hide for you with a bed-slat. You mind me? I'll give you enough earthquake to make you dance from here to the equator, you tow-headed outcast!"

Then the family went to bed, and the boy crept softly up the kitchen stairs, thinking there was not much fun in such jokes anyhow.

Mr. Jones: "Would you support my daughter in the style of which she has been accustomed?"

Cholly: "Yes, sir."

Mr. Jones: "Then you're an idiot, and you can't have her!"

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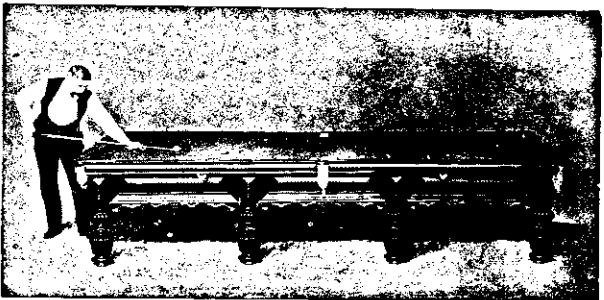
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Life in the Garden

Practical Advice for Amateurs

GARDEN NOTES.

The potato blight is spreading with amazing rapidity. Many growers who imagined there would be no trouble this season, and neglected to spray their crops, are now lamenting their loss. As a result, markets are glutted with inferior samples, and prices have fallen very considerably. Growers who took the precaution to spray, and kept it up, will be able to hold their crops. Any late planted crops should be sprayed at once, and during the present showery weather any vacant piece of land can be planted, provided suitable seed sets can be procured.

In some localities in Auckland Province plums are a heavy crop. Ogan and one or two other sorts excepted. Ogan, in several cases, is a complete failure. Early sorts are plentiful and prices low.

A new early plum, raised by Mr. Sharpe, of Waikumete, and named "Sharpe's Early," seems to be a very promising sort. We sampled a few recently, and found them good for so early a variety. We understand it is a heavy cropper, and comes into bearing early.

Balsams are making splendid growth this season, and promise a fine display of bloom. These tender annuals are easily cultivated, provided sufficient shelter is available; they are of small value for cutting, but make splendid beds, lasting a long time in flower.

Winter flowering sweet peas can be sown this month where a sheltered spot is available. These early sorts can be had in flower during August and Sep-

HANSON'S LILY (LILIUM HANSONI).

Few of the Japanese Lilies are more easily cultivated than the subject of this note. If a bed is specially prepared for it a site should be selected in a half-shady situation behind some trees or shrubs, or it may be planted in a bed prepared for Rhododendrons, Azaleas or other American plants. It is perfectly hardy, and does not object to be grown in full sunshine, provided the ground is shaded and the young stems are sheltered. This provision is secured by the abovementioned American plants, and the Lily comes into bloom during January. The fully-grown but unopened flower buds are highly ornamental, as they are nearly globular and resemble berries or other fruits rather than flowers.

As the blooms open, it will be seen that the plant in all respects is closely allied to the Martagon or Turk's-Cap Lily, except in the texture and colour of the flowers. The petals are very thick and of a soft orange colour on the face, spotted on the lower half with purple markings. The plant is, therefore, in beauty for some time before the expansion of the flowers till the petals fall. The leaves are produced in whorls like those of the Martagon, and the stems, usually about 3ft. high, bear a dense cluster of flowers on the top. The accompanying illustration will give some idea of a cluster of flowers and the shape of them. The bulbs should be planted as soon as secured.



Lillium Hansonii.

tember. Very considerable progress has lately been made in the development of this class of sweet pea. There are now several new colours and shades obtainable, and although the vines do not grow so tall as the ordinary sweet pea, and the flowers are not so large, they are extremely useful and come in when flowers are very scarce.

Pansy seed may be sown this month. The pansy is so universally popular and such excellent results can now be obtained from seed, we strongly advise sowing. Some of the finest strains are Bugnots' and Cassier's. We have seen some grand blooms grown from these celebrated strains. Cheap pansy seed is dear at a gift.

GROWING BIG DAHLIA BLOOMS

This is so much on a par with Cannas that the one naturally suggests the other. Here, again, the main secret of obtaining exhibition blooms is to strike cuttings, instead of relying on old tubers. The stools are stood on a bed of light soil as with Cannas, and a little light soil is scattered over them so that the tubers are quite, but not deeply, covered. When the cuttings are about 3in. long they are cut off and struck.

It is important that Dahlia cuttings should never flag, hence the pots should be quite ready and brought to the Dahlia stools before a cutting is removed. Pots 2 1/2 in. in diameter are best, using a very

study compost and placing one cutting in each pot. Shade should be given from the sun, and the syringe should be gently used twice daily, but no more water than is really required should be given to the soil. When rooted, the plants should go into 4 1/2 in. pots, and ultimately be hardened off for planting out early in June. If well looked after outdoors these youngsters will give the finest possible flowers.

THE KING'S GARDENER AT FROGMORE.

The responsible post of King's gardener at Frogmore is a position of importance and interest, and we have pleasure in giving a portrait of this gentleman with some particulars; also, views of the house allotted to his use, and the Bothy, or house which accommodates the staff under Mr. Mackellar's control. Like Mr. Mackellar's own house, the "Bothy" stands amid flower borders in very pleasant surroundings. It was one of the very first improvements which the King ordered to be carried out in the gardens after his accession. His Majesty gave special orders that a place should be built which should tend to educate the men in matters connected with their profession and elevate their tastes and habits. This order has been faithfully carried out. There is accommodation for 24 men; each man has a separate bed-



Mr. Archibald Mackellar, His Majesty's Head Gardener at Frogmore.

dining-room is situated in the middle of the building, and contains two large tables capable of seating about 30 people. The walls are hung with old prints of Windsor Castle and its accessories. The



Mr. Mackellar's House at Frogmore.

room, which is furnished with a chest of drawers and wardrobe, so that there shall be no excuse for untidiness. The bedrooms are approached by a wide, stone staircase from the front hall, and each bedroom is connected by a corridor which extends all round the building. At the top of the staircase is the lavatory, which is arranged on the best sanitary lines, and contains two bathrooms. There is also a bathroom on the ground floor. The rooms downstairs are spacious, well ventilated, and are suitably furnished. The

sitting-room, which is also used as a library, is a well-furnished and comfortable apartment. The bookcases contain many instructive books for the use of the young men. There is a bagatelle table in the middle of the room, and other games and means of recreation are introduced to encourage the men to stay indoors after working hours. The kitchen is conveniently situated near the dining-room. It has all the necessary appliances and utensils, and everything is kept scrupulously clean.



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The rooms on the ground floor on the right of the picture are sick-rooms for isolating cases of infectious illness. On the opposite side are the caretaker's rooms. The floors in the dining room, corridors, and passages are laid with Turazza mosaic. The whole of the building is lighted by gas and heated by hot-water pipes and it is practically fire-proof.

MR. MACKELLAR.

The Frogmore gardens are under the care of Mr. Archibald MacKellar, who was appointed head gardener there in succession to Mr. Owen Thomas after the accession of King Edward VII. in 1901. Mr. MacKellar, whose portrait is reproduced, was born in Argyllshire, his father being also a gardener. He served his apprenticeship in the garden then under his father's care, and afterwards removed to Hopetoun, the Earl of Hopetoun's seat in Linlithgow, in 1870. On completing two years at Hopetoun he removed to Tynninghame and became foreman out-of-doors. In 1874 he was engaged at Chatsworth in the fruit department, and two years later went to Lord Penrhyn's garden at Penrhyn Castle as general foreman. Mr. MacKellar stayed at Penrhyn seven years, and then removed to Floors Castle, the seat of the Duke of Roxburghe, near Kelso, to take up his first position as head gardener. It was after spending 11 years at Floors Castle that he was selected to become head gardener to the King (then Prince of Wales) at Sandringham, Norfolk. After the accession of King Edward, Mr. MacKellar was appointed to the Royal Gardens, Frogmore.

A view of the gardener's house is given. It is a very attractive building, erected in 1844, and is situated in a central position in the garden.

ROSE HYBRIDISATION.

(A Paper by Alex. Dickson, Newtown ands, Ireland. Read before the American Rose Society.)

A NEW IDEAL.

In the early eighties, when we began to see the results of our labours, we abandoned the original basis of our experiments, namely, the fertilisation of the better varieties of Hybrid Remontant or Perpetual, and began a series of cross-pollination between the Hybrid Perpetual and Teas and Austrian Briars, and then using the results of this first cross in a systematic course of in-breeding. The main object which we had in view was to produce varieties of roses at once vigorous in their habits, con-

tinuous in their bloom, at the same time retaining the absolute essentials of all good roses, namely, beauty of colour, perfection of form, and delicacy of perfume. It was, of course, a great ambition, and how we have succeeded we must leave the world to judge. Broadly, I would say that such success as has attended our labours is due far more to the careful selection than to any

use, either for further fertilisation or for commerce, about 5 per cent. of the seedlings raised. To appreciate the labour this entails upon the hybridiser, one must follow the rose from the hip until it reaches maturity. In hybridisation, carried out upon a systematic plan such as ours, it means that the plants with which we are working have to be specially selected, planted and

it is interesting to note the wide differences in the period of germination in the different cases. In some instances the seed will germinate in two or three months, and in others I have known it to lie dormant for twelve to fifteen months. (I have never been able to give any reason why this should be so, and particularly why there should be marked differences in the periods of germination in seeds taken from the same hip, yet there is very frequently a marked difference.) To continue on this point I am making, it takes anywhere from three to six months, according to the vigour of the plant, to bring it to such amount of growth as will enable us to bud it for the purpose of testing outside. Then, when it is budded of course it takes a full year to bring the plant to maturity. Here, again, one has to face uncertainties, and to be very careful about forming a judgment, as experience has proved time and again that, in the early stages of culture, some varieties have displayed the greatest shyness in flowering, and yet, after a few years' cultivation, have taken their places in the front rank as perfect garden roses, blooming with the greatest freedom. Each year we are compelled to make a very close selection and to discard every seedling which does not suggest some improvement in at least one or two of the essential elements of the perfect rose, otherwise we would, of course, have been flooded out with varieties which would have been of no practical value to us, or, indeed, to the rose world at large.

System in Crossing.—The system we ultimately adopted was hybridisation in the first instance between hybrid perpetual and teas, and then inbreeding from their offspring upon the following lines:—We made four distinct crosses. We took a seedling of our own which gave some evidence of possessing at least some of the qualities aimed at, and, in the first instance, this seedling was crossed with the male parent; secondly, the seedling crossed with the female parent; thirdly, the male parent crossed with the seedling; fourthly, the female parent crossed with the seedling. As soon as we were able to form an opinion of the results of this inter-breeding, we again made a selection of those most closely approaching our ideal, again in-breeding, but with this difference, that we only made use of a limited number of parents, but in almost every instance making a double cross. For example, if we made a seedling with, say, Marie Van Houtte, as the male parent, then during that season we reversed the cross, making Marie Van Houtte the seed-bearing parent, and the seedling the male parent. We always had relays of plants prepared in duplicate for this purpose, and we carefully and methodically registered each experiment, thus carrying on our work in a systematic manner, the system of selection, of course, always playing the most prominent part in the results. From practical experience we were able to ascertain which varieties or, rather, types, gave us the best results, and we were therefore able, to a considerable extent, to lessen the waste, and to reduce our methods to a system containing at least some elements of certainty. We, of course, have made use of varieties of other raisers where we have been struck by any special feature which they contained, which was in our opinion an advance upon anything in commerce.

Some Interesting Results.—The result of our labours has been to produce what is admittedly an absolute distinct class, if not family, of roses known as the "Alex. Dickson type." We, of course, claim that the types of roses we have introduced have made a great advance on those previously in commerce. We aimed at producing a type having vigour of growth, freedom and perfectly formed, with unusually long petals, at the same time growing on bushes, the foliage of which is luxuriant and handsome. How far the varieties we have sent out have done what we claim for them, you must judge.

In our experiments, and in our struggling with the qualities we have indicated, we felt convinced that La France would prove one of the most useful parents we could possibly have, if we could succeed in making it produce seed. It was, of course, the opinion of most hybridisers that La France was sterile, and with this opinion we were for a long time inclined to agree, and, indeed, the best that could be said for it is, that there is just the possibility that it may be fertilised. Out of many hundreds of

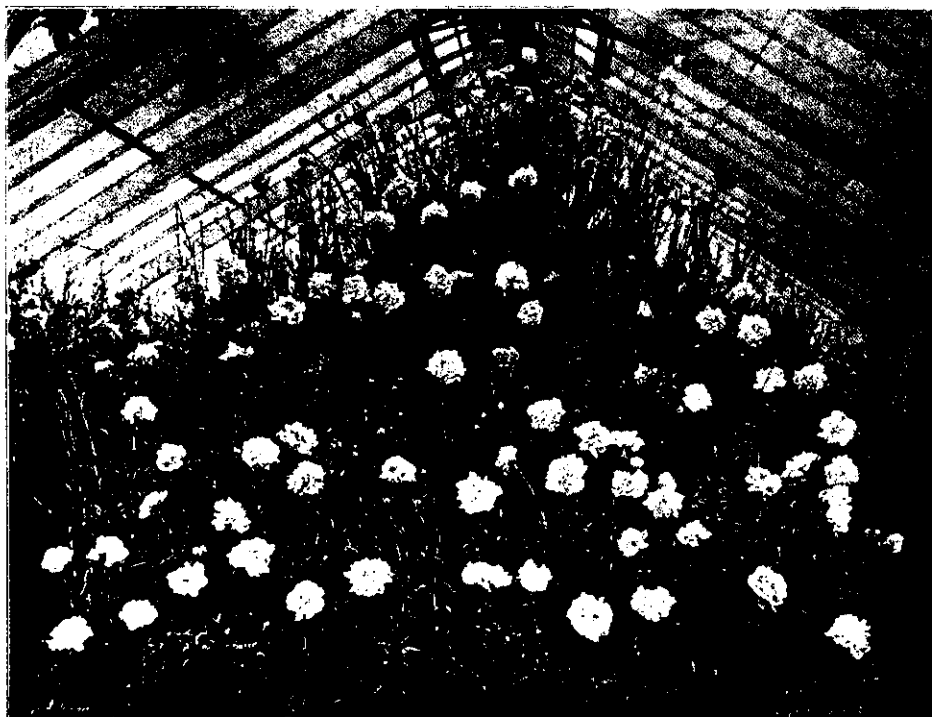


The Bothy, in which the Gardener's Staff lives at Frogmore.

defined plan of fertilisation. As a broad basis of our experiments, we took as parents such varieties as appeared to us to embody the chief elements of our ideal, and worked steadily from these. We had, of course, to experiment upon a very extensive scale, and my point will be readily appreciated when I say that we were only able to retain for

grown, and the blooms fertilized. There is then the period required to ripen the hip (and in Ireland this takes considerable time, owing to the cold and dampness of our climate). Then comes the sowing of the seed, and the attention and care during the period of germination.

Some Uncertainties.—In this respect



The Royal Gardens at Frogmore: A house containing Souvenir de la Malmaison Carnations.

processes with this rose, only in one instance did we succeed in making it produce seed, but we feel that the labour we spent was amply repaid, as the ultimate result of it was the introduction of Mrs. W. J. Grant, known to you as Belle Siebrecht, in our opinion one of the finest roses in cultivation, at least from the Britisher's standpoint. In addition to this, we have always found, from practical experience, the roses descended from this particular cross have always impressed their off-spring with some at least of the more prominent qualities of the parents, and it was pursuing this particular line of breeding that enabled us to produce varieties which, from a British standpoint, are ideal exhibition flowers, and, at the same time, the plants are floriferous and of excellent constitution. In this group we might mention Killarney, Mrs. Edward Mawley, Bessie Brown, Liberty, Lady Moyra Beauclerc, Lady Ashton, Mrs. David McKee, Dean Hole, Countess of Derby, Betty, Mrs. G. W. Kerslaw, and last but not least, Mildred Grant and William Shean, two of the finest exhibition roses at present in cultivation in Great Britain. Mildred Grant resulted from a seedling between Niphetos and Madame Willermoz in the first instance, crossed with a seedling of our own which is not in commerce, and the system of which this is an instance applies pretty generally to all the better classes of roses introduced by us.

After many years of continuous experiment on various lines, we have at last been able to produce what has long been sought for, namely, a yellow Tea, of good size and colour, with a vigour and hardiness of the Hybrid Perpetual. I refer to the rose Harry Kirk, which is now being grown by most of you, and you will shortly be able to judge whether it fulfils the promise we have made on its behalf. I think you will not be disappointed.

It is interesting to note, in relation to the La France cross, that the same inclination to sterility is apparent in the rose Augustine Guimousseau sport from La France. Out of hundreds of experiments we have not succeeded in getting a single seed pod from this variety.

The only other point of practical importance which occurs to me is the fact that in our early experiments, when we had in view the object of producing varieties which would give a greater continuity of bloom, we used in our efforts Rosa Indica, and, after a considerable amount of labour, we succeeded in impressing this much valued quality on some of its offspring which are now in commerce.

In a general way, we found it very difficult, and, indeed, impossible, to place the smallest dependence upon the presumption that Hybrid Perpetuals would impart to their offspring anything of their own colour, and, in a general way, we may say that, after much experience, the chief varieties which we use, and use with the best results for the purpose of getting blends, are the Hybrid Perpetuals—Horse Vernet, Charles Lefebvre, General Jacqueminot, and also Austrian Briers, Persian Yellow, and Harrisonii.

From what I have said, you will readily appreciate the fact that it would be wholly impossible, and, indeed, I think a waste of your time and mine, to give in detail the results of thirty years' hybridising. I have done my best to make clear the general lines upon which our work has been conducted, from which it will be readily inferred that the element of chance must always play a prominent part, and I might aptly use the well-known quotation from Pope—

"All nature is but art, unknown to thee
All chance, direction which thou canst not see."

And I ask such of you as may desire to enter for yourselves upon this interesting field of experiment to go forward with confidence—

"Knowing that nature never did betray
The heart that loved her."

FUCHSIAS.

Most of the species of this highly ornamental and—at one time—very popular subject are natives of South America, and, though the date of its introduction to Britain is not exactly known, it is generally conceded to have been about the end of the eighteenth century. F. coccinea is said by some authorities to have been the first of the genus to make its appearance in these islands, others claim this honour for F. lycoides.

So this as it may, it is on record that the first fuchsia seen in Britain was

discovered by a nurseryman growing in a cottage window; and, impressed with the beauty of this then unknown plant, he managed to effect its purchase.

A stock was soon obtained, and of these young plants, it is said, three hundred were sold the following year at a guinea a-piece. The popularity of the fuchsia was thus quickly established, and other species were introduced from time to time after this, till latterly raising from seed was tried, with the result that in a few years garden varieties, or hybrids, differing greatly both from parental species and each other, were easily obtainable, and for many years these garden varieties, and also many of the species were reckoned amongst the most beautiful and ornamental of our greenhouse plants. It might be difficult to find an adequate reason why it is so, but there is no doubt that, compared with former times, the fuchsia has fallen upon evil days. It cannot be any difficulty of culture, as the merest tyro in horticulture may take up fuchsia growing with every hope of success; changing taste and fashion may more truthfully be blamed for the neglect now given to this one-time favourite. But, spite of present-day indifference, we have few more ornamental subjects, either for spacious conservatory or cottage window, than a well-grown specimen of fuchsia, while its adaptability to various forms of training makes it possible to utilise its beauty and decorative properties in a variety of ways.

It may be grown as bushes, pyramids, or standards, trained on a wall, roof, pillar, or rafter, while several species and varieties are eminently fitted for draping the front of conservatory stages or growing in baskets suspended from roof or rafter. Many varieties are hardy enough to permit of their free use as summer bedders; one or two are hardy enough to stand all the year round—F. Riccartonii, for instance—while several more would also live outside if given some protection during winter. The writer knows of clumps of F. Riccartonii that have occupied the same position undisturbed for over 30 years, receiving no protection whatever, and though the young growth sometimes gets nipped with late spring frosts, growth soon breaks away afresh from the root, and these clumps—about 4 feet through—make a magnificent display in late summer and autumn.

The growing of fuchsias for exhibition or as specimen plants entails a measure of care and attention, but for merely ordinary or decorative purposes their culture is easily mastered, though, like the majority of cultivated plants, they should be well cared for when young.

Propagation may be effected either by seeds or cuttings, but raising from seed is only practised when new varieties are wanted; established varieties can only with certainty be increased from cuttings. Cuttings will root at any season of the year that suitable young growths, free of flower buds, can be obtained, but spring is the season best adapted for propagation for general purposes. Old plants for supplying cuttings should be slightly cut back, and if kept moist and well syringed in bright weather, they will soon furnish abundance of young growth suitable for cuttings. Of course, cuttings can also be obtained from stock plants who-a started in spring, without setting apart any plants specially to supply cuttings.

Cuttings should be taken off when about 4 inches long, made and trimmed in the usual way of preparing, and then inserted singly in small pots filled with very sandy, moist soil. If plunged in a brisk bottom heat, kept close, and shaded for a few days, they will quickly make roots, and should then be gradually exposed to more light and air, taking care to keep rooting medium always moist, without being sodden. Directly rootlets are visible in any quantity, the young plants should be potted on into pots just one size larger, still using light, sandy soil, with just a little more loam added. The main point in fuchsia culture for any purpose is to keep plants growing freely while young, and to this end they should have a good medium of moist heat afforded them at this stage; 50 deg. at night, with a rise of 10 or 15 deg. during the day, will suit them well, but they should have plenty of atmospheric moisture along with this heat. They should be freely syringed overhead in bright weather, and should be potted on as soon as roots touch the sides of the pots until they reach the size it is intended to flower them in. Fuchsias are still popular plants with amateurs, but many amateurs cannot provide bottom heat in which to root

their cuttings, and if old plants are then cut back a bit and set in the warmest, sunniest corner of greenhouse or window, first making sure that the ball of soil in pots is well soaked and then kept moist, succulent young shoots for cuttings will soon be available. These should be taken off and inserted as already advised, then pots should be set into a box of convenient size, and deep enough to give cuttings clear headroom when a sheet of glass is laid over the top. A sheet of paper laid over glass will provide shade, and, if half an inch of fine ashes can be laid over bottom of box for pots to stand on, these will help to maintain a moister atmosphere around the cuttings.

Rooting will be somewhat slower than under the influence of bottom heat, but it will be none the less sure; but, as a precaution against damping, the sheet of glass should have its under surface wiped dry once every day, or, at least, turned upside down, which takes less time, and is quite as effectual.

The same routine should be followed when cuttings are rooted as advised for those struck in bottom heat, and cuttings should be shaded or set in a shady corner for a few days after they are first potted on. The fuchsia likes, and repays, generous treatment; consequently, when young plants get fairly under weigh or attain any size, they must have something in the way of good food at all subsequent re-pottings. Two parts good, fibrous loam, one part leaf mould and peat, and half a part clean, sharp sand and old cattle droppings, with a dash of soot and bone-meal, makes a good sustaining compost, and this should be further supplemented by bi-weekly waterings with liquid manure when flowering pots are well filled with roots.

Pinching must be judiciously practised at an early stage in order to have well-furnished plants, though the form of training adopted may modify the amount of pinching necessary, and also the time of pinching. For most purposes we consider the pyramidal style of training the most effective, and to have plants closely furnished from the rim of the pot upwards, the leader or point should be nipped out when plants are about 6 inches high. A nip stake should be given each plant, and the best point break be neatly tied up to this to form another leader. This should again be stopped when 6 inches of growth is made, another leader secured as before, and these operations repeated as often as necessary till plant has attained the height desired.—"Scottish Gardener."

ROSE, MRS. E. G. HILL.

This is a superb variety, so grandly displayed upon upright stems. It is this latter quality that makes it superior to Grand Due de Luxembourg, in which the growths are somewhat straggling, but the stalk of the bloom is weak, which compels the rose to hang its head. This failing is absent in Mrs. E. G. Hill. The colour is very brilliant, a striking coral-red, the inside of the petals almost pure white, so that when two or three petals just curl back slightly, the contrast of colour is beautiful. Some of the newer Hybrid Teas have proved grand autumn bloomers, and the variety under notice is no exception. Betty has been lovely. I am aware it has been somewhat disparaged, but all who have seen it in autumn have been impressed with its beauty. The form of bud is splendid, and it is a glorious colour—a sort of coppery-rose. Were it not for its vigorous growth, one could believe it originated from Mrs. W. J. Grant, so splendid are its petals. Laurent Carle is one of Mons. Pernet Ducher's novelties. The colour is a brilliant velvety-carmine, a shade quite distinct among Roses, and one that this description does not do justice to. The flowers are large, even good enough for exhibition, and very freely produced upon good, vigorous growth. Other beautiful novelties for autumn display are Harry Kirk, Dorothy Page Roberts, Elizabeth Burnes, Warrior, Mme. Segord Welser, Mrs. Aaron Ward, Rene, Wilhart-Urban, Escarlate, Grass an Sangerlausen, Joseph Lowe, and Mrs. Peter Blair.

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"PIGS IS PIGS."

By ELLIS PARKER BUTLER.

MIKE FLANNERY, the Westcote agent of the Interurban Express Company, leaned over the counter of the express office, and shook his fist. Mr. Moorhouse, angry and red, stood on the other side of the counter, trembling with rage. The argument had been long and heated, and at last Mr. Moorhouse had talked himself speechless. The cause of the trouble stood on the counter between the two men. It was a soap box, across the top of which were nailed a number of strips, forming a rough but serviceable cage. In it two spotted guinea-pigs were greedily eating lettuce leaves.

"Do as you like, then!" shouted Flannery, "pay for them an' take them, or don't pay for them and leave them be. Rules is rules. Mistor Morehouse, an' Mike Flannery's not goin' to be called down for breakin' of them."

"But, you overbearing stupid idiot!" shouted Mr. Moorhouse, madly slaking a thimble printed book beneath the agent's nose, "can't you read it here—in your own printed rates? 'Pets, domestic, Franklin to Westcote, if properly boxed, twenty-five cents each.' He threw the book on the counter in disgust. "What more do you want? Aren't they pets? Aren't they domestic? Aren't they properly boxed? What?"

He turned and walked back and forth rapidly; frowning ferociously. Suddenly he turned to Flannery, and forcing his voice to an artificial calmness spoke slowly with intense sarcasm.

"Pets," he said, "P-e-t-s! Twenty-five cents each. There are two of them. Oh! Two! Two times twenty-five are fifty! Can you understand that? I offer you fifty cents."

Flannery reached for the book. He ran his hand through the pages and stopped at page sixty-four.

"An' I don't take fifty cents!" he whispered in mockery. "Here's the rule for ut. 'Whin the agint be in any doubt regardin' which of two rates applies to a shipment, he shall charge the larger. The consignee may file a claim for the overcharge.' In this case, Mistor Morehouse, I be in doubt. Pets thim animals may be, an' domestic they be, but pigs, I'm blame sure they do be, an' me rules says plain as the nose on yer face, 'Pigs, Franklin to Westcote, thirty cents each.' An' Mistor Morehouse, by an' arithmetical knowledge, two times thirty comes to sixty cents."

Mr. Moorhouse shook his head savagely. "Nonsense!" he shouted, "confounded nonsense! I tell you! Why, you poor ignorant foreigner, that rule means common pigs, domestic pigs, not guinea pigs!"

Flannery was stubborn. "Pigs is pigs," he declared firmly, "guinea-pigs, or dago pigs or Irish pigs is all the same to the Interurban Express Company an' to Mike Flannery. The nationality of the pig creates no difference of the rate. Mistor Morehouse! 'Twould be the same was they Dutch pigs or Rousson pigs. Mike Flannery."

He added, "is here to tial to the express business an' not to hould conversation wid dago pigs in sixteen languages fer to discover be they Chinese or Tipperary by birth an' nativity."

Mr. Moorhouse hesitated. He bit his lip and then flung out his arms wildly.

"Very well!" he shouted, "you shall hear of this! Your president shall hear of this! It is an outrage! I have offered you fifty cents. You refuse it! Keep the pigs until you are ready to take the fifty cents, but, by George, sir, if one hair of those pig's heads is harmed I will have the law on you!"

He turned and stalked out, slamming the door. Flannery carefully lifted the soap box from the counter and placed it in a corner. He was not worried. He felt the peace that comes to a faithful servant who has done his duty and done it well.

Mr. Moorhouse went home raging. His boy, who had been awaiting the guinea-pigs, knew better than to ask him for them. He was a normal boy and therefore always had a guilty conscience when his father was angry. So the boy slipped quietly around the house. There is no

thing so soothing to a guilty conscience as to be out of the path of the avenger.

Mr. Moorhouse stormed into the house. "Where's the ink?" he shouted at his wife as soon as his foot was across the door-sill.

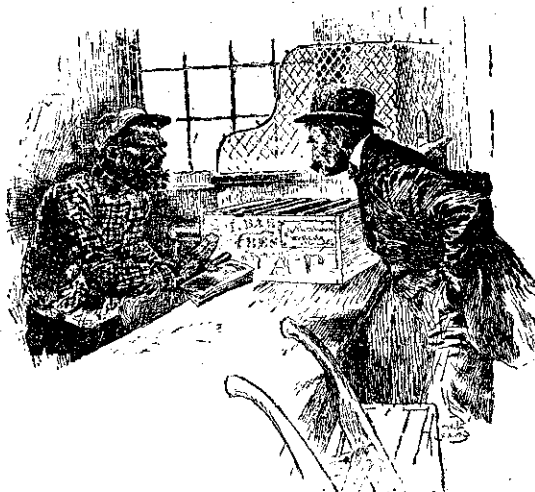
Mrs. Moorhouse jumped, guiltily. She never used ink. She had not seen the ink, nor moved the ink, nor thought of the ink, but her husband's tone convicted her of the guilt of having borne and reared a boy, and she knew that when ever her husband wanted anything in a loud voice the boy had been at it.

"I'll find Sammy," she said meekly. When the ink was found, Mr. Moorhouse wrote rapidly, and he read the completed letter and smiled a triumphant smile.

"Flannery is right, pigs is pigs."

"That will settle that crazy Irishman!" he exclaimed. "When they get that letter he will hunt another job, all right!"

A week later Mr. Moorhouse received a long official envelope with the card of the Interurban Express Company in the up-



"Pets thim animals may be, an' domestic they do be."

per left corner. He tore it open eagerly and drew out a sheet of paper. At the top it bore the number A6754. The letter was short. "Subject—Rate on guinea-pigs," it said, "Dr. Sir—We are in receipt of your letter regarding rate on guinea-pigs btween Franklin and Westcote, addressed to the president of this company. All claims for overcharge should be addressed to the Claims Department."

Mr. Moorhouse wrote to the Claims Department. He wrote six pages of choice sarcasm, vituperation and argument, and sent them to the Claims Department.

A few weeks later he received a reply from the Claims Department. Attached to it was his last letter.

"Dr. Sir," said the reply. "Your letter of the 16th inst., addressed to this Department, subject rate on guinea-pigs from Franklin to Westcote, rec'd. We have taken up the matter with our agent at Westcote, and his reply is attached herewith. He informs us that you refused to receive the consignment or to pay the charges. You have therefore no claim against this company, and your letter regarding the proper rate on the consignment should be addressed to our Tariff Department."

Mr. Moorhouse wrote to the Tariff Department. He stated his case clearly, and gave his arguments in full, quoting a page or two from the encyclopedia to prove that guinea pigs were not common pigs.

With the care that characterises corporations when they are systematicaly conducted, Mr. Moorhouse's letter was

numbered O. K'd. and started through the regular channels. Duplicate copies of the bill of lading, manifest, Flannery's receipt for the package and several other pertinent papers were pinned to the letter, and they were passed to the head of the Tariff Department.

The head of the Tariff Department put his feet on his desk and yawned. He looked through the papers carelessly. "Miss Kane," he said to his stenographer, "take this letter. 'Agent, Westcote, N.J. Please advise why consignment referred to in attached papers was refused domestic pets rates.'"

Miss Kane made a series of curves and angles on her note book and waited with pencil poised. The head of the department looked at the papers again. "That! guinea-pigs!" he said. "Probably starved to death by this time! Add this to that letter: 'Give condition of consignment at present.'"

He tossed the papers on to the stenographer's desk, took his feet from his own desk and went out to lunch.

When Mike Flannery received the letter he scratched his head.

"Give present condition," he repeated thoughtfully. "Now what do thim clerks be wantin' to know. I wonder! 'Present condition' is ut? Thim pigs, praise St. Patrick, do be in good health, so far as I know, but I niver was no veterinary surgeon to dago pigs. Mehby thim clerks wants me to call in the pig doctor an' have their pulses took. Wan thing I do know, howiver, which is they're glorious appetites for pigs of their soize. Ate? They'd ate the brass padlocks off of a barn door! If the paddy pig, by the

Flannery received this letter next morning, and when he read it he grinned. "Proceed to collect," he said softly. "How thim clerks do loike to be talkin'! Me proceed to collect two dollars and twenty-foive cents off Mistor Morehouse! I wonder do thim clerks know, Mistor Morehouse? I'll git it! Oh, yes! 'Mistor Morehouse, two an' a quarter, please.' 'Cert'nly, me dear friend Flannery. Delighted!' Not!"

Flannery drove the express wagon to Mr. Moorhouse's door. Mr. Moorhouse answered the bell.

"Ah, ha!" he cried, as soon as he saw it was Flannery. "So you've come to your senses at last, have you? I thought you would! Bring the box in."

"I hev no box," said Flannery, coldly. "I hev a bill agin Mistor John C. Moorhouse for two dollars and twenty-foive cents for kebbages aten by his dago pigs. Wud you wish to pay ut?"

"Pay—'Cabbages—!" gasped Mr. Moorhouse. "Do you mean to say that two little guinea-pigs—?"

"Eight!" said Flannery. "Papa an' mamma, an' the six childer. Eight!"

For answer, Mr. Moorhouse slammed the door in Flannery's face. Flannery looked at the door reproachfully.

"I take ut the consigny don't want to pay for thim kebbages," he said. "If I know signs of refusal, the consigny refuses to pay for wan dang kebbage leaf an' be hangt to me!"

Mr. Morgan, the head of the Tariff Department, consulted the president of the Interurban Express Company regarding guinea-pigs, as to whether they were pigs or not pigs. The president was inclined to treat the matter lightly.

"What is the rate on pigs and on pets?" he asked.

"Pigs thirty cent, pets twenty-five," said Morgan.

"Then, of course, guinea-pigs are pigs," said the president.

"Yes," agreed Morgan, "I look at it that way, too. A thing that can come under two rates is naturally due to be classed as the higher. But are guinea-pigs, pigs? Aren't they rabbits?"

"Come to think of it," said the president, "I believe they are more like rabbits. Sort of half-way station between pig and rabbit. I think the question is this—are guinea-pigs of the domestic family? I'll ask Professor Gordon. He is authority on such things. Leave the papers with me."

The president put the papers on his desk, and wrote a letter to Professor Gordon. Unfortunately, the professor was in South America collecting zoological specimens, and the letter was forwarded to him by his wife. As the professor was in the highest Andes, where no white man had ever penetrated, the letter was many months in reaching him. The president forgot the guinea-pigs; Mr. Morgan forgot them; Mr. Moorhouse forgot them; but Flannery did not. One-half of his time he gave to the duties of his agency; the other half was devoted to the guinea-pigs. Long before Professor Gordon received the president's letter, Morgan received one from Flannery.

"About them dago pigs," it said; "what shall I do; they are great in family life; no race suicide for them; there are thirty-two now. Shall I sell them? Do you take this express office for a menagerie? Answer quick."

"Wan, two, Cree, four, foive, six, seven, eight!" he counted. "Sivin spotted an' wan all black. All well an' hearty, an' all eatin' loike ragin' hippy-patty-musses." He went back to his desk, and wrote.

"Mr. Morgan, Head of Tariff Department," he wrote. "Why do I say dago pigs is pigs because they is pigs, and will be til you say they ain't, which is what the rule book says stop your jolly-ing me, you know it as well as I do. As to health, they are all well, and hoping you are the same. P.S.—There are eight now; the family increased; all good eaters. P.S.—I paid out so far two dollars for cabbage, which they like. Shall I put in bill for same what?"

Morgan, head of the Tariff Department, when he received this letter, laughed. He read it again, and became serious.

"By George!" he said. "Flannery is right. 'Pigs is pigs.' I'll have to get authority on this thing. Meanwhile, Miss Kane, take this letter: 'Agent, Westcote, N.J. Regarding shipment guinea-pigs, File No. A6754. Rtd. 83, General Instruction to Agents, clearly states that agents shall collect from consignee all costs of praverider, etc., required for live stock while in transit or storage. You will proceed to collect same from consignee.'"

Mr. Moorhouse reached for a telegraph blank, and wrote:

"Agent, Westcote. Don't sell pigs. He then wrote Flannery a letter calling his attention to the fact that the pigs were not the property of the company,



"Proceed to collect."

but were merely being held during a settlement of a dispute regarding value. He advised Flannery to take the best possible care of them.

Flannery, letter in hand, looked at the pigs, and sighed. The dry-goods box cage had become too small. He boarded up twenty feet of the rear of the express office to make a large and airy home for them, and went about his business. He worked with feverish intensity when out on his rounds, for the pigs required attention, and took most of his time. Some months later, in desperation, he seized a sheet of paper, and wrote "160" across it, and mailed it to Morgan. Morgan returned it asking for explanation. Flannery replied:

"There be now one hundred sixty of them dago pigs, for heaven's sake let me sell of some, do you want me to go crazy, what?"

"Sell no pigs," Morgan wired. Not long after this the president of the express company received a letter from Professor Gordon. It was a long and scholarly letter, but the point was that the guinea-pig was the *Cavina aparea*, while the common pig was the *genius Sus* of the family *Suidae*. He remarked that they were prolific, and multiplied rapidly.

"They are not pigs," said the president, decidedly, to Morgan. "The twenty-five cent rate applies."

Morgan made the proper notation on the papers that had accumulated in File A6754, and turned them over to the Audit Department. The Audit Department took some time to look the matter up, and after the usual delay wrote Flannery that he has on hand one hundred and sixty guinea-pigs, the property of consignee, he should deliver them and collect charges at the rate of twenty-five cents each.

Flannery spent a day herding his charges through a narrow opening in their cage, so that he might count them.

"Audit Dept." he wrote, when he had finished the count, "you are way off there may be was one hundred and sixty dago pigs once, but wake up, don't be a back number. I've got even eight hundred, now shall I collect for eight hundred or what, how about sixty-four dollars I paid out for cabbages."

It required a great many letters back and forth before the Audit Department was able to understand why the error

had been made of billing one hundred and sixty instead of eight hundred, and still more time for it to get the meaning of the "cabbages."

Flannery was crowded into a few feet at the extreme front of the office. The pigs had all the rest of the room and

given up all attempts to attend to the receipt or the delivery of goods. He was hastily building galleries around the express office, tier above tier. He had four thousand and sixty-four guinea-pigs to care for! More were arriving daily. Immediately following its authorisation

Flannery read the telegram and cheered up. He wrote out a bill as rapidly as his pencil could travel over paper, and ran all the way to the Morehouse home. At the gate he stopped suddenly. The house started at him with vacant eyes. The windows were bare of curtains, and he could see into the empty rooms. A sign on the porch said, "To Let." Mr Morehouse had moved! Flannery ran all the way back to the express office. Sixty-nine guinea-pigs had been born during his absence. He ran out again and made feverish inquiries in the village. Mr Morehouse had not only moved, but he had left Westcote. Flannery returned to the express office, and found that two hundred and six guinea-pigs had entered the world since he left it. He wrote a telegram to the Audit Department.

"Can't collect fifty cents for two dago pigs consignee has left town address unknown what shall I do?" Flannery.

The telegram was handed to one of the clerks in the Audit Department, and as he read it he laughed.

"Flannery must be crazy. He ought to know that the thing to do is to return the consignment here," said the clerk. He telegraphed Flannery to send the pigs to the main office of the company at Franklin.

When Flannery received the telegram he set to work. The six boys he had engaged to help him also set to work. They worked with the haste of desperate men, making cages out of soap boxes, and as fast as the cages were completed they filled them with guinea-pigs and expressed them to Franklin. Day after day the cages of guinea-pigs flowed in a steady stream from Westcote to Franklin, and still Flannery and his six helpers ripped and nailed and packed—relentlessly and feverishly. At the end of the week they had shipped two hundred and eighty cases of guinea-pigs, and there were in the express office seven hundred and four more pigs than when they began packing them.

"Stop sending pigs. Warehouse full," came a telegram to Flannery. He stopped packing only long enough to wire back, "Can't stop," and kept on sending them. On the next train up from Franklin came one of the company's inspectors. He had instructions to stop the stream of guinea-pigs at all hazards. As his train drew up at Westcote station he saw a




He was winding up the guinea-pig episode

two boys were employed constantly attending to them. The day after Flannery had counted the guinea-pigs, there were eight more added to his drove, and by the time the Audit Department gave him authority to collect for eight hundred Flannery had


tion the Audit Department sent another letter, but Flannery was too busy to open it. They wrote another, and then they telegraphed:

"Error in guinea-pig bill. Collect for two guinea-pigs, fifty cents. Deliver all to consignee."



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Berlin and Its Burghers

THE HOME OF THE NIGHT-AND-DAY APPETITE.

By Samuel G. Blythe, in "Everybody's Magazine."

cattle car standing on the express company's siding. When he reached the express office he saw the express wagon backed up to the door. Six boys were carrying bushel baskets full of guinea-pigs from the office and dumping them into the wagon. Inside the room Flannery, with his coat and vest off, was shovelling guinea-pigs into bushel baskets with a coal scoop. He was winking up the guinea-pig episode.

He looked up at the inspector with a snort of anger.

"Wan wagonload more an' I'll be quit of them, an' niver will ye catch Flannery wid no more foreign pigs on his hands. No, sur! They near was the death o' me. Nixt time I'll know that pigs of whatevver nationality is domestic pets--



Mr. Moorhouse had moved

an' go at the lowest rate."

He began shovelling again rapidly, speaking quickly between breaths.

"Rules may be rules, but you can't fool Mike Flannery twice wid the same trick--whin ut comes to live stock, dang the rules. So long as Flannery runs this express office--pigs is pets--an' cows is pets--an' horses is pets--an' lions--an' tigers an' Rocky Mountain goats is pets--an' the rate on thim is twenty-five cints."

He paused long enough to let one of the boys put an empty basket in the place of the one he had just filled. There were only a few guinea-pigs left. As he noted their limited number his natural habit of looking on the bright side returned.

"Well, annyhow," he said cheerfully, "tis not so bad as at might be. What if thim dago pigs had been elephants!"

We were on Unter den Linden, and it was one o'clock in the morning. "Come," said my Berlin friend, "we will go up here and see what is going on."

We went up. The place was a cafe, judging from the number of tables. Nobody was there; that is, nobody but a lot of waiters standing around. I scoffed a bit. "Fine, lively morgue you've broken into," I said. "An accurate picture of night life in Berlin, I take it."

gives it the conventional Teutonic tinge. It does not comport, for example, with American ideas of hilarity, for the whole family to go to a beer-hall and sit four hours at a table, solemnly drinking beer. Still, as it is in the Germany way, and they know what they want to do, the fact that they can be found sitting there until two and three o'clock in the morning gives a good deal in holding up the contention.

Berlin is organised for eating and



IT IS THE GERMAN WAY, AND THEY CAN BE FOUND THERE UNTIL 2 AND 3 O'CLOCK IN THE MORNING.

There was a big negro, in a green uniform, decorated with many brass buttons, at the door. He heard me. "Deed, sah," he remonstrated, in real darky talk, "you-all is too early. Come in, sah, in 'bout a hour an' a half!"

That made me blink. And I blinked again when we turned the corner into Friedrich-strasse and found ourselves in the middle of a strolling crowd of Berliners that filled the sidewalks.

"Something uncommon going on, I suppose," I ventured.

"Oh, no," my Berlin friend replied. "Usual thing. Always this way. This street doesn't begin to get good until after midnight, and it is as crowded at three or four o'clock in the morning as it is now."

And all these years we have been hearing about the stolid, phlegmatic, philosophical German, who stolidly smokes a long pipe and reads abstruse speculations on the ultimate theory of matter as contrasted with the penultimate hypothesis of the inner soul. Well, we'll change that. The German may be stolid and phlegmatic and philosophical. Granted. But the Berliner seems to have aspects of gaiety and pleasure-seeking that put him somewhat outside of the diagnosis.

They have been hauling out the la-lala Parisian and the whoop-it-up New Yorker to us as the real exemplars of how to have what they call "fun" after dark. But the Parisian vanishes along about two o'clock in the morning, and the New Yorker fades away about the same time, in a large majority. But the phlegmatic, stolid German, the student of philosophy, is just beginning to get under way when our gay blades of the Great White Way are yawning and steering toward the subway. This means the Berliner, of course. What they do in other parts of Germany is beside the mark; but you can get a good imitation of Berlin in Dresden and Munich and in other places, if you care to investigate.

A city where the cafes remain filled until four o'clock in the morning cannot be classed rightly as a dull, grey, melancholy community, although it must be said there is a certain sedateness about much of the merry-making in Berlin that

of these places is most formal. If the hall is crowded and tables are scarce, before you sit down you draw your heels together and make a military bow to everybody sitting at the table you select. Then, also, you raise your glass or stein to those at the table when your refreshment is served. On leaving, you bow all around again. Or the other people at the table bow, if they leave before you do. The American way of asking the others at the table for permission to sit down is not ceremonious enough for the Germans, who are the most formally polite people in the world.

Your German does not care for fancy food. He wants "grub." Eating to him is a sacred ceremony, not to be trifled with nor slighted. When he eats, he wants to eat, to masticate, to get a realising sense that he is communing with something that has substance in it. There was that occasion when Frederick W. Caudwell, the American Vice-Consul General in Berlin, decided to give a reception to his friends. He went to his landlady and discussed the refreshments with her. They decided on sandwiches and some trifles of that character. In giving his parting instructions, Caudwell said: "Be sure to cut the crusts off the bread when you make the sandwiches."

There was consternation at this. The landlady held a consultation with the servants. The master of the house was brought into it. The point was debated for half an hour. Cut the crusts off the bread? Preposterous! After the situation had been canvassed in all its details, and the judgment of everybody in the house had been passed on the proposition, the landlady went to Caudwell.

"Is it so," she asked, "that we are to cut the crusts the bread off when the sandwiches we are making?"

"Certainly," Caudwell replied. "Ah," she said, a great light breaking over her, "I comprehend at last. Your friends have no teeth."

The Kaiser knows the fatal effects of these great German feasts. He knows the reason so many of his countrymen get paunchy is that they sit too long at table after the dinner is over. Whenever he gives or goes to a dinner, he gets up as soon as it is finished and walks about. Everybody else has to get up and stand around as long as the Kaiser is standing. He keeps them on their feet for an hour. That is one way the Kaiser holds his waist line in check, for he eats as heartily as any of his subjects, and likes to do it. Still, not all Germans, and especially not all Berliners, have this fear of paunchiness. One massive official was talking about his size.

"Why not reduce?" he was asked. "Reduce!" he screamed, patting his paunch affectionately. "Why should I look what it cost me to get it up!"

Berlin is the city of the small tip, but, likewise, the city of the numerous tip. It is amazing to observe the grateful thanks that follow the princely bestowal of ten pfennigs, or about one and a-half cents. Still, there need be no obsession that tips are not expensive enough, in the total, for the Berliners have evolved a gradation of service that makes the outflow of ten-pfennig pieces rapid and continuous. You are waited upon all right, but it takes a platoon of servants to accomplish what is wanted.

The Berliners and the rest of the Germans are the most governed people on earth. They like it and howl for more. They have restrictions of all kinds placed

drinking, and so are the Berliners organised for it. Scattered all over the city are enormous places where food is served. The Berliners, apparently, like to eat and drink in company, if not in communion, with vast numbers of their fellows. One of the boasts of Berlin is the Rheingold, a huge place recently completed, where four thousand people can be fed at one time. At the Zoo, on a pleasant evening, you can find several thousand, and so at the Terrace Garden, while Kempinski's is an amazing institution.

Wine-halls, where only wines are served, and beer-halls, which deal in beer alone, are everywhere, some of them most respectable and some of them not so impeccable. It is the rule that it is perfectly proper to take your mother or your wife or your sister to a beer-hall or a wine-hall that is frequented by the officers of the army. They go only to the proper ones--publicly. The etiquette



THE FIREMEN DO NOT TURN THE HOSE IN AT THE TOP WINDOWS AND DROWN EVERYTHING IN THE PLACE.

THAT TIRED FEELING

"I fell a sufferer to 'that tired feeling,'" says Miss Messenger, c/o Miss Stephens, Burnett Street, Ipswich, Queensland. "I lost all appetite, suffered from indigestion and headaches, became languid, weary, depressed, and jaded, and quite unfitted for work. On the recommendation of a friend I underwent a course of Bile Beans. The first few doses gave me great relief, and I was soon rid of all my troubles, for which I am very thankful. Bile Beans are easy to take, and I shall always keep a box handy for use whenever occasion may arise, and recommend them to my friends."

Of all Chemists and Stores, at 1/3 and 2/9 per box.

BILE BEANS

on the order of their daily lives, but they are used to it. Indeed, they have arrived at a sort of mental state in which they look to the authorities to tell them

mayor before. He is a sort of professional mayor, and he was brought to Berlin because he had been a good mayor elsewhere. He had been trained. Imagine

stairs up to that floor, went into the apartment, shut the doors, and put out the fire, confining it to two rooms. They did not come whooping down the street, turn the hose in at the top windows, and drown everything and everybody in the place; nor did they smash in any doors or windows with axes, nor ruin any furniture.

to which this policy is followed. A man and his small son were waiting at an underground railroad station for a train. The boy fell off the platform to the track, and was struck by an approaching train and killed. Did the father get damages from the railroad? He did not. Instead, he was sued by the authorities for obstructing traffic through the person of his son.

Berlin streets are miraculously clean. If you light a cigar while walking out of doors, you instinctively look for a place to put the stub of the match instead of throwing it on the pavement. If you see no place, the chances are you will put the burned match in your pocket. It seems so against the rules to do anything to mess up those streets. There are no glaring electric signs and no bill-boards. At various places in the city, round sheet-iron stands are placed. If you have any bill-posting to do, you must post your bills on these stands. Moreover, the bills must be of a certain size.

Every Berliner does exactly what he is expected to do, and you must do the same. As an example of how well trained they are: they are not obliged to have guards on the underground trains in Berlin. The Berlin folks know they are expected to shut the doors, and they shut them. If you observe their regulations you are not disturbed, but if you violate one of them, you instantly get into more kinds of trouble than you had imagined would exist. All you are expected to do is to walk a chalk-line, and you can be happy, if the regulations allow the kind of happiness that agrees



IF A CAB KNOCKS YOU DOWN, YOU ARE ARRESTED FOR OBSTRUCTING THE TRAFFIC.

what to do, and how to do it, in every contingency. "Verboten!" is the German word that has the greatest vogue, so far as I was able to see. "Forbidden!" stares them in the face everywhere. They are regulated in all sorts of ways, down to the manner they shall conduct themselves in their houses. There is a certain time for beating rugs, a certain time for playing the piano, a certain time for everything else. You can move your household goods only in a certain way. You cannot shake a dust rag out of the window. You cannot do this and you cannot do that, and, they told me, after you once get accustomed to it, it is a comfortable way to live. It absolves you from thought if you know what hours there are for doing your work and how you must do it.

The municipal authorities are not politicians, voted in or voted out of office. They are fixtures. For example, the mayor of Berlin was not elected in Berlin and did not live in Berlin. He came from another city, where he had been

New York taking a mayor from Rochester because the Rochester man had been a good mayor and knew how to run a municipality; or Chicago sending to Springfield or Peroria for an executive? The imported mayor serves 12 years. He is not dependent on politics in any degree, and the result is that there is little graft in the city government and that the municipal machinery works smoothly and well.

As for the police, they are mostly men who have served in the army, who have no fear of shifting captains or changes in commissionerhip. They are policemen so long as they behave themselves properly. They are very important, very self-sufficient, and inclined to be brutal, but they keep the city in good order.

The firemen are carefully selected. They have fire-fighting methods that might well be studied by the firemen in American cities. I saw a fire in an apartment house. It was on the third floor. The firemen came, took out some tarpaulins, spread them carefully on the



THE ARMY IS CONSTANTLY ON VIEW.

The sixteen-sheet stand is unknown. A modest two-sheet is about the limit.

If a cab knocks you down in the street, you are arrested for obstructing the traffic. Your place is on the sidewalk. They tell a story of the extreme

with you. If not, be gloomy. It is much more comfortable than to insist on your type of happiness, for there is no greater example of wasted effort than an argument with a German official. Berlin men, who are usually erect and

Patronised by the Prince and Princess of Wales,



Governors of Australia, New Zealand, etc.

THE GRAND HOTEL, ROTORUA.

THE LEADING HOTEL IN HOT LAKES DISTRICT.

Close to the Railway Station and the Government Gardens, and Famous Curative Baths. Superbly Furnished and Supplied with every Luxury, Comfort, and Modern Convenience. Attendance and Cuisine equal to the best in the Dominion.

TARIFF: From 12/6 per day.

GEO. M. BROWN, Proprietor.

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On the Shores of the Magnificent Lake Rotorua; one of the most commanding positions in the district. From its spacious balconies a wonderful view is obtained. Among the GREAT ATTRACTIONS this Popular Hotel has to offer are

TWELVE NEW HOT MINERAL BATHS

of the latest and most up-to-date design in SEPARATE SPECIALLY CONSTRUCTED BATH HOUSES, situated on its own SPLENDIDLY LAID OUT GROUNDS, which are free to the use of visitors to this Hotel.

TARIFF: From 8/6 per day.

CHAS. A. SANSOM, Proprietor.

GEYSER HOTEL, WHAKAREWAREWA, ROTORUA.

SITUATED IN A UNIQUE POSITION CLOSE TO THE WONDERFUL GEYSERS AND MAORI SETTLEMENT.

From the verandah of this hotel visitors have constant opportunity of witnessing the Geysers playing, and of studying native life and customs.

The Hotel possesses its own private Hot and Cold Curative Mineral Baths, of which the most valued are the "Spout," "Oil," and "Carlsbad" Baths. It is furnished throughout in a most luxurious style, and is on a par with the leading Continental Spa Hotels.

TARIFF: From 10/6 per day.

F. WATKINSON, Proprietor.

soldierly, because of their army service, have three methods of adding to their none-too-palchitudinous facial charms. All are in great vogue. One is the scar embellishment, acquired in the duelling days at the universities. The more criss-crosses there are on a German's face, the greater satisfaction he takes when he looks in the glass. When they fight their duels they are so swathed in bandages that little harm can come to them, but they usually get a few shallow slashes. These slashes, I am told, are cultivated carefully, and elaborated by rubbing salt into them un-

functions, and the rest, they take their pleasures seriously and formally, and do their work in the same way. They have an overplus of government. Each man lives his life according to plans and specifications furnished by his superiors. He does what he is expected to do and rarely does what he is not expected to do. He is expected, first of all, to keep Berlin clean and orderly and to invest his savings in commercial enterprise. He does all that methodically, and constantly, and that is the reason for the great, busy, industrious city; that is the "why" of Berlin.



THE KAISER IS NEVER UNDER ANY EXPENSE FOR KEEPING THE WAXED FLOORS AT A HIGH POLISH.

til the required pictorial effect is produced. You'd think, to see some of the men you meet over there, that somebody had held them down while other bloodthirsty ruffians had backed their countenances with meat cleavers. I am assured this is not the case. A cut a thirty-second of an inch deep can be elaborated into a forbidding scar by the judicious use of salt.

The Kaiser owns fifty-three palaces, or hunting-seats, or houses, or whatever they may all be, in various parts of the Empire, and is thus reasonably well supplied with places for his royal residence. He travels about his country a good bit, but Berlin sees much of him, for the official palace is there. He has the thirteenth of the State apartment in the palace, and he is never under any expense for keeping the waxed floors at a high polish. Every person who makes the trip through the gaudy saloons must wear enormous felt slippers over his shoes. The scuffling of the parties that go through every half-hour keeps them shining.

Emperor William is the busiest man in Germany. When they want to illustrate his ceaseless activity as well as his resistless power, they tell the story of the star above the cross on the spire of the Emperor William Memorial Church. This is the tale as it was told to me: Of course, the Kaiser insisted on revising the plans of the church. That is one of his fondest prerogatives—revising everything and especially plans. The architect brought the plans to him, and the Kaiser scratched out what he didn't like, and made such additions as he fancied before he gave them the Imperial O.K. The church was built. There was to be a big gilt cross on the spire, and it appeared in its proper place. But, much to the general astonishment, when the cross was put up a large, many-pointed gold star was raised above it, on a heavy rod. The Berliners could not understand the star. They inquired. The architect said the Kaiser had added the star to the plans.

The plans were examined. Then it was found that, in revising them, the Kaiser had let fall a drop of ink from his pen, which hit the paper just above the cross. The architect studied a long time over this blot of ink. His Prussian mind grappled with the problem for weeks. There was no appeal. There could be no inquiries. He finally decided the blot of ink signified a star above the cross, and he put the star there, making it to correspond, as nearly as possible, with the outline of the blot. The star is still there.

The people have good music, good art, fine theatres, big public gardens, museums, excellent schools, and fine streets. Still, they are essentially a solemn people. Notwithstanding their music, their cafes, their late hours, their social

A Queen's Favourite Book.

"Carmen Sylva," the Queen of Rumania (a famous authoress), writes of her reading hobbies in the course of an article in the "Pall Mall Magazine."

"I found differently so that my short-sighted eyes can find them from afar, there they stand, seeming never silent—Macaulay and Mahon, Shakespeare and Carlyle, Walter Scott and Chambers's 'English Literature'; and these I had as a girl of thirteen, and they have associated with me all over Europe, still to have the place of honour here in my mountain home. From the windows I look into the heart of the forest; the trees seem almost walking into the room, and between them is a glimpse of the sky where I see the sun rise, or the moon throw the castle's fantastic shadow on the trees. Just now they stand out black and dark against the dawn, and the first carol of the first bird accompanies my thoughts, as they wander through my bookshelves trying to recall which I love best, and when they were most dear.

The time of life at which one reads is very essential to the appreciation of books. I knew Burns by heart when I could not get Racine into my head.

"Only the modern French poets, especially my adored Lamotte de Lisle, write the kind of verse my ear can love. When I was thirteen I recited the 'Prisoner of Chillon,' the 'Odes of Horace,' and 'In Catilinam' in Latin, and know them still; and tried to read 'Manfred'; when I was forty I couldn't. I thought it unbearable, lamentable stuff! I read Goethe's 'Sorrows of Werther' at twenty-three, and laughed till I cried over the book, that moved former generations not only to floods of tears but even to suicide. I remember when I was quite a little girl seeing my mother and her ladies with eyes swollen with crying over 'Uncle Tom's Cabin,' and when after I was forty I read it. I wondered what they had cried for. I thought the 'Luck of Roaring Camp' and 'Baby Sylvester' so much more touching. I could have cried over that! If you have not re-read a book for over twenty years, never presume to express your feelings about it, at least without adding the date at which you made its acquaintance. The eternal books—Shakespeare and Dickens for example—are excepted; they have no time, and give no new impressions. Whenever I am tired I go back to Dickens, and re-read him with the same deep emotion and the same intense interest."

"I never could abide history, and always preferred any other science, and above all, fiction. I hate published correspondence, and dislike memoirs. Letters ought never to be published—it is always a horrible indiscretion—and memoirs ought scarcely to be written, as they are mostly untrue."

Winter in England

WRITTEN BY "PIERROT" IN LONDON.

It is with the coming of winter that one realises once and for all that one has changed one's hemisphere. The summer has been wonderful—nearly five months of mild weather, such as would not have disgraced a country with a far better meteorological repute. In fact, the horn grumbler, whether among visitors or natives, has been conspicuously unhappy for want of that at which to grumble. And now comes King Frost to tell his tale, and to form his men—and the grumbler who prefers comfort to Spartan vigour, and hot baths to cold, may growl with fair excuse.

It is the winter, perhaps, that expresses England, as I am inclined to believe, it is the summer that best expresses New Zealand. The Englishman shines best as host, as friend, even as the publican who professes to be the friend of all. And it is with his back to a cheery fire that he shows best of all. There's the rub. You must judge each country on its own lines. A New Zealander appears nowhere better than on a half-decker in a summer gale; an Englishman is himself on a hard, frosty road, or toasting a hospitable skull before a blazing hearth. To those born in a genial clime, home is an added luxury, unwise necessary to existence; to an Englishman it is as essential as his food or his clothes. And that is, I believe, why an Englishman is such a splendid friend, while often such a sadly unapproachable acquaintance.

You feel a fitness in the English winter that does much to reconcile you to its rigour. And often all humanity is divisible into people with potential "chests" (in the medical sense), and potential "livers." The man with a "chest" should perhaps keep away from the English winter; the man with a "liver" should perhaps avoid the colonial summer. I said before I left New Zealand, that there was no "best country"; now I know it better than ever. To blame England even climatically because it is not New Zealand, is not one whit more reasonable than to blame New Zealand because it is not England. I still love both countries, and I cannot quite understand the heart that is not large enough for the double devotion.

For the first time for seven years my hands are encased in warm gloves; but half an hour has reconciled me to a proceeding that seven months back would have seemed quite posteroses. Equally have I come to take for granted the puffs of steam that punctuate the remarks of a chance acquaintance as he talks to me upon a frosty morning; the reddened features; the accelerated walk. After all, our race has been partly moulded by frost; why should we make a sole god of a blazing sun? These people are so admirable—not a bit better or worse to my way of thinking than the New Zealander born, only trivially different.

My grievance is less against the rigours of winter than against the weapons adopted to give it battle. These blazing fires are the very essence of accumulated comfort—in fact, it is doubtful whether there is any single material thing in the world that gives such a luxurious feeling as a fire. That is the trouble. A fire is a hideous if insidious temptation. It's hell heat draws you as a light draws a moth; and presently you are enervated, and heretofore of all the vigour that a winter's morning should have bestowed upon you, and of something more in addition. Thus an English winter, at least to those not of the strongest of purpose, may have some of the worst evils of a subtropical summer.

I would abolish fires if I had the autocratic power. Central heating or nothing! Rooms at sixty-two degrees, or else let 'em freeze, no included! As it is, we freeze or we roast—and mostly we prefer roasting. The happy medium is despised by a luxurious race that seems to fly by nature from deprivation to plethora, from famine to a glut of sweetness, from Arctic shivering, enjoyed through grumbling, to tropical boiling, enjoyed by contrast.

Fortunately, the mass of the population is unable to toast its legs before the glowing coals—apart from that other populous minority that suffers from the opposite extreme of having no coals

before which to toast them. And there is certainly for a healthy man a joy in these rigorous, frosty mornings, which make life conscious of its strength, and its purpose. The man who can loaf through an English winter is either a fire-worshipper, or a born loafer, or both. If these clear, fresh mornings cannot fill him with the zest for action, there is nothing that will. And yet the loafer is a daily feast to the philo-sophic eye. But he is a forced plant of these same household furnaces, or at least bred of the general atmosphere, by them engendered.

It is now the season of talk, of sociability, of the un-Englishness (with apologies for the word) that is the first characteristic of the Englishman at his intellectual best. Unless you are a person who cultivates society with a big S, where you only meet unred people, you will now be at the heart of England as you never could be in summer. There is no country in the world, perhaps, where the nature of the people is so ill-represented by their manner as England. Stiff politeness is so merely a veneer, so easily dropped, that it is only those who have not lived the life of an English home who can realise that the true Englishman is neither innately stiff nor innately polite. The well-bred Englishman is a miracle of endurance, of outspoken, friendly rudeness—a hater of whisperings and innuendoes, a great likeable bear, who only freezes you until he is ready, either to hug you, or honestly to knock you down. English ignorance of outsiders? Yes, and French ignorance, and German ignorance, and Russian, and Italian, and Australian ignorance, and even New Zealand ignorance, and universal ignorance of outsiders!

I sometimes wonder, as I sit by a great blazing, hospitable English fire, with frank, honest jovial people about me, and hearing not one artificial intonation, not one cold criticism of either the present or the absent, and, as I remember the kindly, gentle people I met equally in those Blessed Isles of the Pacific—whether some people don't make it their business to cause bad blood between national relations, just as there are mischief-makers, whose chief joy in life is to set individual relations by the ears in unwholesome carping, and bickering, and snarling! I believe it is so, or else there would be natural play for a dual attraction that is so strong for me, and I believe for everyone who knows both his England and his colonies.

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Frotooids are the proper aperient medicine to take when any Congestion of Blood Poison is present, or when Congestion of the Brain or Apoplexy is present or threatening. They have been tested, and have been proved to afford quick relief in such cases when other aperients have not done any good at all.

Frotooids act splendidly on the liver; a dose taken at bed-time, once a week, is highly beneficial.

A constipated habit of body will be completely cured if the patient will on each occasion, when suffering, take a dose of Frotooids, instead of an ordinary aperient. The patient thus gradually becomes independent of Aperient Medicines.

Price 1/6. Chemists, Medicine Vendors, or the Proprietor, W. O. Hearn, Chemist, Geelong, Victoria.

The Game of Bridge.

DOUBLING AND DISCARDING DISCUSSED.

(By "CUT-CAVENDISH," Author of "How to Win at Bridge.")

When to double and when not to double, that is the question. So much, of course, must depend on the declaration, whether it be No Trumps, an attacking suit, or only a Spade. The score, too, has to be taken into account, and the geographical position of the doubler. Is he sitting above or below the declarer, and yet again whose lead is it?

Doubles to offensive declarations may not be of very common occurrence, but it is just as well to know what to be at when the opportunity arises. Let us consider first the double of No Trumps. At the commencement of the game the leader would not double unless he thought himself capable of winning seven or more tricks in his own hand.

A bolder policy could naturally be pursued if the declaring side were within an odd trick of the game, but even then it is as well to have length in one suit. The double on all round strength has a peculiar knack of coming undone. It helps the dealer to locate the position of the high cards out against him, which may assist him to the early establishment of his own long suit.

Third-in-hand's double serves two purposes. Not only does he hope to make a number of tricks, but his double is in the nature of a call for a particular suit. He may double on a six hand trick, one trick less than is required by the leader, the reason being that if his suit be not opened at once it is quite possible that he will never get the opportunity of making tricks in it at all, or his chance will come too late in the day to save the game.

AMERICAN V. ENGLISH CONVENTIONS.

In response to a double by third-in-hand, some players affect what is termed the Heart convention; others pin their faith to the short suit lead. America is the birth place of the Heart regime, and certainly it is beautifully simple. Advocates of this convention, in response to a double by the leader's partner, jump off with their highest Heart. The leader, therefore, always knows exactly what suit to give his partner, and as he is almost certain to hold at least one Heart, the allies should experience small difficulty in saving the game.

A double under this convention is forthcoming if third-in-hand sees the necessary number of tricks in his hand, and at the same time is in possession of the ace of Hearts, which card will enable him to get in at once. His strength, be it remarked, is more likely to lie in Hearts than in any of the other suits, for if the declarer held good Hearts he would assuredly have been inclined to call them, as his No Trumpner is evidently hopelessly weak in one suit. The Heart convention is simple enough in all conscience, and will appeal to the player who regards a safe double as of paramount importance. Its one objection is that doubling by third-in-hand is circumscribed thereby.

No such objection can be raised to the short suit lead to a doubled No Trumpner, but under its guidance you run the risk of missing your partner's suit. The more Bridge I play, however, the more am I satisfied that the short suit lead is the best. Granted that he has a smattering of common sense the leader should find his partner's suit the great majority of times. He has many pointers to guide him on the way, and no time will be wasted if we glance at some of them.

A suit which contained a picture card would be generally discarded, an exception being occasionally made to a suit embracing queen or knave. From two equally worthless suits he would select the shorter. Should both be of equal length, the one a red suit, the other a black, his lead would spring from the former. Careful adherence to these principles should enable the leader to find the right suit.

Whichever convention you intend to follow, make it a rule, before sitting down to a rubber with a strange partner, to arrive at some understanding on the point, or you may find yourselves at cross purposes, and a game be lost which should have been won.

A SIMPLE POINT.

The theory of doubling an attacking suit declaration is simplicity itself. Seeing the odd trick in your hand you would always raise the value of the stakes. Such doubles are, however, of rare occurrence. Seated over the declarer with a nice hand of trumps a double may be attempted on considerably less working material than a seven trick hand, more particularly if such double be to the score. Take for example, a call of Hearts by the dealer with the score 24-16 in his favour. A double by one of the allies will allow of their winning the game on the odd trick, otherwise two by tricks would be required. Such double is to be attempted with the doubler over the declarer for two reasons. The first is that the information conveyed by such a double will prove more valuable to the doubler's partner than it will to the dealer, as it is a signal for the former to attack for all he is worth, and to lead trumps on every possible occasion. Secondly, a player sitting over the declarer with such trump strength as ace, queen, 9, 7, 4, should not only make nearly all these cards, but will in the process take several of the declarer's trumps, which the latter had booked as good for certain tricks. Circumstances have conspired to make the declarer's hand much weaker than he imagined. Learn to recognise these sort of things and it will assist you to many a sound double.

So much depends on the tie of the cards that it is never advisable to doubt an attacking suit declare, when you are situated behind the declarer unless you are prepared to welcome a redouble. This is a matter of vital importance, for the information accorded the declaring

partly by such a double is probably worth a trick or two to it.

DOUBLING AND REDOUBLING.

Concerning the play to a double by your partner, as he will almost invariably be sitting over the declarer, you should burst in with your highest trump, a lead calculated to do the enemy most damage. On those rare occasions when the doubler is under the declarer, a trump lead would not expedite matters in the right direction, hence it would become your bolder duty to open your strongest suit.

Spades may be doubled much oftener than any other call, for the declaration is generally a defensive one. Towards the commencement of a game you therefore double Spades on a four trick hand, as even a redouble will not take the other side out. Later in the fortunes of the game one has to be a little more cautious. Still the double may be extended to a five trick hand. It is always safer to double on good trump strength than on strong plain suits, and a double on such Spades as ace, queen, knave, 4, 2, may always be attempted, however poor the remaining cards may be. It is evident that your partner must have nice strength outside Spades or sunny one of the allies could have ventured an attacking declaration of some sort or another.

Redoubling is the rara avis of the Bridge world, and may be dismissed in a very few words. Satisfied that you can win the odd trick on your own, you would redouble to the limit of 100 points a trick if afforded the opportunity. Otherwise you should only redouble to our old friend, the score. Stay, there is one exception which should be noted, having called Spades on a reddy strong suit of that order, redouble by all means should you be seated over the doubler.

THE DISCARD.

Coming to the subject of discarding, the dealer's task is a comparatively light one. He has simply himself to consider, and accordingly discards those cards that he is convinced will be of no use to him. Only in the event of a long adverse suit being established against him in No Trumps will he be seriously troubled. He must then be careful not to unguard a suit, whilst ever on the look out to retain a card of any suit which may eventually be required to place the lead in his other hand. Cards which are good for tricks will also sometimes have to be discarded if the game is to be saved.

The allies are very differently situated in the matter as they hope to give each other information at the same time as they discard. Opinions differ widely as to which form the discard should take.

Let us consider the discard to a No Trumpner first. Should we discard from strength or weakness? Unless the allied forces decide on one course of action or the other, the discard as a means of communication would lose its virtue, and this must not be. As in the ordinary way the defending party holds the worst cards, I cannot advocate the discard from strength, although it at once informs your partner which suit you wish led. Meanwhile your discard may have lost you a trick. This argument cannot be advanced against the discard from weakness, whilst the information it conveys is generally of a conclusive character, or must have opened a suit and as a result before the discard comes along, the best declaring side has probably done the like, a discard from one of the two re-

maining suits must dissolve all doubts in the mind of one's partner. Of course it would never do to unguard an honour nor to discard the only card of a suit. It would also be necessary to retain a card of your partner's original lead to give him, unless you are satisfied that nothing is to be gained by returning the lead.

The discard against an attacking suit declaration should be from the suit you wish led. Time is money, and it is unreasonable to suppose that you can establish your long suit against trump strength.

To a doubled declaration or a purely defensive one, the attack is shifted to your shoulders, and the discard should now spring from weakness. You live in hopes of establishing your long suit and of winning the game.

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News, Notes and Notions.

Practically everyone in the Dominion keeps fowls. Even in the smallest back yard of the city or suburban home there is usually a small enclosure for a brace of nondescript hens, and a dusty but vigorously respectable rooster. Therefore everyone will be interested to hear that an endeavour is being made to get at the bottom of fowl language—no pun intended. A French savant has become convinced that barnyard fowl have a real language, and that the curious sounds they are continually uttering are perfectly understood by one another.

This naturalist has for some time kept a phonograph hung up in a coop in which several cocks and hens are confined. He has caused, as it were, the fowls to talk about all sorts of things by agitating them in one way and another,—by letting them become hungry, and then feeding some of them while the others "complain,"—and in many ways has induced them to utter all the sounds of which they seem to be capable.

These sounds the phonograph has faithfully recorded, and Prevot du Haubray, the scientist in question, declares himself to be able to demonstrate from them that the chickens have a means of communication which may properly be called a language.

Persons who have observed the habits of poultry will not find it difficult to believe that they converse a great deal together, while the old hens are undoubtedly much given to talking to themselves. It will be interesting to observe, for instance, when the French student of this subject shall have completed his report, exactly what a hen means when she goes round the yard exclaiming at the top of her voice, "Kra-a-h—grah-grah-krah-krah!" The significance of this speech has puzzled many observers.

Dr Haubray's phonograph may also settle the vexed question of what are the syllables actually pronounced by a rooster when he crows. It is traditional among English speaking people that the cock says "Cock-a-doodle-do!" But a Frenchman represents the sound—which by the way he calls the cock's "singing"—with the syllables *Cocoricó*.

To the German the rooster seems to say Kikirikí; the 'S' in this word having the sound of the English *ee*. The Italians represent the sound by still another and different combination of syllables. Every nation, no doubt, has its own idea of the way to represent this familiar remark of clautchieer.

Writers in the "Athenaeum" and elsewhere complain that the balance of the publishing season has been upset by the appearance of two "Royal books." Very likely it has; and the curious thing is that it is only in England—and only in modern England—that literary and other artists are, and have been, seriously perturbed by Royal competition. Shakespeare never protested that he had lost money because James I. was also an author, and there is no evidence that the "Meditations" of Marcus Aurelius upset the ancient Roman market for philosophy. Carmen Sylva, again, only ranks as "prima inter pares" among the writers of Romania; the late King of Sweden hardly held even that position among contributors to the "Nineteenth Century," and the sale of the German Emperor's sermons is one of the least of the grievances of his subjects. In England alone, it seems, can a Royal book become, as a matter of course, the book of the season; and the causes of this phenomenon might be interesting to look out. The loyalty which flourishes best on a free soil must be one factor; another may be sought in the confidential homeliness of the works themselves. If King Edward, like his great collateral, published a counterblast against toby-co, it might fall, in spite of loyalty, to boom. So too, perhaps, if he published sermons like his nephew. But the tale of Queen Victoria's relations with her Ministers, and the record of Queen Alexandra's recreations, awaken chords far more widely responsive.

At last someone finds virtue in "red-tape." General Sir Ian Hamilton, commanding the Southern Command, in a memorandum explaining the system on which he and his staff have to carry out his business, gives a definition of "red-tape." "Red-tape," he says, "is an alternative, but abusive, term for the word 'system.' It has an ugly sound in the ear of the army, partly because even good things are liable to be overdone, and 'red-tape' is no exception to this rule, but partly also because a proportion of our officers are not men of business, and do not therefore readily sympathise with the system." One thing, he states, is certain, that if it were not for this "red-tape" the British Army would rapidly find itself in the Bankruptcy Court. The general has known cases of young officers who were quite indignant because their word was not taken that they had expended certain moneys on the public service, and who seemed to regard a request for a receipt more or less in the light of an insult. An instance is quoted where an officer obtained permission to camp his men on certain ground without payment. This permission was facilitated by the fact that he gave a small present to the landlord's gamekeeper. The public were thus saved from hiring a camping ground. Unfortunately for the officer, he was unable to recover the amount expended on the "tip," though he could have recovered ten times the amount if it had been expended in hiring the ground.

Rulers, our own among the number, are sometimes the recipients of strange presents, which come from all parts of the world. A writer in "Chambers' Journal" for December tells that a registered package from Vermont to King Edward was found to enclose a gigantic prize potato, weighing nearly five pounds. It was sent by a farmer named Howlett, and addressed to "His Majesty the King of England, House of Parliament, England." The sender evidently thought the King lived at St. Stephen's. Another present from the far side of the Atlantic was a nugget of pure gold found in the Klondyke, and valued at £260. Whenever a Royal personage is ill, cures and prescriptions come in by the hundred. The hop-pilow sent to King Edward, then Prince of Wales, when ill with typhoid, is an instance in point. When the Prince and Princess of Wales started on their tour round the world many antidotes against sea-sickness came to hand. One enterprising chemist sent an enormous package, containing hundreds of special anti-seasick powders, one of which was to be taken every day while at sea. The Prince was much amused. "To Sir Francis Laking he remarked, 'I say, Sir Francis, if this fellow expects me to take all these special powders, he ought to have sent me a special stomach as well.'" The largest legacy ever bequeathed to a reigning sovereign was the £500,000 which the miser, John Neale, left to Queen Victoria. But it is no uncommon occurrence for subjects to make bequests by will to their Sovereign. An eccentric old Scotch lady, by name McWilliam, who lived near Balmoral, and upon whom our late Queen had bestowed many favours, left to her benefactress a handsomely fitted vault in a neighbouring churchyard.

Under the will of the late Mr. R. C. Poulter, long in business in Essex-street, Strand, the sum of about £40,000 has been left for the acquisition of fresh playing fields for Londoners. The fund is left to the Charity Organisation Society for administration, but there are no limitations to the bequest except that it is to be applied in the acquisition of open spaces or playing fields in or near London for the use of the public. How the money will be spent is at present undecided, but the fund will prove useful in aiding localities to secure suitable places for playgrounds. It is not likely that the capital or any part of it will be disbursed, but that the interest will be held available for contributions to any local effort in the direction of acquiring open spaces.

Quite an original explanation of how the various races of mankind became coloured respectively white, brown, and black, is given by a Javanese, and said to be proverbial amongst the natives of Java. The story goes that in the beginning Allah formed the model of a man in clay, and then placed it in the crater of a volcano to bake. Upon inspection, however, it was found to have got charred and black, hence the black man. Another model was made, and considerably more care was exercised in the estimation of the time to effect its proper preparation. Upon inspection of this model, however, it was discovered that it had not been in the volcano long enough, for it was quite pale. Hence the white man. Having made two attempts, and neither proving satisfactory, another model was made. All the faults in the construction of the previous two models were noted and avoided in the construction of the third. The preparation of the receptacle in which it was placed preparatory to its being fired received very particular attention, and the final firing in the volcano was regulated to an exact nicety, and so upon examination the model was found to be of a beautiful brown colour, and Allah was exceedingly pleased, for it was perfect, and thus was created the Javanese.

Did you know that the collar you put on every day was invented in America? It is now declared to be beyond a doubt that Mrs Hannah Lord Montague was the inventor of the detachable linen collar. Hannah Lord was born in Canaan, Columbia County, U.S., in 1784. Her husband was a large man, scrupulously particular in matters of dress—even to the point of fastidiousness—and in those days, before the invention of the sewing machine, and when there were no public laundries, the making and washing and ironing of his shirts was no small item in the work of the household. Mrs Montague was resourceful, and in casting about for devices to lighten her household duties, she hit upon the idea of a detachable collar, which might be fastened to a neckband on her husband's shirts, and washed and ironed separately. In 1820 the Rev. Ebenezer Brown, a retired Methodist clergyman, who had settled in Troy and started a small dry goods store, quick to take advantage of the popularity of the new separate collar, opened a small workshop in the rear of his store, where his wife and daughters and one or two other women cut out with scissors, stitched by hand, and washed and ironed the collars, which he disposed of by peddling. This was in reality the first collar shop.

An English paper had a competition recently to ascertain the 12 most popular superstitions. Here is the result:—The bad luck incurred by spilling salt may be counteracted by throwing a pinch over the shoulder. Soot hanging on the bars of a grate indicates the approach of a stranger. A tea-leaf floating in the cup indicates a sweetheart. Breaking a looking-glass brings seven years of misfortune. Crossed knives predict a quarrel. Stumbling upstairs foretells news of a marriage. If the palm of the hand itches, some money may be expected. A dog howling at night denotes impending death. A bright speck on a burning candle wick announces a letter in the morning. A cat sitting with its back to the fire foretells a storm. White spots on the finger nails imply a present. A poker placed upright against the bars draws a fire up.

Judges of the Supreme Court of the State of Washington have decided that the cigarette must go, having agreed that the anti-cigarette law enacted by the Legislature of 1907 is constitutional. This reverses a ruling by Judge E. H. Sullivan, of the Spokane County Superior Court, who declared it unconstitutional, from the fact that the title of the law is in conflict with its provisions. The decision by the upper court means it is unlawful to manufacture, sell or give away the paper rolls or "the makings" in any part of the commonwealth. The "collin nails" were sold openly in Spokane pending the Supreme Court decision, and the effect of the enforcement of the law will be to send thousands of dollars to border towns in Idaho and Oregon, where cigarettes are not under the ban.

You cannot beat the best and the best of all cocoas is

Van Houten's Cocoa

The best because its delicious natural flavour and great digestibility are unequalled by any other cocoa.

"A perfect beverage, capable of ready assimilation and digestion."—*Medical Annual*

Best & goes farthest.

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"Really wholesome Confectionery"

Wholesome, delicious, and absolutely pure.

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May be obtained of Messrs. A. J. Enticook and Co., Auckland.

We are threatened with a "cocoa combine." The Washington Bureau of Manufactures has received information that the low price of cocoa has led to a desire on the part of representatives of Portugal and the countries in the northern portion of South America for something to be done to protect the industry. Action has been taken in Ecuador, San Thome, San Domingo, and Trinidad, to create national organisations to co-operate in a plan to control the price in the markets in the world. The success of the movement, it is explained, depends upon Brazil, the largest producer, and the only apparent reason why it may not succeed in Brazil is the fact that many of the cocoa producers are not financially able to carry their crops, as may be demanded by the new organisation, while there is an absence of satisfactory banking facilities.

◆ ◆ ◆

It is only at Balmoral that the King requires the attendance of a Cabinet Minister. During the early part of last reign a Cabinet Minister was always in attendance on the late Queen when the Court was absent from London. Early in the fifties, Ministerial attendance at Windsor Castle was dispensed with, but

the arrangement continued at Osborne for another ten years. During the last 35 years of Queen Victoria's reign a Cabinet Minister was always in attendance at Balmoral, and also when Her Majesty was on the Continent. The accommodation provided at Balmoral during the last reign was inconveniently limited, as the Minister on duty had only one room, so that all his writing was done in his bed-room. He took his meals with the household-in-waiting, unless invited to dine with the Queen, which happened three nights out of four.

◆ ◆ ◆

Death duty statistics just communicated to Parliament (says a Paris correspondent) give a remarkable idea of the wealth of this country. From these it appears that more than half the population of France have property to bequeath. The total amount of money left by persons who died in 1907 amounts to £218,440,000. The number of those who left property was over 400,000, while the total deaths did not reach twice that figure. The average estate possessed by a French man or woman is, therefore, nearly £550. But the most remarkable feature is the number of small estates, as compared with England. Thus 330,000

persons left sums not exceeding £400. Of estates between that figure and £2000 there were 48,000. On the other hand, large fortunes are few. Only 534 persons left over £40,000; only seven died worth from £400,000 to £2,000,000, the latter being the largest amount recorded. From the death duty figures statisticians deduce the following conclusions:—Four million French persons own less than £10 apiece; 4,000,000 less than £50; and 4,000,000 more less than £200. But 1,700,000 possess £840 each, 270,000 £3000, 175,000 £1000, and 90,000 from £14,000 to £28,000. There are 18,000 possessors of 1,000,000 francs—that is, £40,000. Very large fortunes are few. No one died in 1908 worth more than £800,000. Three estates of that amount paid duty in 1905, and three in 1904. The total wealth of France is estimated at about £900,000,000, and there is no country whose wealth is so equally divided among the inhabitants.

Curate: "I haven't seen your husband at church recently, Mrs. Bloggs. What is he doing?"
Mrs. Bloggs: "E be a doin' six months, sir!"

There is satisfaction in cleaning the Teeth with

Calvert's

Carbolic Tooth Powder

Whether you want the added charm to your personal appearance, or the teeth sound and fit for work. That is why every year more and more people commence and continue its regular use.

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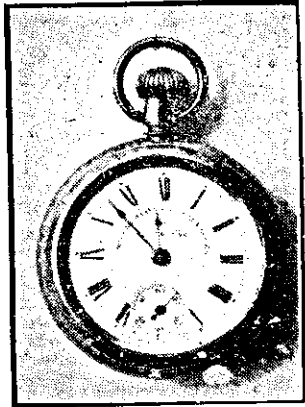
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AND SO WILL THE **FOX WATCH.**

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Orders will be taken in Strict Rotation
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Cut this out and send to
W. J. RAINGER, WATCH DEPARTMENT,
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Verse Old and New

The Holly Bearers.

The gypsies out of the dark wood came,
 Bearing the holly green;
 The berries with their scarlet flame,
 The leaves of quivering sheen,
 They bear it up and down the town,
 They sing at every door:
 "To Egypt's land our Lord fled down
 With father and mother poor."

"Beneath the light of moon and star,
 They fled from Herod's hand,
 By moonside blue and midnight dew,
 Across the desert sand."

"Poor! Travellers we from far away!
 Cold grows the eventide;
 Remember wanderers all this day
 And open your hearts door wide!"

"Oh, open your gate, for the time grows late,
 We stand without and call!
 For the Lord's sake our green boughs take,
 "And joy go with you all!"

The gypsies over the dark moor came,
 Bearing the holly green;
 The berries with their scarlet flame,
 The leaves of shifting sheen.

ALICE E. GILLINGTON.

Things to Forget.

If you see a tall fellow ahead of a crowd,
 A leader of men marching fearless and proud,
 And you know of a tale whose mere telling
 Would cause his proud head to in anguish be bowed,
 It's a pretty good plan to forget it.

If you know of a skeleton hidden away
 In a closet, and guarded and kept from the day,
 In the dark; and whose showing, whose sudden display,
 Would cause grief and sorrow and life-long dismay,
 It's a pretty good plan to forget it.

If you know of a thing that will darken the joy,
 Of a man or a woman, a girl or a boy,
 That will wipe out a smile, or the least way annoy,
 A fellow may cause any gladness to cloy,
 It's a pretty good plan to forget it.

The Egotist.

It's either this, or else it's that,
 He lays the law down plump and flat,
 There's nothing of the diplomat,
 It's pretty sure, about him,
 He hardly credits you with sense;
 To differ shows you're very dense,
 He thinks it a great offence,
 If you should seem to doubt him,
 No sort of reason will he deign
 To give, that he may make it plain,
 He cannot help your lack of brain,
 So don't you get him nettled,
 His declaration short and gruff,
 You may imagine is a bluff,
 But still he says it, 'That's enough,
 The matter should be settled.

I've done all that a woman can
 Since first our married life began,
 To soothe and please the lordly man
 And bow to his dominion,
 I would not wish to be unkind,
 But oh, I'd love to take and bind
 And gag him and then free my mind
 By giving my opinion.

—Chicago News.

An Ode.

O all-suffusing, all-embracing influence!
 I cannot sing thy praises,
 Thou ghost conglomerate of unheard prayers,
 Confusing worse London's confounded mazes;
 That with the concentrated evidence
 Of incomplete combustion,
 Wouldst spoil the coats of fifty polar bears,
 Turning them quick to fustiant

—London Daily Mail.

Still, there is something to be done by thee,
 Thou shalt not go to blazes,
 At least, not yet, dear Fog. This afternoon
 I ask no more trilly-obscuring hazes,
 For I have promised to go out to tea—
 My hat abomination,
 Congeal to pitch, dear Fog; and this same boon
 Shall be thy expiation.

—J. T. GROSSE.

The Bond.

All things are bound together by a tie
 Finer and subtler than a ray of light;
 Colour and sound and fleeting fragrances,
 The maiden's smile, the star-beam sparkling bright,
 Are knit together by a secret bond
 Finer and subtler than a ray of light.
 Sometimes an urn of memories is unsealed
 Just by a simple tune, or sad or gay;
 Part of the past with every quivering note
 From its dark sleep awakens to the day,
 And we live o'er again a long-past life,
 Just through a simple tune, or sad or gay.

Some flowers bring men and women back to mind;
 A well-known face smiles to us in their hue;
 Their bright cups, moved by the capricious wind,
 Will make us dream of eyes, black eyes or blue;
 We in their fragrance feel a breath beloved;
 Flowers bring back men and women whom we knew.

—Alice Stone Blackwell.

The Nifty-Thrifty Maiden.

I knew a maiden, thrifty some,
 Who loved to save a nifty sum,
 To clean her clothes their second season
 A little gasoline she'd squeeze on.
 Now this same maiden, thrifty some,
 Danced dances up to fifty some;
 She'd dance till hot enough to smoke,
 And she with gasoline asoak!
 One day this maiden, thrifty some,
 Danced dressed up to fifty some;
 Then burst aflame, runs the narration,
 And saved the cost of her cremation.

The Pleasures of Sorrow.

Some critics of the projected Optimists' Club, whose members are to be fined for not smiling and even the waiters are to be merry say that it would be the last place to attract a sorrowing heart.
 When adverse fate is going strong
 And in my heart a sense of wrong
 Wells up as if it must ere long
 Stop over,
 What mental pain it is to see
 The empty, senseless jollity
 Of those who think themselves to be
 In clover!
 The foolish and unmeaning grin
 And raucous laugh appear a sin
 When all delights are plainly thin
 And hollow,
 And were I dragged from out my den
 To mix with optimistic men
 I shudder as I think what then
 Must follow.
 How can a waiter's mirth beguile
 A soul that dully aches the while?
 Shall I be cheered by those who smile
 For money?
 Or by the gibe of him who sinks
 His grief and jests because he shrinks
 From fines, and not because he thinks
 It funny!

What, if my true love prove untrue,
 Shall I, my head all crowned with rue,
 Rush forth in Lethe's waters to
 Immerse it?
 Nay, he who owns a breaking heart
 Would ne'er forego that precious smart;
 He only wants to sit apart
 And nurse it!

A Wonderful Blood Purifier

A Grateful Mother Writes:

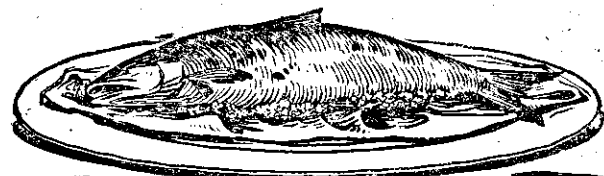


"My little son suffered terribly with eczema. His head and face were one mass of sores, and I thought he would be disfigured for life. But no, after taking five bottles of Ayer's Sarsaparilla he was entirely cured. You are at liberty to use this photo and testimonial as you like, as I can attribute my son's cure to nothing but Ayer's Sarsaparilla.

Yours gratefully,
 MRS. L. WILSON,
 Adelaide."

As now made, Ayer's Sarsaparilla contains no alcohol. Make sure that you get "Ayer's" Sarsaparilla—not some other kind, put up to imitate it, and which will do you no good.

Prepared by Dr. J. C. Ayer & Co., Lowell, Mass., U. S. A.



FISH has an exquisite delicacy imparted to it by the addition of

LEA & PERRINS' SAUCE

This celebrated Sauce is also an excellent flavouring for
 SOUPS, STEWS, HASHES, &c.



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Anecdotes and Sketches

MORE APPROPRIATE.

"One time," said Mr. Taft to some newspaper men not long ago, "three ministers wanted to cross the Mississippi River to attend a revival at a place which boasted of no regular ferry. Brother Syles and Brother Beamish were fine specimens of humanity—at least two hundred pounds apiece—but their companion was a mite of a man not weighing scarcely one hundred and twenty-five. They got a boatman to take them over, but in mid-stream a severe thunder-shower came up and the waves threatened to capsize the boat. 'Brother Syles,' said Brother Beamish, 'I think we had better join in prayer.' 'Do you, though?' shouted the boatman. 'Wall, I say you don't! You two big ones come here an' lend a hand at the oars—an' let the skinny fellow pray.'"

THE ABSENTE-MINDED PROFESSOR.

The pupils of a distinguished professor of zoology, a man well-known for his eccentricities, noted one day two tidy parcels lying on their instructor's desk as they passed out at the noon hour. On their return to the laboratory for the afternoon lecture, they saw but one. This the professor took carefully up in his hand as he opened his lecture. "In the study of vertebrata we have taken the frog as a type. Let us now examine the gastrocnemius muscles of this dissected specimen." So saying, the professor untied the string of his neat parcel and disclosed to view a ham sandwich and a boiled egg. "But I have eaten my lunch," said the learned man bewilderedly.

KITCHENER STORIES.

Few people would suspect, to look at Lord Kitchener, that he was 58; yet it is a fact that the Indian-Commander-in-Chief was born as long ago as June 24, 1850, and therefore has entered on his 59th year. Before he was 21, Kitchener, joined the Moolies of Dinan in the war against Germany, and took part in a balloon ascent with two French officers.

Though it is highly probable that Lord Kitchener will die as he has lived, a bachelor, he strongly resents the oft-repeated remark that he is averse to the society of the opposite sex. He considers, however, that they are apt to take up too much of a soldier's time. A short time ago, while in Calcutta, he sent for an officer, and told him he wanted him to go to Bombay to do some hard work for three months or so. "How soon can you be ready?" he asked. "Oh, in about a week; I will ask the wife to start packing at once," said the officer. "Oh, but she is not going with you," retorted Kitchener. "I said I wanted you to do some hard work, you know."

It was left to one of the opposite sex, by-the-way, to give Lord Kitchener the most candid opinion of his character he has ever received, and he tells the story with great enjoyment. A tennis party had been organised for one afternoon at a certain small hill station, and the whole of the officers practically hoped to be present. Suddenly, to the general consternation, Kitchener ordered a parade of the whole of the troops in the garrison the same day. On the night before the day fixed for the party a young lady who knew him rather well went up to him, and asked him if it was true that the parade would really

be held. "Quite true," replied Kitchener, half-expecting what was coming. "Had you forgotten the tennis party?" demanded the girl. "No, not in the least," was his blunt reply. "Well, I think you are a perfect beast!" she exclaimed angrily, as she stamped her foot and turned away.

GENIUS AS A LODGER.

Never was there a more troublesome lodger than Beethoven. He was always at war with his landlords—and not only with them, but also with fellow-lodgers. Nor can we wonder at this. Totally lost in music, he thought never entered his mind of what an intolerable neighbour he was. At all hours of both day and night he was at his pianoforte, pouring forth the music that filled his soul. His tempestuous energy in playing converted the instrument, as it were, into a complete orchestra. Then, as his deafness increased, he struck and thumped harder at the notes the sound of which he could scarcely hear. Nor was this all. The music that filled his brain gave him no rest. He became an inspired madman. For hours he would pace the room, "howling and raging" (as his pupil Ries put it); or he would stam beating time with hand and foot to the music which was so vividly present in his mind. This soon put him into a feverish excitement, when, to cool himself, he would take his water-jug, and, thoughtless of everything, pour its contents over his hands, after which he would sit down to his piano. With all this, it can easily be imagined that Beethoven was frequently called to account. The landlord complained of a damaged ceiling, and the fellow-lodgers declared that either they or the madman must leave the house, for they could get no rest where he was. So Beethoven never for long had a resting place. Impatient at being interfered with, he immediately packed up and went off to some other vacant lodging. From this cause he was at one time paying the rent of four lodgings at once.

SOME EXCEPTIONS.

A Wellington man, while visiting a friend's place up North became much interested in his experiments in fruit culture. One day the visitor was making the rounds of the place, being in charge of the friend's young daughter of ten, who acted as guide. "This tree seems to be loaded with apples," observed the visitor, indicating a particularly fine specimen. "Yes, sir," assented the little girl; "father says this is a good year for apples." "I am glad to hear that," said the visitor. "Are all your trees as full of apples as this one?" "No, sir," explained the girl, "only the apple trees."

AN APT PUPIL.

While a penurious grocer was telling his new boy how careful he must be, a fly settled on a bag of sugar. The grocer caught it and threw it away. The boy then said: "If you want me to be careful, you are setting me a bad example." "Why?" asked the grocer. "Because," said the boy, "you have thrown that fly away without brushing the sugar off its feet."

WHO HE WAS.

A little, wiry negro went into a drinking resort in Natchez, displayed a large roll of bills, and bought a drink.

As he was paying for it another negro came in, very large and very black. He looked at the little man and said, "Niggah, whar you git all dat money?" "Kah-tendah," said the little negro, by way of a reply, "Ah thing Ah shall tok a bottle of dat all stuff. 'Pears quite satisfyin' tuh meh."

"Niggah," roared the big one, "whar you git dat money? I a-t you. 's the town bully, I is. I follows bullyin' for a trade. Whar you git it?"

The little negro began stuffing the money back into his pockets. "Seems to me," he mused, "I ain't got huff pockets to hold all mah wealth."

The big negro jumped at the little one. "You hear what I said?" he demanded. "I's the town bully, an' I wanted know whar you git all dat money?"

Quick as a flash, the little negro uppercut the big one, catching him on the point of the jaw, and knocking him down. In a moment the big negro revived enough to look up from the floor, and ask humbly, "Niggah, who is you, anyhow?"

"Why," replied the little one, blowing his knuckles, "I's th' pussion you thought you wuz when you come in."—"Saturday Evening Post."

BANKING IN MOTHER EARTH.

A well-known American author, who had heard rumours of coming financial disaster, went to a leading New York financier early last summer, and asked about the situation.

"What is it that you want to know?" queried the banker.

"Why, I hear stories, on every side of depression that is sure to come, and I have some investments in mind. I want to know what you think about putting out money for investment."

"Do you ever read the Bible?" inquired the financier.

"Sometimes."

"Well, do you remember about the man who went and buried his treasure in the ground?"

LAW-ABIDING MULLER.

THE LAWS IN BERLIN ARE NOTORIOUSLY STRICT.

Schmidt and Krauss met one morning in the park.

"Have you heard," says Schmidt, "the sad news about Muller?"

"No," says Krauss, "What is it?"

"Well, poor Muller went boating on the river yesterday. The boat capsized and he was drowned. The water was ten feet deep."

"But couldn't he swim?"

"Swim? Don't you know that all persons are strictly forbidden by the police to swim in the river?"

EVIDENTLY.

Among the begging letters recently received at the office of a benevolent society was one running thus:

"This unfortunate young man is the only son of a widow, who died childless, and his earnings maintained his aged father and infant brothers, whose sole support he is."

The secretary of the society wrote on the margin of the epistle the following note:

"The circumstances of the case are evidently exaggerated."



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Sold by all Chemists, Hairdressers and Stores. Head Office for New Zealand: 3 HUNTER STREET, WELLINGTON.

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GROSS ASSETS (1907) £2,343,727.

RESERVES, £1,651,412.

INCOME, £1,480,715.

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BILLIARDS.

By AN EXPERT.

The public should be grateful to the Billiards Control Club, says a writer in the "London Daily Telegraph," in its determination to revive the professional billiard championship, which has lain dormant for five long years now. It always provided the keenest and best sport of the year. But for the championship games, Stevenson might now be struggling to reach the top of the tree instead of being securely settled there for three or four years. They gave him his opportunity, and he duly made his stately climb. In a general way, the professional player, like the man of business, is unwilling to open avenues to the rising generation whereby they may jump over his head. Stevenson might well have been excused had he followed the example set him by others, and kept the championship in the background. It is to his credit and sportsmanlike instincts that he is asking for a revival of the championship. He makes this plain by stating he has left some date open next spring for this especial purpose, and that he will be ready to meet all-comers for the title. He will do so under the scheme which, I understand, is to be submitted by the Billiards Control Club. Here then we have a definite foundation for a championship. The younger players, Inman, Reece, Aiken, Williams, and the rest, will have the opportunity they have so frequently asked for of meeting the star artists on level terms. If this competition materialises, and there is every reason to presume that it will surely do so, it will more than justify the creation of the Billiards Control Club.

Speaking of the terrific heat, which prevailed in London during the match between Dawson and Mack, the Manchester professional, the same writer says: "It is as well that the game was being played with bonzoline balls, as ivories, unless wonderfully well seasoned, are

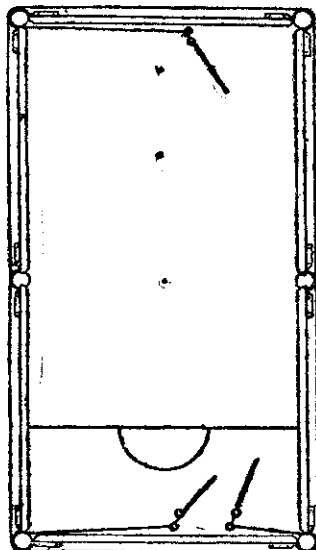
very prone to get out of the true in these circumstances. The composition ball, bonzoline or crystallate, is a boon to billiard-players generally, and absolutely essential in India, South Africa, and Australia. It is not affected by changes of temperature like the natural articles, which have frequently been known to go "crooked" in a single night. The attention that is due to a good set of ivories can only be appreciated by the loving care bestowed upon them by those who know their worth.

Composition balls are more elastic than those turned from ivory, and of a perceptibly, if only slightly, greater weight. It is from these two causes that they throw the square angle most billiard players may know. But they roll wonderfully true, even if needing different handling to the ivory. To some extent the game, as played with composition

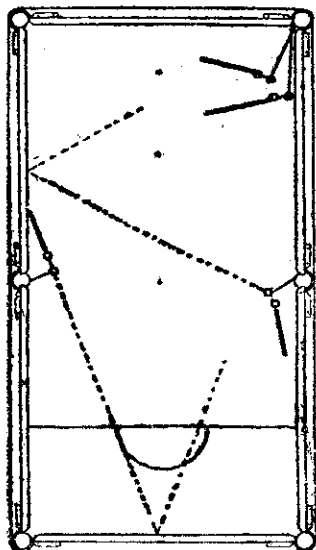
balls, after five days' very unprofitable toiling, he came to his form. Up to this time he had appeared wholly unable to accommodate himself to the composition balls. But with the coming of a better time, his work was marked by some consistently heavy scoring and a top-note in the shape of a 365 break. At first he was regularly over-screwing the cue-ball and making too deep a contact on the object-ball. The good professional is, however, nothing if not observant, and, therefore, going back to his experience to help him out of his difficulties. He must be essentially, of an adaptable nature, so as to cope with the constantly varying nature of the materials he is asked to play with and upon. So it was that Dawson gradually and surely mastered the composition balls, and the torrid atmosphere of last week. He cut down Mack's very long lead in undeniable fashion, and, generally from the time of his improvement, played like the great player we know him to be.

It was in playing the class of stroke illustrated upon the annexed diagrams that Dawson was mainly at fault in the earlier stages. Those pretty little screw-shots, which send the cue-ball off at right angles along by the line of a cushion into a corner pocket, require deft cueing. Loaded with pocket "side," which is invariably check "side," it goes swishingly into the netting, making a swift descent on meeting the pocket "shoulders." These are represented as well as one may do by the colourless medium of the first diagram. The simplest strokes to be found of this kind occur when the cue-ball lies further away from the pocket attacked than the object-ball does. The great thing here is to be able to divide the object-ball by the eye, so as to give the cue-ball its correct send-off. If you take the ball's facing centre for a direct return, and a half-ball contact for a right-angle rebound, you must work at intermediate contacts for intermediate results. As a rule, however, the thin contact, say, about quarter-ball, will meet most of these positions when the cue-ball lies furthest from the pocket. When it is nearer there, the contact must inevitably be thicker than half-ball, which is the regulation stroke when the balls are in line, and, therefore, equi-distant from the pocket. It is not the thin half-ball strokes

while yet giving the cue-ball the same direction. Take the two middle pocket strokes on the second diagram. The losing hazard into the middle pockets is made by either a thin or thick contact, according to the direction and disposition of the played object ball, although a fullish contact must be made when its first movement is towards bank. At the top right-hand corner there are shown two examples of screw losing hazards. With the object-ball lying very near to the cushion check "side" is essen-



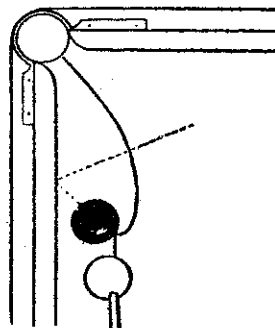
Screw losing hazards, the cue-ball traveling closely by the end cushions into the corner pockets.



The continuous line ——— shows the movement of the cue ball, and the inter-sected lines the course of the object ball.

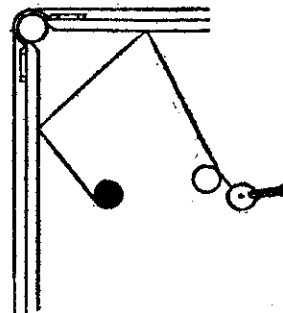
balls, differs from that dictated by the softer and more delicate ivory. It requires considerable practice before the player can accustom his touch to the change from one article to the other. The trouble lies in the increased width of the angle given to the cue-ball, and the density of the balls' centre. There is not the same tendency to give to the impact of the player's ball as with ivory. Yet there is much to attract the billiardist about the behaviour of these truly rolling composition balls. He will find that the ivory touch is not best suited to them, and the heavier cue, which should theoretically be used, none too easy to become accustomed to. The subtleties of the pine are not so easily rendered in lending to bonzoline balls, a fact of which we were frequently reminded by Dawson in the game I have mentioned, as in dealing with ivories. But for the plain game they cannot be excelled."

Herewith I present a selection of the most taking shots handled by Dawson,



Masse losing hazard played by Gray. The Queenslander is considered to have no equal as a player of this difficult

which present the real difficulties of composition balls. These are rather to be found in the stumped or follow-on thick contacts. In this connection, and that of screw losing hazards into the corner pockets, I can advise a profitable survey of the second diagram, and how the good player can attain the degree of contact



Difficult masse cannot played by Gray. stroke.

tial to take the cue-ball into the pocket. But with the object-ball well away from there, and the centre of the pocket clearly open to the cue-ball, running "side" is more profitably used. These and similar strokes Dawson manipulated with ease and certainty once he became in touch with his task.

The following diagrams illustrate two difficult masse shots played by the lad, George Gray in a match with Fred. Lindrum, junior, at Sydney, Lindrum conceding Gray 4000 in 14,000. Young Gray, who hails from Queensland, toured New Zealand towards the end of last year with his father, and made a number of friends.

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FACTS, FANCIES, QUIPS & COMMENTS

FROM THE AUSTRALIAN PAPERS.

While Victoria is in such a pother with its storm in a tea-cup, over Bent, Swinburne, Murray and the rest, there are reminders of the danger to which Australia is exposed. When Caesar invaded England the tribes were squabbling, but formed a phalanx at once. A startling assertion is made in the last file of the "London Times." During the Russo-Japanese War, the German Emperor informed the Dutch Premier that he would seize certain Dutch ports, presumably including Rotterdam, unless they were immediately placed in a better position of defence against England. The Premier, in a quake, rapidly improvised defences without consulting Parliament. This may be read in connection with the cablegram that Germany was ready to seize Copenhagen at a recent acute stage of the Morocco trouble, to defend the Baltic against England. What powder-barrels are laid! Australia is vitally affected. The Dutch disclosure came as one of the consequences of the "Daily Telegraph's" publication of the German Emperor's views.

An interesting question has arisen with regard to the transport of some German naval forces through the Australian States. The Victorian Government has received a notification from the State Governor that an application had been received by the Governor-General from the German Consul-General in Sydney respecting the return to Germany of 102 time-expired men from the German surveying ship Planet. The men, who are coming from the South Sea Islands, desire to land in Sydney, and to proceed by train to Adelaide in order to catch the homeward bound mail steamer. The consent of the Governors of the three States is necessary. The men also desire permission to travel with arms, though without ammunition. Sir Thomas Bent states that probably some restrictive condition will be imposed, which will be made known to the Governor-General.

A big firm of Sydney jewellers has secured an extensive order for two magnificent suites, one of all diamonds, and the other emeralds and diamonds, jewellery to the value of £10,000. The jewels are considered the finest in the Commonwealth, and are for a prominent lady in Sydney society. The suite consists of a fine collection of choice gems mounted in the newest French designs, the front of the handsome diamond necklace consisting of five beautiful drops and the back a row of fine diamonds. There are two pendants, one consisting of a large cluster of Jargfontein diamonds, with a blue diamond drop, and the other pendant, a specimen emerald surrounded in diamonds, and a further row of large diamonds of magnificent quality. The emerald pendant alone is valued at £2,000. There are two fine stars, one all diamonds, and one emerald and diamonds, both of highest quality gems. There is a smaller diamond necklace to wear with either pendant. An emerald and diamond brooch of beautiful design and fine quality adds greatly to the suite, and a fine spray of diamonds for the hair is also very effective. The bracelets consist of:—one, all fine large diamonds, and the other a fine emerald surrounded and mounted in good taste with brilliant diamonds. There are two other bangles in diamonds of nice designs. A handsome pear-shape emerald drop pendant is among the jewels.

Until within the last few years Sydney has lagged behind any other town in its size in the Empire, owing, for the most part, to the fact that successive Premiers have not correctly estimated the importance of municipal government. Moreover, so long has the council, in the absence of opportunities for raising sufficient revenues, been compelled to pursue a cheese-paring policy that nowadays, when we talk of spending £100,000 on city improvements (however necessary they may be) either a wall of fear or a howl of opposition arises from a section of the citizens, who are usually shrewd and wide-awake

in other respects," said the Lord Mayor-elect (Alderman Allen Taylor) at the city Improvement Commission. "Before giving specific evidence, therefore," he continued, "I venture to record my conviction, strengthened by recent travels in Great Britain and Europe, that Sydney is already one of the big cities of the British Empire, and is destined, by its geographical position, and its natural and political advantages, to be one of the great, and I hope beautiful, cities of the world."

The Dudleys will learn this year how plump pudding and hot weather go together (remarks a Melbourne paper). Absent friends will be drunk up at the big white house with a sentiment unknown to all but exiles from home. Already Lady Dudley feels keenly the absence from her twin babies, so the greeting we give her is to hope that next Yuletide may find her amongst us with the twins added to the family party. Although they have no tenantry to entertain as in good old England, our new Vice-Regals are not going to deny themselves the pleasure of making other people happy, so they entertained the married members of the police force, with Mrs Policeman and young Masters and Miss Policeman, up at Government House.

Sir Rupert Clarke, after listening to the numerous congratulations bestowed upon him by his many friends on his daughter's engagement, has left for Sydney, where he will witness the great fight, after which he will proceed to New Zealand, in which place he is having a fine new yacht built for himself. Also, let us whisper it gently, this visit is said not to be wholly unconnected with the extension of Messrs Meynell and Gunn's theatrical enterprises. We expect to hear some news theatrical very shortly concerning this firm.—"Melbourne Punch."

On the voyage of the Orotava from London to Australia an interesting event occurred soon after the vessel sailed from Adelaide, and there was found aboard a new passenger—the Orotava baby. The happy parents are Mr and Mrs George Stevenson, Oxford, England, who purpose settling in New South Wales. "On 23rd December, at 11.30 a.m., as the liner steamed through the blue waters of Hobson's Bay," writes a passenger, "the new-comer was christened 'Dudley Orotava Stevenson. The Right Rev. Bishop Wallis, of Wellington, New Zealand, performed the baptismal rites. The godmother was Mrs Donald Sutherland, and the baby was held by Mrs Annie McKinnon, wife of Mr Andrew McKinnon, leaders of the Scottish Meistersingers, who disembark at Melbourne. The godfathers were the Rev. John McColl, M.A., United Free Church minister, of Paisley, Scotland;

and Mr A. E. Crossfield, of Hare Tarr, Cranforth, Lancashire, who proposes settling in Queensland. The christening of the Orotava baby was an impressive ceremonial. Before the benediction was pronounced the Meistersingers rendered with fine effect the hymn:—

"O, Father, Thou Who hast created all in wisest love, we pray,
Look on this babe, who at
Thy gracious call
Is entering on life's way," etc.

The baby is the possessor of a christening cup and a Bible, presented by the passengers, and he and his parents have the best wishes of everyone in the vessel. The ship's surgeon, Dr. Vandernim, reports that the mother is doing very well, and at his christening Baby Dudley Orotava satisfied everyone that he was doing very well indeed."

For some time past interstate steamers have been practising with instruments by which signals could be exchanged at sea at night time, the Morse code being utilised. The latest installation is a distinct improvement, and consists of a globe at the head of a staff containing inside it small electric 5-candle power lights. The key is in the wheelhouse below, and can be manipulated with the greatest ease. In clear weather a conversation with ships passing at a distance of several miles can be maintained, and although there are but few of the lighthouse-keepers on the coast proficient in the Morse code, yet the ship's officers during recent years have become expert, and can exchange messages from ship to ship. While Captain O. Smith, wharfinger of the A.U.S.N. Company at Sydney was explaining the system to an "Evening News" reporter, the chief officer of the Kanowna remarked: "You can see that the merchantman is, after all, a bit up to date, although Lord Charles Beresford is credited with saying we did not understand the art of signalling."

It appears that the naval authorities at Sydney encourage the use of the signalling apparatus, and assist the shipping companies in the matter of allowing the officers to learn all they can.

It is understood that all the A.U.S.N. steamers are to be fitted out exactly in the same way as the Kanowna.

Mr. O. C. Beale, who has just returned to Sydney after 18 months' absence in Europe, said he had an opportunity of studying the literature of racial decline in France. He had also been investigating the same matter in England and Germany, and some of the facts and figures were appalling. Demographers throughout the world were agreed that a nation must progress or decline. It could not stand still, and they had come to the conclusion that some of the Anglo-Saxon races were losing ground, while other white races were adding to their numbers.

The low birthrates of Australia and New Zealand were considered by demographers to be matters of the gravest concern to those countries, and it was of great importance to remember that the leaders of Japanese and Chinese thought and education were keenly watchful of the progress of population in this vast territory. French savants

who had specialised in the subject had commented upon this. They regarded the tendency in Australia as most menacing to its future. The people who looked upon a few hundred immigrants as a solution of the Australian population problem were leaning upon a rotten reed. The real increase must be the natural and healthful one of the babies, and babies lives must be safeguarded by preventing the use of many contraceptives now on the market for the supposed alleviation of infant troubles. It was to the majority of the young married men and women of Australia that he looked to for some solution of the problem, indeed it were not too late.

Of all the strange things in a theatre a member of the audience at Her Majesty's Theatre, Sydney, recently succeeded in leaving the stage. The cleaners found in the morning a set of false teeth. The owner of them turned up in a young man, evidently country-bred, and his explanation to the manager was that he was sitting in the front row of the gallery watching the performance of "The Merry Widow," and he laughed so heartily that his teeth fell into the stalls. Fortunately, they didn't bite anybody in the descent.

It is thought that the all-night trains running in Sydney have been the cause of influencing workmen employed at night and others to live outside the city. It has been officially announced that this year's returns exhibit a small increase over last year, showing that the all-night trains have been considerably patronised. For a week, £55 is the average receipt, and this about pays expenses. The lines best patronised are Dulwich Hill, Bondi Junction, Islington, and Leichhardt.



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Round the World Paragraphs.

A Whaler's Adventures.

The whaling barque *Beluga* arrived at San Francisco recently, after an eventful voyage. The captain of the *Beluga* reported that he had lost four of his crew, and on September 10 picked up five frost-bitten and delirious castaways, the survivors of the crew of the French ship *William Byrd*, which was wrecked two days earlier by collision with an iceberg. Despite the care of the men of the *Beluga*, these five, who had endured terrible sufferings, died and were buried on Hessel Island.

Off Unalaska the *Beluga* was surrounded by icebergs, and was partly disabled by a fearful snow-storm. Captain Porter had to be lashed to the wheel in order to navigate the vessel through the bergs. Six of the crew were badly frost-bitten, and one died.

A large whale was sighted on October 20. Five of the crew, manning the yawl, drove three harbs into him, but the whale, thrashing the waters into foam, smashed the boat, and drowned three men.

"Harem Scarems."

Drastic changes in the life of the harem have been made by the suffragists of Turkey, according to a letter quoted in "Votes for Women" from Dr. Mary Mills Patrick, president of the American College for Girls in Constantinople.

"Turkish women," says Dr. Patrick, "have thrown off their veils, and are lecturing in different prominent cities, like Constantinople and Salonika.

They are forming women's clubs, three of which are already organised in Constantinople. Among these one woman is especially prominent, Habelle Salih, who is considered to-day the leading woman in Constantinople.

She has been asked to write for every paper in the city, and her patriotic, impassioned articles are among the regular contributions to the "Tammia" ("Echo"), the unofficial Government organ.

She is a member of all the women's clubs and the president of one of them, and is also the only woman member of two exclusive men's clubs, a Press club, and a League for Public Safety."

Ladies Who Renounce Titles.

The announcement that Lady Yarmouth has decided to renounce her title, and be known in future as Mrs. Copley Thaw, says a writer in "M.A.P.," calls to mind the reluctance of ladies to abandon high-sounding appellations gained through marriage. There are exceptions, however.

Mrs. Copley Thaw's countrywoman, Mrs. George Cornwallis West, made something of a sensation when, on her second marriage, she abandoned the name of Lady Randolph Churchill, and *Jemima* Lady Darnley elected to be known as Mrs. Arthur Leveson when she married again.

Pecesses sometimes give up their titles for lesser ones, as did Lady De Lisle and Dudley when she married Sir George Steang. The widows of baronets, too, often abandon their titles quite cheerfully, examples being Mrs. Algernon Hanbury-Tracy, once Lady Carmichael-Anstruther, and Mrs. Mackenzie, of Farr, formerly Lady Stapleton. On the other hand, the widows of knights sometimes retain their titles, and the widow of the famous explorer remained Lady Stanley after she became the wife of Mr. Curtis.

Record Bag in Two Shots.

While shooting recently with Mr. Bradley Martin's party at Balmuccan, Inverness-shire, the Earl of Home had a sharp right and left at rabbits scurrying through the bushes. The beaters were much surprised when they went forward to pick up the rabbits to find a dead woodcock beside each of them.

Battleship in an Hotel.

The banqueting hall of the Savoy Hotel was converted into the quarter-deck of a battleship for the Pilgrims' Club dinner to the American and British delegates to the International Maritime Conference, recently held in London.

What sounded like the salute of twenty one guns greeted the distinguished guests as they entered the hall. In the distance over the moonlit water in the background were seen the twinkling lights of Portsmouth, while on the quarter-deck of H.M.S. *Welcome* a seaman in full naval uniform was busy all the evening at the wheel.

Waiters, also disguised as seamen, in snowy white trousers and jackets, with blue scarfs, passed from table to table attending to the needs of the guests with all the smartness one expects from a sailor.

An ill-fated Voyage.

Second Officer T. Millier and six apprentices of the sailing barque *Sinla*, arrived at Plymouth recently, and had a series of dramatic adventures to relate.

Their ship left Cardiff with coal for Acapulco on December 16, 1907. Four days out from Cardiff an able seaman fell from aloft, and was drowned. When off the coast of South America, they encountered a series of hurricanes, and for seven weeks they battled with storms off Cape Horn.

For two months the ship was detained at the Falkland Islands while the damage done by the storms was repaired. During this time, the captain and chief officer became ill, and the men grew so mutinous that some of them were lodged in gaol.

Finally, just as the ship was nearing Acapulco, fire broke out on board, and the ship had to be abandoned in the harbour, where it burnt to the water's edge.

Remodelling Oxford.

The Bishop of Birmingham made some striking remarks on the need for the reform of the University of Oxford, at a conference of 300 delegates from working-class organisations at Toyntree Hall.

"The people who do not show at once that they want to be students should be asked to go elsewhere," he declared.

"A rearrangement of endowments is necessary in order that they may once more be made applicable to the ends for which they are intended—the education of those who desire to be students and have not the means.

"Then again, there will have to be a remodelling of the whole scale and standard of living at Oxford."

£1,000 to Count Oranges.

Any spiritualist who is able to count the number of oranges that are rolled out of a basket on a table in the office of the Metropolitan Psychological Society, New York, will be given £1000 by the sceptics who make up the membership of the organisation.

This is the society's announcement: "It has been the experience of those offering rewards that when alleged mediums professing to communicate with spirits are asked to demonstrate their powers, when opportunities for fraud or for telepathy have been eliminated, they are helpless and cannot do a thing. But we are open to conviction.

"We have raised £1000, now in the hands of David Goldberger, 747, East 108th-street, to be given to any person who will shut his eyes and by means of the help of a spirit or by any other means will count a few oranges spilled on a table behind him. The person who spills the oranges will look the other way for the moment to eliminate the possibility of telepathy."

Several hundred persons have applied for permission to try to earn the £1000, and of all who have endeavoured to count the oranges none have succeeded. The society demands that all applicants present some reliable basis for their assumption of uncommon power, so that the time of the society shall not be taken up by persons who hope to get the money by a lucky guess.

Tolled His Own Knell.

How a sexton tolled the bell at his own death was related at an inquest on John Newberry, the sexton of St. John's Church, Horninglow, Burton-on-Trent, England. After quarrelling with his wife, Newberry went to the church, tied the bell rope round his neck, and then jumped from the healing apparatus in the belfry.

The Cullinan.

The famous Cullinan diamond, presented to the King by the Transvaal Government, was reduced in weight more than one quarter to remove the flaws when cut by Messrs. Ascher and Co.

Besides the real Cullinan, which weighs 5,176 carats—almost five times as large as the Koh-i-Noor (the Mountain of Light)—there are:—

- A square brilliant of 309 carats,
- A pendulogue of 92 carats,
- Another square brilliant of 62 carats,
- A heart-shaped brilliant of 18 carats,
- A marquise brilliant of 11 carats, and
- many other stones.

A diamond expert has valued the gems at more than a million pounds.

The Pope's Forecast.

The Pope, in receiving recently a large number of British pilgrims visiting Rome, took the occasion of the recent Eucharistic Congress in London to recall the close bonds which had once united England to the Church of Rome.

He considered that the Roman Catholic demonstration in London, combined with frequent conversions to the Roman faith, were forerunners of England's complete

return to the fold and perfect submission to the See of Rome.

Such comments, coming from such a quarter, raised the enthusiasm of the pilgrims to their highest pitch, and they intoned the hymn, "God bless our Pope."

So touched was the Pontiff that as he retired he repeated: "Thanks, thanks" whilst the pilgrims burst into loud hurrahs.

340 Years' Lawsuit

A lawsuit between two villages has been settled by the courts of the State of Oaxaca, Mexico, after lasting since 1568. It had given rise to many armed conflicts between the opposing factions.

Housekeeping Troubles are smoothed away



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BIRD'S Custard Powder,

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DISSOLVE INSTANTLY. UNEQUALLED BRILLIANCY & DELICATE FLAVOUR.

BIRD'S Concentrated Egg Powder,

BIRD'S Pudding Powder.

Storekeepers can obtain supplies of the above locally from their merchants, they again ordering through Home Houses only, from ALFRED BIRD & Sons, Ltd., Birmingham, Eng.

A Good Start in Life.

Mothers should early realize how essential good health is for the success of their child in after life. A badly nourished baby generally means an undersized child, wanting in stamina and vigour. If unable to nurse your baby, you must give the substitute that most closely resembles human milk. No farinaceous or starchy food or unmodified cow's milk is permissible to a child under 6 or 7 months of age. The "Allenburys" Milk Foods are so prepared as to remove the difference between cow's milk and human milk, and they are as easy of digestion as the natural food of the child.

The "Allenburys" Foods are alike suitable for the delicate and robust, and when used as directed, form the best means of rearing a child by hand. The No. 1 Milk Food may be given alternately with the mother's milk without fear of upsetting the child or causing digestive disturbance. The dreaded process of weaning is thus made easy and comfortable both to the mother and child.

The Allenburys' Foods.

MILK FOOD No. 1. From birth to 3 months. MILK FOOD No. 2. From 3 to 6 months. MALTED FOOD No. 3. From 6 months and upwards. PAMPHLET ON INFANT FEEDING SENT FREE.

ALLEN & HANBURYS Ltd., LONDON, and Bridge Street, SYDNEY.

A LETTER

By Carmen
Sylva. (H.M.
the Queen of
Roumania.)

Translated
by
Alys
Hallard.

Copyright Story.

OUR letter made me so unhappy. How can you say that I have no confidence in you and that I never tell you anything! I do not belong to myself now, mother, and something seems to hold my pen back, when I want to write and tell you anything. It always seems to me as though it is wrong to write anything which he is not to read, anything that seems as though I am complaining of him. There are so many things that are painful to me, and I am afraid you would not understand me any more than I understand myself.

"Father was perfect; he seemed to have no faults, and you always understood each other, and seemed to be of the same mind. How is it that people who love each other dearly are not always of the same mind? We certainly do love each other dearly, but our love is different, our way of looking at things is different, and what seems quite natural to one of us is not at all natural to the other. I go to no end of trouble to find out what would please him, and then I constantly fail. I cannot read things in his eyes as I used to in yours. I so often misunderstand him, and nearly always when other people are present, and then afterwards he is annoyed about my mistakes. You know, mother, I never liked being blamed about anything, and you used to be so patient. I do not want him to know that all this vexes me, as I do not want him to think I am silly and susceptible. The consequence is I keep everything to myself, and then I am insanely worried and shy. You cannot imagine your poor little daughter shy, I am sure. I always used to say everything that came into my head, and everyone used to laugh and be amused, so that whenever I came into the room at home I used to be more or less entertaining. Now I always look at Leon first, and then when I have looked at him, I lose all my self-assurance, and say the most stupid things. I can assure you that I have never been so stupid. The other evening I heard two old ladies talking about some young wife, and they said that very often, after being the liveliest of girls, women grew very silent after their marriage. They were very likely talking about me. There were several other young wives in the room, but they were certainly not silent. They were in the midst of a circle of young men, and were laughing heartily. They were most flippant and impertinent when they talked to their husbands, and the husbands seemed to think they were very charming. Leon was with them for some time, and he laughed heartily with them. He scarcely ever laughs like that when he is with me, and he tells me constantly not to be childish. I listened to these women and they were not at all witty, and were certainly not much prettier than I am. Their hair was done better perhaps, and they handled their fans exquisitely, and looked about with a great deal of self-assurance. I wished I had more self-assurance, and could feel that I did not bore people. I have travelled a great deal, but go have other people, and travelling seems to bore people so that it would do no good talking to anyone about my travels. I expect everyone has read the books I have read, so it is no use talking books. The old ladies I meet always give me advice about housekeeping. The other evening a lady asked me whether I was not sometimes homesick in this new country, and I told her I was. Leon asked me afterwards what we had been talking about, and I told him she had been telling me about her life. He frowned, and said she would have been wiser to have kept her own counsel,

She had not told me anything improper. Leon seemed to know a great many horrid things about people, for he speaks so contemptuously about many of them, and particularly about the women. I don't like that, and I always wonder why he seems to take pleasure in meeting them if he despises them so much. Men seem to me quite different from us. There are so many things they do not understand. They do not know, for instance, how they hurt our feelings at times, for they are constantly saying things at the wrong time, and things that would be better left unsaid.

And then, too, sometimes we women are so tired, so deadly tired. Men hate that, and it makes them impatient. If we try to hide that we are tired, that makes them still more impatient. They seem to find it very simple to be suddenly married. It does not change anything for them, whilst for us everything is changed. Oh, mother, why do we not remain girls at home? When I hear people talking of honeymoons, and girls wanting to be married, I laugh to myself. It is only at home when we are girls that we taste the honey, and the years then are only like months or even days. When we are once married the days seem like years! You cannot think how old I feel! I am quite surprised every day to find that I have no wrinkles yet and no white hair, for I feel so very old! I wish I could feel as gay as I used to be. Do you remember, mother, how mad I used to be, springing over the chairs and walking on stilts? Whenever I think of those old days the tears come into my eyes. It seems as though my stilts were friends I had lost. I have never told Leon that I could walk on stilts. I wonder what he would say. I often wonder what he would think now about everything, and then I am quite silent while I am thinking about all this, and Leon is bored, and I see him yawn and pick up a newspaper. The tears come into my eyes then, and I blame myself. What can one talk about to men, mother? You and father were always talking, and father never yawned and picked up his newspaper, unless it happened to be newspaper time. I have seen Leon pick his up again, when he had already read it through in the morning. Once when he put it down and went out of the room, I just looked to see what he had been reading. It was a stupid speech about customs and export and import duty, and I burst out crying to think he preferred that to talking to me.

"How is it that he is interested when other women talk to him about their dress, and he yawns, when I talk about myself?" "Suppose I am too susceptible, but you always spoil me so, mother dearest. Do you remember how I used to kneel by you on the hearth, stroking your hands, and tell you lots and lots of things about myself. You used to tell me things, too, and we were so happy together. Whenever I think about you, in bed at night, my pillow gets very wet. I dream sometimes that I am asking you for advice, but I always wake up before you have given it. Then, too, I feel so lonely all through the day, and I cannot get accustomed to this loneliness. Leon is delighted when I tell him how I have longed for his return, and how many times I have been to the door to 'look for him'. But he never thinks how long the day is to me. Every hour seems twelve hours. I never talk to him about this, and if I did I am sure he would merely say: 'Oh, women, women!' or 'You are nervous or fanciful!' or some other disagreeable thing, such as no one ever said to me before. Was I ever ner-

vous or fanciful, mother dear? Sometimes, too, I am dreadfully worried, for I am so pale now, and my face is getting so thin. I wonder whether I have some disease that I know nothing about—a cancer, or consumption, perhaps. I may die of this disease, and Leon will never know how much I loved him, and I shall not have made him at all happy. He will never know how happy I could have made him if he had not been so reserved. Then I harden myself, and Leon and I go on for some days just like two friends, one always away from home, and one always indoors, but neither of us knowing what the other one is thinking. Sometimes I think it would be better to make a scene, as then he might get angry, but at any rate he would not be bored. I had always had such a horror, though, of any storms and discussions, and had always determined that no cloud should ever come into our sky. At present the brilliant blue sky and the everlasting sunshine weary me, and I should like some clouds!

"Whenever Leon says something that annoys me horribly, I smile, and do not reply, and I am very proud of my calmness. Sometimes I fancy he looks vexed that I will not show I am annoyed. I am most obedient, just as I promised at the altar. When he asks me to do anything, I do it—unless I forget all about it. I am getting so forgetful, too. I seem to have nothing but faults. How is it that I never seemed to worry you, mother dear. I suppose it is that everything seemed natural to you, because you had always known me. Leon has only known me a year. I was a stranger to him before that. He never even knew that I was in the world. How was it that he fancied he was in love with me? He was quite mistaken evidently.

"When he is asleep I often look at him for a long time, as the eyes I am afraid of are then closed, and I think then how much I wish I could set him free again, so that he might be happy with someone else. It is very disappointing, mother dear, for you see I have turned out very unsatisfactorily. You brought me up so carefully, and you thought I should be a model young wife. You did not tell me anything about all the difficulties there might be, and now, well, sometimes I am so homesick that I long to come back to you.

"When I am homesick like this, I cannot bear the view from the window here, and I draw the curtains. Leon then comes back, grumbles at the darkness, and pulls back the curtains once more. I try to look pleasant, and ask him perhaps whether he has had a great deal of work. It seems to me that such a question is very natural and very innocent, but he answers curtly, picks up a book perhaps, and begins to read. I watch him until he suddenly asks me whether I have not something

to do. Something to do, of course I have. Why, I am always doing something when he is not there. I sometimes think, mother, that I ought not to have married.

"It seems to me that marriage is a big game of Patience. There are hundreds and hundreds of cards, and when one does not fit in we torture ourselves for years, and the game will not go right, simple as it all looks when it is really finished. When I think I have the right card, and it does not go, I dare not try another, and then I suppose I wait too long, for no matter what I do I never hit on the right moment. I never intended to tell you all this, but in your letter you reproach me for not confiding in you, and that certainty is the last straw. And now that I have written, I shall regret it when once my letter has gone, for you will think I do not love Leon. I would die for him willingly if only I knew that he would then be happy. I would tear my heart out for him. If only I could be gay, as I used to be, he would perhaps be happier. When I try to be gay and to laugh I always cry now. And yet everyone thinks I am happy, and that I am fortunate in having such a husband. I think I certainly am fortunate, as, by the side of him I find other men insignificant and dull and insipid. There is not even one that I could like well enough to make Leon jealous. I cannot find anything to say to other men. I only wish I could flirt with them just to rouse Leon. I suppose flirting is not one of my accomplishments, for I positively cannot bring myself to it. It seems hypocritical, and I do not like the idea of lowering myself to it. I cannot ask any advice about all this. All the young women I know are too much occupied with their own affairs, and the older women have forgotten the time when they were young, and so could not help me. Oh, I wish I were old, for then all my troubles would be over. If I were old I should not be trying to solve enigmas. I should be calm and tranquil, and not merely pretending to be so, whilst in reality I am raging.

"And this is only the beginning of things, the first year of my married life! If every year is to be like this one I shall get desperate. I never cared much about society, but at present I should like to dance for ever and go out every night for the sake of not staying at home. Just think how I must be suffering, mother, to say that, for there is nothing I love so much as being alone with Leon. I should like to see no one else and to speak to no one else.

"Oh, mother, you opened the flood-gates yourself, and now I am keeping nothing back. I shall wait two days before sending my letter, and if at the end of that time I am sensible again I shall burn this and send you one like my

How to Keep Cool.

During the Hot Weather every one can obtain great relief by bathing in water containing a few drops of Condyl's Fluid. A "Condyl's Fluid Bath" imparts a Delicious and lasting sensation of Coolness, Freshness and Purity. It cools, strengthens and invigorates the body and braces the nerves. The Cooling effect is Simply Magical. It is so lasting.

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others (which Leon did not care to read, as he sat there with nothing in them). I was wretched that he should have seen them, and I am wretched now because he does not care to read them, as it proves how little he cares for me. I shall not read my letter through, as it is so carefully written—"

"Oh, mother, I must tell you what has happened and how changed everything is—"

"Just as I had finished writing my letter I heard Leon's footsteps. I flung the letter into the drawer of my table, could not stop to shut the drawer, and rushed into the next room to bathe my eyes for the twentieth time. As I was drying them I saw Leon in the doorway.

"What are you doing?" he asked. "Oh," I answered, trying to laugh. "I had such a headache, and so—well, I thought I would bathe my forehead."

"Ah!" he said, and immediately walked away.

"Not another word, but just that 'Ah.' I burst out crying again as soon as he had gone, and I went on crying until dinner time. Just as I was preparing to go down to dinner the maid came to tell me that my husband had some urgent business and could not dine just then, and that he had told them that my head was bad, so that perhaps I should not be going down to dinner. As a matter of fact, I was very hungry, but did not like to say anything different from what Leon had told them, and so told the maid to bring something up to my room.

"After eating as much as I dared I went into the next room. Remembering my letter, I went across to the desk to look the drawer, but to my horror found that the letter was not there. I opened all the other drawers, looked in my blotter, wondered where I could have put it, and then, getting desperate, searched the room. I looked under the chairs, under the divan, everywhere I could think of. Finally, exhausted with my fit of weeping and with the new worry, I lay down for a few minutes on the divan and soon

fell fast asleep. I must have slept for a long time, as it was dark when I opened my eyes. I heard someone moving about, and discovered that it was Leon.

"Is your head better?" he asked with a strange accent in his tone.

"Yes, thank you. Where have you been?" I asked.

"I had some very important papers to examine."

"Just at this moment the servant came in with a lamp, and I saw his face. I ordered dinner to be served, and then, the thought of my letter coming back to me, I went across to my writing-table again, and once more opened the drawer.

"Are you looking for anything?" asked Leon.

"Yes, a letter," I answered. "I was writing to mother, and thought I left my letter here. There is nothing important in it, but all the same I do not like losing it."

"Ah, yes, I can understand that. Unimportant though it may be it is disagreeable to have one's letters fall into other people's hands."

"He put his hand on his coat as he spoke, and I saw the corner of my letter in his pocket. I thought I should faint, and, as our eyes met, I covered my face with my hands. There was dead silence for what seemed to me an eternity. I was waiting just as a child might have done who deserved a whipping. Leon did not speak, and finally I looked up again. He was watching me, and his eyes had such a mischievous expression in them, that I suddenly burst out laughing. He joined in my laughter, and we laughed as we had never done before. He stood up and held out his arms to me, and I rushed across to him, and had the hardest work not to burst out crying once more. He sat down and drawing me on his knees said in a low voice:

"Forgive me, please, and I will never do it again!"

"I could not speak, and he continued in the same low voice:

"And so you would have died for me, but you dared not tell me what was

the matter. Am I such a terrible man as all that? If I had not found that letter just think what would have happened. Things would have gone from bad to worse, for every day we should have understood each other less and less, and merely because you were not quite sincere and frank. We men are not quite such simpletons as you think we are. For months I had been worrying because I did not know how to make you happy, and certainly if I had had a mother I should not have hesitated so long before asking her advice.

"He went on for a long time talking to me like this, and kissing me every time he stopped talking. I tried to get my letter back, but he would not let me have it.

"You must send the letter," he said, "and in the future if things begin to go wrong, and you have not the courage to tell me, write to your mother, and put the letter in the same drawer. I will always try to find it in time. For the present, if you are still homesick we will take a little trip, and go and pay your mother a visit."

"I am not so homesick as I was, mother darling, but we shall perhaps come and see you all the same."

lose in a month what might have lasted a year, and (remember!) not merely of flesh and strength, but of the power to get it back.

Here is where Mother Seigel's Syrup does its wonderful work. It gives you back lost power. Not all of it, for then you could live for ever; but most of it. Convincing proof of this is afforded by this letter of Mr. William H. Waugh, of Eve Street, Toowoomba, Queensland, dated October 8th, 1907: "I used to be a martyr to biliousness and liver complaint. Often I was unable to work for days at a time and had to lie up. I loathed the sight of food, and was unable to sleep, had a foul taste in my mouth, a thickly coated tongue, and felt altogether worse than I am able to describe. Numerous medicines and various methods of treatment having failed to benefit me, I began, some eight or nine years ago, a course of Mother Seigel's Syrup. I was led to do so by the earnest recommendation of a fellow-workman, who was very enthusiastic about the merits of that remedy. I had not taken many doses before the acute pain between the shoulders, which had so long tortured me, began to subside. Soon I could get about with greater ease than I had been able to do for a long time, and my appetite returned. Ten bottles of the Syrup completed my cure; and though I still occasionally take a dose, that is only as a precaution."

SELF-DESTRUCTION

Every act, every thought, every rush of passion, every emotion, every movement of muscle or mind uses up some of the substance of our bodies, just as every step in walking helps to wear out our shoes. Food repairs the loss to some extent, but the power to digest food grows less from year to year with use. That is the reason, sooner or later, we must die.

Now take note. The faster you live, the more you waste; the more you throw away, the sooner you come to the end.

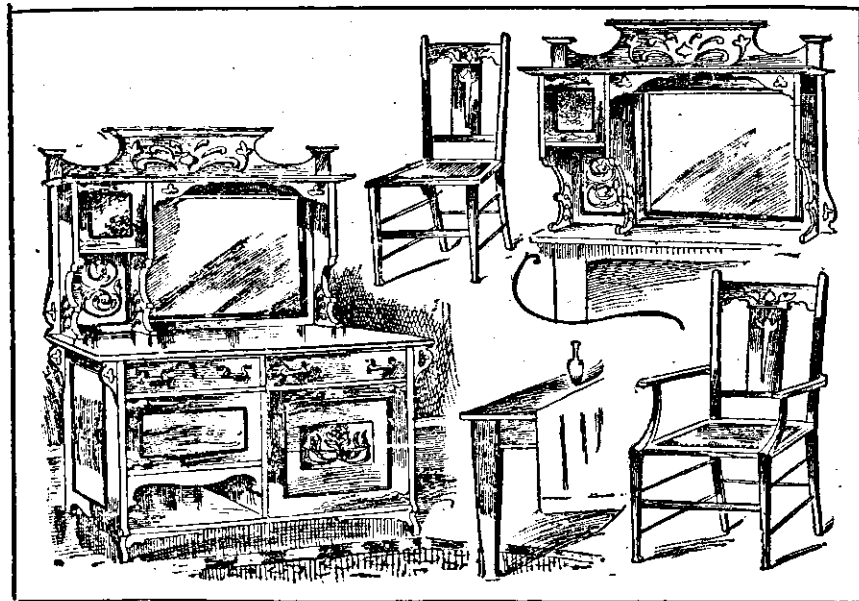
Once more. The great waster, the great thief of life is illness. Then, you may

A UNITED FAMILY.

An old couple in Glasgow were in a very depressed state owing to dull trade. Thinking their son in America would help them, they wrote, stating their trouble, and that if he did not help them, they would have to go to the poor-house.

Three weeks passed, and then came a letter from their son, saying:

"Dear Mother and Father—Just wait another fortnight. I'll come home an' gang w' ye. Your affectionate son."



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It consists of 5 ft. Sideboard, with Copper Panels, Cathedral Glass in top cupboard, and Copper or Brass Fittings; Bevelled Glass Overmantel, 4 ft. x 3 ft. to match; Dining Table, 6 ft. x 3 ft. 6 in., with one loose leaf; six small and two Arm Chairs in leather of any color. Complete in Solid Oak, £39 10s.

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WE MAKE A SPECIALTY OF ATTRACTIVE FURNITURE OF EVERY DESCRIPTION. WE HAVE AT ALL TIMES A LARGE SELECTION OF QUEEN ANNE, CHIPPENDALE AND SHERATON FURNITURE. YOU ARE VERY WELCOME TO INSPECT IT.

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AUCKLAND.

Books and Bookmen

My Story. Hall Caine, London, Heinemann, 21, Bedford-street, W.C.

An autobiography of an author, about whose title to high literary reputation opinions are so divided will be found of more than ordinary interest and instruction. An author, too, who was not only the friend and housemate of the late Dante Gabriel Rossetti during the last dark days of that highly gifted poet-painter's life, but also the friend or gifted acquaintance of such men of genius and talent as John Ruskin, R. D. Blackmore, Wilkie Collins, Robert Buchanan, T. S. Brown, Henry Irving, Tennyson, and Gladstone. In the opening chapters, Mr Caine tells us of his own lowly origin, and the poverty in which he was brought up—a poverty that was shorn of the sordidness that generally accompanies that foe to education and culture, because "it was poverty so sweet, so clean, so free from want, that in all the years since, I have never seen wealth that has seemed to me so human and so beautiful."

At an early age Mr. Caine went to Liverpool, where he was apprenticed to an architect and builder. But always the literary side was uppermost, and we find him joining various societies and guilds that were educational in their scope. Then Mr. Caine took to lecturing, and in one of these lectures undertook the defence of Dante Gabriel Rossetti, whose action in exhuming his wife's body, after a sepulchre of seven years, to recover some manuscripts that he had buried with her, had brought down upon the luckless poet's head a storm of denunciation and adverse criticism. A year later this lecture was printed, and Mr. Caine ventured to send a copy of it to Rossetti. In its acknowledgment began the correspondence which led up to the intimate friendship that was to end only with Rossetti's death. In some of the notices of Mr. Caine's autobiography its author has been held guilty of exceedingly questionable taste in giving to the reading public a detailed account of Rossetti's fatal weakness for drugs, and in showing the moral deterioration that took place in the poet, a deterioration inevitable to victims of the drug habit. But it is impossible to read "My Story" without crediting Mr. Caine with the highest motives for this publicity. For it cannot be gainsaid that the truth about Rossetti is not nearly so damaging to his reputation as the lies that were half truths, that had been written and circulated about him. And we are convinced that Hall Caine has gone through more travail of mind and spirit in this presentation of the truth than his critics and his detractors in the aggregate.

The quarrel between George Buchanan (author of that powerful story, "God and the Man"), who was the writer of the article in the "Contemporary" that contributed so largely to the undoing of Rossetti, is mentioned; and also the splendid atonement afterwards made by Buchanan by the dedication of his greatest work to Rossetti. Much that is new and interesting of Rossetti and his contemporaries will be found in the chapters devoted to the poet painter. After Rossetti's death, Mr. Caine entered the journalistic arena, and had the good fortune to meet with a generous editor, of whom he speaks in highly eulogistic terms. So well did Mr. Caine deserve the £100 a year that was given to him as retainer that his editor wrote to him saying that he was so sensible of the value of his services that his salary as "Free Lance" was to be raised to £150. Being assured at least of bread and butter and a shelter by this then generous retainer Mr. Caine was at least safe from that spectre of starvation that has dogged the steps and too often cut short the careers of our greatest writers. "The Shadow of a Crime" was his first venture into the world of fiction, and it is interesting, if rather dispiriting, to read of the travail Mr. Caine went through in its making and prior to its publication. "A Son of Hagar" followed, but Mr. Caine did not "arrive" until after the "Donatist" was published. Since then he has had no difficulty in finding either a publisher or a sympathetic public. Probably no author has better deserved or more hardily earned the measure of popularity he now enjoys despite adverse criticism.

Of critics, Mr. Caine says: "There is only one writer who can really injure any author, and that writer is himself. If his work is bad, it will die of the seeds of dissolution it carries within it, but if it is good it will live, and long before the little turmoils of critical condemnation have passed into the limbo of fatuities the public will stand abashed and wondering at censure so stupid and so unaccountable. He that hath the bride is in the bridegroom." While agreeing in the main with the foregoing utterance, it must not be forgotten that critics have their uses. And the writer is not born that can afford to despise an honest critic. For an honest critic can make and unmake. And if a writer is not good, or if he prostitutes the talent entrusted to him, the sooner he is unmade or made good the better both for himself and posterity. And the adverse criticism that is the outcome of personal animus or envy will, as in Buchanan's case, be repented of in sack-cloth and ashes.

If there is a false note struck in this book, it is the note of abject humility that Mr. Caine is continually striking throughout his "Story." A man who has the gift of seeing face to face with humanity, that this man has, has no need to affect humility towards any save his Creator. And this affectation of humility, which Mr. Caine confounds with gratitude, is the one blemish in a book that we feel the better for having read. Much more could be written about "My Story," but it would hardly be fair to its author, to whom we wish as large a circulation as the intense interest of its subject deserves.

The Blue Ocean's Daughter, Cyrus Townsend Brany (New York: Moffat, Yard and Co.)

The excellence of Dr. Brady's style is too well known to need recapitulation, and we need say nothing further than that "Blue Ocean's Daughter" is written with this author's usual spirit-fulness and intimate knowledge of his subject. The period chosen is that of the War of Independence, and the principal scenes are laid upon the high seas between the west coast of England and America, and the story opens where the American merchant ship Hiram and Susan is being chased by H.M. cruiser Rockingham. The Hiram and Susan, which was commanded by her owner, Captain Hiram Hubbell, was not only carrying arms for Captain Hubbell's compatriots, but also a large amount of gold specie which had been sent by French sympathisers to assist in throwing off the English yoke. The Rockingham, proving the faster vessel, overtook the Hiram and Susan, and, after a fierce fight, she was captured. On being boarded by Lieutenant Mornington and a prize crew from the Rockingham, it was found that Captain Hiram had been killed by a villainous Italian, who, owing him a grudge, had chosen the opportunity to pay it in the general melee that prevailed before the Hiram and Susan was taken.

In the master's place Lieutenant Mornington found, to his astonishment, a slim boy, who proved, on further acquaintance, to be the master's daughter and successor in command. How Mr. Mornington and Susan learn to love one another, and how Susan, conspiring with the Hiram's mate, strategically recaptures the ship because a point of honour is involved in her reaching Boston in safety, and how she endangers the loss of her lover, and, indeed, does lose him for a space, and how one of the forces of nature, seemingly determined to lend a hand to one of its children, raises a tremendous storm which drives the Hiram and Susan ashore a total wreck, but saves the lovers, must be read to be appreciated at its full value.

A more thoroughly wholesome story it would be difficult to imagine, and if its heroine resembles somewhat Miss Grimshaw's celebrated heroine, Valhiti it is an imitation that redounds to Dr. Brady's credit as being more feminine. Dr. Brady is also to be congratulated on the happy manner in which he has brought out the best characteristics of both English and American in this stirring story. Englishman or American can read it without any

hurt either to their patriotism or their amour propre. Love is the salve that is to heal the wounds caused by the War of Independence.

Round the Fire Stories. Arthur Conan Doyle. (London: George Bell and Sons.)

For sheer gruesomeness, though of a strong virile sort, the seventeen short stories that comprise this book would be impossible to beat. Perhaps no greater tribute could be paid to their author than to say that while we hated the realism, the sordidness, the horror, the low estimate of human nature shown in their conception, and the maximum of truth that underlies their seeming fiction, we were forced to admire the diabolic ingenuity, the machiavelian humour, and the literary ability that has gone to their making. But we prefer the prob-

able and even the abnormal to the super-natural, and think some of the stories of the book rather a tax on the credulity of the reader. We differ, too, from Sir Arthur Conan Doyle as to the ideal atmosphere in which to read these "Stories Round the Fire," and wonder whether he is serious when he hopes that they will give his readers pleasure. And we also venture to think that a spook of such intelligence and discrimination as the spook of "The Brown Hand" would have discovered that the second substitute was a misfit. That there are more things in heaven and earth than are dreamt of in our philosophy is beyond dispute and the supernatural should not be burlesqued. Stories that have for their theme the unmasking of villainy, the presentation of romance, doughty deeds of valour and historic interest are what we most appreciate from the pen of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle.

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The World of Fashion

(By MARGUERITE.)

So numerous are inexpensive materials now employed for juvenile garments, and so easily are they put together—thanks to the perforated paper patterns—that any mother of moderate means and a certain amount of leisure may provide her young daughter with a wardrobe almost as dainty and varied as that ordered for the minor heiress of a multi-millionaire.

SIMPLE SCHOOL FROCK.

For lessons and play there is nothing more practical for small girls than the frocks of galatea, striped percale of hair-lined linen sailing, which are to be found in all the popular blues and pinks, varied with white, grey or tan. These are made up in the simplest manner possible, usually in one piece, with three wide box plaits, back and front, pressed and often stitched to the waistline, but flaring below the belt, and with a one-tone sailor collar and dickey. Natural and tobacco coloured linens are made up in a similar manner, brightened with red linen collar and dickey or relieved by those of white

pique, which lend an air of freshness to a dark frock that can be worn for several days.

CHAMBRAY GUIMPE DRESSES.

Girls' chambray guimpe dresses in pink, blue and pale green have skirts of two distinct types—the one deeply side-plaited and flaring from waist to hem and the other slightly gored, with the fulness shirred into the belt. But in both instances the chemisette and collar are of white all-over embroidery and there are narrow revers, faced with the frock material and edged with a line of fancy white braid similar to that finishing the bottom of the skirt. Some of these chambray frocks are exact replicas of the clan tartans so much worn during the winter, and are trimmed with furled bands of plain colour, which form panels from shoulder to hem or traverse the blouse diagonally, thus forming a waist-length V, back and front. This latter trimming method demands a similarly shaped guimpe, which to remain stationary, should be attached to a muslin body.

TRIMMED WHITE WITH COLOURS.

Rather a novel departure from the all white scheme in the design of small girls' frocks is the fad for trimming some of the heavier linens and cottons with plain and striped materials of contrasting colour. The idea is charmingly developed in the case of a school dress of the jumper order, the side-plaited, knee-length skirt being banded above the hem with navy blue percale; which also outlines the neck, short sleeves and waistline, while a coat frock of white shrunken cotton has a front panel, belt, collar and cuffs of red and white galatea, daintily hand-embroidered in red wash cotton. Frocks so treated, however, are only suitable for informal use, and in the same category, as those intended for school and play.

UTILITY HATS.

Quite useless is it to deny that the happy, healthy little lady is exceedingly hard on her head gear, for she loves to play out of doors. The most practical of play hats are those of rough straw, rather flat in shape, trimmed with bands of washable ribbon. These would best be of brown straw, which is almost sun-proof, whereas the more attractive looking blues and pinks quickly fade and lend their wearer a shabby appearance. There are various kinds of pique hats which will withstand an immense amount of ill treatment and submit to indefinite laundering. One shape is somewhat like gyzytoo (shdyhji shY miv m n mb the popular flat with a broad slitted brim and a detachable crown; another is of the lingerie model, and a third is like a stringless surbonnet, which hooks beneath the chin and possesses the merit of protecting the infantile complexion and keeping the hat from blowing about the eyes.

LINGERIE HEADGEAR.

Headgear of embroidery, mull and lace never goes out of favour with the younger generation, and each season becomes more fluffy and fascinating. In shape it varies somewhat from that of a twelvemonth ago, in that crowns are slightly higher and brims more flaring and rather more needlework than net and lace is employed. Some of the new lingerie hats are entirely of shirred mull and not to be detached from their wire frames. For that reason they are rather shunned by mothers of limited bank accounts or economical tastes. Nevertheless, trimmed with broad white ribbon bows and provided with chin ties they are a fascinating frame for a rose-tinted face, and well withstand several months of discreet usage.

for pure white, pale grey, and black, elegantly relieved with feathers of such neutral shades as grey and a delicate fawn. These under a sunny sky look lovely and cool.

When flowers are used strange colours are chosen for them. Curious, too, are the lines that appertain to foliage. What do you think of a wreath of deep purple leaves from which spring sprays of deadly nightshade in the natural purple colour of the flower?



DIRECTOIRE GOWN OF SORREL GREEN CLOTH, TRIMMED WITH SOU'TACHE.

The threatened triumph of the high-crowned hat has come to naught; its pride has been brought low, and almost flat millinery once more the vogue. It does not look flat, however, when crowned with a multitude of flowers made of ostrich curled or uncurled, or with the swathery of tulle that forms the fashionable mob greatly beloved at present.

No arbitrary rules are being exercised now with regard to the matching of toilettes and millinery; on the other hand, there is an enormous predilection evinced

The bride who has not an extensive trousseau cannot do better than to include in it one white serge suit made with a short skirt and a neatly tailored rather simple coat. With this she may wear a severely tailored white linen shirtwaist in the morning, one of fine muslin in the afternoon and a rather elaborate net or lace blouse in the evening, provided she is not stopping at an ultra fashionable hotel or a private house.



LADY CYNTHIA NEEDHAM'S HEIRLOOM VEIL AND HER BRIDESMAIDS' DRESSES.

The little bridesmaids were in white satin covered with cream net, mob caps, and pale-blue sashes. The older bridesmaids also wore cream net with blue sash. Their hats were in cloud colour, pale blue, and silver.

The bride-maids were the Hon. Mary Westmore, Miss Margaret Drexel, and Miss Rosamond Grosvenor, wearing ivory satin dresses, veiled in figured net, and trimmed with lace-edged fichus, and pale blue satin sashes. They had satin hats matching the sashes. They carried bouquets of white roses and lilies of the valley tied with white satin ribbons. Besides the bridesmaids eight children walked hand in hand. They made a charming group, dressed after a portrait of Sarah Lady Jersey as a child, with white muslin frocks over satin, and blue sashes and with mob caps trimmed with blue ribbons, blue satin shoes and old-fashioned blue mittens.



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Red Roses and Gold Apples.

Whether to choose wreaths or hats for the bridesmaids is a matter of individual taste. The maid who followed Lady Dorothy Godolphin Osborne to the altar wore chaplets of green leaves, bunched at the sides with pink blossoms and blue ribbon, which hung in loops.

An extremely pretty effect is produced when the bridesmaids as well as the bride wear white robes, and the bridesmaids follow the example of the bride in decking their hair with chaplets of flowers or foliage. Veils are added in many cases.

With their green leaf wreaths the bridesmaids just mentioned wore white mousseline satin toilettes, and very picturesque capes of blue satin fastened on the shoulders with links of padded satin and edged with ball fringe. Their skirts were perfectly plain, and the dresses were belted with white satin sashes heavily fringed at the ends.

Another question which individual taste must decide is whether bouquets, prayer books, or baskets of flowers should be carried by the bridesmaids. The bride as a rule chooses a nosegay, though in many instances of late a prayer book bound in white kid or carved ivory has been preferred.



Very simple, withal charming, is the frock of tussore for a child sketched here. Velvet ribbon or stitched taffetas trims it.

Wedding Rings—Price One Penny.

It is a moot point among the brides of to-day whether the train should be of the regulation Court shape and length or of the ordinary round type, and whereas formerly every magnificently attired bride chose a Court train, it is quite customary in these days for the more unobtrusive train to be ordered.

A very charming story is told in London of the wedding ring worn by a re-



CHILD'S FROCK

which represents a little pinafore frock in checked cinnamon and white over a white shirt.



A CHILD'S FROCK

A simple afternoon frock, with two seams only, and a fastening on the left side. Intended for linen, serge, cloth, or cashmere, with tucked white silk yoke and sleeves, or can be worn over a blouse.

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cent bride, which was actually "turned" for her by a friend whose skill in metal work is well known. This expert worker in precious metals has actually "turned" upwards of a hundred wedding rings for his friends, and charges the bridegroom a single penny only for the symbolic circle.

There are many beautiful fancies in wedding ring lore. Several brides have of late revived the old fashion of inscribing a posy inside the ring. Some such words as "For ever and for aye," "Till death do us part," or, more practically, the name of the bridegroom and the date of the marriage, are traced inside the ring.

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Boudoir Gossip

Women to Avoid.

BY COSMO HAMILTON.

I.—THE BEAUTIFUL WOMAN.

This is the age of specialism. Most men and all women are experts in the thing of which they know nothing.

It would be an odd and wonderful experience to find a newspaper or magazine to-day in which there was no article on something to avoid. Mr. Eustace Miles piles barbed upon cauliflower in his pictures of the horrible diseases that await meat eaters; Sir James Crichton-Browne huris anathema and portehouse steaks at the head of all vegetarians, and plumps for park. If we were all to avoid those things in which these experts have discovered danger—from Protection to Free Trade, from a strong Navy to the Serpentine in summer, from corsets to apple cores, from the gum on envelopes to the mouth-piece of the telephone, from the air of the Tube to pipe-smoking, from street noises to the domestic gramophone, from old age pensions to excessive wealth—we should starve on Monday, over-eat on Tuesday, go dry on Wednesday, drink too much on Thursday, insure on Friday, sell up on Saturday, quarrel violently with everyone on Sunday, and be a source of misery to ourselves and our friends and relations the whole of the week.

Luckily, however, all sensible men and women are endowed with such an enormous amount of egoism that the opinions of self-constituted experts have very little influence.

WE ARE ALL EXPERTS.

We all know far better than our next-door neighbour, and the ignorant man has infinitely more wisdom than the sage. Be that as it may, knowing well that my peptonised wisdom will be regarded merely as concentrated essence of idiocy by my bohardly brothers, I spring into the stadium as an expert, and exhort my fellow-men to avoid the one and only really dangerous matter that does so much to ruin life. I mean, of course, woman.

Putting aside style and line writing, what I really mean by the word woman is not, believe me—for I am an optimist—woman as an institution, but certain types of woman. These I will take in their order, starting with the type of woman whom it is most necessary to avoid—the beautiful woman.

New, although the beautiful woman is the only type of woman for whom, by being born, there is any excuse, she is a greater nuisance, a more constant source of annoyance, fatigue, irritation, and expense than all the other types to avoid reflect into one.

Like American millionaires and South African diamond merchants, who are tolerated by civilised men and women only because of their wealth.

BEAUTIFUL WOMEN ARE PERMITTED TO SWISH THROUGH LIFE INSOLENTLY, ARRIGANTLY, SIMPLY BECAUSE OF THEIR BEAUTY.

No other type of woman, however womanly, would dream even of begging from men the sort of active homage which the beautiful woman demands and wins.

I do not wish to suggest for a moment that it is not the right of a beautiful woman to turn all men instantly into fatuous and egregious fools, dog-carriers, phonographic adulators, bankers, receivers of bad temper, outbursts of wounded vanity, puerile and discontent, and quantities of ignorant and dogmatic chatter. Of course it is her right. Of all living creatures the beautiful woman is the only one who has the right to do, to say, and to enforce others to do and to say whatever she may choose. And there you have the reason why she is to be avoided.

THE MAN WHO MARRIES THE BEAUTIFUL WOMAN SHOULD BE PRESENTED WITH THE VICTORIA CROSS.

Instead of which he gets penal servitude for life. He deserves both. The husband of a beautiful woman is nothing else, just as a county cricketer is nothing but a county cricketer, and an actor—a crea-

ture who comes to life every night at eight o'clock and dies again at eleven-thirty.

As a wife, the beautiful woman is not a hobby, a help, a companion, the mender of clothes, the superintendent of servants. She is a business, a tyrant, a martinet, a proposition, a barometer, a mechanical toy, a pilot into the bankruptcy court.

Then, too, a beautiful woman is never beautiful for her husband. She is beautiful for everyone else. When not on view she is not worth seeing. In her home she is always resting, like an actress, for her next public appearance, and being beautiful she is lazy, morbid, generally given to some sort of self-indulgence, utterly unintellectual, unuseful, and studiously insincere.

I say these things well knowing that I shall get myself into trouble. I have just been introduced to the most beautiful woman in England. She is married to my best friend. Trouble on both sides. If I had thought it possible that this dear good fellow could have gone through a six months' engagement to this beautiful woman, without breaking it off and disappearing suddenly to California, or some such sunny spot—there to melt and expand and become healed—I should have been compelled to break my golden rule and give unasked-for advice. But I didn't think it was possible. I watched him lose his soul, his individuality, his freedom, his honesty, his peace of mind, and his money for the sake of this very beautiful woman. I saw him fall more and more in love with his deity, and daily become a more and more pitiful object. In the voice of a man who insists on bathing in the Serpentine on Christmas Eve he assured us all that he was the happiest man in the world. Every unpleasant thing that she could invent for him to do she made him do. She insisted upon his going shopping with her; she dragged him to tea fights;

SHE MADE HIM DROP GOLF AND GIVE UP HIS PROFESSION.

He had twenty-five thousand a year and went to the club every morning for luncheon. She broke him of the innocent habit of going to the Gaiety, and cultivated in him the distressing vice of hating the "serious" theatres. Long before he was married he had begun to talk about Art and atmosphere and such-like theatrical cant.

He has been married less than a year. He is still the happiest man in the world, but will never be less miserable. What has he become, I ask you? Just a male-nurse, a thing to utter fulsome flattery whenever it is desired, a follower, a creature who dare not state an opinion for fear of being accused of arguing, a keeper of the peace at any price.

Therefore, avoid the beautiful woman.

Fruit Preserving as Work for Women.

Fruit-bottling is the latest industry to afford a splendid opening to educated women of small means (writes a London paper.)

Miss Edith Bradley, the pioneer of the industry, who is an expert in all agricultural and horticultural matters, and was for some years warden of Lady Warwick's Agricultural College for Women, has described to an "Express" representative a good steriliser for bottling fruit known as the "Mercia," which she invented, and which has been used with great success by a very large number of women living in the country who were anxious to add to their slender incomes.

"The art of bottling fruit is a simple one to acquire, and the work is essentially fitted for educated women," she said. "Gooseberries, plums, red currants, raspberries, black currants, apricots, peaches, and tomatoes can be bottled and kept indefinitely. The steriliser, made of tin, consists of three pieces—the body, the lid (with an opening for insertion of thermometer), and a perforated shelf on which to stand the bottles to prevent the heat cracking them. The fruit to be sterilised is packed into a glass jar or bottle, which

is then filled with cold water, and closed by a glass or metal cap fastened by a clip or screw. Heat can be supplied to the steriliser in the customary ways.

"Most of the fruit bottled is for cooking purposes, and such fruits as black currants and damsons lose much of their roughness, and are vastly improved by bottling.

"It is an industry full of possibilities, not one of the least being that it may have the effect of keeping people in the villages and checking the rush to the cities by creating local industries. That fresh fruit bottled in this way is keenly appreciated in the winter and spring has been shown in many cases. I know of a baker in a west country town who, with his wife and daughter, began bottling fruit in a very small way some years ago. The demand for the fruit among the miners in South Wales became so great that now he employs one thousand girls to pick blackberries every autumn.

"Many farmers complain that it does not pay them to send fresh fruit to the London market owing to the great foreign competition, and farmers' daughters in many parts are now doing well by bottling the fruit and selling it in the countryside."

America is coming rapidly to the fore with this new career for girls.

Miss Louise Cary-Smith, who lives at a house called Pomona, in California, has introduced a valuable addition to invalid diet in the shape of El Verde grape juice, which contains the actual juice of the grape, bottled with infinite care, and is said to be a more valuable nutritive in illness than even beef tea.

But successful fruit-bottling is not only confined to American ladies, for the industry is being taken up in many English villages and homes. Lady Algernon Gordon-Lennon has started the most flourishing and successful works at the little village of Broughton, in Oxfordshire.

What Men Know About Women.

A large number of books about women have been written by men, scientific, sentimental, and suggestive.

But up to the present time, very little is really known about this interesting and expensive creature.

Woman in large masses, and regarded abstractedly from a distance, is highly objectionable. Because of her habit of having children—criticised by many as an unfortunate trait in itself—we could not very well get along without her. And yet she is plainly, according to the best "authorities," physically inferior. She consumes food, uses up our natural resources, wears hideous clothes, and pays nothing for her immense privileges. She is a dead loss, regarded from an economic standpoint. She is mean, has an undeveloped sense of honour, very little character, and is a consummate liar. All this she seems to be, in the aggregate.

But—and this is highly important—the moment we apply this rule about Woman in the aggregate to woman in particular, we find it doesn't work. Miss A. is a charming, fresh, piquant, beautiful young girl, as delightful as a flower. We would jump off a reasonably steep cliff with previous warning to rescue her from a watery grave. We would neglect our business any day in the week and willingly stay away from—or attend, as the case may be—church, if we thought there was even the remotest prospect of eventually holding her in our arms, or stealing a kiss from her ruby lips. Mrs. B. runs her household like clock-work. She has business and executive ability combined with all of the excellent qualities of menial mother, Miss C. is a wit, whose delicate appreciation of shades of humour throws us into despair over our own crudeness in that respect. Then there is the nurse we once had—the perfection of self-abnegation, of sublime disinterestedness, the very apotheosis of all virtue. All logic, all systems, fall before her quiet ways. And so our large, general conclusions have been shattered, and, to descend abruptly to the slang of the day, we discover that when it comes to a true estimate of woman, "all bets are off."

The real difficulty is, that in judging woman, man has no standards to go by his own. These standards he has raised up for his own particular purpose, from purely utilitarian motives. They are all right for him, but why should he apply them to beings who have no use for them?

On the stock Exchange, for example, one man nods his head, and a thousand shares of stock, representing hundreds of thousands of dollars, are sold. No man there would go back on his nod, because in the long run to do so would involve individuals as well as the community in disaster. But imagine a lot of women suddenly brought together under similar circumstances, how many of their nods would have any ultimate cash value? Women are not required to "make good" in this way. Hence, they should be judged only by their own standards; and as no man has ever discovered what those standards are, there is no solution to the problem.

But man, on the other hand, can judge himself by his own standards. And in this respect he fails so often and so lamentably, that perhaps it is just as well for him to go slow in trying to get a straight line on Woman.

CIRCUMSCRIBED.

Stella: "Can you dress within your income?"

Bella: "Yes; but it's like dressing within a berth in a sleeping-car."

CURE FOLLOWED YEAR OF AGONY

Intense Itching Eczema Drove Him Nearly to Despair—Chief Surgeon of a London Hospital Called It Worst Case He Had Ever Seen—Got Little or No Relief Until

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BY WHALEBONE.

RACINO FIXTURES.

- January 20, 22, and 23 - Wellington R.C. Summer.
Jan. 22 and 23 - Foxton R.C. Annual.
Jan. 27 - Pahiatua Racing Club (Annual).
January 29, 30, February 3 - Takapuna J.C. Summer.
Feb. 4 and 5 - Gisborne Racing Club Summer.
Feb. 6 and 6 - Canterbury J.C. Summer.
Feb. 6, 10, 13 - Otahuhu Trotting Club.
Feb. 10 and 11 - Egmont R.C. Summer.
Feb. 11, 12 - Poverty Bay Turf Club (Annual).
Feb. 17 and 18 - Woodville District J.C. Autumn.
Feb. 24, 25, and 27 - Duacala J.C. Autumn.
Feb. 25 and 27 - South Auckland R.C.'s Annual.
March 4 and 5 - Wanganui J.C. Autumn.
March 17 and 18 - Napier Park R.C. Autumn.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Constant Reader (Pukohoko)—Yes, Barn-tree started in the Auckland Cup of 1900; won by Bluejacket.
Diablo (Newton)—The racing season starts on the 1st of August, the first totalisator meeting to be held being the C.J.C. winter meeting, which took place this season on August 11, 13, and 15. The season ends on July 31st, and the last totalisator meeting is the Wellington Racing Club's winter meeting, which takes place on July 17, 21, 24.
Mr. P. A. Connolly has won his fifth Perth Cup.

TURF NOTES.

The ex-Auckland poney Herelean has been shipped to Sydney.
Mr. C. O'Connor has been appointed starter for the Wanganui J.C. cup meeting.
The South mare Silver has changed hands, but still remains in B. Beaumont's charge.
Mr. Murphy's poules Quadrant and Octonore are both now under W. Tazer's charge at Ellerslie.
Wellington writers appear to have doubts about Highbankman being a starter in the Wellington Cup.
Mr. C. O'Connor has been appointed to act as a starter at the Wanganui Jockey Club's autumn meeting.
R. J. Mason left Ararat at Trentham, and returned there to superintend his preparation for the Wellington meeting.
The Auckland-owned gelding Caracua has been taken in hand again by F. McGrath, after a somewhat lengthy spell.
Mr. John Corbett asks the reason why F. Wootton should not develop into a Fred Archer.
The cross-country mare Sadakar will go into work again shortly, with a view to racing at the winter meetings.
G. Abadiam has treated Santa Rosa and Carl Rosa to a dose of physic, and the pair will be indulged in a short spell.
The totalisator investments in South Australia last year amounted to £233,725, as compared with £249,470 in 1907.
All the Auckland horses nominated for the Wellington Racing Club's summer meeting have been allowed to drop out of their engagements.
Mr. T. H. Lowry has not accepted with either Bobrikoff or Downfall in the Wellington Cup, but has left in Chouteau, which has only 1st to carry.
All Red is wanted to be a certain starter, all going well, for the Wellington Cup, and after the race he may be taken to Australia.
Mr. C. O'Connor has left for the South to fulfil his starting duties at the forthcoming Wellington Racing Club's summer meeting.
W. G. Irwin received an addition to his team recently, in the shape of a gelding by name of a waterer mare, which looks a likely-looking sort.
The two-year-old Eleazara, which has been enjoying a short spell, has resumed work again at Ellerslie. She is still under B. Beaumont's care.
Nominations for all events at the Otahuhu Trotting Club's summer meeting close with the secretary (Mr. F. H. Young) on Friday next, the 22nd inst., at 9 p.m.
Tomater has been engaged in the Newmarket Handicap, and also in the United Futurity Stakes, the late entry in which entails an expenditure of \$5000.
The leading N.Z. jockeys so far this season are—R. Hatch 49 wins, P. Jenkins 25, B. Deely 23, A. Olliver 22, J. Buchanan 20, E. Lowe 18, and S. Reid 16.
The St. Cyr gelding Midway, which won the hurdle race on the second day of the Whangarei meeting, was the biggest outsider of the field, and paid a big dividend.
The Grafton horse Grenade is reported to be showing proficiency in his schooling work, and good judges predict a successful career for him over the small fences.
Acceptances for all events on the opening day of the Takapuna J.C. summer meeting close with the secretary (Mr. R. Wynyard) on Friday next, the 22nd inst., at 9 p.m.

Once again the statement is made that, in view of the American invasion of Turin, which extends to France as well as to England, the French Jockey Club has, as a self-protective measure, decided to grant licenses only to those Americans who have resided in the country for some time in France. The intervention of the American Embassy is to be solicited.

D. Morgan has made an early start with the handling of the South - Romaia - owned purchase of the horse, who was sold at Park sale, and he was on the course at Ellerslie the other morning with the gear on. Romaia's son, which was undoubtedly one of the bargains of the sale, looks a sensible sort, and appeared to take kindly to his education.

Misses Weinberg are the leading winners in Germany this season, with the Royal Gravitz Stud second and Baron Oppenheim third. R. Lay, son of F. W. Day, who only took over the control of the Royal Stud last winter, has made a great success, for the sum won by his horses, nearly £30,000, is the biggest ever secured by the Gravitz stud in any one season.

Mr. G. F. Moore's pair, Signor and Caracina, were shipped to Sydney last week by the Moeraki, in charge of their trainer, J. Hay. The horses, which were purchased in their Australian engagements by R. Cameron, are to be trained at Camfield, and will race at the outside meetings in Victoria prior to making an appearance at Flemington.

In connection with the stipendiary stewards in West Australia, a statement was recently published that the goldfields club favoured a return to the honorary steward system. The secretary of the Boulder club has refuted the story, but his club, in conjunction with the other goldfields clubs, have always been, and still are, strongly in favour of the system of stipendiary stewards.

The purchase of bloodstock was ever a lottery, but Mr. C. A. Hartley, a well known patron of racing, has doubtless achieved a record. On Sunday last he bought a four-year-old mare out of the Oaks winner for a penny, which is a record for his club, and hopes to win races with her. This gentleman gave only ten shillings for Punch, who won a lot of small races, and it will be interesting to see if the cheaply acquired mare does him any good.

With 19 horses still left in the Wellington Cup, there seems every probability of an interesting race resulting. The defection of the "Red" to the "Green" of some interest, but the meeting of Allred and Highbankman should be worth going a long way to see. In addition to the big race, the acceptances for the other events are large and interesting, and the club looks like having a record gathering.

A number of jockeys and horses had lined up for the start of a steeplechase, but a delay occurred because a fall, rawly, had been observed. The race was held to the opportunities of the starter. The patience of that worthy was nearly exhausted. "Bring up that horse!" he shouted; "bring him up! You'll get into trouble if you don't!" and he pointed to the rider of the cupid animal, a youthful Irishman, yelled back: "I can't help it! This here's been a cab horse, and he won't start till the door shuts, and I ain't got no door!" This was the first time an Australian owner, Mr. P. A. Connolly, had to run the gauntlet of an inquiry into the running of one of his horses. Embarras, at the recent Perth meeting. The explanation accepted, was that the rider of a questionable practice so hurt his feelings that he has announced that he will not race any more in West Australia after this month. He is of opinion that the starter is not to be depended on, notwithstanding that his horses invariably run to win, he is always more or less in danger.

Flungrily the British Turf was never in a sounder condition than in England, and during the season some half a million pounds have been won in stakes alone, making a grand aggregate for the past 27 years of over thirteen millions sterling. In addition to this, many of the best horses of the world have been bred, and upwards of seven millions sterling is spent annually on the upkeep of the Turf owners, training expenses, etc., a fact which should give pause to those who would "blough up" successless.

The annual meeting of the Wanganui Racing Club, held on the 9th inst., was largely attended, and some interesting sport was witnessed. The principal events were decided with the following results:—Wanganui Cup: Cast out, 10.0, 1. Parole, 10.3, 2. Maiden race: Hikatoa 3, Tom Jags 2. Ladies' Handicap: Tom Jags 1, Kippers 2. Flying Handicap: Cast out, 10.4, 1. Augurn 10.7, 2. Farewell Handicap: Parole, 10.7, 1. Lepanto 10.2, 2. Cast Out, which won both the leading events, is a promising daughter of Cast, Astoria and Highland Mary, owned by Mr. T. Klug.

A meeting of the Metropolitan Committee to consider the finding of the Avonide Jockey Club in connection with their recent inquiry is being awaited with considerable interest. It is expected that a final decision is to be produced, but this is only hearsay, and, as racing inquiries are always conducted with closed doors, nothing can be learned but the finding. The Avonide Club are not members of the Metropolitan Committee, and the Metropolitan Committee take of the matter is arousing a lot of interest.

An English sporting writer who claims to be a strong partisan and a firm believer in the "old" form of betting, writes that each is required for it, and extravagance and debts are prevented, states that its only drawback is that it minimises the excitement during each race, and that its v.

marks "bet in the dark." At the same time, he shows that the present Government, ledly not to adopt the same form of betting, in force in Austria and Belgium, where the bookmakers are licensed, and made a contribution to the State, the racecourse, and to breeding.

In mentioning that the one prominent English jockey, F. Webb, who is now training in Hungary, paid a visit to Newmarket last month, a London correspondent says: "From all accounts, the trainer is not a happy-go-lucky, like that of the polo-man at home, is not a happy one, and their troubles for the most part arise from the revengeful character of the racehorse, a groom, who do not hesitate to have recourse to the knife when they have a grievance, real or imaginary. Webb himself, but narrowly escaped being stabbed not long since, and one of his yearlings was dangerously wounded in that manner by a scoundrel who drove his knife into the skull directly between the ears."

Every mail that arrives (says a London scriber) brings more and more proof of the fact that the business of bloodstock-breeding in the U.S.A. has been reduced, and there is no doubt that such an average as 1000s each, even for the best of their yearlings, would be a good thing. The business of getting them to England and into the sale ring were deducted from it. Such a situation is serious in the extreme, unless we are viewed with equanimity the absolute swamping of this market, and contrary ourselves with the blessed thought that after all our buyers will be able to buy cheap, and is not that the technique of economic orthodoxy? An Irish jockey overboard in a railway carriage on the way to a jumping meeting:—"Now, me son, mind what I'm saying to ye. Let the ould horses run by your own race for the first year and a half miles. Don't have a finger on him, He'll kape and his barsons. When you're half a furlong from the big double pull the bit through his mouth, and pull him in to save him some. The minute you're over the last fence take hold of his head, and all the divils in Sheel won't catch him."

There is a deal of sound advice contained in the foregoing, and it is to be regretted that the racecourse is so often allowed to run their own race in their own way there might be fewer disappointments to many of us.

Horse owners in North Yorkshire are all at present in a state of alarm, and a fatal disease which has broken out amongst horses in the Riding. One or two large studs have caught the contagion, several valuable horses have died, and others which are recovering are likely to be practically valueless. The greatest precautions have been, and are being, taken to prevent the spread of the contagion, which seems to be most easily caught, but the real cause has not yet been decided. The diagnosis of the case seems to have been forthcoming. Commencing with deep respiration, horses seem to lose their strength at once. It is not "pink eye," and seems almost to consist in the inflammation of the lungs. One of the best known hunter breeders in the Riding has had his stables infected, and though he removed most of his horses to other stabling, very considerable loss has resulted. Since crossing across from New Zealand to ride Pilot in his cross-country engagements at the A.J.C. spring meeting, T. Cahill has put up a wonderful record, says a Sydney sportsman. He has won the whole four jumping events at the meeting referred to, when he successfully steered Acorns in both hurdle races, and similarly handled Pilot in both steeplechases. He has also won the Victoria Cup Steeplechase at the V.C.C. spring meeting. On returning to Sydney he was granted a license to ride and train jumpers, and at Tattersall's meeting, he won the hurdle race on each day, on Minister and Mustang. In addition to his achievements in the saddle, Cahill deserves great credit for the manner in which he landed old Main-spring at the post, it being considered somewhat in the line of a joke when he first put him into work.

The American jockey, Eddie Ingalls, says that he is not making any effort to be substituted by the American Jockey Club, and that when his present season is over he expects to return to England, where he will resume riding for S. C. Hildreth, to whom he is engaged until March 1, 1909, when he will sail for England in time to ride Mr. August Belmont's Arabian, for the Lincolnshire Handicap. This will be his first mount in England, where Mr. Harry Payne Whitney will have first call on his services for one year, beginning March 18. It may be news to Mr. Belmont to know that Priscilla is to be entered in the Lincolnshire Handicap and that the annual will be ridden by Dugan. The statement, however, is made by the New York "Morning Telegraph."

In a letter to his mother, the well-known Australian jockey C. Pratt, who had almost concluded a season's riding in Austria, recounts his experiences. It was the desire of Baron Rothschild, for whom he had ridden in that country, that Pratt should re-engage for next season; but the Australian, who had a retainer of £2000, in addition to an extra £1,000, besides physicians for himself, and other retainer for the same terms, and the cost of living and general expenses as something enormous, and states that a big salary in addition to a fair share of the profits is required to make a credit balance. Pratt met with a fair share of success in Austria, and whilst on a visit to Germany rode in one race for the Emperor, he was offered a substantial retainer to ride in

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Orange Blossoms.

JENKINS—LACON.

A very pretty wedding was solemnised at the Webb-street (Wellington) Primitive Methodist Church, when Miss Marian Rosewell Emily Lacon, of Auckland, fifth daughter of the late Rowland Francis Lacon, of Rodditch, England, was married to Mr. Richard Jenkins, of Wellington, second son of Mr. James Jenkins, Marybank, Waunganui. The Rev. J. Dawson was the officiating clergyman. The bride, who was given away by Mr. H. Elliott, was attired in a white embroidered Swiss muslin, made in Empire style, trimmed with lace and silver tassels. She wore a coronet of orange blossoms, attached to a veil richly embroidered, and carried a handsome shower bouquet. Miss Mildred Lacon, sister of the bride, attended as bridesmaid, and wore a pale blue crepe de chine, trimmed with insertion and old gold tassels. She wore a dainty pink hat, and carried a beautiful bouquet of sweet peas and roses. Mr. C. Wilson acted as best man. After the ceremony the bridal party repaired to the rooms of Mr. Mawson, where the wedding breakfast was held, and attended by friends and relatives of the bride and bridegroom. Many handsome and useful presents were received from different parts of the Dominion.

CLAUGHTON—FULLER.

A very popular and pretty wedding was solemnised at St. Matthew's Church, Masterton, when Miss May Fuller, eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Fuller, of Masterton, was married to Mr. Herbert S. Cloughton, organist at St. Matthew's Church, and late of Hford, London. The ceremony was a fully choral one, the bride being a member of the choir. The Rev. H. Watson officiated. Mrs. Hunt acted as organist. The bride, who was given away by her father, was dressed in cream taffeta with veil and orange blossoms, and carried a dainty shower bouquet. Her sister, Miss Hazel Fuller, the bridesmaid, wore a cream ninon de soie frock, and she also carried a pretty bouquet. The best man was Mr. R. C. Nixon.

After the ceremony, which was witnessed by a crowded church, a reception was held at the residence of the bride's parents, "Waitohi," Johnson-street.

TAYLOR—REID.

At Knox Church, Masterton, the other day, there was celebrated the wedding of Mr. Thomas Taylor, of the Railway Department, Masterton. The bride wore a veil of Masterton. The bride wore a brown cloth costume, and picture hat, and was given away by Mr. Donald Cameron. Four bridesmaids attended the bride—Misses Reid (2), and Cameron (2), the former being sisters of the bride.

The bridesmaids' dresses were of white muslin. Mr. C. J. Stewart was best man.

LINDOP—MITCHELL.

At St. John's Church, Wellington, Mr. Arthur Joseph Lindop, eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Lindop, of Carterton, was married to Miss Annie Mitchell, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James Mitchell, of Wellington. The bride wore a gown of white chiffon taffeta trimmed with Maltese lace and chiffon. Misses E. Westrup and E. Lindop were the bridesmaids. Mr. B. Mitchell was best man, and Mr. D. Mitchell was groomsmen. Mr. and Mrs. A. Carterton.

SCOTT—BAYLTON.

A very pretty wedding was solemnised at St. George's Church, Thames, when Miss Jessie Baylton, second daughter of Captain T. C. Baylton, harbourmaster at Thames, was married to Mr. John Jernyn Scott, eldest son of Dr. W. G. Scott, of Ombunga. The youthful bride, who was given away by her father, looked most attractive in a semi-empire gown of cream flax net voile over taffeta chiffon silk. The yoke was of tucked silk net with real Maltese lace insertion, while over the tucked sleeves fell softly new three-quarter sleeves of Maltese lace. She wore the customary veil and wreath of orange blossoms, and carried a hand-

some bouquet. She was attended by her sister, Miss Bessie Baylton as bridesmaid, who also looked very pretty in a pale shell pink taffeta chiffon silk empire dress daintily trimmed with point au spray lace, yoke of silk tulle, and with new ruffled sleeves. She wore a black picture hat, and carried a pink bouquet. Mr. H. B. Taylor supported the bridegroom. The Rev. Dr. O'Callaghan was the officiating minister.

After the ceremony the party drove to the residence of the bride's parents, where a sumptuous repast was partaken of and the customary toasts duly honoured; and Mr and Mrs Scott subsequently left by the Wakatere (on which flags were flying on honour of the occasion) for Auckland, where their honeymoon will be spent.

The bride's travelling dress was a natter blue coat costume, outfitted with black over a dainty cream net blouse. She wore a natter blue hat to correspond.

The newly-married couple were held in high esteem by their many friends at Thames and elsewhere, a fact to which the extensive display of costly and useful presents testified.

EVANS—PALTRIDGE.

At the Cuba-street Methodist Church, Palmerston North, recently, Miss Francis Oldham, third daughter of Mr. A. Paltridge, of Palmerston, and Mr. George Morgan Evans, of Levin, were married. The bride, who was attended by six bridesmaids, was charmingly attired in cream figured silk lustre, and wore a veil of orange blossoms. She also carried a bouquet of sweet peas. The

bridesmaids were Misses L. and E. Oldham (Auckland), Ruby, Pearl, Violet, and Elsie, all sisters of the bride. Mr. and Mrs. Evans purpose making Levin their future home.

STRATFORD—MERRITT.

At St. John's Church, Nelson, recently, Mr. Arthur Stratford, eldest son of Mr. M. Stratford, of Hawke's Bay, was married to Miss Ethel Francis Merritt, second daughter of Mrs. Merritt, of Nelson, the Rev. C. H. Garland officiating. The bride wore a very becoming cream voile trimmed with insertion and lace. She was attended by Misses Kate and Phillis Merritt, her sisters. Mr. Maurice Stratford, brother of the bridegroom, acted as best man. The bridesmaids wore dresses of pale blue silk muslin, trimmed with insertion and tucked net. After the ceremony a reception was held at the bride's mother's residence. The presents, of which there was a very large number, were handsome and useful. The bride received a handsome present from St. John's choir, of which she was a member.

DRUMMOND—JOHNSTONE.

A quiet but pretty home wedding was celebrated last Tuesday, when Miss Isabel Johnstone, daughter of the late Mr. J. Johnstone, of Bella Vista, Herne Bay, Auckland, was married to Mr. James Drummond, French and German Master at the Auckland Grammar School. The drawing-room was artistically decorated with elanitis and a beautiful wedding bell, under which the bridal couple stood. The ceremony was conducted by the Rev. A. Macaulay Caldwell. The bride, who was given away by her brother (Mr. W. Johnstone) looked very pretty in a white chiffon taffeta semi-Empire robe with

silk embossed lace on bodice. She wore a tulle veil over a coronet of orange blossoms, and carried a lovely shower bouquet. Miss Johnstone and Miss Lela Burns attended as bridesmaids. They wore white Swiss embroidered muslin frocks with heliotrope and pink ashes, and shower bouquets respectively. The bridegroom's gift to the bride was a gold dagger brooch, studded with pearls, and to the bridesmaids gold floral brooches set with pearls. Mr. Peter Drummond officiated as best man, and Mr. Joseph Johnstone as groomsmen. Owing to a recent family bereavement the wedding party was confined to the immediate relatives of the bride and bridegroom. The wedding presents were numerous and handsome. Mr. and Mrs. Drummond left for Rotorna, Taupo and the Wanganui River, the bride wearing a black chiffon taffeta, black picture hat, and a cream Sicilian coat with touches of heliotrope. Mrs. Johnstone (mother of the bride) wore a black silk toilette.

NITZ—WALKER.

At St. Matthew's Church, Masterton, Mr. Rudolph Henry Nitz, second son of Mr. H. Nitz, of Kaiwhata, East Coast, was married to Miss Dora May Walker, daughter of Mrs. G. Marshall, of Masterton. The bride was gowned in cream silk taffeta with veil and orange blossoms. She was given away by her stepfather (Mr. G. Marshall). Misses L. Welch and Ethel Welch were the bridesmaids, and wore silk eolienne, trimmed with silk insertion, and each wore a ermine hat, trimmed with tulle. Mr. G. Veinell was best man, and Mr. H. J. Nitz groomsmen. Amongst those present at the wedding was Mr. Herman Nitz, father of the bridegroom. Mr. Nitz is an old settler of Kaiwhata, having resided in the district over thirty years. He wore several medals won by him while he was in the German army. Mr.

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SULLIVAN—HICKSON.

At St. Mary's Church, Carterton, recently, Miss Jessie Hickson was married to Mr. T. F. Sullivan. The bride's dress was a tailor-made costume of dark green tweed with large white hat, and she carried a handsome white ivory prayer book with satin streamers. Her bridesmaid was her sister (Miss Maud Hickson), who was attired in white with large black hat, and carried a bouquet of white sweet peas. Mr. D. Sullivan (brother of the bridegroom) acted as best man.

ENGAGEMENTS.

No Notice of Engagements or Marriages can be inserted unless signed by our own correspondent or by some responsible person, with full name and address.

The engagement is announced of Miss K. McBeth, second daughter of Mr. McBeth, of Wanganui, to Mr. H. McLean, eldest son of Mr. C. McLean, Napier.

The engagement is announced of Mr. Wyvern Williams, son of Mr. T. C. Williams (Wellington and Auckland), to Miss Mason (Napier), daughter of Mr. M. Mason, formerly of the Hutt, Wellington.

Another engagement just given out is that of Mr. Eric Williams, youngest son of Mr. T. C. Williams, to Miss Ella Vallance, daughter of Mr. C. Vallance, Kahurangi, Wasterton.

The engagement is announced of Miss Jessie Russell, daughter of Mr. G. W. Russell, M.P., Christchurch, to Mr. A. E. Currie, M.A., barrister and solicitor, Napier, formerly of Christchurch.

Miss Margaret Waldegrave, the eldest daughter of C. E. Waldegrave, Esq., Palmerston North, is engaged to Mr. George Keen, London.

Miss Lily Batchelor, fourth daughter of J. O. Batchelor, Esq., Palmerston North, is engaged to Mr. Famin, of the staff of Dalgety and Co., Palmerston North.

Wedding Rings

Be as particular in choosing your Ring as choosing a wife.—It's a matter of quality.

Only 18 carat stocked by

G. MCGREGOR

Watchmaker and Jeweller 145 Karangahape Road

It's easy to buy at McGregor's.

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37 Queen Street

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Flowers to suit all occasions at the shortest notice.

PHONES 314 and 104

AWARDED SPECIAL SILVER MEDAL

for Artistic Floral Display of Flower Bouquets, Baskets, and other designs at the Auckland Horticultural Society's Spring Show, 1908.

Table Decoration and all classes of Floral arrangements undertaken.

Flowers & Greenery, 103 QUEEN STREET

CILBERT J. MACKAY.

ANNOUNCEMENT.

By Special Appointment to



The Earl and Countess of Glasgow.

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The Earl and Countess of Ranfurly.

Nodine & Co

Ladies' Tailors, Wellington.

MR. NODINE will personally visit the following towns with samples of new goods and new styles for autumn wear, and will be pleased to take measures for present and future requirements.

GISBORNE—
Wednesday, February 10.
Saturday, February 13.

NAPIER—
Thursday, February 11.
Friday, February 12.

AUCKLAND—
Monday, February 15.
Tuesday, February 16.
Wednesday, February 17.

NEW PLYMOUTH—
Thursday, February 18.

WANGANUI—
Friday, February 19.
Saturday, February 20.

Mr. Nodine's address will be notified in the local papers a few days previously.

TIDY HANDS.

Don't neglect your hands; every detail in appearance counts.

Your hands may be as clean as soap and water will make them, and still be dirty.

RUB IN SYDAL—

it cleans out the pores, rids the skin of impurities, and makes the hands smooth, white and clean.

SYDAL is especially good for chapped and sore hands, sunburn, and all minor skin irregularities.

Price 1s. 6d. a jar: All Chemists.

Do you get the protection offered by

Calvert's

20% Carbolic Soap.

Useful to prevent the attacks of mosquitoes and other insects, or to antiseptically cleanse their bites.

Popular as a safeguard against contagious diseases, and so thoroughly purifying for the bath.

Of Chemists and Stores throughout Australasia.

Makers: F. O. Calvert & Co., Manchester, Eng.

Among Her Own People.

THE LIFE OF QUEEN ALEXANDRIA AT SANDRINGHAM.

BY MARY SPENCER WARREN.

To-day is the Queen's birthday, and countless thousands throughout the land will fervently breathe the time-honoured wish: "Many happy returns of the day!"

The Queen in London is a beautiful and gracious lady, who imparts an indescribable charm to royal and society functions; who thinks and works for the benefit of the people; and who, when need exists, grapples with that need with unerring tact and true womanly sympathy.

Did not the Queen give her help when distress was so rampant in the East End, and so set an example to the many who gladly followed? And has not her Majesty again come forward in the hour of the people's distress, and thought out and executed her beautiful photographic scheme, whereby—as a result of the work of her own hands—multitudes of poor and afflicted persons will receive material benefit?

These are but two incidents culled from a large number spreading away over the forty odd years since Queen Alexandria left the country of her birth for the country of her adoption; they are merely indicative of the loving kindness which has dominated the Queen's whole life and prompted deeds which have made her universally popular and beloved.

LADY BOUNTIFUL.

In London, the Queen thinks for the people more or less collectively, at Sandringham more or less individually; for as far as possible her Majesty doffs her queenly state, dispenses with its inseparable formality, and becomes—one says it with all respect—the wife of a country gentleman, the lady bountiful of a handful of villages, in the houses of which she is a familiar and welcome figure, and where her presence ever denotes the kindest interest in the doings and happenings of the occupants.

That those are well cared for goes without saying, and this is partly due to her Majesty's womanly instinct of womanly requirements. Who does not remember the prompt inquiry for cupboards when the Queen visited some County Council dwellings and found these useful fixtures altogether omitted. The necessity of detail is a strong point in her Majesty's plans for the comfort of others; when the cottages on the Sandringham estate were rebuilt she had a large share in the suggestions which were carried out with such happy effect.

Be it said, moreover, that this rebuilding took place before even that of Sandringham House, for when the Queen came here as a young bride, she was most earnest in her efforts and most anxious to hurry forward the wishes of her husband, that all the old cottages should be demolished and model dwellings take the place of thatch, bad ventilation, and general inconvenience and discomfort.

MODEL COTTAGES.

Cottages sprang up containing four or five rooms, fitted with cooking ranges and cupboards galore, surrounding them, a quarter of an acre of ground for the cultivation of fruit and vegetables, with an out-house for coal and wood storage, which also serves as a wash-house for the women and a work-shop for the men.

In nearly every cottage, evidences of former royal visits and favours are plentiful; perhaps a tea-service which the Queen has given as a marriage present, or little gifts bestowed upon special occasions, either connected with the royal family or that of the cottager. Should there be illness in any of these homes, the Queen is always ready with her sympathetic help and kindness. Many a time has she sat by the bedside of an invalid and quietly read or chatted brightly—in accordance with the condition of the patient—and often with her own hands has administered little delicacies which she herself has provided, and generally taken with her, too.

It is not only in the bestowal of gifts that the Queen has so much endeared herself to the people surrounding her gates, for she has entered very truly into their joys and afflictions—the common lot of all. And the Queen's fondness for children is proverbial. Her Majesty has often taken a child upon her knee to nurse and amuse it, and has been known to enter a house and take a crying baby

from its cradle and soothe and hush it until its mother's return.

Her Majesty's birthday is a day of high festival for the children, for in celebration of it she sends out invitations to tea to all of them. It is a red-letter day, one of the landmarks of a child's life.

ROYAL PRESENCE.

Time was when the Queen made it a point to be present throughout, handing round plates of cake and replenishing cups with a business-like air. Now, however, her Majesty "looks in," taking due thought—in the midst of her pressing duties—of the fact that her presence gives an added zest to the children's enjoyment.

No one needs to be told that her Majesty is among the friendliest and homeliest ladies in the land, and while, naturally, she has not now the time she formerly had for visiting the cottages, yet the inhabitants are by no means left sight of. Many have been known from their birth up; the Queen has watched their education in the splendid schools which she and the King have been instrumental in providing—where technical training succeeds the elementary and the scholars are turned out properly and suitably equipped for the battle of life.

To the aged around Sandringham the Queen has always been a special friend, and many a time has she sat and listened to an old wife's tales, doing a bit of the old soul's knitting to occupy the time—for if there is one thing the Queen cannot endure, it is idleness.

"I rather pride myself on the way I knit," said her Majesty one day to one such old woman; "I have just made a pair for my husband, and—here the Queen was interrupted with a "Deary me, and do you knit his stockings? Well, well, ma'am, it's only me and you who makes the things as knows the 'errible 'oles the men do make in the 'eck."

Faithful and gay—of the Queen among her people, might be multiplied; and her Majesty's real womanly kindness expatiated upon for a limitless space.

In joy and in sorrow she has been and is one with them all, and not only at Sandringham, but throughout the dominions, all classes of individuals will hail her Majesty's natal day: "The Queen! God bless her!"

Man.

No animal but man
Destroys life for fun,
Eats to pass the time,
Talks without saying anything, and says nothing without talking.
Makes reason a pretext for disobeying his instincts,
Pleads conscience for his cowardice,
Puzzles himself with problems of sex, self and sufficiency.
Avoids dying as the fool fleeth only because his manner of life is such that his dying on any terms is the part of wisdom.



To take a DALLI to his wife
And make her happy all her life,
Professor Levey has his gump behind,
For having DALLI on his mind.

Dalli is the best, simplest and most comfortable way of heating, but pleasant to stove and get it can be used anywhere.
It is a non-toxic fuel which does not soil your furniture. No risk from the heater and safer than any other iron.

Of all Storekeepers,
If any difficulty apply to—
SANDERSON & FAYERS, LTD.,
Auckland and Wellington.

Society Gossip.

CAMBRIDGE.

Dear Bee,

Jan. 10.

You will think I have forgotten you, it is so long since I have written; but there is always a terrible dearth of news at this time of the year, as so many people are away, and others occupied with their relations, so that there have not been any parties to record.

There was a large gathering of members and friends on the Cambridge croquet lawns, to meet a party of Hamilton players. The three lawns were in excellent order, and six games were played resulting in three games being won by either side. The ladies committee dispensed afternoon tea, which was much appreciated. Some of the party returned to Hamilton by steam launch. The Hamilton players were Mr and Mrs Horne, Mr. and Mrs. Bennett, Mrs. Smith and Miss Wallcutt. The Cambridge players were Mrs. Richardson and Mrs. McDermott, Miss Yeale and Mrs. Forbes, Mrs. Bunyard and Mrs. Bell.

The I. Zingaris, of Auckland, played a cricket match here on Saturday against the Cambridge Club, which resulted in a win for the local club by 27 runs. They were entertained by the club here, and were taken for a drive on Sunday to see the sights.

We are looking forward to hearing the Welsh choir of singers, who are advertised to appear here towards the end of the month; from all accounts we shall have a treat.

PERSONAL.

Mrs. W. S. Stewart, of Foxton, Manawatu, who resided in Cambridge a number of years ago, paid a flying visit here on Saturday, returning on Monday by way of the Main Trunk railway. She has been doing Rotorua and the Waitomo Caves, and was the guest of Miss Gwyneth while in Cambridge.

Mrs. Willis, who stayed behind for a fortnight with Dr. and Mrs. Roberts, after the family had gone to their summer residence at St. Helier's Bay, left on Monday last to join them.

Mrs. A. H. Nicoll is at present visiting her sister, Mrs. A. B. Herrold, of Remuera.

Mrs. B. Couper and Miss Cave returned last week from Papakura, where they have been staying with Mrs. Cave, of "Hillcrest." Miss Daisy Cave has returned with them.

Miss Mabel Hay has been the guest of Mrs. Wells, of Oakleigh, for the last three weeks, and has returned to Auckland today.

Mr. and Mrs. Buckland have returned to Cambridge from Rotorua, where they spent their Christmas holidays.

Mrs. W. A. Scott has gone to stay with Mrs. Runciman, of Parliament street, Auckland.

ELSIE.

GISBORNE.

Dear Bee,

January 14.

People are flocking back to town daily after the holidays, and the streets are wearing a less deserted appearance than they have done during the past two or three weeks. Great interest is being taken in

THE TENNIS TOURNAMENTS.

at both the Kaiti and Whataupo Clubs, and an interesting game was played at the former courts on Thursday afternoon, when after a close and exciting game Mrs. Carmichael and Mrs. R. U. Burke defeated Mrs. Barlow and Miss MacCredie; another interesting game was between Miss MacCredie and Mr. Barlow v. Miss Bright and Mr. Simson, which resulted in a win for the former. Mr. Margoliuth and Mr. R. U. Burke also had a close game, when Mr. Margoliuth was again victorious, though only winning by a few points.

A team of bowlers have gone down to Napier to take part in the championship meeting, which takes place there this year.

Mrs. Carmichael gave

A SMALL CROQUET PARTY

at her home, "Te Hapara," on Thursday afternoon, and although the weather was rather windy to be pleasant the lawn was in splendid order, and some good games were played. Mrs. Carmichael was wearing white linen with insertions of Tenerife work, burnt straw hat with trimmings of dark blue silk. Her guests included Mrs. J. W. Williams, blue and white cambric, large white Joghorn hat with clusters of pink roses; Mrs. Kells, white embroidered linen, hat of cream crinoline straw trimmed with black feathers; Mrs. Menn also wore white linen, and hat of Tuscan straw with touches of roses; Mrs. Frank Barker, red and white striped silk costume with white silk vest and sleeves, large black crinoline straw hat with a wreath of shaded red roses round the crown; Mrs. Harney, grey floral muslin and black and white hat; Mrs. A. Seymour, white embroidered muslin, white hat with ruchings of cream tulle and black lace; Mrs. Wischnmann, grey striped muslin and small black hat; Mrs. A. Rees, brown check silk with trimmings of ball fringe, burnt straw hat trimmed with green velvet ribbon and roses; Mrs. Wilcock had a gown of navy taffeta and a hat of navy straw with tulle to match; Mrs. Stock, white lawn, burnt straw hat with branches of violets; Miss M. Williamson, white muslin inserted with lace, large white chip hat trimmed with white tulle and black lace and large bunch of pink roses; Miss Willis, floral muslin, white hat trimmed with flowers.

VISIT OF H.M.S. CHALLENGER.

Visits from the warships of the Australian Squadron are few and far between to this part of the Dominion,

and the arrival of the H.M.S. Challenger in the Bay on Tuesday created quite a sensation, and on Wednesday afternoon many people availed themselves of the opportunity to visit the warship, which was open for inspection that day. In the afternoon Commander Herbert Da Costa and some of the officers came ashore, and at the invitation of Messrs. W. and H. Barker, Tucker and Adair were taken out to Te Arai in motor cars, where they paid a visit to the historical little Maori Church, returning home via Kaitaratibi and Whataupo. Afterwards they were entertained at afternoon tea by his Worship the Mayor and Mayoress (Mr. and Mrs. W. D. Lysnar). The Commander and officers were also entertained at the Poverty Bay Club. During the afternoon the ship's band gave a most enjoyable concert at the Trafalgar rotunda, which was much appreciated by those who were fortunate enough to be present. Unfortunately the visit of the H.M.S. Challenger being of short duration, gave the people of Gisborne little or no chance of extending the hospitality they would like to have done, and we can only hope for a better opportunity next time they come. The Challenger sailed at an early hour on Thursday morning for Napier.

PERSONALS.

Miss Westera, of Christchurch, who has been the guest of Mrs. Broderick, Clifford street, returned South by the Wimmera on Wednesday last.

Amongst the passengers by the Wai-kare on Sunday last, bound for the Sounds' trip, were Miss A. de Lantour and the Misses Crisp.

Miss Nolan is paying a short visit to her sister, Mrs. R. Barlow, Whataupo.

Mr. and Mrs. C. P. Davies and the Misses Davies returned by the Monowai on Wednesday last from Napier, where they had been spending the Christmas holidays with relations.

Mr. Kiesel (Samoa) is visiting his son, Mr. C. Kiesel, Childers-road.

Mr. and Mrs. W. D. Lysnar left by the Wimmera on Wednesday evening for Wellington.

Mrs. Parker, of Napier, is on a visit to Mr. and Mrs. F. Parker.

Mr. and Mrs. H. Hill are staying with relations in Christchurch.

Miss Christophers left by the Monowai on Wednesday morning for a short visit to Auckland.

EISA.

WANGANUI.

Dear Bee,

January 15.

Owing no doubt to the unseasonable weather and so many people still being away for the holidays, both the croquet and tennis courts are almost deserted. There were only a few players at the Campbell-street tennis courts on Saturday, when afternoon tea was given by Miss Cave. On Wednesday evening, Miss Inlay gave a very enjoyable bridge party. Amongst those present were: Mr and Mrs Finlay Saunders, Mr and Mrs A. Lewis, Mrs Colin Campbell, Mrs Patterson, Mr and Mrs Lomas, Mrs Pharaayn, Mr Marshall, Mr Stevenson, Mr Strouts, Mrs Riddell (Napier).

PERSONAL ITEMS.

Mrs Pharaayn, of Wanganui, is returned from her visit to Mrs Steedman in Napier.

Mrs Riddell, of Napier, is the guest of her mother, Mrs A. Lewis, in Wanganui. Mr and Mrs C. Weston, of New Plymouth, who have been staying in Wanganui for some weeks, have returned to their home.

Mrs Butts, of Wellington, is the guest of Mrs Arthur Nixon, in Wanganui.

Mr and Mrs Good, of Wanganui, have returned from their holiday in Raungitikei.

Miss Cory, of Wanganui, has returned from her visit to friends in Raungitikei. Mr and Mrs Ruth Fairburn have returned from their holiday in Auckland and Rotorua.

Mrs G. Currie, of Wanganui, is staying in Napier with her mother, Mrs McLean. Mr and Mrs W. Hirst, of New Plymouth, have come to reside in Wanganui.

HUIA.

PALMERSTON NORTH

Dear Bee,

January 15.

A celebrity party, given by Mrs Wallace, Broad-street, relieved the monotony of the week. Everyone seemed rather smart at discovering what personage, past or present, they had pinned on their back, were it Kruger, Guy Pawkes, Tom Long, or others of doubtful fame. Mrs Bennett (Auckland) and Miss Levin, with sixteen correct guesses, tied for the first prize. Miss Levin eventually winning it, and receiving a handsome book of Academy pictures. Mrs Bennett was presented with an autograph book, and Miss Fenton third, with fourteen guesses, won a birthday book. Mrs Wallace wore a pale pink muslin frock, the bodice trimmed with cream lace and black velvet ribbon. The guests included Mrs W. Harden, in cream cloth, embroidered in gold, burnt straw hat, with pink and crimson roses; Mrs Preece, black and white striped muslin, with spray of pale heliotrope flowers, black hat with black feathers; Miss Preece, cream serge Eton costume, with pipings of pale blue, large pale blue hat, with blue tulle and rose; Miss Fenton, navy blue serge Eton coat and skirt, with facings and cuffs of peacock blue cloth, navy hat with silver band; Mrs Moeller, pale blue cloth Eton costume, cream lace vest, black hat, with black feathers; Miss Hewen, (Christchurch), white muslin and lace, cream hat, with pale pink roses; Miss Robinson, white embroidered muslin, white glace sash, large black hat with corse roses; Miss Doris Robinson, white muslin and lace, pink hat with roses; Mr Randolph, black cloth coat and skirt, braided in black, black hat with black feathers; Miss Randolph, brown linen coat and skirt, cream lace vest, brown hat, with tulle and shaded brown feather; Miss Howarth, white muslin, white tulle hat, with pink rose; her sister, also in white, with cream hat, with cornflowers; Mrs Mowdy, cream embroidered cloth Eton costume, large cream hat, with cream and pale blue tulle; Miss Levin, white embroidered muslin, hat with roses; Miss — Levin, fawn and brown linen frock, pink hat, with draped scarf; Mrs Bennett (Auckland), grey striped coat and skirt, dark green silk collar, cream hat, with flowers; Miss

THE COLLEGE, which is built in the highest part of Remuera, is an ideal spot for a BOARDING SCHOOL. The grounds are ten acres in extent, and laid out in playing fields, lawns and shrubberies. Boarders have the use of a good SCHOOL LIBRARY, Gymnasium, Dark Room for Photography, Carpenter's Shop. Their comfort and well-being is made the first consideration in the house.

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R. H. BAYLY, C.Z. (N.Z.)
E. S. SINCLAIR, M.A. (Trin. Col.)
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THE Curriculum includes all the subjects required for the University and Civil Service Examinations. There is, in connection with the College, a well-equipped Science Laboratory.

All boys, unless specially exempted, are required to play Cricket and Football, and to enter for gymnastic and school sports.

The Religious instruction is under the direction of the Visitor.

Batchelor, pale green muslin, trimmed with white lace, large cream hat, with pale shades of silk trimming.

PERSONAL NOTES.

Mrs Lionel Abraham and family are spending some weeks at Tetahi Bay, Wellington.

Mr and Mrs J. L. Barnicoat and family have gone to Napier for three weeks.

Mrs J. P. Innes has gone to New Plymouth to visit Mrs H. S. Fitzherbert.

Mr and Mrs Rannell, who have been spending some months in Palmerston, returned to Auckland this week.

Bishop and Mrs Wallis, Wellington, were visitors to Palmerston for a few days this week.

Mr K. Wilson has returned from a trip to England.

Miss Winifred Bailey, who has been staying with Mrs A. Rennell, returned last Monday to her home in Wanganui.

Miss Hewen, Christchurch, is the guest of Mrs Wallace, Board-street, Palmerston North.

VIOLET.

WELLINGTON.

Dear Bee,— January 15.

Two more engagements to announce, and both these in the same family, and in addition to the two weddings between now and April. It is enough to make the most experienced mother quail, and Mrs. T. C. Williams has been laughingly consoled with almost as much as congratulated. The two latest engagements are those of her sons, Mr. Wyvern and Mr. John Williams, the latter being the youngest of the big family, all of whom are noted for their good looks.

Attendance at

THE FLOWER SHOW

was quite good, considering the number of people still out of town, and the distance of the hail where the show was held. Sweet peas attracted most attention; but carnations were a good second, some of the blooms being remarkably fine. Several amateurs were very successful, among them being Mrs. H. D. Crawford, who exhibited for the first time, and carried off several prizes, both for sweet peas and carnations. The decorated tables were few in number, one of Iceland poppies and feathery grass, put up in silver vases, being most artistic. It had a popular rival in one done with pale pink sweet peas. The show was opened by Mrs. Tuckey, who was presented by the President (Dr. Izard) with a bouquet of shaded red roses and carnations. Afternoon tea was not available, so there was no temptation to linger at the show once the round of inspection had been made. Mrs. Tuckey wore black corded silk with lace ruffles, and a black toque with violets; Mrs. Chaffield, silver grey figured taffetas with lace sleeves and vest, ermine hat wreathed with flowers; Mrs. Pearce, white embroidered muslin, and pale green hat; Mrs. von Haast, pale grey taffetas, with touches of silver, black picture hat; Mrs. Joseph, champagne chiffon hand painted with a design of apricot roses and bordered with black, yoke and sleeves of Irish guipure with knob of black velvet, black picture hat with sweeping plume of apricot shades; Miss Joseph, figured ninon de soie, delicately embroidered and inserted with lace, white picture hat encircled with a single ostrich plume of rose d'or Barri; Mrs. Joseph, pale grey crepe de chine, blouse of Irish lace, and black picture hat; Mrs. Tringham, rosea and white striped linen, the smart cut-away coat bound with green, big black picture hat; Mrs. Macarthy, ivory cloth, the bretteles ornamented with big embroidered buttons, disclosing a vest and sleeves of kee; white Tuscan hat with wreath of

clover and grasses; Mrs. Rutter, pale blue cloth, lace blouse, pale blue hat with pink roses; Miss Harding, brown linen and brown hat with hydrangas; Miss Kane, mauve and white floral ninon de soie, directoire coat of pale mauve taffetas and mauve picture hat with white plumes; Mrs. Cohen, black taffetas; Mrs. O'Connor, black tailor-made and toque with flowers; Miss O'Connor, chiffon voile and rose-wreathed hat; Mrs. Izard, blue voile lace yoke, and blue hat with wings; Mrs. Cross (Christchurch), black and white chiffon taffetas with emarily braided coatee, black picture hat; Mrs. Samuel, blue shantung, and black picture hat; Miss Halse, eau de nil eolienne and black hat; Mrs. Shand, ivory cloth coat and skirt, pale blue hat with flowers; Mrs. Hales, brown tailor-made and black hat with roses; Mrs. Ward, black crepe de chine and pale blue toque.

AN AT HOME.

One of the most energetic and successful hostesses in Wellington is Mrs. Hales, and there are few distinguished visitors to Wellington who have not enjoyed her hospitality. On Friday it was Mrs. Humphrey (San Francisco) who was the guest of honour, and the guests invited to meet here were numerous. Mrs. Humphrey has already made many friends in Wellington, she and her daughter (Miss Olga Humphrey) having been staying with Mrs. Knox Gilmer for the past fortnight. Mrs. Hales is an enthusiastic gardener, and the blaze of geraniums, carnations, and sweet peas at Remuera was enough to make anyone covetous. The tea tables were decorated with poppies, and carnations in glowing hues of red, softened with feathery gypsophila. Roses and carnations were placed about the drawing room in bowls, giving a delicious fragrance.

The hostess wore pastel grey taffetas veiled in black Chantilly net, run with velvet bebe ribbon and inserted with lace. Mrs. Humphrey was in black satin chameuse, with a Directoire coat of black poplin elaborately appliqued with white silk and braided in black, a blouse of bebe Irish crochet in an ivory tone, and a black picture hat with ostrich feathers completed her toilette.

Clever recitations were quite a feature of the afternoon, among the performers being Mrs. Malcolm Ross, Mrs. Cross ("Helene Foder"), and Miss Freeman, the two latter being Christchurch people who are here for a visit.

Mrs. Cross was wearing black and white chiffon voile with epanettes and a skirt panel of white fillet lace, and a guimpe and sleeves of spotted net, black picture hat. Mrs. Seddon wore black taffetas and a black toque; Mrs. Brown, brown chiffon voile with touches of palest blue, brown hat; Miss Logan, biscuit embroidered muslin, black picture hat; Miss Cooper, white embroidered muslin, and black hat; Mrs. Gilmer, black and white tailor-made, and black hat; Miss Freeman, pastel chiffon voile, lace yoke and black hat; Mrs. Tringham, smart tailor-made, and hat with roses; Mrs. Smith, cream voile and black hat.

Two grass-widowed brides, homeward bound, after the briefest of honeymoons are Mrs. Plummer and Mrs. Tonge. The latter was formerly Miss Gwen Platts, and it had been arranged that the wedding should take place in England directly on the arrival of Mr. Tonge's ship, the Opawa. At the last moment the plans were altered, and the wedding was celebrated at this end last Saturday. There were no guests, and the bride wore her travelling dress of ivory cloth, braided, and a white hat with wings. Her fellow passenger is Mrs. Plummer, who as Miss Whitelaw was married a short time ago to the second officer of the R.M.S. Rimutaka. By a regulation of the shipping companies, officers and their wives are not supposed to travel in the same ship unless special permission is given at headquarters. Therefore two desolate bridegrooms will journey to England by the Opawa and Rimutaka. In England they will be met by their brides, who travelled together by the Arawa. Under

the circumstances it may be considered that the brides get the best of it, as they have the comfort of each other's company, and can discuss their respective trousseaux, weddings, etc., always such a topic of interest.

Mr. and Mrs. Rankine Brown have gone to Auckland for the meeting of the University Senate.

Mr. and Mrs. Von Haast are in the North for the same purpose.

OPHELIA.

BLENDHEIM.

Dear Bee, January 13.

DANCE.

Last Thursday evening the Misses Goulter entertained a number of young friends at their home at "Timara." Two rooms were well prepared for dancing, which was indulged in until sunrise on Friday morning, and a most enjoyable time was spent by all present. A marquee was erected at the side of the homestead,

where a most appetising supper was provided, consisting of every kind of delicacy obtainable, the table being most tastefully decorated with Christmas lilies and sweet peas. The drive to and from "Timara" was also much appreciated, the weather being so very pleasant. Mr. and Mrs. and the Misses Goulter all received their guests at the entrance of the hall. Mrs. Goulter looked well in black crepe de chine; the Misses Goulter (3) all wore pretty white dresses relieved with coloured sashes. Some of those present were: Mrs. H. Goulter (Kaikoura), white crepe de chine Misses Goulter, white muslin; Ethel Goulter, cream silk; N. Goulter, white muslin relieved with red; A. Goulter, pretty white silk blouse and red accordion-pleated skirt; Miss Trolowe (Christchurch), wine-coloured silk, relieved with cream trimmings; Miss E. Brown (South Sea Island), white muslin trimmed with Valenciennes lace; Miss R. Mowat, white muslin; Miss N. Mowat, white muslin; Miss D. Clouston, white spotted muslin; Miss C. Clouston, white muslin; Miss R. Horton, black net over white satin slip; Miss Neville, pale blue chiffon taffetas; Miss Amy Neville, pink silk; Messrs. Goulter (3),

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Circular Pointed Pens.
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 HAVE OPENED A NEW LOT OF
TUSSORE SILKS.
 THE SHADE is lighter than usual and will commend itself as more becoming to the wearer. The QUALITY is "TIP TOP."
 THE PRICE is 1/11 1/2 yard.
We can recommend it. Can you Buy it?
 Other Prices of this favourite Silk, 1/4, 1/6, 2/11, 3/3, 3/6.
White Japs.
 7/4, 9/4, 1/3, 1/4, 1/6, 1/11, 2/3, 2/11, 3/6, 3/11 per yard.
 FIRST CHOICE, EVEN WEAVE, PURE SILK. Splendid washers, and well known for Durability and Satisfaction.
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 ARE SILK IMPORTERS.

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Experienced Manufacturer and Remodeller of the highest-class and most costly furs to the largest London firms of Messrs. George Smith & Co., Bevington & Morris, J. B. Cremer, and Monsieur Konski, Court Furrier. We offer good large grey Opposum Rugs on dark cloth; also first-class real white Fox, and finest quality Thibet Stoles; Muffs to match if desired. Electric Seal Throw-overs, lined best Brocade Silks, from 70s. the set, post free. Seal jackets entirely re-made to any shape and re-lined; also enlarged or lengthened, with addition. Every other kind of furs also repaired, etc. All we sell is manufactured by us on the premises, and guaranteed of the finest quality and workmanship. All goods sold and work done, are for net and ready cash only.

J. Ward, Munro (2), M. Cleghorn (Wellington), J. Jackson, G. McEhane, Clouston (2), Bolton and Clarke.

TENNIS.

Last Saturday afternoon very few appeared on the Marlborough Lawn Tennis grounds, the weather being so unsettled. Mrs. Scot-Smith had prepared a very dainty tea—it was a pity so few were there to enjoy it. Some of those present were: Mr. and Mrs. and Miss Scot-Smith, Mrs. McCallum, Mrs. Jones, Mrs. Wollerstein, Mrs. Broughton, Mrs. Neville (Christchurch), Mrs. Brittain and Miss Neville.

RIVER PICNIC.

Mr. and Mrs. Strachan entertained a few of their friends at a river picnic on Monday afternoon, amongst those invited were: Mrs. and Miss Strachan (Dunedin), Mr. and Mrs. Orr, Mr. and Mrs. Neville (Christchurch), Mrs. H. McCallum, Mrs. Northcroft, Mrs. and Miss Scot-Smith, and Misses Neville (2). A dainty tea was provided, the party returning home in the cool of the evening.

PERSONAL ITEMS.

Mr. and Mrs. H. Stusted (Westport) are the guests of Mr. and Mrs. R. Bell, "Riverlands."

Miss M. Lucas (Christchurch) is the guest of Mrs. C. J. W. Griffiths at "The Barton."

Miss Scarell (Invercargill) is the guest of Mrs. E. Robinson.

Mrs. and the Misses Ewart (2) have returned from visiting friends in Wellington.

Mr. E. B. Evans (Pahiatua), who has been visiting Mr. and Mrs. B. Coleman, "Vernon," has returned.

Mrs. and Miss Stace, "Robin Hood Bay," have gone on a visit to the Empire City.

Miss Anuri Neville has returned from her visit to "Langley Dale."

Miss Scot-Smith has gone for a holiday to Invercargill.

JEAN.

CHRISTCHURCH.

Dear Bee,

January 15.

As is usual in January, things are very quiet in town as far as society news is concerned.

The only gathering which I know of was

A MUSICAL EVENING

given by Mrs. H. H. Loughnan at her residence, Avonside, in honour of Herr Benno Scherek and Mrs. Scherek, who are spending a short time in Christchurch before going to Melbourne. The hostess received her guests in the drawing-room. She was wearing a pretty gown of pale turquoise blue satin. Among those who contributed musical items were Herr Benno Scherek, Miss Scherek, Mrs. and Miss Kettle, Dr. Crooke, Mr. and Mrs. H. H. Loughnan. Others present were Mrs. Scherek, Mrs. Gover Burns, Miss Burns, Mr. Hesse, Mrs. Crooke, Mrs. Michael Campbell, Miss Campbell, Miss Poulton, Mr. and Mrs. Boyes, Mr. and Mrs. Cuthbert, Miss Cuthbert, Mr., Mrs. and Miss Thomas, and Miss Tabart.

CONCERTS.

Madame Ada Crossley gave two concerts in His Majesty's Theatre. The first was on Saturday night, when Madame and her talented company charmed their hearers with their beautiful music; indeed, several people express the opinion that it is far and away the best concert company which has visited Christchurch. Amongst the large and appreciative audiences were: Mr. and Mrs. A. E. G. Rhodes, Mrs. Blunt, Mr. Sergeant, Mr. and Mrs. H. H. Loughnan, Mr. and Mrs. Heaton Rhodes, Mrs. and Miss Kettle, Mr. and the Misses Humphreys, Mr. and Mrs. Monteith, Miss Devenish Meares, Mrs. Cobham, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas, Madame Bernstein, Mr. and Mrs. Kin-

sey, Miss Anderson, Miss Prins, Mrs. and the Misses Moorhouse, Mr. and Mrs. Donald Macdonald, Mr. and Mrs. Meredith-Kaye, Mr. and Mrs. Fairhurst, Miss Fairhurst, Dr. and Mrs. Crooke, Dr. and Mrs. Irving, the Misses Leach, Miss Hargreaves, the Misses Kitson, Keenan and Cook.

At the first concert Madame Ada Crossley wore a lovely gown of green and gold with an emerald green aigrette in her hair. At the second her dress was of yellow silk with front panel and bodice of silver sequins, her ornaments diamonds, head-dress white ostrich feathers secured by a diamond star.

PERSONALS.

Mr. and Mrs. Pyne and family have returned to Christchurch from their visit to Springfield with Mrs. Duncan Cameron.

Mrs. Stead, "Strowan Park," Christchurch, has returned from Hawke's Bay. Mr. and Mrs. Wigram arrived in Christchurch from England yesterday (January 14).

Miss Wigram (England) is the guest of Mrs. Beswick at Park Terrace.

Mr. J. D. Hall and family have been spending the holidays at Hororata. Mrs. Hall is now the guest of Mrs. Duncan Cameron at Methven.

Miss Todd (Napier) is staying with friends in Christchurch.

Mrs. J. D. Lance (Christchurch) is visiting Lady Clifford at Stonehurst.

Mrs. Stilling (Dunedin) is the guest of Mrs. W. Harnman at Fendalton.

Mrs. and Miss Empson (Timaru) are staying at the Deanery, Armagh Street, Christchurch.

Quite a number of Christchurch residents intend visiting England early this season. Mrs. and Miss Walker and Miss Wilson leave this month for Italy. Amongst others leaving are Mr. and Mrs. A. E. G. Rhodes and family, Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Macdonald and family, Mr. and Mrs. R. Allen and Miss Ogle, Miss Lucy Kitson, Mr. and Mrs. G. E. Way, Mr. and Mrs. J. Miles, and Mr. and Mrs. F. Hayhurst.

DOLLY VALE.

FACE-CREAM WITHOUT GREASE.



ICILMA FLUOR CREAM. England's premier face-cream. It is the only really SAFE face-cream. Delightfully refreshing. It frees the skin from tan, chaps, roughness, redness, wrinkles and insect bites. Being greaseless, it is the only true aid to Natural Beauty. No other cream is so cleansing, so beneficial or so harmless.

Icilma Fluor Cream

Is deliciously fragrant and foamy, and imparts the marvellous cleansing and toning virtues of ICLIMA NATURAL WATER. Cannot grow hair, needs no powder, and has none of the dangerous after-effects of greasy creams. Most economical of all creams. Use Icilma Fluor Cream daily and watch your skin grow clearer.

Never use a face-cream without first rubbing it on thin white paper to see if it leaves a greasy spot.

[Icilma is pronounced—eye-silma.]

Obtainable from
 Ralph B. Farnham, Chemist
 North Shore.
 A. Eccles, Chemist, Queen St.
 W. H. Williams, Chemist,
 Queen Street.
 Fluor Cream, 2/6 per pot.

Children's Coughs and Colds

need immediate attention, otherwise more serious ailments may develop. There is no remedy so safe and harmless, so good and efficacious as the one that for over 40 years has been the standard family cough remedy—

BONNINGTON'S IRISH MOSS

But insist on BONNINGTON'S.

The Question of the Day

The question of to-day, of to-morrow, and of every succeeding day is

HAVE YOU USED PEARS' SOAP? If you have not, you have not done your duty by your skin and complexion. If, on the other hand—that is on both hands, and on the face, and on the skin generally—you **HAVE** used PEARS, you can feel happy, for you will have done the best that possibly can be done for the skin's health and beauty. There can be no question about that.

PEARS has been making beautiful complexions for nearly 120 years.

PEARS

MATCHLESS FOR THE COMPLEXION



Children's Page

COUSINS' BADGES.

Cousins requiring badges are requested to send an addressed envelope, when the badge will be forwarded by return mail.

COUSINS' CORRESPONDENCE.

YOUNGER COUSINS' LETTERS.

Dear Cousin Kate,—I have not written for quite a long time, because I have been away for my holidays. I was staying in the Whangarei and had lots of fun. They had a big carnival while I was up there, and a regatta. One day I went for a picnic in a motor launch right down to the Heads. I had lots of fruit in Whangarei—plums, and peaches, and oranges. Good night. Cousin Kate. With love from Cousin GORDON.

[Dear Cousin Gordon,—What a delightful holiday you have had; it all sounds so fascinating, except that launch picnic down to the Heads. How you must have hated coming back to this hot town. What was the carnival like? Did you take any part in it, or were you only one of the onlookers, that always have so much the best time? You need not have gone out of town to get plums or peaches. They have been very plentiful here this year, but, of course, they are not nearly so nice as those you pick yourself fresh from the trees, are they?—Cousin Kate.]

* * *

Dear Cousin Kate,—I hope when this reaches you, you are in the best of health. Jane is away for a holiday. I am going to stay home all the holidays. I suppose you have heard before this about the terrible accident that happened to my younger sisters. But thank heaven! they escaped being hurled away down in the dark, ghost-like waters of the Waikato! But a sad fate befell five beautiful horses. They met their death nobly. The driver was the only one that was hurt in any way, but now he is better. The children were none the worse for the ducking, when they were safe on the shore. A herd of cattle went past this morning, going to the slaughter yard. But worse luck there is no news. All are well. Your Cousin TAI.

[Dear Cousin Tai,—How awful you must all have felt when the news of the accident reached you, but I suppose that you heard the children were quite safe at the same time. Your mother must have been terrified; a thing like that makes one feel ill for days afterwards. I hope by this time you have all recovered from the shock, and that the driver is well on the road towards recovery. I am sorry you can't get away for your holidays; it is always disappointing to have to spend them at home. I expect you feel rather envious when you think of Jane tripping round, don't you? However, there must be lots of new people in Taupo just now, aren't there? and they make a little change and it will be your turn next time.—Cousin Kate.]

Dear Cousin Kate,—Mother and Mary have gone to Rotorna for a fortnight, so I am staying over at Takapuna with Aunt Alice. It is lovely over here, but it is rather windy. The cottage my aunt has is rather small, so three of us have to sleep in one room, and Aunt Alice says that we talk all night, and when we are not talking, we are having pillow fights, she is sure, from the noise we make. We very nearly had a nasty accident going into town the other day, one of the horses tried to run away, so the driver turned them into the fence, and then it started to kick, and bite the next horse; one woman jumped out, and hurt her leg rather badly. We were so frightened that when it stopped, we got out and walked the rest of the way; luckily, it wasn't very far. I don't think they ought to put horses like that into 'buses, do you, Cousin Kate? I have not more news, so good-bye, from Cousin CONNIE.

[Dear Cousin Connie,—I heard about that 'bus accident before my sister just missed the 'bus, and oh! she was glad; she saw it all, and said it was quite bad enough to look at, let alone to be in it. Of course, they should not put horses like that in when they are going to take passengers, but they can't always tell when a horse is going to play up like that, and they have got to break the horses in somehow, you know. Poor woman! I hope she was not badly hurt; did you ever hear any more about her, or who she was?—we never did. I expect you three girls do make a noise all talking at once, and I remember rightly, pillow fights are not the quietest games in the world; in fact, I expect your poor aunt Alice has rather a bad time of it with so many of you in a small house. Did you want to go to Rotorna with your mother; it must be lovely up there just now, and such crowds of people?—Cousin Kate.]

* * *

Dear Cousin Kate,—I have been away ever since the holidays started, and have had such a lovely time; we only got home yesterday, and found it was quite cold in town after the lovely weather we have had at Russell. We had such a delightful Xmas Day. First we went in for a bathe, and it was glorious, then we had a picnic dinner in a field close to the beach. We were going to have it on the beach, but we thought the sand would be sure to get into the salt, and everything, so we decided the field would be better, and, after that we lay on the beach and read for a while. Mother had got us some new books and paint blocks for Xmas—oh! you should just see our paintings; Dorothy's are funny enough, but mine are just the funniest ever, even Mother shakes her head hopelessly over them.—Your loving Cousin MAY.

[Dear Cousin May,—It has been quite cold the last two days hasn't it; we have all felt the difference, especially at night, and have had to get out more blankets. Russell is a lovely little place, isn't it? Was it your first visit, and did you have lots of fruit; everything ripens so much earlier up there than it does with us, though really there can't be so very much difference in the climate. I don't

think you would have enjoyed a picnic dinner on Xmas Day in town, much because it was showery all day, and rather windy, too. I think you were wise to leave the beach before dinner; there is nothing so horrid as sand in anything; it is so gritty, and once you get it into your mouth you can't get it out, somehow. I should very much like to see some of those sketches; if they are funnier than my attempts they must be very funny indeed.—Cousin Kate.]

* * *

Dear Cousin Kate,—I have not written to you for ages, but somehow I am always so busy, and the last four weeks we have been away holiday making up at Russell. We did enjoy ourselves so much. We had bathes nearly every day, and in the afternoon we used to go out exploring, and we found such a lot of 'pretty places for picnics. Quite a number of yachts came up from Auckland for Xmas; my brother was on one of them, but we only saw him for a very little while; I expect he was having more fun with the other men than he would have had with May and me. We went out fishing two or three times, and I was so lucky, but I didn't like taking the fish off the hook very much, but Uncle generally did that for me. I loved going out, though, but May didn't a bit; she said it gave her a headache. We have got quite a lot of new books, and some of them are so interesting.—Cousin DOROTHY.

[Dear Cousin Dorothy,—It is a very long time since I heard from you; I was beginning to think you had forgotten all about me; and May is just as bad about writing as you are. I can quite understand your not liking to take the fish off the hook. I always hated that part of it, too, though I used to make myself do it, because I wanted to learn to do everything for myself. Two friends of mine went out fishing once, and they got three fish on their lines, then they had to row all the way in to the shore to get a man to take the fish off for them. How we laughed at them; after that I made up my mind to learn to do it for myself. What are the names of the new books, and which do you like best; I am always on the lookout for new books for my nieces, and if you like them I expect they will. I expect when men go away yachting like that they don't want to have any girls about much; they want to do, and go, and say what and where they please.—Cousin Kate.]

A benevolent gentleman, living in a seaside town, used to receive once a week a present of a basket of fish from a smack owner with whom he had done business. The fisherman who carried the basket up to the house always received a substantial tip. But one morning the gentleman was very busy, and when the old salt brought the fish he thanked him hurriedly, and, forgetting his tip, turned again towards his study. The fisherman hesitated a moment, then cleared his throat, and called after the retreating figure: "Sir, would ye be so kind as to put it in writin' that ye didn't give me no tip this time, or my wife'll think I've went and spent it on rum."

THE HIGH-CLASS WASHING MATERIAL

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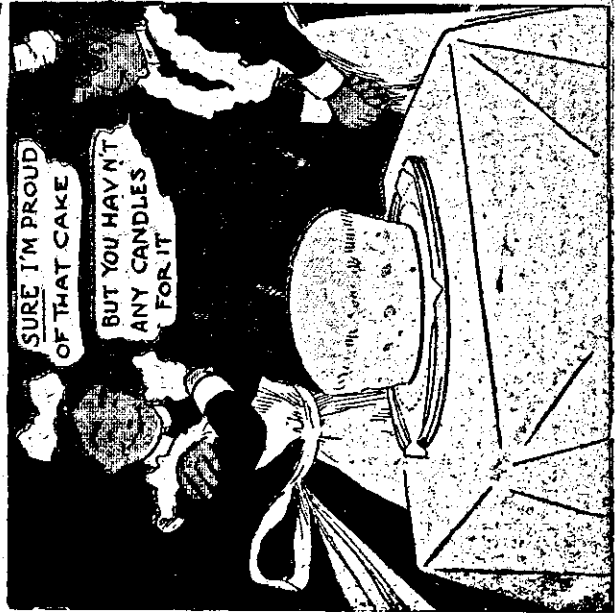
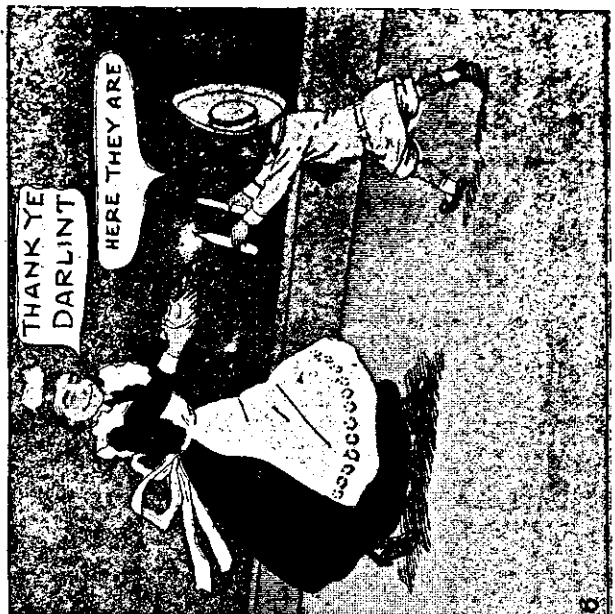
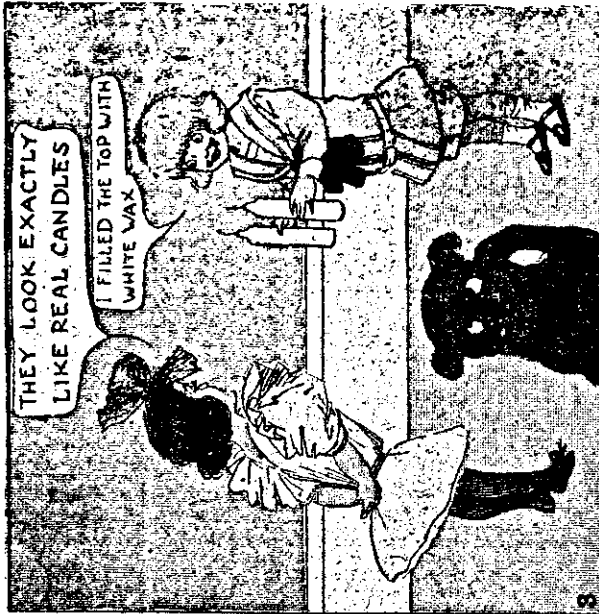
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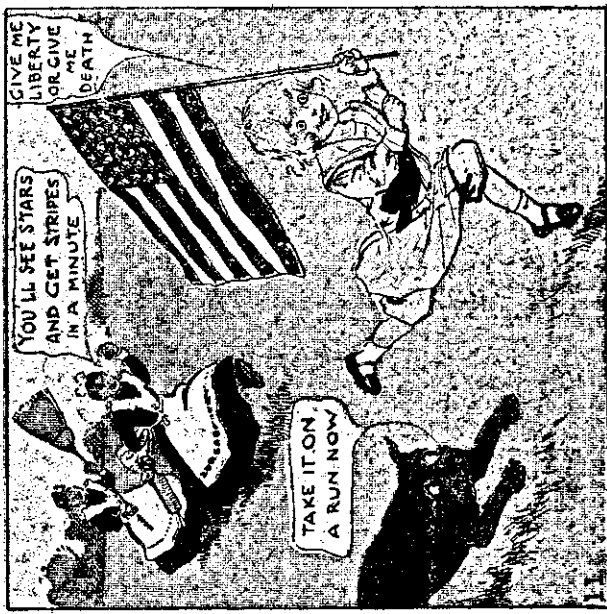
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From Leading Drapers

The Queen says:—"You can wear it for night-dresses all the year round."

SEE THE LABEL ON THE SELVEDGE.





RESOLVED
 THAT IT IS NOT PATRIOTISM TO GO OUT
 AND SHOOT OFF FIRE CRACKERS AND
 PISTOLS AND SET FIRE TO HOUSES OR
 BLOW OUT PEOPLES EYES AND KNOCK OFF
 THEIR HEADS- IT IS THE AMERICAN PASSION
 FOR DEVILTRY AND CURSEDNESS AND NOISE
 BROKEN LOOSE. NOISE & RACKET HAVE
 NO MORE TO DO WITH PATRIOTISM THAN
 THEOLOGY HAS TO DO WITH BEING GOOD
 OR LAW HAS TO DO WITH JUSTICE. NO ONE
 THINKS OF 1776 WHILE THEY ARE SHOOTING
 OFF FIRE CRACKERS AND PISTOLS- BUT
 WAS IN THE POMP & MAGNIFICENCE OF A
 CHURCH CEREMONY WE FORGET THAT
 A GENTLE TEACHER WHO HAD NOT WHERE
 TO LAY HIS HEAD.

BACK FENCE GOSSIP.

"Do you know that your chickens come over into my garden?"
"I thought they must be doing that."
"Why did you think so?"
"Because they never come back."

TOO TRUE.

"What is a synonym, dad?"
"A synonym, my son, is a word that you can use when you don't know how to spell the one you thought of first."

ALONE.

Here is the extract from the prospectus of a hotel in Switzerland:
"Weissbach is the favourite place of resort for those who are fond of solitude. Persons in search of solitude are, in fact, constantly flocking here from the four quarters of the globe."



"THE INNER MAN."



THE CRYING BABY.

A scene in the Millennium.

IF YOU PLEASE!

"This is a new shaving soap I'm using," said the barber. "How do you like it?"
"Applied externally," spluttered the victim.

NOT LIKELY TO.

He: Would your mother object to my kissing you?
She: My mother? Why, she wouldn't hear of such a thing.

USUAL RESULT.

"If I ever marry," said the bachelor, "I'll rule the roost or know why!"
"Oh," rejoined the married man, "you'll know why, all right."

AS A SPECIAL COMPLIMENT.

Jimmie: My ma's gone down-town to pay some bills.
Tommie: Pooh! The man comes to the house to collect ours!



A SOFT ANSWER.

He: "Do you think you could live happily if you were to marry a man like me?"
She: "Oh, yes, I think so—if he wasn't too much like you."