

Overland Wireless.

The United Wireless Telegraph Company intends establishing four high-power stations on the Pacific Coast, in order to transmit telegrams direct to the Atlantic Coast. They are also establishing 250 stations in the United States in order to carry out the intermediate services.

PERSONAL NOTES.

Mr. and Mrs. Rayner, of Auckland, have been on a visit to Wellington. The Rev. C. W. Scott-Moncrieff, warden of St. John's College, Auckland, has been on a short visit to Wellington.

The Gisborne High School Board has appointed Mr. F. J. Wilkes, M.A., of Marton, first assistant master.

Mr. T. Maikens, a very old and respected settler, died at Paeroa, Auckland, last week.

Mr. H. A. Harrison, of Stourbridge, England, is at present on a visit to Rotorua.

The Right Rev. T. C. Twitchell, Bishop of Polynesia, was a passenger for Fiji by the Navua last week.

Mr. T. Finlayson, of Messrs. Sargoed, Son, and Ewen, returned to Auckland last week from the South.

Mr. Lionel Lewis, son of Mr. Henry Lewis, Auckland, has passed his third medical examination at Edinburgh.

Mr. C. F. Cook, of Messrs. Hunt and Co., Wellington, is leaving on a business trip to Great Britain on February 26.

Mr. James Boyd, of Rotorua, who has been on a visit to his son in New Guinea, has returned to his home.

It is understood that the Hon. J. A. Millar, Minister for Railways and Marine, will pay a brief holiday visit to Australia next month.

Sir James Mills was a passenger en route to New Zealand by the R.M.S. China, which arrived at Fremantle from London last week.

Mr. H. McNeil, managing director in Australasia for Briscoe and Co., is, with Mrs. McNeil, at present on a visit to Auckland.

Mr. R. P. Hay, a well-known resident of Oamaru, is about to pay a visit to Auckland. He will be absent from Oamaru for about a year.

Mr. B. H. Wynman, assistant clerk of the Wanganui Magistrate's Court, has resigned from the Government service, and has taken up a position in Auckland.

Mr. Andrew Black, the well-known waaist, was married in Sydney recently to Mrs. Lichtschein, widow of Mr. Jacob Lichtschein, formerly licensee of the Grand Hotel, Wellington.

The Revs. H. O. T. Hanby (Church of England), A. M. Aspland, and W. A. Keay (Congregational Independents) are gazetted officiating ministers under the Marriage Act.

Mr. C. Milne, of the Waihi School of Mines, is this year the winner of the scholarship of £50, awarded annually by the Mines Department and tenable for three years.

Mr. A. A. Stuart Menteath, barrister and solicitor, Wellington, has taken into partnership Mr. F. E. Ward, for some years managing clerk for Messrs. Brown and Dean.

Mr. Charles Saunders, the secretary of the Napier United Temperance Council, was last week presented with a handsome writing stand and cabinet in appreciation of his work in the temperance cause.

Mr. G. E. A. Hood, who has held the position of inspector of factories in Masterton for some years, will shortly be transferred to the Labour Department's branch at Christchurch.

Rev. G. P. Davys, of St. Peter's Church, Willis-street, Wellington, will be leaving for England on a visit in April next. His locum tenens will be the Rev. Harry Gordon Blackburne, of Hinds, Canterbury.

Sir William and Lady Steward left Lyttelton last week for Sydney, en route to Durban, to pay a short visit to their son. They propose to return, via Cape-town, by the s.s. Devon, due at Wellington on June 2.

The Taranaki Law Society recently entertained its president, Mr. W. Kerr, for some years Crown Prosecutor at New Plymouth, who has been appointed to the Magistracy, and leaves shortly to take up duties at Wanganui. He was presented with a solid silver salver.

Mr. J. Mawhian Barnett has been visiting Napier for the purpose of giving the opening recitals on the new organ in St. Paul's Presbyterian Church. On his

way back to Wellington, Mr. Barnett opened the new pipe organ in Knox Church, Masterton.

Mr. V. Robinson, who has been in charge of the Warea Dairy Factory, Taranaki, for some years, has been granted leave of absence for six months, and purposes visiting the Old Country. He received a send-off and a social last week.

The Very Rev. Dean Carew was entertained at Greymouth last week, and presented with a beautifully illuminated address and purse containing one hundred sovereigns in commemoration of having completed 25 years' ministration in the Greymouth parish.

A Press Association telegram states that Mr. A. W. Eutherford, ex-M.P. for Huruangi, was entertained at a banquet at Hamner. The Hon. D. Buddho represented the Ministry, and speeches eulogistic of Mr. Eutherford's services to the electorate were made.

Mr. W. A. Jeff, who was one of the Public Works Department engineers who served in South Africa at the close of the war, and who returned to Wellington some six months ago, has accepted an appointment in charge of railway works in the Argentine. He left for Buenos Ayres by the Tainui.

The death occurred at Wanganui recently of Mr. H. C. ("Bert") Hanlon, a Dunedin boy, who left there a little over a year ago to take up a position in the North. The deceased was well known in musical circles. His father (Mr. W. D. Hanlon) has lived in Castle-street for many years. The remains will be taken to Dunedin for burial.

The death is announced of Mrs. Schluter, wife of Mr. H. Schluter, of Boundary Creek, Otago, in her sixty-sixth year. Mrs. Schluter arrived in Auckland with her father and mother in 1859, remaining in the Northern city till 1861, when, owing to the Maori disturbance in the Auckland province, they went South, settling in Oamaru.

Mr. Burnard, who is leaving Dunedin to take up practice in the North, was last week presented with a travelling bag by the members of the Law Society.

Mr. E. H. Barber, mining engineer and representative in Wellington for Mr. John Brown, coal importer, has returned from a business trip to England and the Continent.

Mr. Edward Reeves, the talented elocutionist and story-teller, is a nephew of Mr. Edward Reeves, of Wellington, formerly in business as a grain merchant.

Rev. Dr. Dunlop, professor of the Presbyterian Theological College, Dunedin, is dead. Deceased was 72 years of age. One of his sons is the Rev. Frank Dunlop, of Knox Church, Invercargill.

Mr. Newton King, treasurer of the New Plymouth Harbour Board, has arranged to make the trip to London in connection with the raising of the harbour loan. Together with Mr. Connett (the chairman of the Board) he leaves on the 17th inst., via Vancouver, and will return to the Dominion directly after completing his mission.

At a meeting of the Wellington Coach-workers' Union, Mr. W. H. Westbrooke, was the recipient of a silver-mounted walking-stick and smoker's outfit. Mr. Harrison, in making the presentation on behalf of the members, expressed regret that Mr. Westbrooke, through having taken up other employment, had found it necessary to resign from the secretaryship of the Union.

Mr. H. L. Fowler (principal of the Nelson Boys' College) has been granted leave of absence for six months as from March next, to enable him to pay a visit to England (says the Nelson "Mail"). It is understood that Mr. G. G. Lancaster will be acting-principal during Mr. Fowler's absence, and that Mr. and Mrs. C. H. Broad will take up their residence at the college.

Further railway transfers from the Dunedin district to the North Island in connection with the opening of the Main Trunk line are announced. These include Messrs. W. B. Clarke, clerk at Barkers; E. W. Carter, one of the assistant relieving officers; W. McDonald, clerk in the Dunedin goods office; and D. M. Matheson, clerk at Oamaru. Three of the above-named go to the Auckland district and one to Wanganui.

At the last meeting of the Otago Education Board Mr. Fitzgerald, one of the inspectors, who has been in the service of the Board as teacher and inspector since its inception, and who, prior to that, was in the service of the Provincial Executive, tendered his resignation. Complimentary reference was made to Mr. Fitzgerald's services, and the Board decided to accept the resignation, and grant Mr. Fitzgerald six months' leave of absence from date, on full pay.

There was a large gathering at the Oira tunnel work at a smoke concert in honour of Mr. George Hoye on the eve of his departure on the works on which he was employed. Mr. J. M. Jack made a presentation to Mr. Hoye on behalf of the tunnel workers, and in doing so said that he was sure they were not a man on the works who was not sorry to hear of Mr. Hoye's leaving. The contractors, he believed, were as sorry to lose him as the men were.

Mrs. Esther Wornall, one of the pilgrims to arrive by the first four ships, has died at Leithfield, Christchurch, at the age of 83. With her husband she came from Wicklow, Ireland, and when the up-country roads were being formed, they went to settle on the land. Mrs. Wornall has been credited with being the first European woman to take up her residence North of Salt Water Creek. From a family of nine sons and daughters there are about 100 descendants.

The many friends and acquaintances in Wanganui of Mr. B. H. Wynman, assistant clerk of the Wanganui Magistrate's Court, will regret to hear that he has decided to leave Wanganui, having resigned his office in the Government Service, and accepted the position of managing clerk to Mr. G. W. Basley, barrister, of Auckland (says the "Wanganui Herald"). Though holding his present office at the Wanganui Court for a comparatively short time, he has proved himself a courteous and zealous official, and one whom it will be hard to replace. As an ardent lawn tennis enthusiast, he will be greatly missed from the Wanganui and Queen's Park Club's courts.

The death occurred at the Auckland Hospital of ex-Detective Henderson, for over 40 years a well-known and zealous member of the police forces. The deceased, who was born in Scotland, arrived in New Zealand at the age of 19, when he joined the armed constabulary. He served in connection with the gold escorts in the early goldfield rushes of Otago, and subsequently joined the police as a trooper, working his way up to the position of chief detective at Dunedin, and afterwards at Christchurch, Wellington and Auckland. He had been in failing health for some time and retired on pension in August last. He had been in the hospital since soon after the New Year. The interment takes place this afternoon.

Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Garrett, who are about to commence a tour of the Old World, were entertained at a social by the residents of Eden Terrace, Auckland, last week. Mr. J. U. Upton, a member of the Road Board, presided, and there was a large attendance. Mr. Garrett was a member of the Road Board for the past 20 years, and in recognition of the valuable services he has rendered to the district, the residents decided to present him with an address making reference to the work he had done, and wishing him a pleasant journey and a safe return. Mr. Garrett was also presented with a handsome photographic shield of members of the Fire Brigade and the Road Board on behalf of the Fire Brigade. The residents also presented Mrs. Garrett with a travelling bag.

Mr. C. T. Benzoni, Deputy-Registrar of Friendly Societies, will shortly retire on superannuation (says the Wellington "Post"). As a young man, Mr. Benzoni, who was born in London, saw considerable service in the Crimea, Indian Mutiny, and the early China War, being present at the bombardment of Canton and the Taku Forts. He was also sent out to Canada in view of probable war between England and the United States over the forcible arrest of a British mail steamer, by the Federal authorities of two Confederate State Commissioners. He was subsequently sent out to New Zealand, and served with General Cameron in the Waikato War, and he also took part in the expedition against Te Kōhū. Mr. Benzoni was next appointed to the Stores Department, being transferred to the Public Works and Goldfields Departments as chief clerk in 1873, and was made Assistant Under-Secretary in 1879. After being retrenched in 1885, Mr. Benzoni again joined the Government service, ultimately attaining to his present position.

Dr. Herbert Chesson, D.Ph. (London), M.R.C.S. (England), L.R.C.P. (London), Fellow of the Society of Medical Officers of Health, and member of the Royal Sanitary Institute, has been appointed medical superintendent at Haunui Sanatorium. For some time Dr. Chesson held the position of house surgeon in a hospital in the north of England. He then came out to Australia, and entered the

service of the Queensland Government, holding several professional appointments in the Lunacy and Health Departments. He was also for a time Health Officer at Thursday Island. After five years' service for the Queensland Government, he resigned in 1903, and came over to New Zealand. He practised at Rakaia for a couple of years, and then went home to study for his Public Health diploma, which he obtained without difficulty. Returning to the Antipodes, he spent another year in Queensland as Chief Departmental Health Officer and Special Plague Officer. He then went for a tour among the South Sea Islands, and studied tropical diseases in the service of the Tongan Government. Dr. Chesson has been in practice in Auckland for the last few months.

Anomalies in Administration of British Law.

Public attention has lately been directed to the recently created Court of Criminal Appeal. It might with advantage be also directed to some anomalies said to be found in the administration of the criminal law.

Take first the Police Courts. These Courts, in provincial towns, are, in most cases, presided over by magistrates whose legal qualifications are absolutely nil, and whose qualifications in other respects are often exceedingly doubtful. Some of these magistrates may be highly educated men; others are certainly not. I remember a chief magistrate who, among other peculiarities, spoke of the Ecclesiastical Council of the Roman Catholic Church as the "Economic" Council; described certain property as being "contagious" to his house; spelt magistrate "majestrate"; said that somebody had correctly "fore-shadowed" his past life, and announced at a meeting that he stood as much upon his infra dig. as any man in the borough in which he resided. I remember another chief magistrate who, on a prisoner being brought before him, turned to a brother magistrate and said: "Where is the other man?" "There is no other man," was the reply. "Oh, yes, there is," he said. "Look at the charge sheet, 'Smith, alias Jones.'" These men were very worthy citizens, who had been made magistrates because they had made money. There is, however no connection whatever between the money-making faculty and the judicial mind, and to treat wealth as a qualification for judicial office is calculated to bring the administration of justice into contempt.

"This money, money, this alone is merit; Without it, virtue is a useless toy. Money proclaims the knave a man of honour; Money alone can make a dunce a Judge."

But though in most provincial boroughs magistrates are without legal training, there are other boroughs where a stipendiary magistrate is appointed. He has been a practising barrister, and, as the name implies, receives a salary. If we turn to the metropolises, we find an equally anomalous state of things. Some of the magistrates are lawyers, others are not. It may be said that the system works well. But if a merchant can administer justice gratis at the Mansion House or the Guildhall, what is the need of a trained lawyer with a substantial salary at Westminster or Bow-street?—Letter in "London Standard."

Hero Turns Burglar.

William Owens, aged thirty-one, who was sentenced to eighteen months hard labour at the Old Bailey last month, was a hero before unemployment drove him to burglary.

He was sent to the reformatory ship Cornwall when a boy, and while there he saved another boy's life. The officer's gave a dinner in his honour, and the late Sir Edward Buller was present. Later he saved three lives at the disaster that attended the launch of the Albion in 1898, and he married one of the women he rescued.

He had lived honestly until the beginning of the present year, but had become unable to obtain work.