

THE WEEKLY GRAPHIC

AND

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The Week in Review

The figures just issued by the Registrar-General concerning the population of the Dominion are distinctly encouraging, and we can congratulate ourselves that we now exceed the million by over 20,000. It is calculated that on December 31st last there were 1,020,713 people living in the Dominion, including 12,340 in the Cook Islands. The European population has grown by 31,158, the excess of arrivals over departures accounting for 14,281, and natural increase has caused a gain of 16,897. These figures constitute a record both as regards births and immigration. It is gratifying to note that infant mortality was remarkably low, and the death-rate generally was not so high as in the previous year. The birth-rate showed a slight increase, 27.45, as against 27.30 in 1907; but it is still far below what it was some years ago.

It will be noticed from the above figures that we are receiving a large number of immigrants. The immigration policy of the Government has lately come in for a good deal of criticism, but there is no denying the fact that we must have population if the colony is to develop, and the readiest means of gaining population is by a wise encouragement of the right kind of immigrants. The trouble seems to be that many of those who come out are either not willing or are not able to go on the land, and they go to swell the ranks of the unemployed in the cities. It is also necessary that every facility possible should be given for acquiring land on easy terms, and information concerning Crown lands should be readily and promptly furnished by the authorities. Judging by letters sent to the press, some of our new arrivals have experienced considerable difficulty in getting any information at all. A writer in the "Dominion" relates his experiences as follows:—"I went to the Land Office; they handed me a map of the Piripiri Block, to be balloted for on December 31. I went to see it on a pouring wet day, and lost £1 on my railway fare, then had to tramp seven miles from a railway station, soaking wet. After all this trouble, it came to nothing; I was unsuccessful even in receiving an answer to my letter from the Commissioner of Crown Lands at Napier. I wrote to that official for an application form for that block, and afterwards for information regarding any other Crown lands likely to be opened—result, no reply. I also wrote to the Commissioner for Crown Lands at Wellington, and got no reply. I then wrote to the Commissioner at Auckland, from whom I received a courteous reply, along with a map of Crown lands to be balloted for on January 25. I received the letter on January 23. Living in a country place some miles out of Palmerston, I would be too late to apply." If this has been the way in which other immigrants have been treated, it is small wonder if they get disheartened. There is a large amount of land in the colony waiting to be settled, and if our immigration policy is to be successful we must do all in our power to get the right class of people as settlers, and to give them every facility for acquiring suitable areas.

The South African Convention has experienced considerable difficulty in selecting a site for the capital. At one time the tension was so great that several delegates threatened to leave, and eventually a compromise had to be accepted. Orange and Natal held out for Bloemfontein and Maritzburg, their respective capitals, but they had at last to give way, and the struggle then centred round Capetown and Pretoria. Capetown is the oldest political centre in South

Africa, and enjoys a dignity and a prestige beyond all the younger cities. Pretoria, on the other hand, is the centre of financial and commercial activity; it enjoys an invigorating climate, and it is close to the Rand and Johannesburg. The Convention therefore proposes that the seat of the Federal Legislature shall be at Capetown, while Pretoria is to be the administrative centre. This will have the effect of balancing the political parties in South Africa, for while the Boers will make the most of Pretoria they will be kept in check by the strong Imperialist feeling that prevails at Capetown.

While people have been sweltering under the summer heat, and everyone has been complaining of the sultriness of the atmosphere, the Auckland Board of Education has been considering a most elaborate scheme for thoroughly heating the new Technical College in Wellesley-street. The Director of Technical Education has been urging the Board to procure a plant which, including expenses of installation, will cost £4000, and will require about £100 a year to keep it going. A speaker at the University Senate referred to the fact that we were forcing children's minds by a hothouse system of education, and this latest proposal seems to lend countenance to his remarks. If we were living at the North Pole it is just conceivable that it might be necessary to spend several thousands in heating our buildings, but in the Auckland climate the chief difficulty is to keep cool. However admirable the proposed scheme may be in itself, there is no doubt that something much simpler would meet the requirements of the Technical College.

Several interesting accounts have been given lately of the condition of things in Turkey under the new regime. The change is said to be simply astonishing. The censorship of the Press has been abolished, and as a consequence newspapers, broadsheets, and cartoons are being freely hawked about the streets. Bookshops are springing up everywhere, and the streets are full of processions got up to do honour to England and France and the newly-elected deputies. Six months ago a gathering of even a handful of people was regarded as a sign of sedition and conspiracy, whilst to-day may be seen meetings at every street corner. The people have a happy, contented look, very different from the gloomy, suspicious countenance of older times. The revolution seemed to come suddenly, but it was in reality the result of years of plotting and secret intrigue. Discontent had been deliberately spread amongst the soldiery, women were used to smuggle letters and pamphlets, and all the innumerable devices of subterranean propaganda were brought into play. The result has been a glorious victory for the Young Turkey party, and the old system of oppression, cruelty, and cunning have been replaced by representative government and the blessings of free speech and political freedom.

The Attorney-General has given a very interesting statement regarding the National Provident Bill, which was introduced last year. He contrasted the individualism and selfishness of civilisation half a century ago, with the humane legislation of the present day. The human heart was impressing itself on the Statute Book in ever increasing measure, and men were devoting less time to piling up national wealth, and more to reducing national misery. The

National Provident Bill was an attempt to assist married workers and their families, since the State recognised that the men and women who had assumed the highest duties of citizenship were deserving of substantial help. He gave the following example of the working of the Act:—If a young man of 25 paid 1/3 per week, and had a family of four children, the benefits he would gain at 60 years of age would be 10/- per week, in addition to the old age pension. If at the end of five years he died and left a wife and four children, the sum of £1 17/6 a week would be paid to the widow and children for their support—7/6 for the widow, and 7/6 for each child under 14. Should the contributor become incapacitated by sickness or accident after five years, he would be paid 7/6 for each child under 14, so that in the case under review 30/- per week would be coming in during the period of incapacity. The scheme would be limited to workers who were not earning more than £200 a year. Dr Findlay rightly contended that no other country in the world possessed any scheme of workers' annuities as generous as this.

China seems to be seriously catering on her career of reform now that her statesmen have a free hand, owing to the death of Emperor Kwang-Su and the Dowager Empress, Tsi-An. The new Emperor, Pu-Yi, is only three years old, so Prince Chun, who is acting as regent, is the real ruler of the Empire. The regent has already shown himself to be a man of great firmness, and when there were signs of agitation recently, portending serious trouble, he took strong measures to preserve the peace. He is said to be guided by Yuan Shi Kai, who has for long been the leader of the progressive party in China, and every effort will be made to introduce much-needed reforms. The new Dowager Empress Ye-Ho-No-La, may, however, elect to assert her authority, and should she do so, the path of reform will be found to be none too easy. Meanwhile, the regent is doing all he can to secure the prosperity and happiness of the country.

The new play, "An Englishman's Home," has created one of the greatest sensations of recent years. It is by Major Guy Louis du Maurier, of the Royal Fusiliers, a son of the famous "Punch" artist. It deals with England's unpreparedness for war, and the play is being utilised for the purpose of rousing the country to the necessity for home defence. All the seats have been booked till the end of March, and arrangements have been made for producing the play at two London theatres simultaneously, as well as in the provinces. England seems at last to be waking up to the fact that her defence force must be strengthened very materially if she is to remain free from successful invasion, and several eminent authorities are urging compulsory military training for all youths between 18 and 21 years of age. The volunteer system has hopelessly broken down, and Mr Haldane's Territorial Army has not proved the success anticipated. Lord Roberts now contends that some form of compulsory service is absolutely necessary. The new play has drawn attention to the national danger in a forcible manner, and the Imperial authorities seem inclined to view with favour the proposed schemes for the compulsory military training of young men.

According to the most recently published statistics regarding the agricultural progress of the North and South Islands, the North Island, with only about half the area of land in occupation, as compared with the South Island, exporting nearly twice as much produce. The North Island, out of a total area

of 28,450,520 acres, has 14,901,294 acres in occupation. The South Island, with a total area of 37,456,000 acres, has 22,638,777 acres in occupation. The North Island in 1907 exported produce, the bulk of which came from the land, to the value of £12,204,001. The South Island's exports were £7,836,661, or only 39.1 of the Dominion's total exports. It is interesting, also, to note the values of the two islands for taxation purposes. The capital value of the North is now assessed at £149,783,914, and that of the South at £103,656,258. The North Island has for so long been regarded as being far less fertile than the South that these figures will come as a surprise to those who have been accustomed to speak of the neglected North. With some seven million acres less in occupation, it shows a yearly export of some £4,000,000 more in produce.

There is no doubt that much of the decay in English Rugby football is due to the short-sighted policy of the Executive in the matter of payment for players' expenses. Some sixteen or eighteen years ago several Yorkshire Union clubs asked that the English Rugby Union should consider the question of payment of players for lost time in big football matches. A large number of players were working men, to whom the loss of a day's pay was a serious consideration. The proposal was vetoed on the ground that it was introducing an element of professionalism, and as a consequence a large number of the Northern clubs seceded from the governing body. Hybrid amateur-professional clubs sprang up on all sides, and Association football grew so much in favour that to-day it completely eclipses the Rugby game in many places. Later on the English Union conceded an allowance of 3/- per day, but this sum was too small to represent legitimate compensation for lost time, while the strict amateur did not want it. Now the Scottish Union has impeached the mother institution for its action, and it looks as if the prospects of the game were worse than ever. It is to be hoped that some decisive action will be taken to restore to English Rugby something of the prestige it so long enjoyed.

A very remarkable gathering took place recently in the library of Hereford Cathedral, when the leading representatives of all denominations assembled in connection with the Milton Tercentenary celebrations. Many of them had travelled long distances to be present, and the Bishop of Hereford gave an eloquent and impressive address on "Christian Unity." He said that Milton had helped to lift us into the purer air of a larger freedom, and had been an inspirer of his own and of later generations. His voice had been like the sound of many waters, and we were the heirs of this rich and varied inheritance from the past. Dr Percival then went on to deal with the debt we owed to the great souls of all denominations, and concluded with the following appeal for a greater spirit of unity amongst us. Speaking of the famous men of the past, he said:

"Their gifts and their influence—in other words, the debt we owe them—should surely convince us that in very truth the Word of God is not bound, and that His Spirit breathes through all human society with little regard to those dogmatic differences which unhappily loom so large in the common everyday life and spirit of most of us. Thus it is in fact the unique greatness of Milton that we are celebrating to-day, and the greatness of his gifts to our common life, whether as the champion of freedom, or as the prophet of the higher patriotism, or as the sacred poet of our nation and our race; and the lesson

of it all is a very plain lesson, which should not continue to be neglected as hitherto, that as we enjoy in common those gifts—uplifting, illuminating, purifying, strengthening, and redeeming gifts—which are poured into our life through the greater personalities of every denomination or creed, so we should learn more truly to live in one spirit of mutual respect and mutual goodwill. In such a presence we should learn, I think, to rise above our sectarian differences; and that is why I have ventured to invite you to this friendly conference, believing that the memory of such a gathering may sometimes help us to substitute for old antipathies more kindly thoughts and kindly feelings concerning those who by other ways than ours seek and find our common Lord, remembering His Prophetic promises, His unifying word—“Other sheep I have which are not of this fold; them also I must bring, and they shall hear My voice; and they shall become one flock, one Shepherd.”

Somewhat remarkable correspondence has taken place between Father Hickson and the managing editor of the New Zealand “Times.” It appears that Father Hickson took strong exception to a letter signed, “Coleman Phillips,” which appeared in the “Times” of January 26th, the writer having in his letter expressed the opinion that some of the moral teaching contained in the Bible was not in accordance with modern ideas. Father Hickson went so far as to say that if anything further of the same nature were to appear he would have to consider the advisableness of counselling those under his care not to admit the paper into their homes. The managing editor replied that the fullest discussion of all subjects should be allowed in the public Press, and held that newspapers should give the freest play to the publication of individual opinions in signed articles on any subject.

Without going into the merits or demerits of this particular case, it must be conceded that any attempt to interfere with the freedom of the Press is to be deprecated. The truth has nothing to be concealed that any attempt to intercession. The “Daily Telegraph” and the “Clarion” have both opened their columns to correspondence on the very point dealt with by Mr. Coleman Phillips, and writers were able to state freely what their difficulties were, and these difficulties were dealt with by some of the ablest thinkers of the day. There is every reason to believe that many thousands were helped to clearer views on religious subjects by being permitted to see these subjects discussed without any restriction other than that imposed by good taste, and a desire to avoid giving needless offence. The correspondence columns of a newspaper have been rightly called the “People’s Parliament,” and while personalities and abuse are always to be deprecated, we hold that for general discussion of religious and political matters, the utmost freedom should be conceded to writers of every possible shade of opinion.

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Need a Tonic to Restore Strength.
New Zealand Girl Cured by this Method.

Loss of weight is the gravest symptom in a debilitated, run down condition. It indicates a wasting away that ends too often in a decline. Before the waste of flesh and tissue is noticed there is usually paleness, weakness, headaches, back-aches, fainting spells, and heart palpitation. The condition is so serious that every moment is precious, until a rebuilding of blood, flesh and tissue is commenced.

As the whole trouble lies in a weak, watery state of the blood, the cure is naturally more blood and better blood. There's nothing like Dr. Williams' Pink Pills for Pale People, for making new blood, and restoring weak debilitated women.

They are especially adapted for girls and women of all ages, and gives just the aid required to bring back health and strength to the nervous and exhausted.

The case of Mrs. Minnie Barr, Willis-street, Palmerston North, bears so strong a similarity to thousands all over the country, that her cure by Dr. Williams' Pink Pills should lead every suffering girl and woman to try this tonic treatment. She says:—

“For close on two years my life was a burden to me, because my blood was weak and poor. I grew so weak that I found it was a trouble to do any work. When I went to bed at night I was quite worn out, and when I got up in the morning I was worse, if anything, because I hardly slept all night—often I felt as if I could lie in bed for the rest of the day. I was so nervous that you could not catch me out of the house after sunset. Anything happening suddenly made me jump. I had frightful attacks of giddiness. I was a very poor eater—very often I went all day and never thought of having a bite. I got very pale and heavy about the eyes. My lips and gums were colourless. I grew thin and quite wasted, and all my strength was gone. In fact I was growing weaker every day. I got very downhearted and thought that I was never going to get better. Then my aunt advised me to try Dr. Williams' Pink Pills, and after taking them for a time, they began to do me good, and then I began to get better with every dose. I was getting stronger and was eating better. I could sleep better at night, and woke up fresh in the morning. I was able to do my work much easier. Twelve boxes put me back into perfect health, and ever since I have not had the least return of my old trouble.”

Be sure that you get Dr. Williams' Pink Pills for the many things that are said to be just as good have never effected any cures. They are sold by chemists and storekeepers, price 3/ per box, six boxes 16/6, or they will be sent direct on receipt of price by the Dr. Williams' Medicine Co. of Australasia, Ltd., Wellington.

WHY BOOKS BECOME POPULAR.

Mr. G. K. Chesterton, in the “Bibliophile,” explains why books become popular. The real explanation is, he says, that the books perform certain functions which books were never meant to perform at all. “And if the books truly fulfil these other functions,” he says, “it is really unfair to ask them if they also fulfil the functions of books. A man reads a detective novel because he cannot induce his old nurse to tell him any really long riddle. He reads a horsey novel because he has no horse to ride; or, perhaps, having one, does not know which end to climb up. He reads war-like novels because his country has not been at war seriously for a century; and he reads religious novels because his country is perishing for lack of a religion.” Reading Miss O'Neill's novels is really, Mr. Chesterton says, a sort of substitute for going to church—a very inadequate substitute, as I willingly concede.”

Musings AND Meditations

By Dog Toby

THE NEW PHILANTHROPY.

Mr. John D. Rockefeller has written a most instructive article on what he calls “The Difficult Art of Giving.” He starts by saying that it is easy enough to write platitudes and generalities about the joys of giving, but he proposes to depart from the beaten track, and treat the subject from a practical and business-like standpoint. In this, it must be confessed he has succeeded most admirably, and he has thrown an entirely new light on what St. Paul calls the perfect gift of charity.

Mr. Rockefeller has previously informed us that he knew of nothing more despicable than the man who devoted all the working hours of the day to making money for money's sake. He also had blushing admitted in the witness-box that his dividends from the Standard Oil Company alone amounted to some £3,000,000 per annum. An unkind world was inclined under the circumstances to credit him with being possessed of the very habit which he so strongly deprecated in others. But it now appears that the world grievously misjudged him, as it has misjudged so many of its greatest men, and that he has only accumulated all this wealth because the accumulation of wealth is the highest and best form of giving. This is certainly a novel idea, and far enough removed from the platitudes and generalities with which he assures us other writers have treated the subject. He tells us that the narrowest and meanest view of charity is to consider that it consists in the outright giving of money. The best philanthropy, is to invest your time, effort, and capital in industries that return a remunerative wage. The higher the wage the greater the charity, and thus a man who can so invest his time, effort, and capital as to return a wage of close on £10,000 a day, must be the most charitable man the world has seen. Rightly does this apostle of the new philanthropy declare that no mere money-giving is comparable to this in its lasting and beneficial results. He says that if we adopt this view the philanthropic field is vastly enlarged, and that the men who take up doubtful enterprises and make money out of them, are rewarded not merely by the personal profit, but by the still greater satisfaction of feeling that they have contributed to a general uplift.

Mr. Hearst mentions a striking instance of this uplift in connection with Standard Oil. A judge who dismissed all except two out of seven indictments against the company, and in the case of these two indicted, a merely nominal fine, is now, we are told, favoured by both the Republican and the Democratic tickets for a seat in the Court of Appeals.

The greatest drawback to the really healthful exercise of the highest form of philanthropy is the unnecessary duplication of existing industries. All money spent in increasing needless competition is worse than wasted. The man who enters into competition with Standard Oil is denounced as one who wastes national wealth, destroys national prosperity, and by taking the bread from his rival, introduces a large amount of unnecessary heretache and misery into the world. It was probably entirely from philanthropic motives, and to prevent all this misery, that in the eighties a rival oil refinery was blown up and destroyed by agents of Standard Oil. The first court that tried the case awarded the victims, £54,000, and indicted seven of the philanthropic oil magnates. It is gratifying to learn that on appeal, a judge, who is said to have had practical proof of the generosity of these men, quashed the indictments, and reduced the fine to £100.

The truest charity and the best charity is to invest your money where it will yield the greatest return. The better your enterprise pays, the more likely is it that you are meeting a public want. If the general public is willing to pay an enormous price for an article because you have cornered the supply, that only proves that the general public needs that article badly, and the greater the need the larger your profit. Also the more we can place large sums of money in the hands of the few, the more universally will blessings be diffused, because the few will invest the money, and so some of it will pass into the pay envelope week by week. The difficult art of giving is thus shown to be more difficult than one might at first sight suppose. It consists in getting the highest possible return for your investments. More men try to be real philanthropists than the world has previously credited, and, according to this new evangel, the only really mean man is the man who indulges in mere money-giving, or who enters into competition with Standard Oil. America has given us many humanists, but none have possessed the exquisite subtleties of John D. Rockefeller.

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CLANSMAN... Every Wednesday, at 5 p.m.
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APANUI... Every Monday, at 2 p.m.
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6th—Prev. day, 9.30 a.m. No str. 9 a.m.
11th—9.15 a.m. 11 a.m. 9 a.m. No str.
11th—9.15 a.m. 1 p.m. 11 a.m. 1 p.m.
13th—9.15 a.m. 11.45 a.m. No str. Noon
16th—9.15 a.m. 1 p.m. Noon. No str.
18th—11.45 a.m. 3.15 p.m. 2 p.m. 4 p.m.
20th—9.15 a.m. 9 a.m. No str. 9 a.m.
23rd—9.15 a.m. 11 a.m. 9 a.m. No str.
25th—9.15 a.m. 11.45 a.m. 10 a.m. Noon
27th—9.15 a.m. 1 p.m. No str. 1 p.m.
“Goods outward by steamer leaving on following dates, viz.—4th, 6th, 9th, 20th, and 23rd, must leave up-country stations by afternoon train previous day.”
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Sayings of the Week

The Auckland gaol was one of the best, if not the best, in New Zealand. He found it up-to-date and in every way suitable. It represents the kind of standard to which in time we would like to bring all our prisons.—*Hon. Dr. Findlay.*

The percentage of failures at the recent examinations held in the public schools throughout the Auckland province was greater than usual. Out of 2961 pupils examined last year, no fewer than 742 failed, whereas in 1907, out of 2907 who presented themselves, only 294 were unable to get through.—*Mr. E. C. Purdie, Auckland Board of Education.*

Private limited liability companies should not have the power to give security that private firms could not give. Unless legislation were taken in this matter, the commercial interest of the community would be seriously jeopardised.—*Mr. B. Kent, Vice-President Auckland Chamber of Commerce.*

The trouble with Germany had begun when Dr. Jamieson made his raid, and was clearly indicated again at the time that Sir Redvers Buller was crossing the Tugela in the Boer War, when the Germans actually cheered the defeat of our men. I can't follow the figures quoted, but I remember a quotation of an English statesman that figures never lie, but liars quote figures.—*Mr. J. B. Kneen, Auckland Harbour Board.*

I believe that the establishment of a properly conducted conservatorium would have excellent results, more especially in the direction of giving those who intend to enter the profession a broader musical education than is possible here under existing conditions, and consequently it seems to me that the sooner the proposal is carried out the better.—*Mr. Maughan Barnett, Wellington.*

The Roman Catholic education system was the only perfect one in the Dominion, in that it provided for religious training as well as the equipment of boys and girls to be effective members of civil society based on Christian principles. Roman Catholics, on behalf of their idea of education, although only one-seventh of the population, spent every year about £40,000, and in twenty-five years they had saved the taxpayers of New Zealand one million pounds.—*Archbishop Redwood.*

The electors seem determined to change the present system of liquor control, but they appear to be equally determined to maintain the right to procure and to consume it, and I am satisfied therefore that once the alternative of State control is offered to them the No-license movement will lose its momentum, for the real battle will then be between the supporters of private enterprise and the advocates of State control.—*Mr. Corey Fitzgerald, Wellington.*

The whole of the money for the purchase of the Wellington and Manawatu railway, amounting to over a million sterling when the cost of improvements is considered, has been provided for without leaning upon the Dominion's bankers for any portion of it.—*Sir Joseph Ward.*

The amount of liquor consumed per head had increased even though the vote for No-license had increased. A Royal Commission should be appointed to inquire into and advise upon the whole subject. There might be representatives of the Prohibitionists and the trade on the commission but the majority should be calm and moderate men.—*Mr. G. W. Russell, M.P.*

I am more than ever convinced that the proper defence of New Zealand will be achieved by adopting a system of universal training, and by that I do not mean conscription. If the young men of the Dominion are educated to the privilege of accepting their responsibility in this matter before they are twenty-one years of age, in the course of a very few years we will have a body of trained men that would provide all the defence required for a long time to come.—*Hon. G. T. Smith, M.L.O.*

Though the mining trouble on the coast has been settled temporarily, there exists a feeling of unrest—a feeling that a trial of strength is imminent between the coal and gold-miners and the employers. A few agitators are doing all the mischief. The bulk of the miners seem to be satisfied, but these irresponsible agitators are stirring up strife. When the struggle came it would affect every class in the community, and principles of preference to unionists would be one of its outstanding features.—*Mr. G. L. Tacon, Greymouth.*

The Vikings, who were supposed to have been raiders and pirates, were really colonists, as the history of Scotland proved. People did not realise that for over three hundred years there was a Norse King in Scotland, and that for over five hundred years the whole of the kingdom of Scotland was subject to the Crown of Norway. It was not until 1263 that the Scots were able to throw off this dominion.—*Lord Salvesen.*

You may take this as an axiom in fruit-growing: That if you are to command success you must have the very best soil and climate for the particular variety of fruit that you want to grow. It seemed to me, with regard to the growing of peaches, pears, and plums, and some of the small fruits, you could not get better or more suitable land in New Zealand than that around Hastings. There may be other places as good, but there are no places better.—*Mr. J. N. Williams, Frimley.*

Their reputation for being the cheapest port in the Dominion, taking into consideration the facilities given and the services rendered by the board, could not at the present time be assailed.—*Mr. T. M. Wilford, M.P., Chairman Wellington Harbour Board.*

Our constitution practically prohibits an open alliance with England or any other country, but I am pretty certain that for some years at least there has been an unwritten agreement between England and America. I have nothing conclusive to base this opinion on, except that from time to time things have happened that to the observant man show that a game is being worked. What hits one nation hits the other.—*Mr. G. A. Walker, Chicago.*

He recognised that the country generally should be made as attractive to tourists as possible. Where they had scenic attractions of such variety it was the duty of the Government, as a matter of practical business, to cater for the roving population outside New Zealand, who were ever seeking fresh changes. Everybody, directly or indirectly, must benefit from those who visited New Zealand, and spent money in travelling.—*Sir Joseph Ward.*

Out-of-work men in Berlin can register themselves for a fee of about 2d. But what struck me most was the fact that there were shoemakers ready to mend the men's boots for nothing, and tailors to repair their clothing without charge. Every man could thus keep himself neat and tidy. At the same place the men could have a hot or cold bath for a half-penny, and food was served to them at cost price. We went to Dresden, Leipzig, and Frankfurt as well. Not once did I see any slums. The workmen's tenements were tall, clear buildings, mostly built over shops. There were no children running about without shoes and stockings.—*Mr. W. C. Steadman, M.P.*

Speaking from a great and comprehensive knowledge, based on 50 years of travel and observation, I have not the slightest hesitation in predicting that with the opening of the Panama and the Auckland canals, Auckland, within the next 50 years, will take rank as one of the greatest half-dozen cities of the world.—*Mr. W. Hawker.*

We already are endeavouring as State employers to encourage the married workers, and that spirit is spreading. The more philanthropic private employers are employing married workers in preference to single workers when other

things are equal, and rightly so. You must agree that the very existence of our country depends on the number of healthy, native-born men and women who are to bear the burdens of the future.—*Hon. Dr. Findlay.*

There is a very considerable class of landholders existing to-day whose idea of a reasonable annual income always runs into four figures. Their standard of living is sufficiently generous to reasonably provide for the requirements of half-a-dozen ordinary families. Whilst this is true, there are thousands of people in New Zealand keenly desirous of getting an opportunity of earning a living for themselves and their families from the soil, and the earth hunger is keener to-day than it ever was.—*Mr. T. E. Taylor, M.P.*

It would be a wise man indeed who could predict the future of Hawke's Bay for the next 25 years, but the advancement of the province, Hastings and the Dominion as a whole was the result of the Government lands for settlement policy. This policy would be continued. In the old countries, England, Ireland and Scotland, millions of people had been sent across the seas, owing to the inflexible land laws, but his Government were not going to drive the people from the country they loved so much.—*Sir Joseph Ward.*

In this country it was usual to lay foundation stones, but in America the erection of a building was celebrated at its completion by the laying of the last brick or the coping stone. Well, within the next two years he hoped to ask them to come to Napier to assist in laying the last block in the breakwater. The completion of the breakwater was of vital importance to Hawke's Bay.—*Mr. J. Vigor Brown, M.P., at Napier.*

Settlement of the land was the best guarantee for the future, and the aim of the Liberal party would be to prevent land monopoly and direct the population towards the country rather than towards the towns. New Zealand could afford to give the people on the land the measure of comfort to which they were entitled, and the absence of which brought them into the towns.—*Hon. Dr. Findlay.*

The whole principle of settlement upon Crown lands, or upon lands purchased by public moneys for closer settlement, should be that those lands are made available to the settler for his own personal benefit as a producer, and not as a medium for gambling in land values.—*Mr. T. E. Taylor, M.P.*

New Zealand was the only country, not excepting America and the United Kingdom to show an increased revenue in their Post and Telegraph Departments.—*Sir Joseph Ward.*

The total rates of this city, including general, special, charitable aid, water rates, and everything else, amount to £74,000, of which the Gas Company pays one-fortieth, £1800 odd.—*Mr. J. H. Upton, chairman Auckland Gas Co.*

In this Dominion, where the technical arts and industries, contributing the staple of our material wealth, have wisely received so much attention from the Government, there is a danger that the utilities may acquire an undesirable domination. Art is the refreshment provided by man to sweeten his toil. The cultivation of the aesthetics and the widest realisation of beauty are, I think, as essential factors in communal welfare as the pursuit of commerce or agriculture.—*Mr. Louis Cohen, Wanganui.*

The directors of the Wellington Gas Co. are very desirous that every employee of 12 months' standing should become a shareholder, and have under consideration a suggestion to enable this result to be eventually obtained. The experience obtained in the British gas-works shows that where the majority of the employees have been made shareholders, by the setting aside of a portion of the profits each year as an investment in the company in the names of the individual employees, the results have been, both directly and indirectly, most beneficial, and there is not any reason to believe that a similar result would not be obtained here.—*Mr. D. T. Nathan, chairman Wellington Gas Co.*

One of the most experienced men in New Zealand recently informed me in Canterbury that the work entailed in the upkeep of motor-cars alone averaged £51 per car per annum, and as he was a man of considerable experience and commercial integrity, I have no reason to do other than rely on his statement. There was at one time considerable opposition to motor-cars by a section of the community, but it is clear to my mind that they afford a considerable avenue of employment and are a greater industrial factor than is generally recognised.—*Sir Joseph Ward.*

Wherever Sir Robert went he would be welcomed, not only on account of his great personality, but as a great educationalist, and one of the most prominent men who have left these shores as a representative of New Zealand.—*Hon. J. A. Tule.*

The people must be imbued with the fact that they must practically rely on themselves for defence, in co-operation with the Mother Country. They could not have efficient defence by sea unless they had a navy controlled by their own people in co-operation with Great Britain.—*Hon. A. Fisher, Federal Premier.*

If there is one town in New Zealand that does not distinctly see the need of a professional orchestra, that one is surely Auckland, for you have here, under Herr Wielert, the finest orchestra any New Zealand town has ever possessed. It has performed works never yet played elsewhere in New Zealand and it never makes such concessions to public taste as mar its high purpose to make the great works the possession of the people.—*Mr. Louis Cohen, Wanganui.*

If a man has the courage and health to grasp his chance, and ability and hard work to persist in his chosen line, he will succeed, and succeed materially, for after all there is no real success that does not bring its material reward. A young man should choose his trade or profession in life, make up his mind thoroughly that he knows what his inclinations and ambitions are; then he should work systematically, unremittently, without hindrance or let up, and he will succeed.—*Mr. W. N. Cromwell, promoter of the Panama Canal.*

The Government wanted to settle the native land delicately in a manner equitable to both the native and the European. They knew that much of the native land was lying unproductive, but he could tell them that during the last seven years the Minister for Native Affairs had removed all restrictions upon no less than a million and a quarter acres. Unfortunately, much of this land had been bought up by large landholders who were simply desirous of adding to their estates.—*Hon. J. A. Millar.*

Until the Dominion had tamed the bedrock of hard times, it would not realise the financial saturnalia in which it

Relief from Headache is Yours if You Want it

You have only to get a box of Stearns' Headache Cure at your chemist's and take one of the little tasteless wafers. This is the most popular headache cure in the world, and has been sold for almost twenty years; the only reason that so many people buy it over and over that it does what it should—cures headache promptly, safely, pleasantly. No one needs to suffer from headache when

Stearns' Headache Cure

is at hand. It is well to keep a box in the house all the time, for headaches always come without warning. This will drive them away as quickly as they came.

Stearns' Headache Cure is so much better than others that it will pay you to insist on having STEARNS', and no other.

had been smoking. He did not wish to croak, but he was confident the day of reckoning would come. The Cabinet had to deal with the most critical time in the history of the country, and he hoped that they would prove themselves equal to the task.—*Mr A. W. Rutherford, Kuranui.*

Much good would accrue from the formation of a Playgoers' Club in the principal centres of Australasia. In this part of the world the conditions must differ from those of the older countries, where there is segregation of audiences—certain theatres for certain types of drama. Here audiences of every shade of taste have to attend the one theatre. A Playgoers' Club might do useful educational work. The stage should be looked upon as an educational factor, by banding theatre-goers together to discuss new plays before their production here, and generally to broaden their views.—*Mr Henry Kolker, of J. C. Williamson Co.*

The Auckland Gas Co. had a balance of 49400 odd over and above the sum necessary for the dividend—something which he considered was a matter of which to be proud. The directorate were largely indebted to a most efficient staff, while the appointment 18 months ago of Mr Lowe as engineer was one they had every reason to be satisfied with.—*Mr J. H. Upton, chairman Auckland Gas Co.*

Now that Labour has come into its own, it appears to us desirable to get into closer relationship with our comrades throughout the Empire in matters appertaining to the welfare of the people.—*Mr Keir Hardie.*

Our Illustrations

Our Photo Page gives some illustrations taken in Mr. Leser's garden at Rocky Nook, and is evidence of what can be done in producing a most interesting and pleasing display at a comparatively small outlay. Here ferns form the chief attraction. Varieties ranging from the humble Adiantum (maiden hair) up to the stately and graceful tree fern (*Yaschia Medullaris*) are to be seen growing in profusion.

Perhaps the most interesting feature of Mr. Leser's fern garden is the bush house, constructed on the lines of a Maori whare. In the entrance (or portico) are placed boxes, in which are placed a-paragons, maiden hair, and various other suitable ferns and plants; while from the roof hang fern baskets. But we must enter the inner enclosure to see the beauty and picturesque display that meets the eye.

In the centre is a fountain and fish pond; while around it are laid-out paths, banks, and rockwork, from every point of which spring ferns, leopodiums, and other suitable plants, which are growing in all the vigour usually seen when growing by the creek-side. Many of the plants are yet in the young stage, and will naturally increase in beauty as they become more established, and attain larger size. Lovers of ferns, or those contemplating the erection of a bush house would find a visit to Mr. Leser both interesting and instructive.

BOOKS AND BOOKMEN.

The Bowler's Pocket Book, published under the patronage of the Northern Bowling Association, is a decided novelty, and one that will no doubt be appreciated by all lovers of the game. This little work, which can easily be carried in the vest-pocket, contains quite a number of useful hints to bowlers, as well as putting a club secretary up to several "wrinkles" that will tend, not only to save considerable time and trouble, but assist him in making his duties a success.

Precedents of several forms are set out for the guidance of those having the management of clubs.

One feature of the book that will prove of utility in view of the early approach of the inter-club matches is a form of record of scores made; with very little writing a permanent record of a season's play can be set out, which would be of inestimable use for future reference. As the edition is limited, bowlers should take an early opportunity of procuring the interesting little book.

The Club Smoking Room

By HAVANA

"I OFTEN wish," the padre remarked, "that we could come to some understanding with the people who give and the people who attend concerts in regard to the matter of encores. At the present it simply means that every single item on the programme—good, bad, and indifferent—is vociferously applauded, and thus the performers have double work the concert is unduly prolonged, and the applause itself becomes absolutely meaningless. It is right enough to applaud an exceptionally fine item, but most of our audiences display absolutely no discrimination in the matter. I daresay some people feel that when several items have been encored it would be invidious to make distinctions, and so there is a stamping and yelling and clapping over everything in the programme. It may be my parsonic instinct, but I feel that any applause is out of place after a sacred item. People will be applauding hymns and chants in church next, or even the sermon, as they used to do in the days of Chrysostom."

"My good and worthy padre," replied the cynic, "you need be under no apprehension that people will accord an encore to a sermon, whatever they might feel inclined to do in the matter of hymns and anthems. Most people are only too thankful when it is finished to desire any repetition of the discourse. Managers of concerts nowadays arrange short programmes to allow of extra items being included. They ought to draw up a programme of suitable length and definitely announce that no encores will be given. But the audiences are not altogether to blame. It often happens that it is well known that favourite pieces will be given as encore items. Take the case of the Welsh Choir or the Besses o' the Barn Band, for instances. Several of their best selections were given in response to the demand for an encore. When an Italian song or some very classical item is greeted with vociferous applause, it generally means that the audience hopes to get something more popular in the second contribution. Some people applaud things because they don't like them; even public speakers are sometimes vigorously cheered."

"We hear a lot about hard times," said the banker "but I have noticed that everybody seems to find it easy enough to raise the necessary funds for tickets for concerts and theatres and moving pictures. I must say we have had some exceptionally good performers in the colonies lately and they deserve large audiences, but even mediocre affairs can generally rely on a fair house. I think the cry of hard times is rather overdone. I have been studying the balance-sheet of the Auckland Savings Bank, and I notice that deposits show an increase of £40,000. The Penny Bank also seems to be well patronised. This shows that we are not wasting our money in reckless extravagance, but that we have money to put by as well as money to spend in amusements. Most of our public companies have been able to show good balance-sheets. Both the Auckland and the Wellington Gas Com-

panies have done well, and it does not appear that electric lighting is injuring the prospects of these concerns. I daresay there is a certain amount of unemployment and some poverty, but the croakers who are for ever predicting financial ruin for the colony do not seem to have much to go on. People who can afford to spend several thousands on some fancy heating apparatus, and accept tenders without any sordid consideration of price cannot be said to be exactly at their last gasp for coin."

"I have noticed," put in the Dominic, "that we seem to be reaching a stage when we want the best of everything to do our work with. Girls at some institutions are taught washing, and they are given every kind of apparatus to work with. In after life they will have to do their washing with nothing more than a kerosene tin and a fire in the open. Then they will be perpetually grumbling because they have not got a copper set in brickwork, and a mangle, and wringer, and tubs, and water laid on, and gas irons and all the rest of it. To my mind the great charm of country life is the way people manage to get on with all sorts of makeshifts, and the clever manner in which they turn old sacks and empty tins to account. It is ridiculous to teach girls at these large homes to expect that they must have everything needed for their work ready to hand. They would be quite lost in the bush."

"People," said the cynic, "who undertake the work of education seldom have any large amount of common sense, or sense of any kind, common or otherwise. We have got just at present an insane idea that we ought to educate girls on the same lines as boys, just as some travelling menageries try to make the elephant perform the same tricks as the poodle. We think it derogatory to the fair sex that they should be taught cooking and housework, and so we endeavour to teach them the higher mathematics and political economy, and a whole lot of stuff that can never by any possibility be of any use to them. If they knew more about things that have to do with their homes, and less about abstruse subjects, there would not be so many unfortunate husbands sacrificed on the altar of higher education. The aim of all real training should be to teach people to do well the work they are likely to be called upon to do in the world."

"All the same," answered the professor, "I don't quite see how you are going to make cookery a subject for matriculation or junior scholarship examinations. A set of written questions and answers would be no earthly good because the proof of the pudding is in the eating. Each candidate would have to cook a certain number of dishes, and the examiner would have to eat them. If there were two or three hundred candidates the examiner would have a pretty bad time of it. In these matters theoretical knowledge is not a scrap of good, and if you had a practical test you would probably kill off all your best

examiners. You might, of course, keep a number of dogs, and let them test the dishes, with a skilled supervisor to note the effect produced by different concoctions. But I am afraid any scheme for including cookery as a subject for matriculation would not be found to work well in practice, though theoretically the idea is admirable."

The Origin of Fear.

The average man would sooner face a 250-pound human antagonist than a fifty-pound dog which he could choke to death in three minutes. I have seen a charging ram scatter half a dozen men, any one of whom could have mastered the brute in a moment, and not one of whom was, in ordinary matters, a coward. There are instances on record of men who, with their bare hands, have held and baffled an ugly bull, but it was only the pressure of grim necessity that taught them their powers. Put a man against an animal, and the man looks around for weapons or support, whether he needs them or not. There was a time when he did. For man, to-day the most lordly of animals was once well nigh the most humble of them all. He has come up out of a state in which fear was the normal condition of existence; fear of violence, of the dark that gave opportunity for violence; fear of falling, of animals, of being alone. And into the plastic grey cells of our brains are stamped these ancient terrors; a living record of the upward climb of man. The baby shows this record most clearly. In him the prints of heredity are not yet overlaid by the tracks of use and custom, and therefore in him we may most easily read our past history. He is our ancestor as truly as he is our reincarnation, and his every shrinking gesture and frightened cry are chronicles of the younger world, tales of the age of fear. They tell of the days when man was not the master of the earth, nor even a highly considered citizen of the same, but a runaway subject of the meat-eating monarch, whose sceptre was tooth and claw; a humble plebeian in the presence of the horned and hooved aristocrat of woods and fields. They speak of the nights when our hairy sires crouched in the forks of trees and whimpered softly at the dark; whimpered because the dark held so many enemies; whimpered softly lest those enemies should hear.—*George L. Knapp in Lippincott's.*



NEW ZEALAND RAILWAYS.
SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF HORSE
FORAGE.

Railway Department, Head Office,
Wellington, 28th Jan., 1909.

WRITTEN TENDERS will be received at this office up to noon of MONDAY, 8th March, 1909, for the Supply and Delivery of Horse Forage at Auckland.

Specifications and forms of tender to be obtained at the Railway Storekeeper's Office, Newmarket.

Tenders to be addressed to the General Manager, New Zealand Railways, Wellington, and to be marked on the outside, "Tender for Horse Forage."

The lowest or any tender will not necessarily be accepted, and telegraphic tenders will not be entertained.

By order,

T. RONAYNE,
General Manager, N.Z. Railways.

GRAPHIC & TAONIN ETAO ES
A POUHI GOLD MINING COMPANY,
NO LIABILITY.

(IN LIQUIDATION.)

All Accounts due by the above named Company must be rendered to the undersigned, or they will not be recognised.

HENRY J. LEE, Liquidator,
Hobson Buildings,
Auckland, 3rd February, 1909.

The News of the Week

IN THE DOMINION.

The North Island railway returns, with 411 less miles of track, were nearly £12,000 in excess of the South Island last month.

The proposals to borrow £41,000 for road construction, £95,000 to instal the Shone system of sewerage, and £6000 for recreation reserves, submitted to the rate-payers by the Gisborne Borough Council last week, were rejected.

The Wapiti (North American elk), which were imported from America in 1905, and liberated at Doubtful Sound in the South Island, are reported by the Hon. T. Mackenzie, who visited the locality recently, to be well and increasing in numbers.

A cargo of Westport coal is to be taken to Honolulu by the Union Company's steamer Kamona, consigned to the British Admiralty. It is presumed that this coal is for the Cambrian, which has just left New Zealand on a voyage round the world, and will touch at Honolulu.

An attempt is to be made by the Auckland Education Board to encourage the teaching of swimming in the public schools. The suggestion is made that the headmasters should be induced to give instruction, by being offered special inducements, from the capitation grant.

A gang of seven men was arrested in Auckland last week in a house which contained a quantity of goods missing from several business places, which have been broken into lately, and remanded for eight days. There has been quite an epidemic of burglaries in the city during the last fortnight.

The Takapuna Jockey Club's summer meeting was brought to a conclusion last week. The total amount put through the totalisator was £28,097, an increase of over £2000 over last year's figures. In addition to this, licences were issued to 45 bookmakers, the fees for the meeting amounting to £1461 10/.

The brigantine Rio Loge, which left Kaipara on January 6 for Dunedin, has not turned up yet, and considerable anxiety has been felt for her safety. It is probable that the Government will send a steamer out to look for the missing vessel. The master, Captain Spence, has his wife and two children on board with him.

It has been decided to form an art students' society in Auckland, principally with a view of establishing a life school. A committee was appointed last week to interview the Technical School authorities to see if they would assist in the project. The new society will be open to students of any age, and in all branches of art.

A youth named James Gossett was committed for trial at Auckland last week on a charge of stealing about £180 from Messrs. Heather, Robertson and Co., by whom he was employed as Customs Clerk. Detective Millar handed in a written confession made by the accused, and said the latter had admitted that he spent the money backing racehorses.

Tourists are frequently credited with strange ideas about the Dominion, but the limit was reached last week in Wellington when a mild-mannered globe-trotter asked to be directed to the place where he could shoot tigers. He seemed annoyed when the Tourist Department official told him they were permanently out of season in New Zealand.

The Railway Department draws attention to the by-law which operates from 1st February, 1909, wherein it is provided that the maximum weight of any sack containing wheat, barley, or oats to be carried by railway shall be 200lb. Any sack of wheat, barley, or oats containing a greater weight than 200lb. shall be charged for at four times the ordinary rate of freight.

The memorial erected to the memory of the Rev. J. F. Churton, first incumbent of St. Paul's, Auckland, which was dismantled at the time the church was removed during the excavations at Fort Britomart, has been re-erected in its altered form at Family Place, as near the old site as possible, and on Sunday last it was formally handed over to the city by Mr. R. R. Hunt, on behalf of the subscribers.

The value of property in Queen-street, Auckland, has advanced rapidly of late years. A block with a twenty-two feet frontage to Queen-street, and a depth of about 100 feet right through to High-street, was sold last week, and, with

the buildings on it, realised £12,200, at which figure it became the property of Mr. J. Eadean. The price works out at over £500 a foot, a rise of £100 upon the last sales in the vicinity.

In accordance with his promise to have a Royal Commission set up to inquire into the alleged charges of bribery in connection with the Ohinemuri Licensing Committee of some years ago, we understand that the Prime Minister has asked his Honor the Chief Justice to arrange for two of his colleagues of the Supreme Court Bench to accept the office of Royal Commissioners for the purposes of the inquiry.

In order to test the validity of the right of the inebriates detained at Pakatoa Island, Auckland, to vote at the General Elections, a test case will be brought in the Magistrate's Court, Onehunga, this week. The inebriates all exercised the privilege at the last election, and the question has arisen from the fact that the voting on the licensing question was fairly close in the Manukau electorate. A good deal of interest is being taken in the matter locally.

When the Minister of Marine was in Whangarei he was asked by a deputation to have a light placed on Whangarei Heads. The Minister pointed out that the Government were at present erecting a first-class light at Cape Brett, and another at Tuahine Point, and when these two were finished he intended to ask Parliament for the necessary funds for two more lights, one of which would be placed at Whangarei Heads. It would not, of course, be of the highest power, but would be ample for coastal requirements.

Messrs A. Clark and Sons, Ltd., the well-known warehousemen, who have had premises in Shortland-street, Auckland, for a number of years, are building a large warehouse at the corner of Wellesley-street West and Elliott-street. The tender of Messrs W. C. Johns and Sons for £17,435 was accepted by the architects, Messrs E. Mahoney and Sons, last week. Ferro-concrete piers, floors, and divisions, representing an extra £5500, are not included in the above figures, and there will also be a considerable sum spent in electric lighting, elevators, etc.

Captain Bollons, of the Hinemoa, which has just returned to Dunedin, states that there was no foundation for the statement made by the master of the President Felix Faure, wrecked in March of last year, that the French sailors found the provisions at the depot uneatable. The Hinemoa went to reprovision the depot, and Captain Bollons found tins and cases of food untouched, and all of this perfectly sweet and sound. The Hinemoa brought back some biscuits from the old stock, and though seven months had elapsed since the tale was told, they are said to be equal in condition to what one would buy at a city store.

The balance-sheet of the New Zealand Insurance Company, Limited, for the year ended 30th November, 1908, is published, from which it appears that the net income from premiums, interest, and rents, amounts to £647,300. The credit balance after payment of the dividend of £15,000 in August last, is £70,203 out of which the directors recommend placing £45,000 to the reserves, and £1500 to the investment fluctuation account. From the available balance of £23,793, the directors recommend the payment of a dividend at the rate of two shillings per share, absorbing £15,000, making 10 per cent. for the year. The paid-up capital, reserves, and undivided profit, now amount to £747,793, after providing for the dividend recommended by the directors.

On not infrequent occasions complaints have reached the Dominion of the way in which frozen meat cargoes have been handled in discharging operations at London. There is generally two sides to a story (says our Wellington correspondent), and the version of an officer for many years engaged on one cargo steamer releases the Old Country in a measure of the stigma placed upon it. He fixes the responsibility for the trouble at this end, pointing out that loading under difficulties in open roadsteads from lighters is often attended with damage to the carcasses, and that in a heavy swell the slings may knock against the side of the ship and upset the equilibrium of the frozen mutton. Then carcasses tumble out of the canvas

into the hold, and the result is bruised flesh and broken shanks. Hence the complaints regarding the handling at London is, according to the officer, above reproach.

A Big Turnover.

Interesting abstracts from the accounts of the Auckland Savings Bank for 1908 have just been published. For the first time in history of the Bank, the transactions for twelve months exceed £2,000,000, deposits amounting to £1,023,727, and withdrawals £1,018,832. There were 41,572 depositors of £1,145,849 on the 31st of December last, and a pleasing feature of these totals was that 27,430 were depositors of less sums than £20, and 5,220 were represented by between £20 and £30, showing that the Bank encourages thrift among the poorer people. The interest paid on deposits was four per cent. Some interesting comparisons may be drawn from the accounts of the expansion of the Bank's business. The total deposited in the Bank at the close of 1899 was £653,509, and at the end of 1908 it had grown to £1,145,833. In 1899 the amount deposited in the Penny Bank was £3,029 16/11, and the number of accounts remaining open on December 31 was 7,167, the amount at credit of depositors being £7,329. Last year the accounts totalled 13,340, the amount deposited was £5,099 9/5 and the total at credit of depositors at the end of the year was £13,213 1/1. The charges for management grew from £3,026 in 1899, to £5,560 in 1908.

Civil Service Retirements.

I am informed, with regard to retirements from the Civil Service at the age of 65 years, that they will be put into force without exception in future. Cabinet has decided that all officers in the various State departments of 65 years or over shall be retired from March 31st with three months' leave on full pay.—(Wellington correspondent.)

Another Son at Government House.

Lady Plunket, wife of His Excellency the Governor, Lord Plunket, was accompanied of a son at Government House, Palmerston North, on Saturday last. Lady Plunket and the child are both progressing most satisfactorily.

The Luxury of Striking.

Thirty-seven coal truckers, who went on strike at Kaitangata, Otago, owing to a misunderstanding over the reported victimising of a fellow trucker, were fined thirty pounds. In answer to a question, the judge of the Arbitration Court said each of the men was liable for the whole amount, and they would have to arrange among themselves as to the payment. It is said that about half the men concerned have left Kaitangata since the disturbance.

Seventeen men, who struck at the freezing works of Borthwick and Sons, at Dakipaki, Hawke's Bay, because they were not allowed "smoko-o" time, were each fined one pound with costs at Hastings last week by Mr. S. E. McCarthy, S.M. The morning after the strike the men's request was granted, and they insisted upon an apology from the manager for having called them "cous."

Main Trunk Timetable.

The approximate times for the through train services are now fixed as follows:—On the Northern journey, the train will leave Wellington at 11.45 a.m., reaching Marton at 4.40 p.m., Taihape at 6.50, Ohakune 9.5, Tannarunui 11.50, Te Kuiti 2 a.m., Frankton Junction 3.30, arriving at Auckland at 6.58 a.m. next day.

Running South, the trains leave Auckland on Sundays and daily (except Saturdays) at 9.15 p.m., reaching Frankton Junction at 12.27 a.m., Te Kuiti at 2.0, Tannarunui at 4.30, Taihape at 9.38, Marton at 11.20, arriving at Wellington at 8.25 p.m. the next day.

There will be direct connections between New Plymouth, Napier, Masterton, Wanganui, and Auckland.

Mr. Millar has approved of the following conditions for the reservation of seats and sleeping berths on the express mail train from Auckland to Wellington, and vice versa, to come into force on February 14:—

Passengers, first-class and holding tickets for not less than 100 miles, may reserve seats in other than sleeping cars on the production of tickets, and payment of 6d, and at intermediate stations

such passengers may apply to the station-master where the journey starts and will be allowed any vacant seat if available upon payment of sixpence, but the guaranteed seats will not be reserved for less than 100 miles.

Sleeping berth tickets will be issued at Auckland or Wellington to first-class passengers on payment of 10/. At intermediate stations passengers must apply to the station-master, and pay 10/., and if required for telegraphing. Such berths will be allotted by priority, if available, but no guarantee will be given.

Through passengers will be given first consideration.

No guarantee is given to provide berths for all applicants. Where vacancies exist, passengers may obtain the same from the guard.

Sleeping berths are not transferable, and holders must ride in the sleeping cars, which will, where possible, be reserved for such passengers. The Department may put other first-class passengers in such carriages until berths are to be made, when they will go elsewhere.

On the North-bound trains, berths will be made at Taihape, and on South trains passengers will call at Ohakune for breakfast.

The Dominion's Water Power.

The future policy of the Government with regard to the utilisation of the water power of the Dominion was referred to by the Hon. J. A. Millar last week at Whangarei, when replying to a request of a deputation that the Wairua Falls be set aside for the purpose of local bodies.

Mr. Millar said while the Government did not wish to stand in the way of the waterpower of the various streams being utilised to the best advantage, it did desire to prevent undue monopolies being acquired. For instance, the right to the Waipori Falls, at Dunedin, was acquired some years ago by a private individual, who afterwards sold it to the Dunedin City Council for £10,000, though his total outlay in the matter had been the cost of his application to the Warden. The Government would not allow the waterpower to go begging when it could be utilised in cheapening the cost of running the industries of the Dominion. An amendment would be made in the existing Act, by which the rights to the power would be granted to local bodies and private individuals, subject to proper safeguards. When a private individual was granted these rights the maximum charge that he would be allowed to make would be fixed so as to enable him to obtain a reasonable interest on his outlay, but at the same time not permit him to become a millionaire through the transaction. Local bodies would be treated on somewhat different lines. He thought that the proposed amendment would enable the falls in question to be made use of as desired by the Whangarei Borough Council.

Royal Humane Society.

The Royal Humane Society met last week in Christchurch. A letter of commendation was awarded to A. W. Paget, for having rescued a man from drowning at Auckland on Dec. 27, 1907. Certificates were granted to John Proud (Auckland), William Jones (Napier), Constable Clark (Auckland), Constable W. R. Reynolds (Pictou). A framed certificate was granted Mrs. Hararaka Temepara (Tolaga Bay) for rescuing or attempting to rescue persons who were drowning.

Silver medals were awarded in the following cases:—William John Munro, who rescued a man from a whiplow, Tamboerikau river on January 12, 1908; Douglas Hamilton, who rescued a woman from drowning in the Roadstead at Gisborne, being in great danger from being crushed between two steamers in the open roadstead; Alfred E. Bates, who attempted to rescue a man from drowning in a heavy sea at Catlin's Bar on August 17, 1908.

A silver medal and framed certificate was awarded to Reginald Tuck, who saved a woman from drowning in a stream near Hamurana Springs, Rotorna.

A bronze medal was awarded to William Wallace for having rescued a boy from drowning at Hokitika, and a similar reward was given to Fritz Exman, who rescued two boys, and attempted the rescue of a third from drowning at Kareka, Auckland. A bronze medal was awarded to H. H. Waughop (Christchurch) for having rescued a number of persons from drowning at the life saving competition at New Brighton, on January 8, 1908. Certificates were awarded

to H. S. Williams (Christchurch), and V. J. Drake (Christchurch) for bravery displayed on the same occasion.

The Waitara Sensation.

For the first time for several years a prisoner stood his trial upon a charge of murder at New Plymouth last week, when Dr. Goode pleaded not guilty to having murdered a married woman named Mary Klenner at Waitara last December by shooting her with a revolver. Messrs F. S. Weston and C. H. Weston appeared for the Crown, and the prisoner was defended by Mr. Johnstone, instructed by Mr. Wilkes, of Waitara.

The evidence given was similar to that at the inquest at Waitara, which was to the effect that the doctor, who had been drinking heavily, went into the Klenner's house one afternoon, and made certain remarks to Mrs. Klenner, and when she refused to let him in with a revolver.

Police Changes.

Consequent on the retirement of Inspector MacDonnell, late of the Napier Police District, and the death of sub-Inspector Gordon, of Auckland, the following promotions and transfers will be recommended by the Minister of Justice, the Hon. Dr. Findlay, K.C., for the approval of his Excellency the Governor:

Sub-Inspector John Dwyer to be promoted to the rank of Inspector, and transferred from Christchurch to take charge of the Napier district.

Chief-Detective McGrath, of Wellington, to be promoted to the rank of sub-Inspector, and transferred from Wellington to Christchurch, vice Mr. Dwyer, promoted.

Station-Sergeant Charles W. Hendry, of Auckland, to be promoted to the rank of sub-Inspector at Auckland, vice sub-Inspector Gordon, deceased.

Sergeant James Treanor, of Napier, to be appointed Station-Sergeant, and transferred to Auckland, vice Sergeant Hendry, promoted.

Detective Charles R. Broberg, of Wellington, to be appointed Chief-Detective at Wellington, vice Detective McGrath, promoted.

Napier Gas Company.

The balance-sheet of the Napier Gas Company, presented at the annual meeting on Monday showed a profit of £6,708 7s 4d. An interim dividend was paid on June 30th, and the directors recommended a further dividend amounting to £3,746; that £1,200 be credited to the meter fund, and £1,761 carried forward. The chairman's report stated that, in order to cope with the increased demand, a new gas-holder, with 100,000 cubic feet capacity, was being erected at Hastings, and one of 115,000ft. capacity at Port Ahuriri. The consumption of gas showed an increase of 13½ per cent over 1907. In order to provide funds for improvements the board is calling up part of its un-called capital.

Police Methods in Sly-grog Cases.

In the first of the 16 charges against five persons, consequent upon the recent liquor raids at Gore, Southland, Mary Jane Thurton was fined £40 for sly-grog selling, this being her first offence. In giving judgment, Mr. Kenrick, S.M., referred to the objections frequently urged against the methods adopted by the police to secure convictions under the Licensing laws. Personally he did not like them, but he realised that they were necessary in order to bring offenders to book, otherwise the law would be a dead letter.

Stewart Island Oysters.

The opening of the Stewart Island oyster season (says a correspondent of the "Press") affords a favourable opportunity for giving some particulars regarding an industry which has grown steadily of late years, which absorbs a large amount of capital, and which gives wide employment at the seaport of Bluff. The oyster industry proper is carried on by three steamers and seven oil-engined cutters from Bluff. There is another steamer at Stewart Island, and a very large fleet of smaller craft, but this is engaged chiefly in fishing, and does not often make incursions into the oyster trade. The capital engaged in the industry is not less than £20,000. Each steamer employs six, and each cutter three men, besides which there are men employed in the reception, storage, pack-

ing and distribution of the oysters, to the number of about 100. The beds extend from about seven miles outside Bluff harbour, right across Foveaux Strait, to Stewart Island, a distance of some 15 miles. The craft leave port in the morning and return in the evening. The oysters are dredged on to the vessels' decks, the saleable oysters culled, and the "culch," or refuse, then returned to the sea. The record catch for one steamer is about 7000 good oysters. These are brought to the storage beds under the Bluff wharves. There they are bagged (about 80 dozen to a bag), and exported by sea and land. About 200 sacks weekly leave Bluff for Wellington, and these serve about half the North Island. Sometimes these are relaid on beds in Wellington harbour. About 100 sacks weekly are sent by train as far as Christchurch, and about 150 sacks go by the Melbourne steamer every Monday. The export of oysters from the Bluff in 1907 was over 418,000 dozen, and this does not take account of local consumption.

Auriferous Sea Sand.

For the past ten years Mr. C. C. Rawlins (mining engineer), who has been connected with several important hydraulic sluicing operations in Otago and Southland, has been carrying on experiments for working the deeper deposits of auriferous black sands on the sea beaches at the mouths of rivers, and he is of opinion that he has solved this very difficult problem. In answer to his inquiry as to whether the Government would subsidise an undertaking of this kind by a scale of payment for results obtained, he has been informed by the Minister for Mines that the bonus offered for an improved process for working auriferous black sands lapsed some years ago, and so far it has not been decided to renew the offer.

Thames By-Election.

The final returns for the second ballot on the Thames by-election are as follows:

Mr E. H. Taylor (Gov.) 2241
Mr W. H. Lucas (Gov.) 1776

Majority for Taylor 465
Mr. E. H. Taylor is a very prominent member of the Good Templar Order, having been a member from early childhood. Before he was out of his teens he was elected Chief Templar of his lodge. For eleven years he has held the highest office in the Order in New Zealand, that of Grand Chief Templar, and only relinquished the position at last Grand Lodge session, being about to visit the Old Land. Mr Taylor will be a valuable acquisition to the Temperance cause in the House, and no doubt will materially assist in obtaining further reform of the licensing laws of the Dominion.

Freeman's Colliery Case.

Judgment was given at Dunedin last week by Mr. Widdowson, S.M., in the case in which Alexander Sinclair Gillanders, manager of Freeman's colliery, Abbot-ford, was charged with failing to maintain 150 cubic feet of air per minute for every person employed underground, as required by the Act. Mr Widdowson held that a breach of the Act had been committed, and the defendant was fined £5, with costs.

The Minister for Justice.

The Hon. Dr. Findlay (Minister for Justice) was in Auckland last week, accompanied by his private secretary, Mr. Poulton, and paid a visit of inspection to the Mount Eden Gaol, besides transacting other departmental business. An important deputation waited on the Minister from the Auckland Chamber of Commerce to ask for an amendment of the law relating to companies. Mr. B. Kent, who acted as spokesman, said that under the present law a private company could register itself as a limited liability company, and give out debentures securing a creditor to the loss and injury of all the other creditors. They sought to have these debentures placed on exactly the same footing as an ordinary bill of sale, which must be registered within 21 days, and could be challenged within four months, if given for past debts. Mr. A. E. Devore explained that they wanted private companies put on the same footing as public companies. The Minister promised to look into the matter very carefully when he returned to Wellington.

Illegal Racing Advertisements.

Mr. Riddell, S.M., gave judgment at Wellington in case against the publisher of "Truth," who was charged with selling a newspaper containing advertisements, whereby it was made to appear that certain persons named were willing to make bets on the results of certain horse races in New Zealand.

The magistrate said the words of the advertisement need not be direct, so long as their meaning was clear. Defendant was convicted, and fined £5, with £3 10/- costs.

Germany or England?

Business or Patriotism? has been the burning question with the Auckland Harbour Board for the last two or three meetings. Tenders were called some time ago for twelve large electric cranes for the new ferro-concrete wharves, and the lowest was put in by a German firm named Nagel and Kaempfe, who quoted £11,970, the next in order being that of an English firm (Babeock and Wilcox), £13,460. The Board's Engineer recommended the acceptance of the lowest tender, but a majority of the Board opposed the recommendation on patriotic grounds, and voted for the English firm. At the last meeting the whole matter was referred back to the Board, and it was decided to obtain the opinion of the Board's solicitors as to whether the Board could be restrained by injunction from accepting the tender of Messrs. Babeock and Wilcox.

Business Man's Absence.

A warrant has been issued for the arrest of the manager of a Christchurch coal company. It is said information regarding his whereabouts would be welcomed by several creditors, as well as shareholders in the company. He seems to have left Christchurch on Wednesday week, and as he did not return by the end of the week, investigations were made into the affairs of the company. Books and documents that should have been kept under his charge were found missing. Further inquiry showed that there had been defalcations of a serious nature. The police are endeavouring to ascertain what has become of the man, but so far without success.

A Minister in Difficulties.

The Minister for Railways, the Hon. J. A. Millar, who paid his first official visit to the North Auckland last week, was unfortunately enough to miss the Whangarei boat by three or four minutes. A Minister, however, must keep his appointments, and next morning at half-past 7 Mr Millar took his seat in a fine 45 h.p. Daimler motor-car, with Mr George Henning at the steering wheel, and set out on the 120 mile overland journey to Whangarei from Devonport. The road runs close to the sea coast in several places, and at Waipu the Minister had a taste of one of the disabilities under which the settlers of the north labour. His car experienced considerable difficulty in negotiating the heavy sand near this spot, which the descendants of the hardy Nova Scotians have made famous, and all hands, including the Minister himself, had to literally put their shoulders to the wheel and hoist the car through the clogging sand. They arrived after 12 hours' driving—and pushing—instead of reaching Whangarei several hours earlier, and there is now a standing offer from the Minister of a thousand pounds for the man who can induce him to make the trip again.

A Peculiar Accident.

A man named Foster met with a peculiar accident at Governor's Bay, Canterbury. He was shooting rabbits with a rifle, when one went into a hole, and he tried to smoke it out. The grass around caught fire, and he was beating out the flames with the stock of the rifle, when the charge exploded and shot him in the thigh. An operation was performed, and the man sent to the hospital.

Rarotongan Fruit.

An attempt is being made to have Rarotongan fruit carried over the railways at the same rate at which fruit grown in New Zealand is carried, the contention being that, Rarotongan now being a part of the Dominion, fruit from Cook Islands should be treated as if it were grown in New Zealand. A Christchurch firm of

fruit dealers has written to the Railway Department, asking for the concession indicated, and intimating that in the event of the Department deciding not to accede to the request, it was intended to test the question in the courts. The Department has not replied to the communication.

Big Increase in Population.

Figures have just been compiled by the Registrar-General (Mr. E. J. Von Dalszen) showing that the Dominion's population on December 31 was estimated to be as follows:—

Europeans	960,642
Māoris	47,731
Cook Islands population	12,340
Total	1,020,713

The European population has grown in 12 months by 31,158, or at the rate of 3.36 per cent. Immigration in excess of departures accounted for 14,261, whilst natural increase caused a gain of 16,897. Both these features are in excess of previous years, and it is particularly satisfactory to note how the country gains by excess of births over deaths. In the extent of this natural margin New Zealand compares very favourably with any other country. Though there is a comparatively low birth-rate infant mortality is kept down remarkably compared with that of other countries; in fact, the death rate generally in 1908 was satisfactorily low. It worked out at 9.57, as compared with 10.95 in 1907, when it was abnormally high. The birth-rate of 1908 stood at 27.45, as against 27.30 in the previous year, when there were about 900 fewer births.

Last year's record, both in births and excess of arrivals over departures, was the high-water mark, as the following table, giving the gain in population for the last 10 years, will indicate:—

	Births.	Immigration.
1899	11,155	1,887
1900	12,346	1,831
1901	12,857	6,522
1902	12,280	7,902
1903	13,301	11,275
1904	14,679	10,355
1905	15,621	9,302
1906	15,913	12,848
1907	15,028	5,730
1908	16,897	14,261

Addington Workshops Inquiry.

The head office of the Amalgamated Society of Railway Servants received the following telegram from the Minister for Railways:—"In reply to your telegram regarding the order of reference in connection with the proposed Addington inquiry, your representations (already published) will receive consideration, but the inquiry will not be widened out to go outside of the general administration in regard to the workshops. I see no necessity to have counsel or outside representatives appearing before the proposed Commission, which will consist of persons outside the railway service, but having practical knowledge of engineering, and who will therefore be well qualified to obtain all the evidence necessary. In these circumstances, I regret that I cannot agree to counsel being admitted, as neither the officers nor the men will be represented by anyone."

COMMONWEALTH.

A fire at Ballina destroyed a block of six shops, the damage being estimated at £6000.

The steamer Marooma has been wrecked near Barenjoey. The vessel is breaking up rapidly, but the crew have been landed in safety.

The Treasurer has introduced a Loan Bill of £1,445,000 into the West Australian Parliament, to meet expenditure on public works till March, 1910.

A man named Shepley has been sentenced to six months' imprisonment at Broken Hill for having assaulted one of the Proprietary mine officials on January 4th.

The Marama, which touched on a submerged obstruction at the Bluff, has been floated into dock at Sydney. It was ascertained that the vessel had sustained no damage.

Loss of the Clan Ranald.

The Marine Board of Inquiry concerning the loss of the steamer Clan Ranald in the St. Vincent Gulf, sat at Adelaide last week.

Mr Rose, the chief officer, handed in a report to the effect that the vessel suddenly listed to about 45 degrees, and became un navigable. She was allowed to drift inshore to within a mile of the land, when the starboard anchor was let go in 13 fathoms of water.

Eventually the No. 5 hatch started, and was washed adrift. The vessel settled down on her broadside, and sank stern first. He had no idea what caused the ship to list over and eventually founder.

Examined by the President, witness said that the ship was on the bottom the day before leaving port, and had a list of three or four degrees to starboard on leaving. When the pilot left the ship, the captain asked witness to look after the navigation, as he was not well.

Pressed on the point, witness said he thought the captain had been drinking heavily.

There was no indication that the vessel struck anything. He, with the second officer and a Lascar, tried to clear the boat in which the captain had been placed, but she fouled the rigging, and they had to abandon the attempt. The vessel had not collapsible boats or service rafts. The best behaviour obtained among the officers and crew.

The President: "What was the captain doing?"

Witness: "We found him lying on the floor of his cabin in a dazed condition. Evidently the sudden list had jerked him out of his bunk. He was sensible, but seemed frightfully weak. I helped him on deck, and put him inside the boat abreast his cabin. He was too weak to take command, but said he believed the vessel would have ridden through but for the hatch coming off and letting the water below."

All the boats were free when the steamer sank, and witness could only account for the accident by the vessel being top-heavy in the sea-way, through carrying 70 tons of coal on her turret deck.

The inquiry was then adjourned, a diver having been dispatched to examine the hull of the sunken steamer.

Sensible.

The Sydney Wharf Labourers' Union has decided to secede from the Labour Council owing to the power the latter have taken with regard to declaring a general strike.

Discredited.

The Colonial Sugar Company is inclined to look with suspicion on the alarmist reports cabled from Auckland with respect to a possible Indian rising in Fiji. The company is in daily cable communication with Fiji, and so far have heard nothing of any trouble.

The Sydney Agent of the Fiji Government also states that he has no official information on the subject.

The Broken Hill Dispute.

The Federal Arbitration Court has commenced an inquiry at Broken Hill into the dispute between the Proprietary mine officials and their employees.

How the Chinese View It.

Kwang Yung Liang, Chinese Consul for New Zealand, arrived at Fremantle last week by the R.M.S. China, accompanied by his wife and daughter.

Interviewed on the subject of the Australian restriction of Asiatics, he said the Chinese did not like it, but he desired to make an investigation before expressing an opinion.

China was developing rapidly, and paying more attention to foreign affairs, as evidenced by the institution of the Australian Consular Service.

Some leading Chinese residents waited on Mr. Liang and informed him that the Australian laws were not so vigorously enforced against Japanese as against Chinese.

A Reckless Master.

The marine inquiry respecting the ship Iverna and the tug Advance collision, resulted in the Court finding that the master of the tug brought about the disaster by bringing his vessel round from a position on the starboard bow of the Iverna to a reversed position on her port bow.

The Court stated that everything that was reasonable and proper was done by the master of the Iverna to save the crew of the tug.

The Judge commented on the recklessness of the master of the tug in coming alongside the ship.

On the night of December 25 the tug Advance went out from Newcastle to take the ship Iverna in tow, when she was struck by that vessel and sank. The Iverna was doing 11 1/2 knots at the time, with a southerly gale behind her. The eight members of the crew of the Advance were drowned.

A Threat.

The Treasurer of the New South Wales State Government, in a speech at Grafton, complained that New Zealand and other States were exploiting the London money market by selling their stocks up to 4 per cent. The N.S.W. Government had not increased the rate interest paid on stock issued by the Treasury, realising the vital importance of traders and others keeping the interest rates low.

If the neighbouring Governments continued to exploit the market by out-bidding in rates of interest, N.S.W. might be forced, in self-defence, to raise the rates.

Imperial Defence.

Lord Dudley, the Governor-General, speaking at a yachting luncheon, referred to the value of sailing as a pastime and to keeping alive the love of the sea.

He hoped to see a larger number of Australians wearing the British naval uniform.

It was his wish that they should be part of the general defence forces of the Empire. He would like to see absolute equality in all services of the Crown between all British citizens wherever they were born, and believed they would never get the idea of Empire until that was accomplished.

THE OLD COUNTRY.

An anonymous lady has presented the Royal Institution of Great Britain with an unconditional gift of £10,000.

Lord Northcote, G.C.M.G., G.C.I.E., C.B., Governor-General of Australia, has been appointed a Privy Councillor.

The death is announced of Lord Robertson, who had been a Lord of Appeal since 1899, in his 64th year.

In an international Rugby match Wales beat Scotland by a goal (5 points) to a penalty goal (3 points).

Raleigh's co-operative farming scheme carried out in Essex yielded the labourers a return of 4 per cent. on their investments.

Mr. T. A. Coghlan, I.S.O., Agent-General for New South Wales in London, has had his term of office extended for another twelve months.

Two hundred and fifty members of the Victorian Ironworkers and Boilermakers Assistants' Society have struck against the old rates of pay.

The late Mr James Duncan, of Ayr, Scotland, bequeathed the sum of £60,000 for the purpose of founding a College of Industrial Art at Dundee.

The authorities of Girton College, Cambridge, are appealing for £50,000 in order to pay off the debt on the buildings and endow scholarships.

British imports during January decreased by £2,852,000, and the exports by £5,605,000. The value of the exports, however, increased by £88,000 compared with the previous January.

Major-General J. C. Hood, C.M.G., Inspector-General of the Military Forces of the Commonwealth, was granted a private audience with King Edward, for the purpose of discussing matters relating to Australian military defence.

At the instance of Mr. T. A. Coghlan (Agent-General for New South Wales), the International Cold Storage Association has agreed to Australia, New Zealand, Canada, and South Africa each having one representative on the Permanent Committee.

Blown to Pieces.

While a Trinity House wrecking party was blowing up a submerged barge near Yarmouth last week, their boat was blown to pieces, and six of them killed.

It is believed that the barge was laden with an unknown explosive. The concussion was felt for several miles around.

Under the Flag.

The London Chamber of Commerce has drafted resolutions for the forthcoming congress, advocating the extension of trade reciprocity between Great Britain and the colonies, and co-operation in keeping British emigrants under the flag. They also suggest that the heads of the

Postal Departments in the Empire should confer with a view to devising a scheme for cheaper cablegrams.

Defence of Great Britain.

On behalf of the National Service League, Lord Roberts, the Duke of Wellington, the Earl of Meath, Lord Milner, Lord Curzon, and Lord Raglan have proposed that all youths between 18 and 21 years of age, spend from four to six months' training in camp, followed by a musketry course and a fortnight's camp for three years.

They estimate that the territorial force can be increased within four years to 400,000, with 150,000 recruits, and eventually a reserve of 600,000 at a cost of £4,000,000.

Referring to the present territorial force, they state that it does not provide sufficient men even for peace, that the training is hopelessly inadequate, and the burden unfair in its incidence.

Haldane's "Territors."

Lord Esler has estimated the deficiency in the territorial forces at 105,000 men.

The War Office has removed the King's Colonials from the jurisdiction of the London Territorial Association, and it becomes a special Imperial unit, managed by a colonial committee.

In consequence of the attitude of the newspapers towards the question of defence and the sensation created by Major du Maurier's play, "An Englishman's Home," Lord Esler, through the "Daily Mail," is appealing for 11,000 Territorials in order to complete the London establishment.

An anonymous donar has forwarded £10,000 to the funds of the London Territorials' Association.

The Mayors of the London boroughs have been calling meetings with the result that over 200 large firms have decided to grant the territorials in their employ three weeks' holiday in order to encourage enlistment.

Command of the Home Fleet.

Vice-Admiral Sir W. H. May is to succeed Vice-Admiral Sir Francis Charles Bridgeman as Commander-in-Chief of the Home fleet.

Vice-Admiral Sir William Henry May, who entered the navy in 1863, served in the Arctic expedition of 1875-6, was naval attaché for Europe from 1891 to 1893, in command of the Naval Contingent in London on the occasion of the Jubilee procession in 1897, and was in attendance on the German Emperor during his visit to England in 1899. Afterwards he was Director of Naval Ordnance and Torpedoes, and Commander-in-Chief of the Atlantic fleet from 1905 to 1906. Vice-Admiral Bridgeman, who is 61 years of age, has been in command of the Home fleet since 1907.

Divided.

The "Daily Chronicle" admits that sharp differences of opinion in the Cabinet have developed at recent meetings with respect to the Naval Estimates.

The Admiralty propose an immediate addition of £2,500,000, increasing to £5,000,000 and £6,000,000 in succeeding years.

Mr. Lloyd-George (Chancellor of the Exchequer), Lord Morley (Secretary for India), and Mr. Winston Churchill (President of the Board of Trade) are opposing the scheme, while Mr. R. McKenna (First Lord of the Admiralty) and Mr. T. J. MacNamara (Parliamentary and Financial Secretary to the Admiralty), though previously rigid economists, are strongly supporting it.

There are rumours of possible resignations.

The "Daily Express" states that the Lords of the Admiralty informed the Cabinet that unless their programme was accepted they would resign in a body.

Viscount Morley (Secretary of State for India) and Mr. John Burns (President of the Local Government Board) withdrew their opposition, but Mr. Lloyd-George (Chancellor of the Exchequer) and Mr. Winston Churchill (President of the Board of Trade) continue to oppose the proposals.

Judicial Changes.

The Right Hon. Sir John Gorell Barnes, P.C., has been raised to the baronage upon his resignation as President of the Probate and Divorce Court, owing to ill-health. He will be succeeded by Sir John

C. Bigham, Judge of the Bankruptcy Court.

Sir John Gorell Barnes held the position of Judge of the Probate, Divorce and Admiralty Division of the High Court from 1892 to 1905. He was then appointed President.

Sir John Charles Bigham contested the Exchange Division of Liverpool in 1892, and was elected in 1895. He held the seat until he received a judgeship in 1897. He was a member of the South African Committee of the House of Commons from 1896-97, enjoyed a large practice at the Common Law Bar and was leader of the Northern Circuit. In 1902 he was a member of the Royal Commission on Martial Law in South Africa, and since 1904 he has been judge of the Bankruptcy Court.

A Big Estimate.

Mr. Charles E. H. Holthouse, Parliamentary Under-Secretary for India, states that nine millions must be found in order to carry out the English old age pensions scheme.

The Government's scheme of providing old age pensions was unfolded by Mr. Asquith in his 1908 Budget, and was later embodied in a bill. The age limit was fixed at 70, and the amount of pension at £13 per annum, though the principle of a sliding scale was subsequently accepted by the Government and inserted in the measure. Mr. Asquith estimated that 500,000 persons would satisfy the conditions and be entitled to pensions, and the cost at first was estimated at £6,000,000. The bill received the Royal assent on August 1, and the pensions came into operation on January 1, 1909.

Government of India.

There is continued discussion on Viscount Morley's reply to a deputation of Indian Mohammedans last month.

The petitioners deny Viscount Morley's dictum that the population statistics are the main factor in determining representation under the new scheme of reform. They urge that the Mohammedans have many powerful claims for exceptional treatment.

The India Office denies that Ashutosh Makarji, a Brahmin and a judge of the High Court of Calcutta, has been appointed as first native member of the Indian Executive Council.

A deputation of Indian Mohammedans waited on the Secretary of State for India last month and suggested that of the six members of the Viceroy's Executive Council, one should be a native Mohammedan, and another a Hindu. Viscount Morley, in reply, emphasised that the appointment of an Indian member was intended as a signal proof that race was no disability to the attainment of this tremendous trust; but no man would be selected either as a Hindu or as a Mohammedan. While ready to make one of the six a native, he saw no chance of appointing two natives. Viscount Morley added, with reference to other suggestions made, that separate electoral colleges for Mohammedans would possibly be arranged. He declared that the Government's reform scheme had been generally welcomed in India, and emphasised the goodwill of the Indian Civil Service, and said he also had derived encouragement from President Roosevelt's recent utterance concerning British rule in India.

Costly Strikes.

The General Federation of Trade Unions reports that during 1908 the expenditure reached the record sum of £137,152, including £34,000 for the North-east Coast Engineering dispute and £65,500 for the Lancashire cotton workers' dispute.

The Open Door.

Mr. J. F. Deacon, presiding at the annual meeting of the Society for Befriending Foreigners in Distress, complained bitterly that the Aliens Act was inoperative.

Pauper immigrants were being admitted into the country without restriction, with the result that they soon had to appeal to this Society for repatriation.

Defence of Army Protesges.

"Captain" Howell, the head of the Salvation Army's Immigration Department.

has made a vigorous reply to the accusations made by Mr Trotter, a Canadian delegate at the Labour Conference.

He appeals to a large section of the Labour interests in Canada regarding the suitability of the Army's immigrants. He contends that they are placed on the land and not among the unemployed of the cities.

Mr Trotter, in a speech at the Labour Conference, violently attacked the Salvation Army's immigration programme, which he declared would win a prize for the best way of prevaricating without lying. The Army, he said, had become the procurator-general of cheap labour for international capital.

A Successful Brewer.

The death occurred last Wednesday, after an internal operation, of Lord Burton, in his 72nd year.

Lord Burton was the head of the great brewing firm of Bass and Co. He entered Parliament before he was 30 as Liberal member for Stafford. Thereafter he sat successively for East Staffordshire and the Burton Division until he was raised to the peerage in 1886. He had become a baronet in 1852. Lord Burton was created a peer over again in 1897, with special remainder to his daughter, Nellie Lisa, who married Colonel Baillie of Dochfour, formerly M.P. for Inverness-shire. The heir to the baronetcy is his nephew, Mr. William Arthur Hamar Bass.

The Price of Wool.

The wool sales closed strongly, prices for most sorts reaching the highest level of the series.

Choice 70's merino were equal to the London prices of January same year, sixty-four, suitable for America, were a penny below the November rates. There was strong and steady competition for average combings for the Home trade and the Continent at full December rates. Topmakers and crossbreds were firm at December rates, and parcels suitable for America showed a 10 per cent. advance on December rates.

During the series 93,000 bales were sold for the Home market, 88,000 for the Continent, and 12,000 for America, 8000 bales being held over.

Railway Trouble Ended.

Sir Edward Fry, as Board of Trade arbitrator between the North-Western railway and 30,000 servants of various grades, and whose appointment was made after the Conciliation Board had failed to agree, has presented his report.

Many concessions on the part of the company are required, but the arbitrator also reduces some of the wages, and disallows various claims of the men as set forth in their national programme.

Mr Richard Bell, M.P., secretary of the Amalgamated Society of Railway Servants, expresses satisfaction with the award.

To Study the Colonies.

The Earl of Crewe (Secretary of State for the Colonies) has instructed Sir Charles Lucas, head of the Dominions' Department, to make a prolonged visit to Australia and New Zealand. Mr A. Pearson (formerly principal clerk in the Colonial Office) will accompany him. They will sail on February 26.

The "Times" says the visit is doubtless in response to Mr Deakin's suggestion on the last day of the Imperial Conference. The quiet judgment and kindly tact of Sir Charles Lucas, it adds, will assure him a ready welcome.

The paper recalls Lord Northcott's advice recently given at the Whitehall banquet.

EUROPE.

The Penalty of Disloyalty.

Lieutenant von Stuckrad recently eloped with the wife of his comrade, Captain von Vertzen.

The captain followed the runaways to Fraekfurt, where a duel was fought, in which Lieutenant Stuckrad was fatally shot.

Playing Up.

Ruter's Salonica correspondent asserts that Macedonia is threatening a relapse into the old pre-constitutional condition. The villagers have been training and are in arms, ready to take the field. Out-

rages are frequent, and illegal taxes have been extorted.

Eighteen death sentences were announced at St. Petersburg on Saturday, including 15 at Irkutsk, arising out of the recent escape of prisoners from the Alexandrovsky prison.

A man has been rescued alive at Messina after having been buried for 37 days in the ruins of a confectioner's shop. He sustained life with sweetmeats and liqueurs.

In Memoriam.

On the anniversary of the assassination of King Carlos and the Crown Prince, King Manuel and the Dowager-Queen Amelia drove to a requiem mass in the Cathedral.

The populace maintained an attitude of indifference, but there was no disturbance, despite the absence of police precautions.

Lemoine's Pretensions.

Lemoine, the "diamond manufacturer," has been sentenced, on default, to ten years' imprisonment for fraud on Sir Julius Wernher, who was awarded £400 damages.

The case of Sir Julius Wernher, of De Beers, and the diamond-maker, M. Lemoine, created great interest during the hearing. Lemoine was charged with having obtained £84,000 from Sir Julius by the offer of a method of making diamonds, which Sir Julius alleged was not genuine.

A Crisis Ended.

The St. Petersburg correspondent of the "Times" states that the crisis that had arisen in the relations between Bulgaria and Turkey has been ended by Russia proposing to make good the difference between the indemnity offered and demanded.

Russia has agreed to cancel sufficient of the remaining 70 instalments of the Turkish war indemnity, amounting to £22,000,000, to enable Turkey to borrow £5,000,000; Bulgaria undertaking to pay Russia £3,280,000 for interest and sinking fund, and instead of receiving 8,000,000 francs annually from Turkey, Russia is to draw 5,000,000 francs from Bulgaria.

By this scheme, which was due to M. Isvolsky (the Russian Minister for Foreign Affairs), the borrowing by Bulgaria at extortionate terms is avoided, and it does not cost Russia a kopeck (cent), but only extends the time for the collection of the debt.

The Porte has resolved to accept Russia's proposal but has submitted counter-proposals at the Balkans Conference, which are very unfavourably viewed by Russia.

Spanish Enterprise.

Spanish engineering and banking firms have formed a company with a capital of 18,000,000, of which 60 per cent. will be reserved for Spanish investors to build warships at Ferrol and Cartagena. The Government contracts connected with the work will go to the British firms of Vickers, Son and Maxim, John Brown, Armstrong's and Thornycroft's.

The Great White Fleet.

The United States Atlantic battleship squadron, which visited Auckland and Australian ports, is on its homeward voyage, and arrived at Gibraltar last week.

The scene in the harbour is described as a brilliant one, 43 men-o'-war of various nationalities having assembled.

Hard Up.

Owing to quarrels with the Ottoman and Deutsche Bank, the Turkish Government is in urgent need of money, and has already commenced discounting part of the compensation money promised from Austria.

Remarkable Floods.

Extraordinary floods have occurred in Saxony, Thuringia, Bavaria, and Tyrol, owing to the sudden melting of the snows.

Whole towns are under water, and railway traffic in many parts of Saxony is interrupted. Many bridges have been wrecked. The Lahn Valley, Prussia, is a vast lake.

The Rhine is expected to reach danger point daily.

At Nauremberg, the River Regnitz rose 12 feet during the night, and ran through the streets like a mill stream.

The population of Frankfurt and Bamberg fled to high ground, owing to the Oder and Regnitz overflowing their banks.

The old town of Kissingen, the Bavarian watering place, is under water, and the three famous saline springs have been flooded, and the Casino is inundated.

The Danube, at the historic town of Regensburg, rose 10 feet in the night. The stream is full of household utensils, bathing boxes, and agricultural machinery.

The rivers Rhine, Elbe, Main, Danube, and Oder are rising steadily, and already many lives have been lost.

The situation in Dresden is most precarious. The ice in the Elbe has broken into huge floes, 30 centimetres thick.

Enormous crowds from the countryside have assembled in the city to watch the ice crashing into the bridges which span the river.

Already the floes have destroyed the scaffolding of the nearly completed Augustus bridge.

Royal Visit to Germany.

The people of Berlin are showing absorbing interest in King Edward's approaching visit.

The police are overwhelmed with applications for tickets in order to enable them to witness His Majesty's entry into the city.

ASIA.

Japan's Intentions.

Count Komura, Minister for Foreign Affairs, speaking to the Diet, insisted that Japan's good relations with all the Powers and the alliance with Great Britain stood as an enduring foundation.

Japan was relying on the sense of justice of the Americans regarding the anti-Japanese legislation. The Japanese should concentrate in the Far East. The Government was enforcing the restrictions on emigration to the United States.

Count Komura announced that Japan intended to notify the powers in 1910 of the termination of all existing commercial treaties, and would give a year's notice, with a view to negotiating new treaties on a reciprocal base.

AFRICA.

Dinizulu's Trial.

The paramount Zulu chief, Dinizulu, who is being tried before a special Court at Greytown on a charge of high treason in connection with the revolt under Bambata in 1907, completed his evidence last week.

Accused was in the box for eleven successive days.

A Horrible Sentence.

A French officer, by smartly seizing a would-be assassin's dagger, saved the life of Mulai Hafid, Sultan of Morocco.

The Sultan ordered the offender to be flogged to death.

United South Africa.

The Federated South African Convention reached a complete agreement on Wednesday last, and rose on Thursday.

Though no official communication has yet been made, the news is confirmed that Capetown is to be the seat of legislature and Pretoria of administration.

The draft constitution was completed three weeks ago, except the preamble and the site of the capital.

After a discussion extending over a week, the Natal and Orange delegates, being persuaded that they had no claim, left the decision in the hands of their colleagues from the Transvaal and Cape Colony, all compromises, including the suggestion of a neutral site, being rejected.

The delegates were physically and mentally wearied by the interminable and apparently futile discussion.

Delegates now propose to address meetings in their respective centres, and expound the constitution, which will be submitted simultaneously to special sessions of Parliaments at the end of March.

Afterwards the Convention assembles again to consider amendments, and, assuming that there are no insurmountable obstacles, the Imperial Parliament will

pass an Act upon the petitions of the South African Parliaments, and it is possible that union may be accomplished next year.

The compromise has been received without enthusiasm in Capetown, and is regarded as unwelcome.

The Right Hon. Louis Botha is hopeful of the acceptance of the new proposals.

AMERICA.

The American visible wheat supply is estimated at 75,781,000 quarters.

The Iowa Legislature is grappling with the question of race suicide, and has decided to offer a dollar to the mother of each child born in future.

President Roosevelt has vetoed the Census Bill, and insists on the competitive examination of census clerks, numbering 50,000, in order to prevent the abuses of the last two censuses, when the appointments were treated as political perquisites.

Canal Ready in 1915.

Mr Goethels, the chief engineer of the Panama Canal, has informed Mr W. H. Taft that ships will be able to pass from the Atlantic to the Pacific Ocean through the Panama Canal in January, 1915.

Mr. Geo. A. Walker, of Chicago, a commercial man, and a traveller of wide experience, who is at present in New Zealand, visited Panama a year ago on business, and has some interesting things to say regarding the big work which may mean much to this country.

"The excavating work is proceeding in fine shape," he says, "but what strikes one is the big things that have been done to make the place sanitary. The Sanitary Board have cleaned up the place from end to end. The old towns and ruins of towns have been swept away, and new towns have been built here, and there along the 46 miles of canal line on the most improved and sanitary system. Each house is surrounded by a broad verandah, and round the whole structure is a wire screen (made of some composition that won't rust) to keep out the mosquitoes.

"The houses are raised several feet above the ground to allow the air to circulate, and the ground under each house is concreted. Special attention is given to the disposal of the sewage, and the drinking-water for everyone employed on the works is distilled, aerated, and delivered to the houses, hotels, and men's quarters in ten-gallon glass bottles. As the result of all these precautions there is now no yellow fever at Panama, and it is only in the rainy season that cases of malaria occur, and then but rarely.

"So stringent are the rules that every steamer arriving at Panama is met, and pamphlets are distributed to those on board, telling them exactly what they should and must do. So effective were the arrangements, that I never saw a mosquito when I was there last February. The biggest obstacle is the Culebra cut, from which 23 trains of steel trucks pull out daily—long trains pulled by 100-ton locomotives. The pick and shovel men are mostly negroes—natives of Barbadoes and Jamaica, who can best stand the climate. They have splendid quarters, and are well-fed, all the food being brought from the States in steamers fitted with refrigerators.

"The work is being carried out under the War Department, and all the engineers are army engineers, who are ordered to Panama, as they would be ordered anywhere in war time. It is a fine practical training for them, and rewards are to be had for any specially good bit of work. The engineers did not make the railway—that was constructed across the isthmus as far back as 1848, during the rush to the Californian goldfields, to transport the miners from coast to coast."

Rejected.

The Californian House of Representatives, by 48 votes to 28, has rejected the Drew Bill, which forbade all aliens to own land.

The vote is considered as foreshadowing the defeat of all measures tending to embarrass the Federal Government.

No Money for Kites.

The House of Representatives at Washington reversed the Army aeronautical grant of half a million dollars, and deleted the clause.

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 vocalist, was married in Sydney recently to Mrs. Lichtscheindl, widow of Mr. Jacob Lichtscheindl, 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 with 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 Kōwhiri. 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 Hamner 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 1902, 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.

Comets and the End of the World.

A FEW WAYS IN WHICH THE EARTH MIGHT TERMINATE.

The historian Suetonius ascribes to the influence of these bodies the horrors committed by Nero; who had attached himself to the astrologer Rhabilius. He also asserts that a comet announced the death of Claudius.

A surgeon, Ambrose Pare, is a good example of what the imagination can do when it sets to work; he describes the comet of 1858 thus: "It was so horrible and frightful and produced such terror on the populace, that some died of fear, and others fell sick. It was of excessive length, and the colour of blood; at its summit was seen the figure of a bent arm holding a great sword as if about to strike; at the point there were three stars. On both sides of the rays of this comet were seen a great number of axes, knives, spaces coloured with blood, among which were a great number of hideous human faces with beards, and bristling hair."

In the first place, a comet is composed of an extremely light nebulous mass, of which the nucleus may be solid or formed of nerolites, raised to incandescence at the perihelion, but of which the larger volume is formed of gas, in the chemical composition of which the vapour of carbon predominates.

The tails of comets form the most attractive feature of these bodies, and there are many different opinions as to what this luminous matter is composed of, which I will not enter into here. Suffice to say that no one knows, but that if it were composed of hydrogen—the lightest gas known—all the planets which it passed would be dragged from their orbits, so great would be the attraction of such a mass; but as the earth passed through a comet's tail on June 30th, 1861, and suffered no derangement, we have not much to fear from a comet's attraction.

What we have to fear is that the solid nucleus of one of these bodies should come into contact with us on its way to the sun; there is nothing to prevent such a catastrophe. Should such a thing happen, it is doubtful whether the nucleus would ever actually strike our globe, since the gases which surround it, mixing with our atmosphere, would most likely create a violent explosion which would reduce our planet to a mass of fire mist, killing every inhabitant instantly. This is much more likely than the former theory, since the solid nucleus of the comet of 1811 measured but about 428 miles in diameter, whilst the atmosphere which surrounded it attained 1,118,000 miles (the largest yet observed) so this comet was twice the volume of the sun, and though it were to pass us at 500,000 miles we should still be in its track.

Or, again, supposing the combination of gases did not cause an explosion, we might reasonably suppose that the human species would all be poisoned by a mixture of carbonic acid or of some other deleterious gas of which the spectroscope has proved a large amount exists in the comet's atmosphere.

But should, with all these dangers, the inhabitants live till the nucleus struck us the effect might be somewhat worse than before, for supposing the nucleus measured but 428 miles in diameter yet this would be enough, seeing each body moves at more than 60,000 miles an hour, to create such an immense heat that there would probably be little left of the earth.

But most comets are far larger in diameter than this. That of the comet of 1858 measuring 5580 miles, while the one which appeared in 1769 measured 27,000 miles.

A German Artificial Paving Stone.

The stones called Vulkanol is composed of crushed basalt or other similar rocks collected in part as refuse from quarries and mixed with a small percentage of cement. The mixture is subjected to heavy hydraulic pressure, and formed into blocks of convenient size for paving. These blocks are then subjected to a process of burning under high temperature in specially prepared furnaces, which process continues for about twelve days. The blocks are then permitted to cool as slowly as possible. This process of manufacture, resembling somewhat remotely nature's process in

the formation of volcanic rocks, furnishes the name Vulkanol.

The blocks are of a brown chocolate colour, and show on a broken edge a similar colour intermixed with white grains and small fragments of feldspar. The blocks are tough in structure and, it is claimed, withstand all the ordinary tests as to crushing, frost, disintegration, and so forth, that they do not become smooth or slippery by use, and are as durable as natural granite. For much travelled streets, where heavily-loaded wagons are in use, a six-inch concrete foundation is recommended by the manufacturers, while for lighter traffic a foundation of macadam is regarded ample. On a concrete foundation stones 2.36 inches in thickness are said to be ordinarily sufficient. On a macadam foundation, stones of 3.15 inches in thickness are preferable.

The manufacturers claim that by reason of its hardness and close-fitting joints pavements of this material are comparatively free from dust; that filth cannot penetrate to the ground below; that the pavement can be readily cleaned with a hose, and on sanitary ground is unsurpassed by any other form of pavement. The claim is also made that the pavement can be readily fitted to street car tracks, is well adapted for automobile roadways, and is comparatively noiseless. Thinner tiles of the material are made for sidewalk purposes, the surface of those being grooved where required on grades or for other reasons.

The pavement has been tried with satisfactory results, as it is claimed, on short stretches of street or on driveways, courtyards, etc., in Wurzburg, Munich, Bremen, Cologne, Bamberg and elsewhere.

The cost of street paving with this material is said to be less in this part of Germany than where granite blocks or asphalt are used and slightly more than the first cost when asphalt is used. It is claimed, however, that asphalt paving is more expensive than Vulkanol, by reason of fewer repairs required on the latter.—Consul's report from Nuremberg.

THE HOBBY CURE: REST FOR BUSY BRAINS.

The foundation of the Hobby Club, announced by the London "Daily Mail," has aroused great interest.

Lord Avebury, who is a keen advocate of hobbies, said to a representative of the "Daily Mail" recently: "Those who have not tried it can hardly imagine how much a hobby adds to the interest and variety of life. Take science. It is in endless aspects as wonderful as a fairy tale. My own tastes have led me mainly to natural history and archaeology. But how grand are some of the other hobbies, such as astronomy and botany. Everyone ought to be occupied. Occupation drives away cares and all the small troubles of life, and, besides, a hobby brings the best kind of rest."

Among well-known people who have pronounced hobbies are the following:—The Queen—Photography. The Prince of Wales—Stamp collecting. Mr. Asquith—Gold and chess. Sir F. Gray—Fly fishing and tennis. Mr. Haldane—Reading and book collecting.

Mr. W. Churchill—Travel and polo. Mr. Burns—Cricket, skating, boxing. Lord Morley—Manuscript collecting. Mr. H. Gladstone—Shooting, fishing, yachting. Mr. Asquith—Golf and chess. Lord Crewe—Racing and book collecting.

President Roosevelt—Zoology and natural history.

Mr. Kehr Hardie—Collecting ballad and chap books of Scotland.

THE BETTER PART.

A delightful little story is told of Prosper Merimee, the French author. He was once guest at a royal hunt, when hares, pheasants and other game were driven before the Emperor and his followers, and the servants picked up the victims of the sport.

Among all the members of the hunting party, Prosper Merimee alone had no trophy to display.

"How does this happen?" asked some one.

"Where game is so plenty, the merit of a marksmen seems to me to lie in hitting nothing," replied Merimee with grave courtesy, "so I fired between the birds."

Sports and Pastimes.

CRICKET.

Auckland.

In perfect weather, the championship matches under the auspices of the Auckland Cricket Association were resumed on Saturday, when the first round of the second draw was commenced. Scoring was not remarkable, the only big score being that of Relf, the Eden coach, who put up his third century this season.

Among the first grade teams, University won the toss and went to the wickets first in their match with Parnell. The innings was not a profitable one, as it only realised 65 runs, of which Wallace made 21, Fawcett 12, and Stewart 10. Ollif was the most successful of the Parnell bowlers, taking five wickets at a cost of 25 runs, and A. Kerr captured one less for 32 runs. Parnell look like putting up a score, as they have 247 on the board with three wickets to fall. So far H. Wright is at top with 82, other contributors being Lusk 62, Sale 25 (not out), Ollif 23, Somervell 22. Stewart took two wickets for 25 runs, and one each is credited to Gray, Graham, Fenwick, and Fisher.

The scoring was very ordinary in the principal match of the day, that between North Shore and Grafton. Grafton going in first, only succeeded in making 141, of which Cottell was responsible for 47, and D. Hay for 43. Most of the execution was done by McMahon, who had four wickets for 41 to his credit, Jackson taking three for 34, and Howden and Hadden one each. North Shore's efforts look even less promising, as they have six wickets down for 82, the double figure men being Prime 36, Philson 35, and Wood 49 1/2.

Relf was once more the mainstay of the Eden Colts, putting up 110 in their match with City. Other useful additions to the score were made by Gilmore 26 (not out), R. W. Gordon 20, F. Taylor 16, G. Statter 12, the total for the innings being 212. Of the City bowlers, Neill took six for 35, Stenson three for 61, and Archer one for 22. City in their first innings have so far lost four wickets with 25 up, the only player to reach double figures being MacCormick, with 11, not out. Relf took three wickets for one run apiece.

Ponsonby made 192 in their first venture against Eden A, the chief scorers being Kavanagh 56, Snedden and Jacobsen 35 each, and Woods 20. Stevens, with four wickets for 30, was the most deadly of the Eden trundlers. The other wickets were captured by Cymmings, Mills, and Smith, the two first having two each to their credit, and the last-mentioned one. Five wickets down for 81 runs is the state of Eden's score, Mills making 29, and Smith 21. Woods took three wickets for 25 runs, and Hobson one for 46.

The seventh set of matches in connection with the second grade championship has been concluded and the following table shows the position of the teams:—

Team	Pld.	W.	L.	Tie.	Pts.
North Shore A	7	6	1	0	18
Parnell A	7	6	1	0	14
Eden A	7	5	2	0	13
Ponsonby	7	4	3	0	12
Grafton	6	4	2	0	11
North Shore B	7	3	4	0	8
University	7	2	4	1	7
Parnell B	7	1	5	1	4
City	7	1	6	0	3
Eden B	6	1	5	0	2

The Grafton-Eden B match is to be played.

Thames.

The cricket competitions were resumed on Saturday, when United and Hauraki met for the second time this season. United, batting first, were all dismissed for the small score of 49. Hauraki in their easy made just as poor a stand, losing seven wickets for 38. Bowling for Hauraki, F. Gillson took three wickets for 2 runs, and for United Brokeusshire captured four for 18.

Waik.

The unfinished senior fixture Waikato v. West under the auspices of the Waikato Cricket Association, were concluded on Saturday, the latter winning by 82 runs on the first innings. West compiled 123 (McLeod 20), Waikato replying with 72, Pillington being the only batsman to reach double figures, and batting nicely for 48. Lang took 3 wickets for 23 and Barr 2 for

Wellington.

There was good weather for cricket on Saturday. Batting against Petone, Old Boys made 291 (McNeil 75, Tucker 53, Boecky 23, Lomax 23, Birch 20). Petone had scored 43 for no wickets when stumps were drawn. Wellington made 187 against Y.M.C.A. (Mahoney 79). Y.M.C.A. lost six wickets for 34, Luckie taking five wickets for 22 runs.

Canterbury.

The seventh round of grade matches commenced on Saturday afternoon in dull weather. In the match Linwood v. West Christchurch, the first named in their first innings scored 346 (E. Humphreys 119, A. East 120, Chadwick 43, and made 89 for three wickets (Austin 44 not out). Albion made 60 against Carisbrook A. Fisher taking six wickets for 28 runs, and Butler four for 20. Carisbrook compiled 240 for one wicket (Blaxland 110 not out, Watson 69 not out, Hopkins 48).

Otago.

Another round of cricket matches commenced on Saturday in fine weather. Dunedin put up 154 runs against Ophelo, the latter responding with 39 for one wicket. Carisbrook B disposed of Grange for 120 (Chadwick 43, and made 89 for three wickets (Austin 44 not out). Albion made 60 against Carisbrook A. Fisher taking six wickets for 28 runs, and Butler four for 20. Carisbrook compiled 240 for one wicket (Blaxland 110 not out, Watson 69 not out, Hopkins 48).

The following team has been selected to represent Otago v. Canterbury: Austin, Ayles, Eckhold, Fisher, Hopkins, Rutherford, Steinhilber, Torrens, Williams, Wilson, Wordsworth, emergency, Watson.

The Australian Eleven.

The following certainties have been selected for the Australian cricket team to visit England—Noble, Trumper, Hargitan, Ransford, Armstrong, Cotter, Carter, McCartney, and O'Connor.

The following team has been chosen for the trial match, Australia v. the Rest of Australia:—

Australia: Noble, Trumper, Ransford, O'Connor, Armstrong, Cotter, Carter, McCartney, Carkeek, McAlister, and Gregory.

Rest of Australia: Hopkins, Bardsley, Vernon, Hazlitt, Saunders, Parker, Simpson, Mayne, Gehra, Barnes, and Gorry.

The selectors announce that the selection of Carkeek, McAlister, and Gregory in the trial match does not indicate that they will necessarily be selected for the English tour.

FOOTBALL.

Australian Footballers.

The match between the Australian League and England resulted in a draw, each team scoring 4 goals and 3 tries.

Cumberland scored one goal and three tries against the single goal registered by the Australian League.

The Australian League team met the Brighton Ranges on Saturday, when they were defeated by four goals and two tries (14 points) to three goals and two tries (12 points).

The "Wallabies" beat the California University at Berkeley by 27 points to nil.

Professionalism.

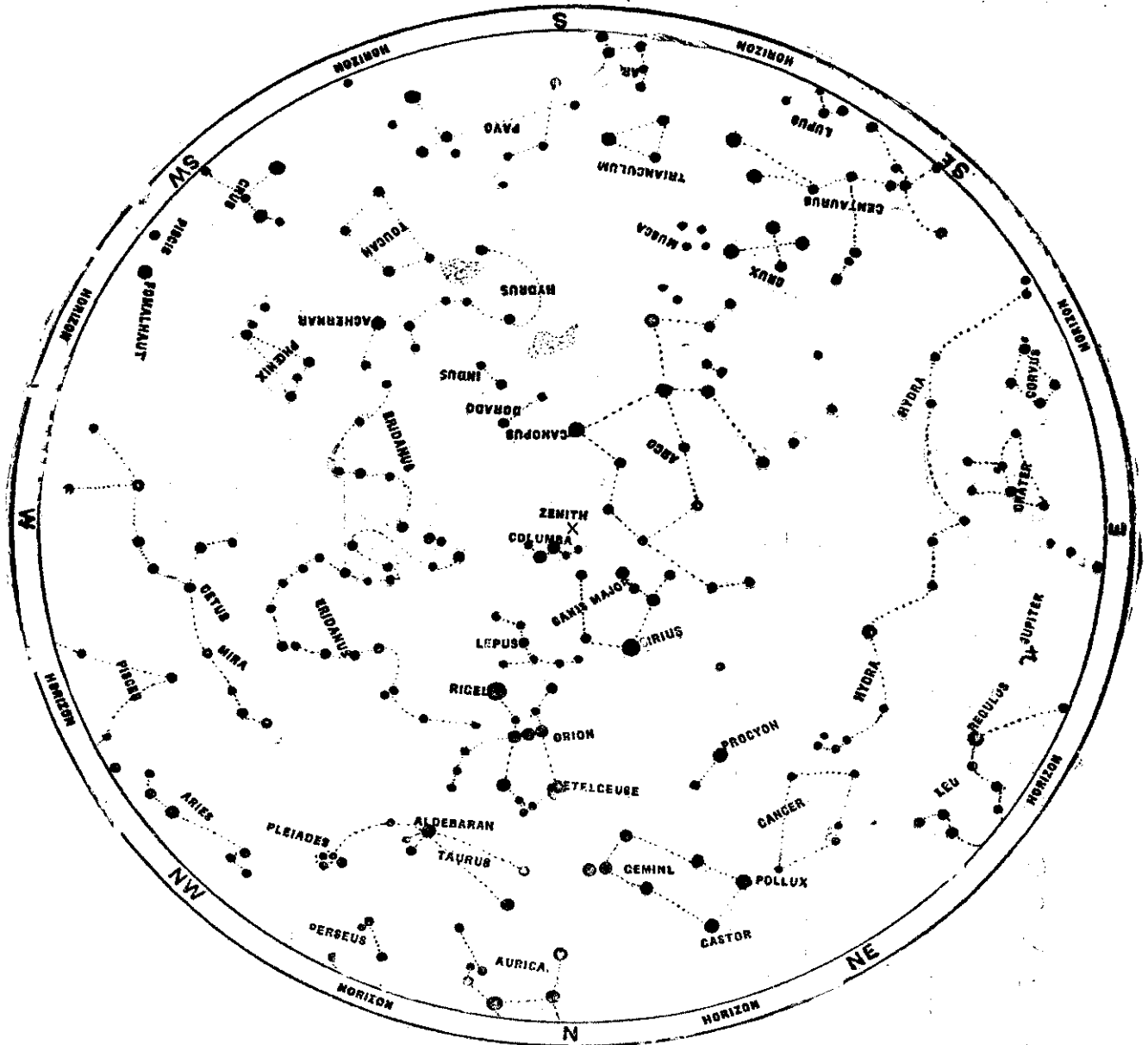
The Rugby International Board has disagreed on Scotland's proposition that the daily allowances to the New Zealand "All Black" team amounted to professionalism.

Scotland and Ireland voted for the proposition and England and Wales against it.

The Board unanimously resolved that cash allowances were contrary to the principle of Rugby football, and that no such allowances should be made in future.

The Night Sky for February 15th at 8.30 p.m.

Specially Drawn for the "Graphic" by J. T. Ward, Hon. Director Wanganui Observatory.



The stars and planets are shown on the above chart as they may be seen on the 15th of the month at about 8.30 p.m. As the stars shift their places night by night on the sky, rising about four minutes earlier each evening, the observer who wishes to observe certain constellations near their rising or setting, must time his observations accordingly.

The cross at centre of chart represents the point overhead, and to see the stars as they appear in the sky, the chart must be held with that point of the compass towards which the observer is looking held downwards.

If this chart is compared with that furnished for January, it will be seen that several new constellations have made their appearance in the eastern sky, while some then visible in the west are no longer to be seen.

Looking towards the north we see portions of Auriga and Perseus, low down near the horizon, while on either side of the meridian may be seen Gemini and Taurus. Over there again are Orion and Lepus, with Canis Major and the brilliant Sirius, the brightest of all the starry hosts as seen from the earth. Cancer lies next to Gemini, and the pretty clus-

ter called "Praesepe," or the "Beehive," in this constellation will well repay observing with a good field glass. Leo is just clearing the eastern horizon, while over him may be seen the long trailing form of Hydra—the Water Snake, and the two small constellations, Crater and Corvus towards the south-east. Turning south, the Cross will be seen well out to the east of the Pole, followed by the Centaur, and Lupus lower down, while the Triangle is on the southern meridian, Hydra and the Toucan, with Grus low down in the south-west, and Picta just setting. The two Magnetic Clouds are now towards the west, and high up in

the south-eastern sky is Argo, and the fire-star Canopus passing over the Pole. Eridanus is now to the west, preparing to descend with Phoenix and Cetus lying between it and the horizon, Pisces is nearing the north-western horizon and Aries is nearing its setting. Saturn is close to the horizon in Pisces, and Jupiter is just rising in Leo in the north-east. Jupiter is now the most attractive object in our evening sky, and any fairly powerful hand telescope will show his four principal satellites, which, with the great planet, form an object of much interest with these means. The moon is not visible at this time.

BALANCE SHEET OF THE AUCKLAND SAVINGS BANK

FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31st, 1908.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
To Amount at credit of 39,529 Depositors, 31st December, 1907				1,102,850	1	1
Deposits received during the year ending 31st December, 1908	£1,023,727	5	3			
Interest credited to Depositors	38,139	8	2			
Deduct Repayments to Depositors for the year ending 31st December, 1908	1,061,865	13	5			
				43,033	4	10
Amount at credit of 41,672 Depositors, 31st December, 1908				1,145,883	5	11
" " Reserved Surplus Profits Fund				60,000	0	0
" " Investment Fluctuation Account				5,000	0	0
" " Profit and Loss Account				15,258	0	6
				£1,226,141	6	5
By 745 Mortgages, with Interest to 31st December, 1908				480,718	9	11
Investment in New Zealand Government Debentures, with Interest to 31st December, 1908				228,151	0	0
Investment in Auckland Harbour Board Debentures, with Interest to 31st December, 1908				112,065	0	0
Investment in Auckland City Council Debentures, with Interest to 31st December, 1908				68,437	0	0
Investment in Auckland Public Buildings Debentures, with Int. to 31st December, 1908				924	13	0
Investment in Grey Lynn Borough Debentures, with Int. to 31st Dec., 1908				24,322	10	0
" " Newmarket				2,060	0	0
" " Desport				8,121	0	0
" " New Plymouth Borough				10,110	0	0
" " Remuera Road Board				13,969	0	0
" " Mount Albert Road Board				16,281	0	0
" " Mount Wellington Road Board				5,055	5	0
" " Pukekura Road Board				3,053	0	0
" " Waitemata County Council				10,500	0	0
" " Waipa				1,533	15	0
" " Auckland Hospital Endowment				25,000	0	0
" " Bank Premises				9,000	0	0
" " Deposit with Bank of New Zealand (Working Account)				202,832	13	6
				£1,226,141	6	5

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
To Interest paid to Depositors on Accounts closed during the year				1,350	13	1
Interest added to Accounts remaining open 31st December, 1908				36,787	15	1
Charges for the year				5,560	19	4
Building Account				338	5	8
Reserved Surplus Profits Account				10,000	0	0
Balance				16,258	0	6
				£50,295	13	8
By Balance, 1st January, 1908				£15,258	6	0
By Amount at credit of Profit and Loss Account, 1st January, 1908				20,744	5	9
Interest on Mortgages				22,755	18	6
Debentures				21,855	9	5
Deposit with Bank of New Zealand				4,200	0	0
				£69,295	13	8

RESERVED SURPLUS PROFITS FUND.

To Reserved Surplus Profits Fund	£60,000	0	0
By Amount at credit of Account with Bank of New Zealand	£60,000	0	0

We hereby certify that, to the best of our belief, the above Balance-sheet is correct.

A. DEVORE, Vice-President.
 ARCHD. CLEMENTS
 EDWIN MITCHELLSON
 JOHN PEACOCK
 WALTER ROSE
 RICHD. HOBBS } Trustees.

R. CAMERON, Manager.
 S. G. HOUNTREE, Accountant.
 G. S. KISSLING, Interpreted Accountant, Eng., Auditor.

Music and Drama

That favourite play "The Silver King" will be revived by the Star Dramatic Combination at His Majesty's Theatre, Auckland, on Thursday, February 11. From its first production at the Princess Theatre, London, 1882, to the present day, no play in existence has enjoyed such a prosperous career. It has been witnessed by almost all the crowned heads of Europe, criticised by the most able writers of the day, performed in all parts of the world where the English language is spoken, and brought large fortunes to its authors and the theatrical managers who have handled it. To August, 1899, the official records showed that upwards of 6,000,000 persons (or half as many again as the entire population of Australia and the Dominion of New Zealand) had paid for admission to witness this most remarkable of all plays.

Mr. Geo. Titheradge will appear in his original character of Wilfred Danver, afterwards known as "The Silver King," "The Village Priest" and "Twelfth Night" will be the following productions.

Playgoers in those cities of our Dominion, yet to be visited by the Kolker, Titheradge, and Ola Humphrey combination, are hereby weightily advised by no means to miss that most fascinating play, "The Thief." True, it is harrowing, but not as melodrama harrows the gods. It is a play for the discriminative, a drama of pulsating life and human interest, which appeals powerfully to the intellect, and induces thought and discussion. It is most admirably played. That Kolker is a greater artist than any American actor who has visited New Zealand in the present generation, is undoubted. He has a part in "The Thief" which would try any actor, and he emerges from it with absolute triumph. Miss Ola Humphrey absolutely triumphs those who saw her here with Julius Knight, so vastly have her powers improved. She reaches very great heights of tragic acting, as Madame Voysin, the thief, "The Taming of the Shrew" is being staged while the paper is in the press, but information from a most reliable source describes it as the best Shakespearian production seen in the Dominion for upwards of twenty years.

In Auckland, Mr. Edward Reeves is on his return visit sure of a very appreciative reception. His scholarly polish, his easy unaffected manner, and his marvellously effective dramatic power in story telling, won him a host of friends at the time of his first visit, and these will not only come again themselves, but bring, or send friends. If Mr. Reeves excels himself at times it is in his Dickens' work, and nobody who has a chance of hearing in any of his selections from that master of modern English literature, should miss the opportunity.

An attempt was made at the Theatre Royal last week to thoroughly enforce the Christchurch City Council's by-law, under which every person is held to be entitled to a seat, the number of which corresponds to the ticket received. Many patrons of the gallery and stalls declined to occupy the seats to which their tickets corresponded, and there was considerable confusion. About 7.40 the Council's inspectors declared that it was impossible to carry the by-law into effect, and gave the representatives of the lessee permission to let people take any seats available.

The Mayor, in the course of a statement to a reporter next day, said: "The spirit of the by-law would be met by having a box plan for the gallery, and allowing people who bought tickets during the day to reserve their seats. There is not the least reason why this should not be done. The matter will come before the by-laws committee again at its next meeting. You can be quite sure that the matter is not going to rest where it is."

No less than four works composed by Mr. Thos. Humphreys, of Auckland, are to be produced here consecutively in March and April next. The first two will be amateur productions of "Sixes and Sevens" (libretto and lyrics by Miss Maud Pracecke) and "Maueella" (Mr. J. Youlin Birch's latest "book"). Immediately following these the Pollard Opera Company, during the Easter dates at His Majesty's Theatre, will stage "The Gay Hussar" (late "The Tea Girl") and the Birch-Humphreys comic opera "The Golden Wedge." I hear, by the way, that there is a strong probability of a professional company, with a well-known young comedian in the lead, being formed to tour Australasia with a Birch-Humphreys repertoire. Negotiations to that end are in progress.

Mendelssohn's centenary was celebrated last Wednesday in many English cities.

The extraordinary vogue of the play "An Englishman's Home," dealing with England's unpreparedness for war, is increasing (says a last week's cable from London).

The author is Major du Maurier, son of the famous "Punch" artist. All the newspapers are publishing special articles on the subject, and are daily interviewing statesmen, utilising the play for the purpose of rousing the country to the necessity for home defence. Mr. J. C. Williamson has secured the Australasian rights of the piece.

To prove the close connection which exists between Church and Stage an American paper has compiled the following list of actors who are "related" to the pulpit:

Mr. Kyrle Bellow is the son of the Rev. J. M. Bellow, of Manchester.

Mr. Walter Bentley (now known as the Rev. Walter E. Bentley, rector of the Church of the Ascension, Brooklyn), adopted the pulpit after some time as an actor. He is a son of the Rev. Dr. Begg, of Edinburgh, Scotland.

Mrs. Langtry is the daughter of the Rev. W. E. C. Le Breton, Dean of Jersey.

Mr. Charles Hawtrey is the son of the Rev. John Hawtrey, an Eton master.

Mr. Murray Carson, actor and dramatist, was secretary to the Rev. Dr. Joseph Parker, of the City Temple, London, and was intended himself for the Church.

Miss Lena Ashwell is a daughter of Captain Pocock, afterwards a clergyman of the Church of England.

Mr. F. R. Benson, the manager of the finest Shakespearian stock company of the present period, was a relative of the late Archbishop Benson.

Mr. Lewis Carns (of America) is the son of the Rev. Alexander H. James, of Edinburgh.

Mr. Henry Cliechester (of America) is a son of the Rev. Charles Baker, rector of Creed, Cornwall, England.

Mr. Reginald Dancie (of America) is a son of the Rev. S. M. Scoggs, of Lancaster, England.

Mr. Charles Frohman is now on the Atlantic crossing to New York (says the London "Daily Express" of a recent date). But he does not permit even so big a thing as the Atlantic Ocean to interfere with his business in the slightest way. When Mr. Frohman goes to sea he takes his business and his office with him. Transplanted to the rooms he occupies on board ship are all the paraphernalia of his business quarters in the Empire Theatre building, New York. He can tell where any of his seventeen stars and companies are playing any day this year, or where they will be playing any day in 1912. A conspicuous feature is the pile of wireless messages to which replies are being or have been sent. Mr. Frohman keeps as close a managerial and personal touch with his theatres and stars during these trips as he does when at home. Scarcely an evening passes that Mr. John Drew, Miss Billie Burke, Miss Gertrude Millar, Mr. William Gillette, and the others do not have a pleasant word from him between acts and scenes. While he is on the ocean they receive

those delightful little attentions just the same. Wireless telegraphy has made this possible. From his cabin every night after dinner goes a merry little message to all his star players—not forgetting Miss Maude Adams out in Chicago, and Miss Ethel Barrymore still further West. In the morning he has wireless messages from Mr. Alf. Hayman giving the receipts of his theatres the night before and informing him about any business matter that concerns him. Nothing happens anywhere among his numerous companies that is of the least importance that does not reach his ears—his eyes, rather—on the ocean.

An interesting story of the stage, told by Mr. J. H. Barnes in the "Stage," forms a curious sequel to the little quarrel between him and Miss Ellen Terry which resulted from certain remarks made by the famous actress in her recently published "Story of My Life."

Miss Terry commented on the fact that during the many years she had played Portia she seldom had a Bassanio to her mind. Of Mr. Barnes, who played the part during a long run at the Lyceum, she said his "gentility as Bassanio was simply overwhelming," and "in the love scenes he appeared to be taking orders for furniture."

"He was so very dignified; and my sister Floss and I once tried to make him laugh by substituting two almond rings for the real rings."

Mr. Barnes resented the flippant reference to himself, and in a long letter to "M.A.P." stated that he never had any desire to contribute a performance any part of which could be to Miss Terry's mind. He also pointed out that Miss Terry's recollection as to the almond rings incident was at fault.

Now, in the "Stage," he tells his own version of the almond rings incident.

"I was handed, not a ring, nor an almond ring," he writes, "but a small indiarubber ball, with a hole in it, and filled with water, which, before I realised what it was, had ejected a considerable stream of water all down a very light grey silk costume, provided by the management, compelling me to change completely the rehearsed 'business' of the scene by playing the end of the play with my back to the audience, and causing a general upset."

"I am willing to confess that I resented this proceeding very angrily; in fact, I showed it up to the audience, and although it may be it caught me at an unfortunate moment, I am seriously afraid that I should have done the same at any other period of my life under similar circumstances."

Among the crowd of distinguished people at the last King's investiture was a short, stoutly built man with a close-cropped beard turning to white, a thick head of grey hair parted in the middle, and far-seeing, dreamy eyes. He was Signor Tosti, the composer of hundreds of songs, and henceforth he will be known as Sir Francesco Paolo Tosti, for he was invested as a Knight Commander of the Royal Victorian Order.

Sir Francesco Tosti is sixty-one years old, and though he only became a naturalised Englishman a few years ago he has lived in England for over thirty years.

As a song-writer his fame is universal. There is scarcely a drawing-room in the world wherein Tosti's "Good-bye" has not been sung. Messrs. Ricordi, the publishers of the song, say that the number of copies that have been sold since its publication must be over a million. It is selling just as well to-day as when it was first brought out.

"For Ever and For Ever," which ranks equal with "Good-bye" in popularity, was composed by Tosti soon after his arrival in England. Publisher after pub-

lisher refused it, and several singers declared that it was an "impossible" song.

Eventually Sir Charles Santley, or plain "Mister" as he was then, sang it into instantaneous success.

"My Drama," another of Tosti's famous songs, has been described by Sir Charles Santley as the highest type of sentimental ballad.

"Come to My Heart," "That Day," "Let It Be Soon," "Ask Me No More," "Help Me to Pray," "Yesterday," "At the Convent Gate"—these are a few of the best known of his songs.

Tosti has expressed his love for England. "I took out my naturalisation papers," he said, "out of love for the land which received me unknown years ago, and which has been my home ever since."

In 1870 Tosti was singing master to the Queen of Italy, and coming to England in 1875, within five years he was appointed teacher of singing to the Royal Family. He was a great favourite with Queen Victoria, and the royal friendship has been continued by King Edward and Queen Alexandra.

For many years he has been master of music at the state concerts in London and Windsor.

Messrs. Meynell and Gunn have made final arrangements with Mr. Oscar Asche and Miss Lily Brayton for their tour in Australia. They will open in Melbourne about July 17, and among their plays will be Stanley Weyman's "Hannibal," "The Taming of the Shrew," "As You Like It," and "Othello." The musical director will be Mr. Raimund Pechotsek (late of Sydney), who has for two years been musical director of the Lyceum.

HIS MAJESTY'S THEATRE

Lessee, Mr. C. R. Bailey.
Direction of J. C. WILLIAMSON,
Manager, G. H. Smith.

J. C. WILLIAMSON'S
STAR DRAMATIC COMBINATION,

BOOK AT ONCE.

For
THE TAMING OF THE SHREW.
To be performed for a few nights only.
You will Laugh Loud.
You Will Laugh Long.
You will Laugh Merrily.

The Repertoire for the Balance of the Season will be
THE SILVER KING.
Produced by the late Wilson Barrett in 1882.

Created a Profound Sensation.
Packed the Theatre for almost Two Years.
Visited by almost all the Crowned Heads of Europe.
To August, 1899, upwards of 6,000,000 persons had paid for admission to witness this remarkable play.
To be performed by the "Star Dramatic Combination" for a few nights only.

THE VILLAGE PRIEST.
With Australia's Favourite Actor, Mr. G. S. Titheradge in the Name Part.

TWELFTH NIGHT.
With Mr. Henry Kolker and Miss Ola Humphrey in the Leading Parts.

Dates of Productions will be announced in the Daily Papers.
PRICES — 5s, 3s, and 1s.
Early Doors to Stalls and Family Circle, 6d extra.
Day Sales at H.M. Theatre Cafe.
BOX PLAN at Wildman and Arrey's.
Stage Director, J. W. HAZLITT.

MRS. ST. PAUL
TEACHER OF PIANO AND THEORY.

First Term begins on TUESDAY, February 9th, 1909.
Mrs. St. Paul attends Mt. Eden and other Colleges.
Address: WESTBOURNE RD.

HIS MAJESTY'S THEATRE.

UNDER THE DIRECTION OF MR. EDWARD BIANSCOMBE.

Monday, 22nd February.

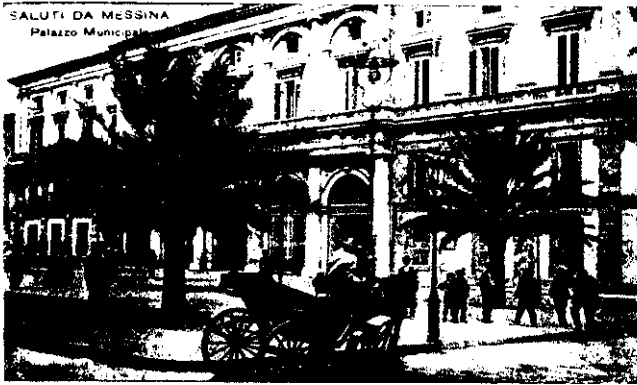
The Three Marvellous Russian Instrumentalists.

LEO, Violin (Aged 17). JAN, Pianist (Aged 14). MISCHEL, 'Cello (Aged 12).

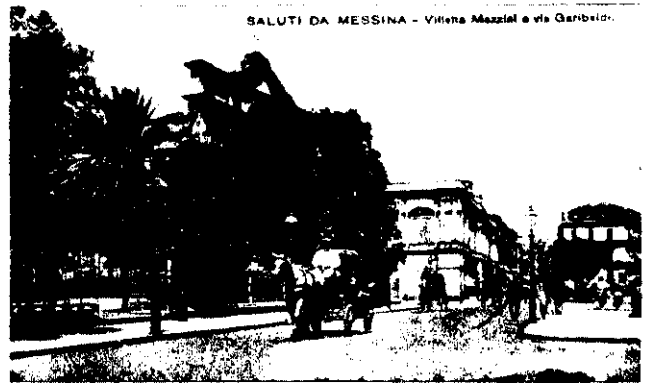
CHERNIAVSKI

"Justly considered to be the greatest musical treat ever brought to the Dominion."
H.M. THEATRE, MONDAY, 22nd FEBRUARY.

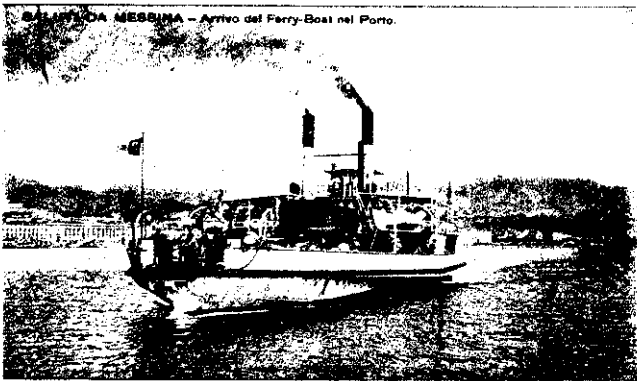
NIGEL BROCK, Manager.



THE MUNICIPAL PALACE.



MAZZINI AND GARIBALDI AVENUE.



ONE OF THE FERRY BOATS CARRYING EXPRESS TRAINS TO AND FROM THE MAINLAND.



VICTOR EMMANUEL AVENUE.

VIEWS OF MESSINA BEFORE THE EARTHQUAKE. THESE ONLY ARRIVED BY THE LAST SUEZ MAIL.

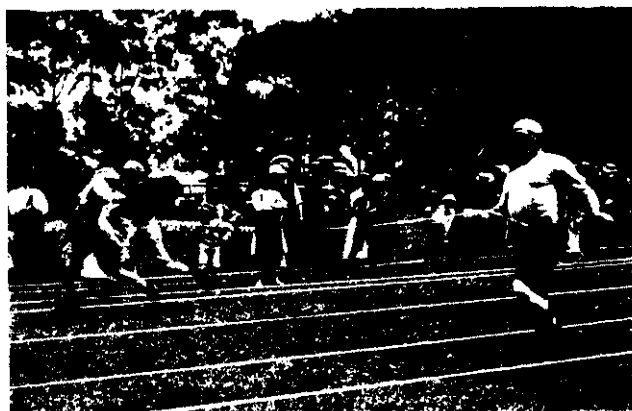


See "Our Illustrations."

A BEAUTIFUL FERNERY IN MR LESER'S GARDEN, ROCKY NOOK, AUCKLAND.



SENSATIONAL FINISH OF FIFTH RACE.



"NOT TOO OLD AT OVER FORTY" RACE.



A RACE IN PROGRESS.



RUNNING IN RACE FOUR.



FINISH OF THIRD RACE.



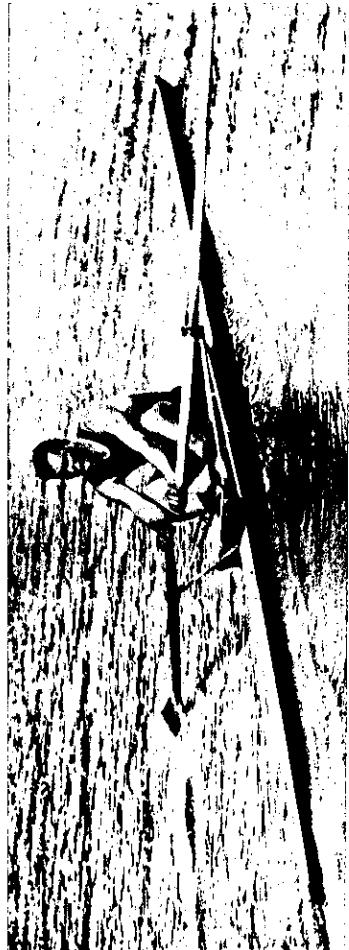
CROWD ROUND THE BABY SHOW.



LUNCH UNDER THE TREES.



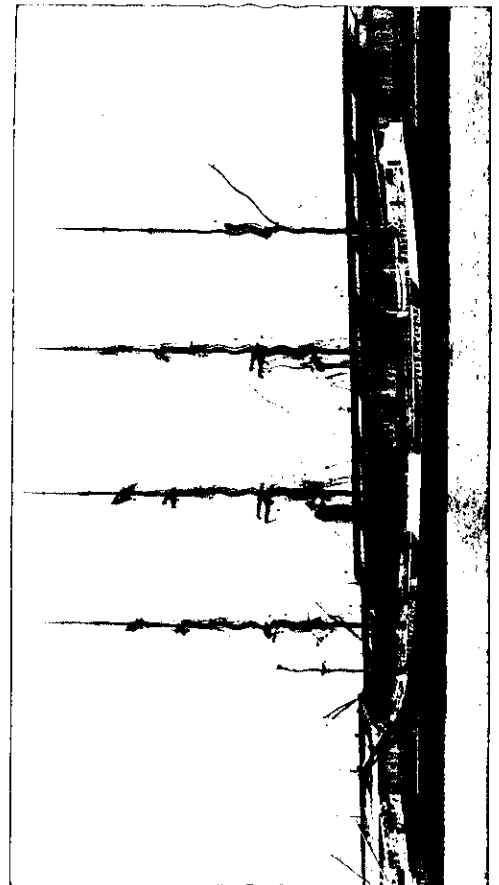
MARRIED LADIES' RACE.



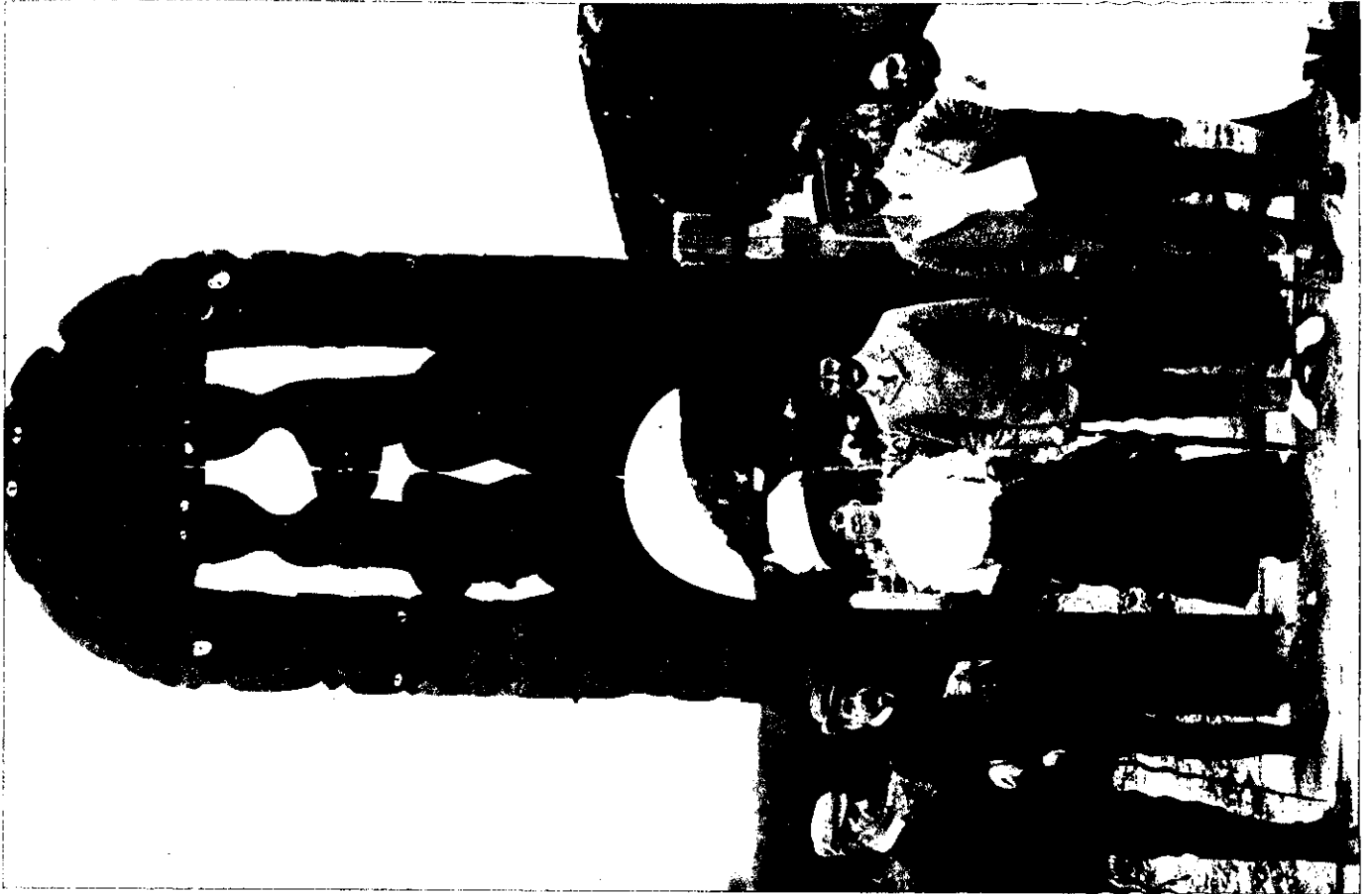
ARNST GIVING AN EXHIBITION OF SPRINTING IN AUCKLAND.



ARNST GIVING AN EXHIBITION DISPLAY, PAGED BY A "CRACK" FOUR.



FOUR-MASTED BARQUE NAL, NOW IN AUCKLAND HARBOUR, Consigned to W. S. Laurie with a large cargo of basic slag and other manures for Auckland merchants.



MADAME ADA CROSSLEY, WITH HER HUSBAND AND SOME MEMBERS OF HER CONCERT PARTY, AT THE GATE OF THE MAORI PA, WAKAREWAREWA.

Madame Popakura has been doing the honours.

A TRAMP ABROAD.

By AJOR.

NELSON, in so far as a province is concerned, celebrated her sixty-seventh birthday last week. Under the auspices of the New Zealand Land Company, Nelson was actually founded in 1841, or about one year after the Treaty of Waitangi was signed. Colonel Wakefield, brother of Captain Wakefield, one of the victims of the Wairau Massacre, and commander of the first expedition which landed at Port Nicholson in the ship *Tory*, purchased from Te Rauparaha, chief of the Ngatitua, for 300 blankets, 200 muskets, 60 tomahawks, 320 fish-hooks, 100 steel axes, 276 pocket knives, 480 pauldkerchiefs, 144 jew's harps, 36 razors, 24 combs, and 12 sticks of sealing wax, or a total value of £2000, all those lands known as Auckland, Wellington, Taranaki, Hawke's Bay, Nelson and Marlborough.

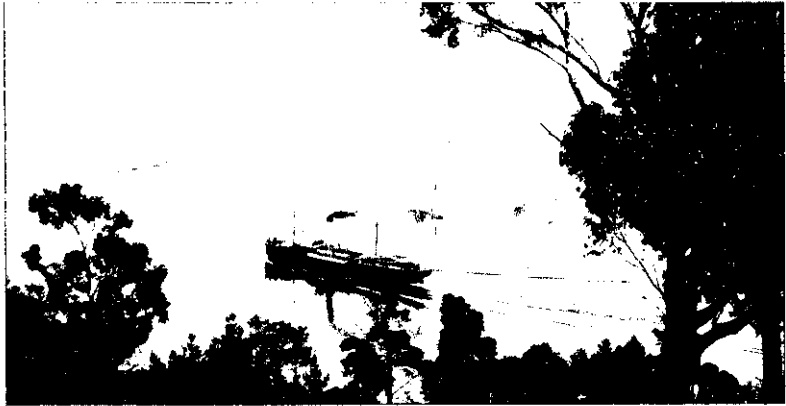
The second, or Nelson expedition, consisting of three ships, the barques *Whitby*, 437 tons, the *Will Watch*, 216 tons, and the *Arrow*, 250 tons, under command of Captain Arthur Wakefield, arrived during the year 1841, in Blind Bay, and anchored off Astrolab. First choice of settlement was at Kaiterete, near Rowaka, but shortly after, the celebrated Boulder Bank, affording such exceptional harbour protection, appeared so strongly that the present site of Nelson was decided on. Within the following year, 1842, no less than sixty-seven vessels had visited the new port, and Nelson itself numbered over 2000 souls. Before the close of that memorable year 250 good dwelling houses had been built, and the province began to be settled by those hardy pioneer settlers who have made it one of the Dominion's fairest provinces. From this on the progress became steady and sure, so

that three years later we find the population in town and country doubled with nearly 2000 acres under cultivation, and about 10,000 cattle and sheep grazing; whilst flour mills, flax mills, and saw mills were springing up, and quite sixty

Treasurer Mr. Poynton. Soon other things, such as the discovery of mineral wealth, diverted attention from the cultivation of the soil, and company after company was formed to mine the coal beds of Nelson, the copper of the Dun Mountain, and the auriferous deposits of Motueka, Collingwood and other places to which small and insignificant rushes set in, but which, owing to the poorness of the gold, speedily died down. In 1859 Wairau, dissatisfied, claimed and obtained separation from Nelson, and by an Act of the General Assembly, Wairau and Nelson became incorporated under separate provincial councils. But notwithstanding

ommunication has alone lagged in every thing else advances have been made so that the province is now a smiling land of peace, promise and plenty.

Social progress, too, has not been omitted, for it maintains a high standard in its colleges and schools, as witness the continued success of its University examinations. High in reputation have they become throughout the Dominion, many of whose most brilliant scholars owe their promotion in life from here. From a scenic point of view Nelson can hold her own, too. The road skirting its matchless bay to the Glenn, Wakapuaka, or over the Wangamoa to



S.S. PATEENA LEAVING NELSON.

miles of roads joined town to country. Nelson's first representative government saw the light about 1853, in which the Constitution Act was passed. Mr. Travers and Mr. Mackay represented Nelson in the first New Zealand Parliament. The first superintendent of the Provincial Government was Mr. E. W. Stafford, the Speaker Mr. Donald Sinclair, and the

this serious loss. Nelson continued to advance in prosperity, and in 1871 it became a municipality, the first mayor having been Mr. J. R. Dodson. From this our progress has been continuous and steady. The harbour has been constantly improved, roads have been made and maintained, and communication with the back country established. Railway com-

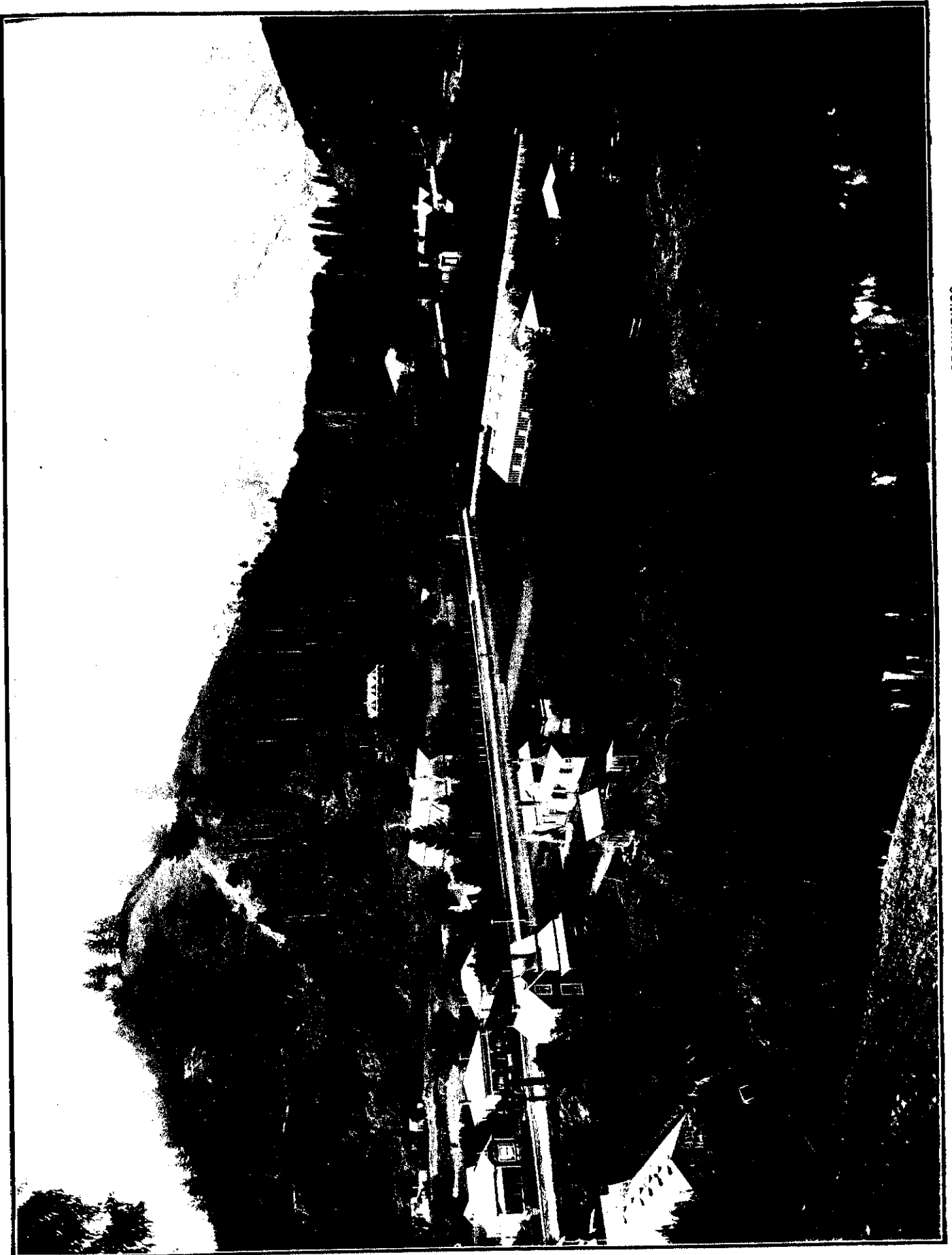
Havelock, Blenheim, or Queen Charlotte Sounds; not forgetting Pelorus; its drives around the "Rocks Road," passing en route the walyves, the new entrance to the port, the Fishery-road, the many charming outlets or bays, laughing and sleeping under the frowning hills of Britannia Heights, which are picked out at all altitudes by the many beautiful homes



F. S. Jones, photo.

TRAFALGAR STREET, SHOWING THE CATHEDRAL IN THE DISTANCE.

NELSON'S ANNIVERSARY: SOME VIEWS OF THIS BEAUTIFUL CITY AND SURROUNDINGS.



NELSON'S ANNIVERSARY: SOME VIEWS OF THIS BEAUTIFUL CITY AND SURROUNDINGS.
THE MATAM VALLEY, SHOWING ZIG-ZAG ON LEFT AND FINE GARDENS IN FOREGROUND

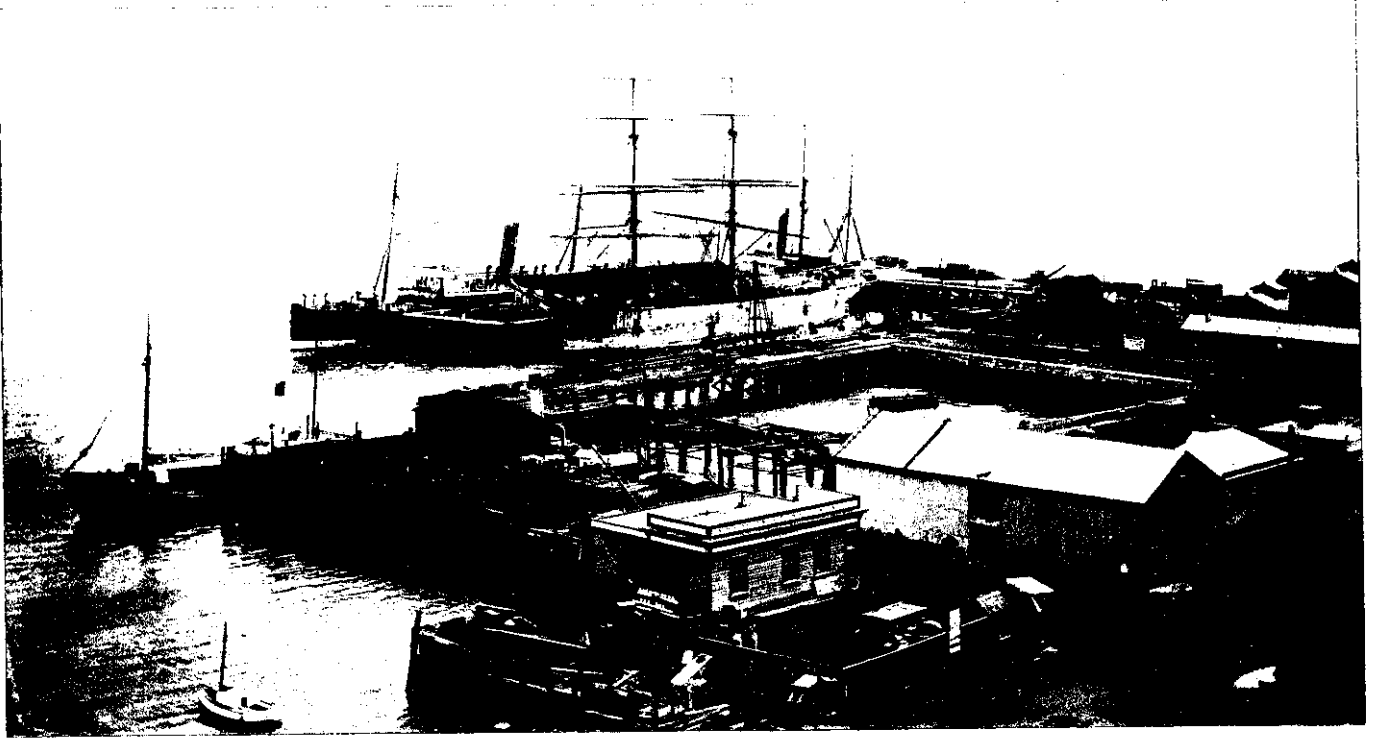
F. S. Jones, Photo.

of Nelson. From thence the seeker after scenic effects may get satiety itself in the further-off sights of the sands, the gardens and homes of Stoke, Richmond, and the hopfields of the Waimateas. Then

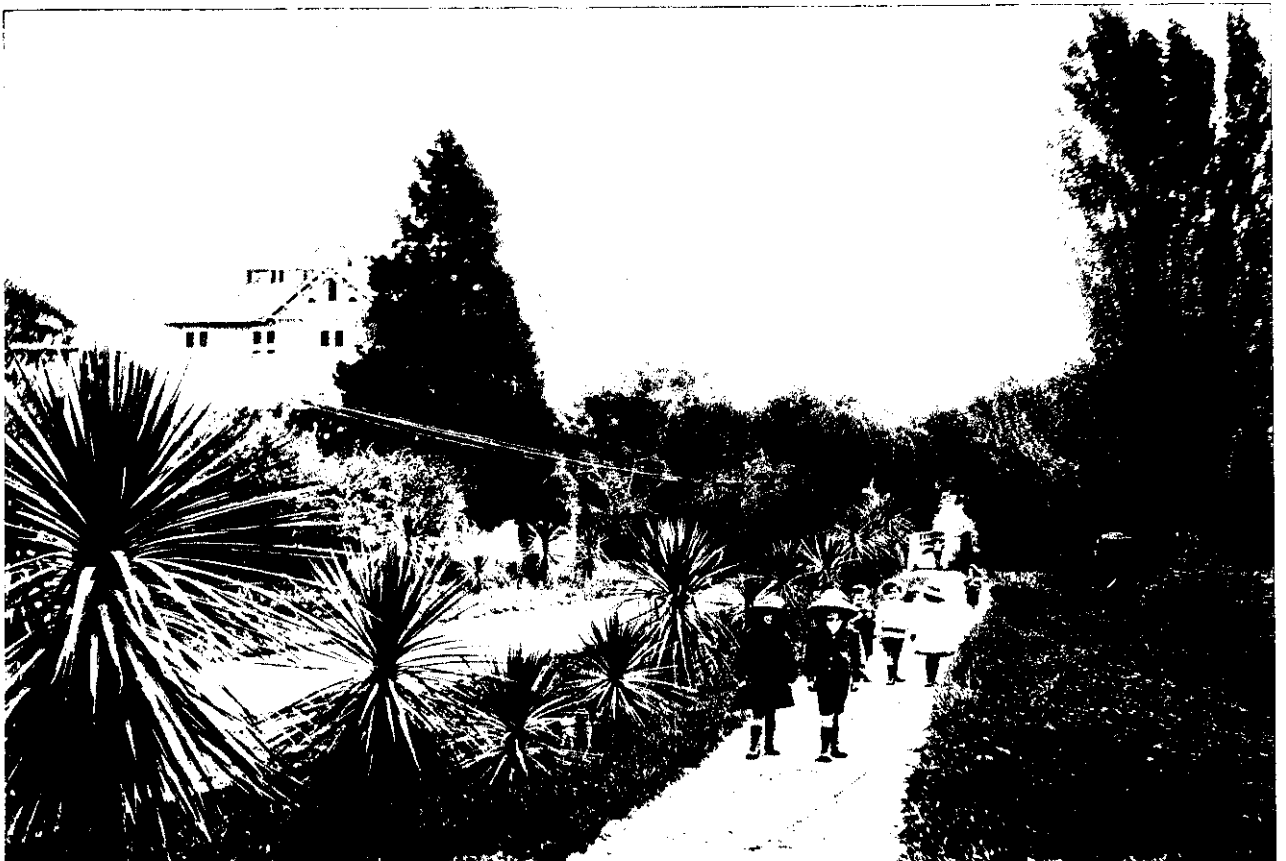
there are the excursions over the Spooner Range, or to Aniseed, Tadmire, and Moutepoko Valleys. In many parts of this delightful area, quail, ducks, partridges, hares and wild pigs abound, whilst deer-

stalking also attracts sportsmen far and near. Lastly, Nelson climate is one of perpetual sunshine, and the city has been well built; its architecture is both quaint and handsome, and its people have long become proverbial for their kindness and

hospitality. On the 1st February Nelson celebrated its 67th birthday in a public holiday, and our photographic effects may serve, in some small measure, to illustrate the progress the city has made during its brief life.



THE WHARVES, NELSON, SHOWING THE NEW JETTY IN COURSE OF CONSTRUCTION.



MANUKA-STREET, NELSON, SHOWING THE CONVENT AND SPIRE OF CATHOLIC CHURCH.

NELSON'S ANNIVERSARY: SOME VIEWS OF THIS BEAUTIFUL CITY AND SURROUNDINGS.

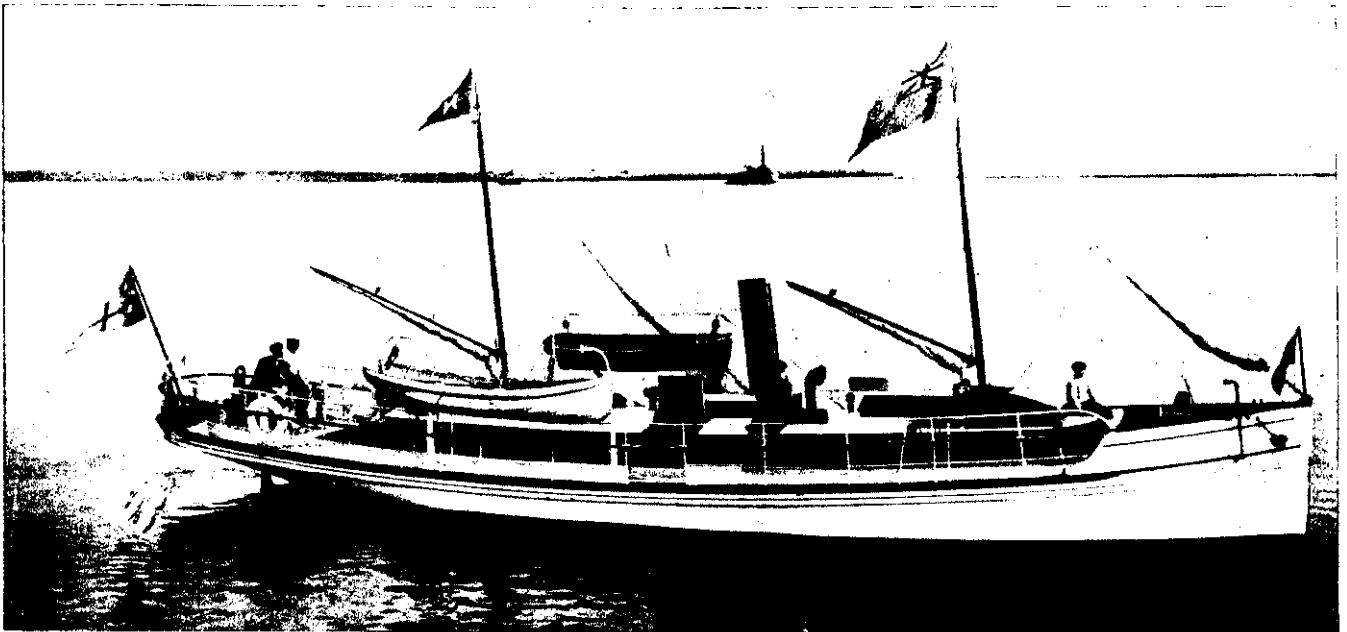
ONE OF NELSON'S CHIEF INDUSTRIES.

At the corner of Gloucester and Vanguard-streets, Nelson, stands one of the largest and best equipped premises of the kind in the Dominion; it is the jam factory of Messrs. S. Kirkpatrick and Co., which covers an acre and a-half of land, and is a credit to the city and province of Nelson. Mr. Kirkpatrick is in his luxurious office, and looks well after

ready for the copper boilers in the kitchen; but ere entering that wonderful culinary department, let us pause and see how the jam-tins are made: here a steel arm with missive blades is striking off thousands of quaintly shaped tin lids; there is another mysterious machine rolling up endless yards of bright tin, which another soldier into cylinders; yet another iron worker fits on the bottom, and we have now a tin

soldered on, a metal frame, slung at the corners by chains, is let down by aid of differential block and tackle, and cooked in a great wooden trough, steam again being the agent employed. One thing I much admired was the great care which the firm exercises in the selection of fruits intended for the tin selection of jam, and the capital processes under which it all goes before we have it ready for the table. These

the preserving department, from the boiling coppers to the cooling vats, from the paring and sorting rooms to the pickling department, from the packing rooms to the store rooms, orderliness, system, and "clockliness" prevail; cleanliness, ventilation, and comfort for his 100 employees, appear to be Mr. Kirkpatrick's foremost principles. And so I leave this very excellent factory in full swing on the season's fruits,



H. Bennewitz, photo.

MR. KIRKPATRICK'S BEAUTIFUL MOTOR YACHT, QUEEN OF BEAUTY.

a holiday trip in his beautiful yacht, The Queen of Beauty, on the Sounds. Yes, he willingly shows me where and how all the wonderful and delightful jams, conserves, and sweet spices are manufactured. Let us look! This is the receiving room, where fruit, mostly apricots, is being weighed, checked, and passed in. It is arriving direct from the gardens in boxes. As we saunter through the animated scene of fruit-owners delivering their produce, and employees receiving it—I note that even here haste is orderly. In the picking room we find dozens of smart-looking girls busy sorting and cleaning the fruit

made, which, when it has been sterilised, is ready to receive its preserves. The machinery of this department has been so perfected by the enterprising proprietor that one machine alone can turn out 3,000 tins in an hour. In the kitchen rows and rows of great copper boilers sit over steam pipes cooking tons of fruit, and the operation is being assiduously attended to by the cooks. Here, too, is every convenience in the way of up-to-date machinery, amongst which a marmalade maker, a chipping machine, and a fruit-stoning machine, are noteworthy. When the tins of preserving fruit have been filled, and the lids

are some of the secrets of our wholesome "K" jams, and has done so much to build up the fortunes of this eminent firm and made those delicacies of our homes so famous. In addition to that of jam and preserved fruit manufacture, Mr. Kirkpatrick has undertaken the manufacture of spices and jellies, all of which have found much favour in the market, so that throughout our Dominion "K" manufactures have long become indispensable articles of daily consumption. From the tin making to the tin packing department, from the offices to the kitchen, from the receiving room to

THE QUEEN OF BEAUTY.

The illustration given above represents the popular Mr. Kirkpatrick's very handsome motor yacht, the Queen of Beauty, with all her beautiful lines, and flying her Blue Ensign, the burgee of the Royal New Zealand Yacht Squadron, and the owner's flag. She rides the water like any duck, and her dimensions are:—Length, 60ft.; beam, 12ft.; draught 5ft. 6in.; 35 h.p.; and speed, 8 knots. She has just returned from the Sounds, whither she has been on a ten days' cruise.



F. N. Jones, photo.

KIRKPATRICK'S JAM FACTORY, A FEATURE OF NELSON AND ONE OF THE FINEST EQUIPPED ESTABLISHMENTS OF THE KIND SOUTH OF THE LINE.

NELSON'S ANNIVERSARY: SOME VIEWS OF THIS BEAUTIFUL CITY AND SURROUNDINGS.



F. S. Jones, photo.

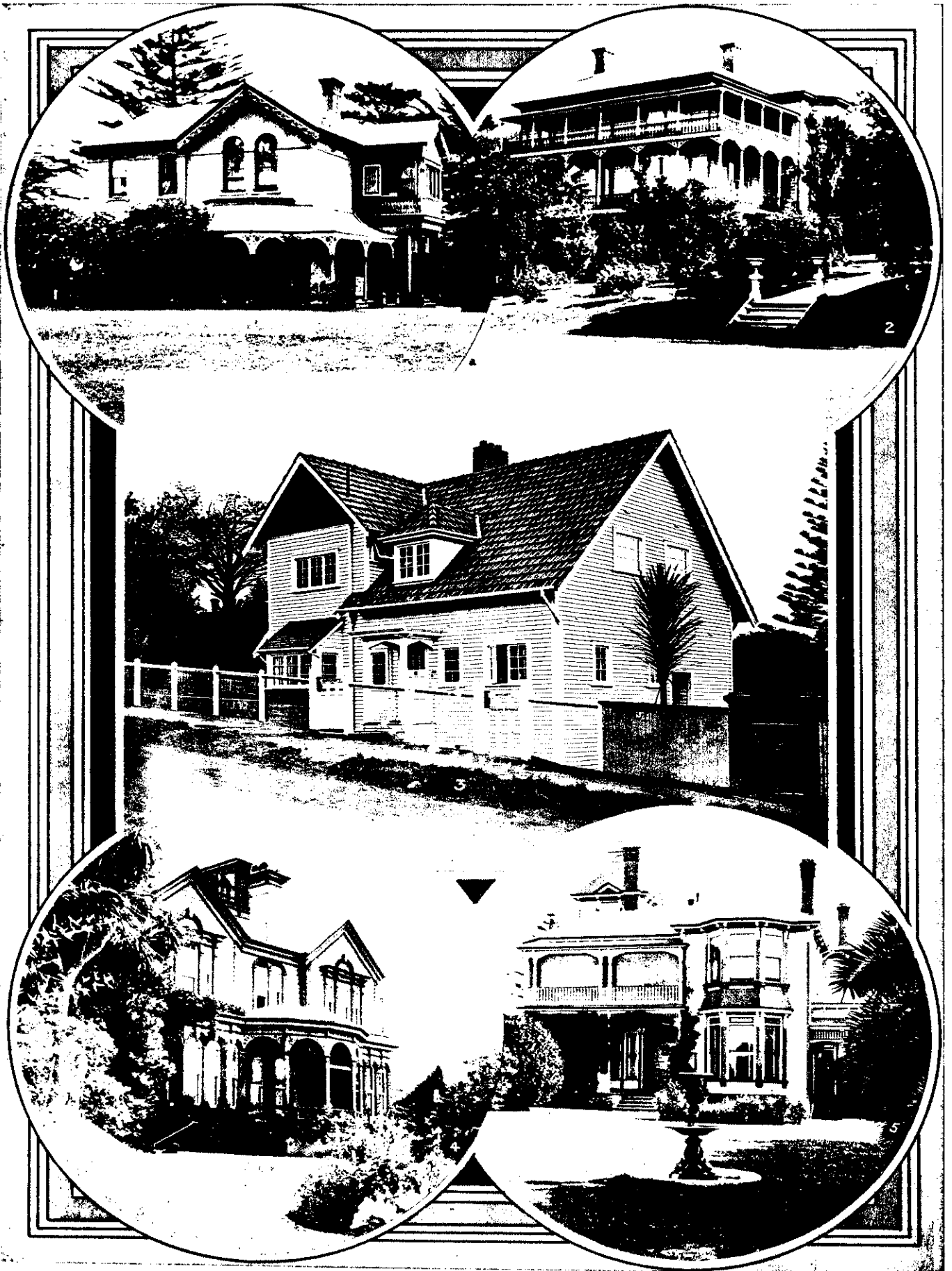
NELSON'S ANNIVERSARY: SOME VIEWS OF THIS

NELSON FROM WASHINGTON VALLEY—THE ZIGZAG



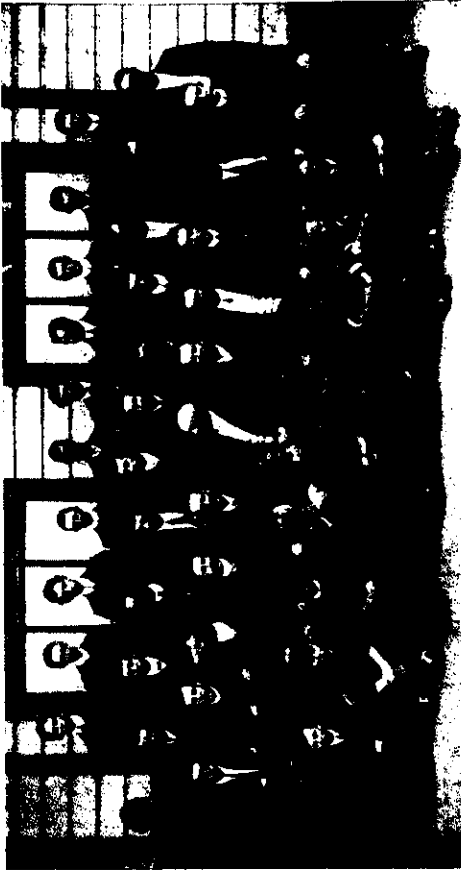
BEAUTIFUL SOUTHERN CITY AND SURROUNDINGS

HILL IS IN THE CENTRE OF THE PICTURE.



SOME PRETTY DOMINION HOMES.

1. Okland. Mr. T. Cotter's Residence, Remuera. 2. Mr. J. M. Lennox's Home, Remuera. 3. Mr. Mark Davis's quaint Villa, Parnell. 4. Mr. W. Ware's Residence, Remuera. 5. Mr. T. Haydie's Residence, Remuera.

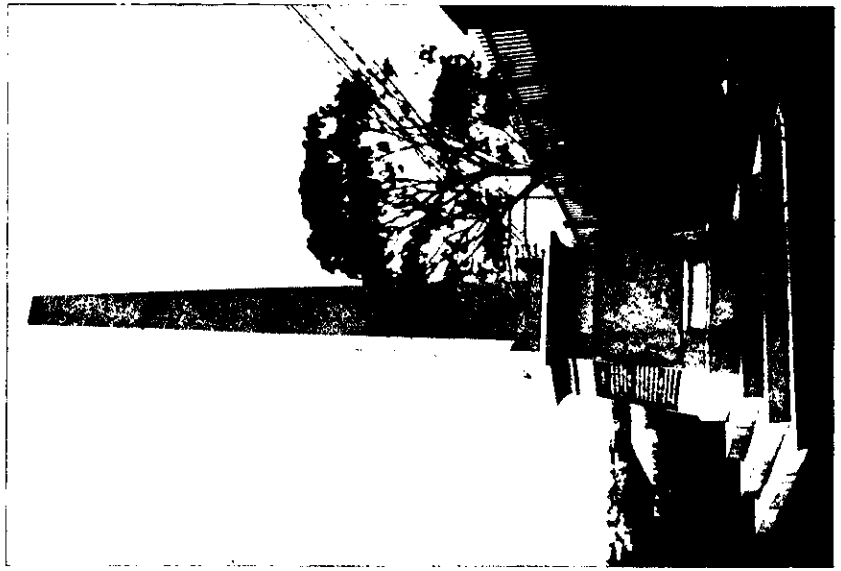


Whitley and Co., photo. STAFF OF THE POST OFFICE, HASTINGS.

The World's Water Power.

A summary of the available water powers of the world, published in the "Revue Electrique," is thus translated and abridged in "Marching":—

"In the United States there is 1,500,000 horse-power possible of utilization. Among the European countries, France has estimated available water-power of 4,500,000 horse-power, of which 800,000 horse-power is utilized. The region of the Alps, extending into France, brings the figure as high as mentioned. Italy, it is stated, has an equal amount of water power available, but only 300,000 horse-power is utilized as yet. In that country, falls of 10,000 horse-power are abundant. The estimate for the available water power in Switzerland is incomplete, but 300,000 horse-power is in use. The available power in Germany is 700,000 horse-power, 100,000 horse-power being utilized. In Norway the estimated power is 900,000 horse-power, and in Sweden 700,000, a large part of which is already developed in both countries. As regards available water-power, Russia heads the list it being estimated that 11,000,000 horse-power could be taken out of the Russian rivers, of which only 85,000 horse-power has been developed. Great Britain and Spain come last in the estimate, only 70,000 horse-power being utilized in either country. It is stated that Japan has available water power of 1,000,000 horse-power, of which only 7 per cent has as yet been utilized. The estimate for the water power in the United States is without question considerably below the actual figures. It has been stated on good authority that there is already developed or under development in the United States 4,500,000 horse-power from water sources, and the Government's statistical figures indicate that the available water power in the country is nearly 10,000,000 horse-power. In New England alone there is 1,000,000 horse-power developed, with probably another half million available."



THE CHILLON MEMORIAL, EMILY PLACE RESERVE, AUCKLAND. Formally received last week by the Mayor on behalf of the citizens of Auckland.



C. E. Newham, photo. SUR JOSEPH WARD AND PARTY AT THE LAYING OF THE FOUNDATION STONE, NEW POST OFFICE, HASTINGS.



AN UNUSUAL VISITOR TO WANGANUI THE BLACKFISH, CAPTURED IN THE WANGANUI RIVER LAST WEEK. Whitley and Co., photo.

The Quest of the Pearl.

By C. BRYSON TAYLOR.

Author of "In the Dwellings of the Wilderness," "Nicanor, Teller of Tales," etc.

(Photographs by A. W. ANDREE.)

AROUND her throat was a rope of pearls, each one larger than the tip of her dainty finger, each perfectly matched to its fellows, each shedding around it its tiny aura of pinkish light. They gleamed white against her dusky breast; they were caught like prisoned moonbeams in the black meshes of her hair; in her ears were golden loops from which swung huge pearl pendants. The couch on which she lay was ebony, inlaid with mother-of-pearl; her sandals were beaded with pearls, and pearls and rubies and misshapen turquoises studded the golden goblet at her hand. For she was Nourmahal, the rajah's favourite; and for her gratification his slaves searched earth and sea for treasure.

known to history. Think of the women who have worn it—Egypt's queens, Chaldean and Assyrian princesses, Roman matrons, noblewomen of the Renaissance—women of all the courts of all the world. And coming down to our own time, think of the fortunes that have been spent on the matched pearls of a single rope or collar; while even among women of moderate wealth there are few who have not at least a string or a pin of pearls.

Why should the pearl have won the high place it holds? It is hardly even showy, compared with most of the other precious stones.

Perhaps one reason is that even more infissolubly than the diamond, it is connected with woman.



INSHORE THE BOATS RACE, PILING THEMSELVES UP ON THE BEACH LIKE A SCHOOL OF STRANDED FISH.

She has long since turned to dust, this dark-skinned Indian princess, but since her long-gone day, men with the same recklessness have spent their substance on the treasures of earth and sea for some woman's adorning; and women have loved with the same barbaric passion the precious thing that beyond all other things is reckoned as

THE SYMBOL OF WOMANHOOD, THE PEARL.

Look at it, lying in its black velvet case upon the counter, the oldest gem

PAR EXCELLENCE IT IS THE WOMAN'S JEWEL.

feminine in its essence, in its spirituality, in its flawless purity. Few men care for pearls; when they do, they are apt to be connoisseurs, and better judges of them than even women.

There was a time when diamonds were not known, when the ruby was but a blackish stone, and gave no hint of the blood and fire within it, but there has never been a time since history was, when pearls were not considered things of price. So far back was their value

recognised that men—who left the scant record of their lives carved on the shambles of reindeer—bored them with sharp slivers of bone, strung them on a shred of fish-skin, and called them white bones—and exchanged them for what pleased them better.

Away to the East, on the island of

IT IS A QUIANT AND CURIOUS SIGHT, make the fishing pay can be counted on, one of these pearl-fishing expeditions. The search for the treasure of earth and sea has led men into strange corners of the world, but into no place stranger than that ancient, dirty little village that



THE PEARL-DRILLERS AT WORK.

Ceylon, a ragged little brown village, rank with the smell of decaying fish, sits dipping its feet in the Gulf of Mannar. It is Aripu, the oldest battering-place for pearls, and the most famous fishing-ground for them in existence. Tradition tells that Cleopatra's pearls were brought from here; and it is still the largest and most important pearl market in the world. For Oriental pearls, you will understand; for there are pearls and pearls—Oriental (the most valuable) and freshwater, Madras and Panama. (The pearl that lies in its black velvet case upon the counter came from Aripu, and is almost perfect. Perfect in lustre it is—hold it against the light, and you will see that the colours are on it, not in it—but at one end it is slightly flattened, so slightly that only an expert's eye could detect it. The most perfect pearl known is La Pellegrina. It weighs 112 grains, is perfectly round, and so lustrous that it appears transparent.)

Upon a time, before the British investment of the island in 1847, the Kings of Kandy, in their cheerful native fashion, did their best to ruin the oyster-beds; but since then the fisheries have been under government supervision, and science, with its magical preservative measures, has come to the aid of the oysters. It was high time, for, while formerly the oysters were abundant enough to provide good fishing every two years, now, so depleted have the beds become through unsystematic fishing, it is only every three or four years that sufficient returns to

banks in the tropic sun. Stretching away across the Gulf, off the north-western coast of the island, are paars, or beds, the oysters' breeding grounds. Flats they are in reality; long plateaux of rock, shelving out from the island, and covered with anywhere from five to fifty fathoms of green water. The shells usually live in narrow channels between groups of islands, where the current is swift and the bottom hard; and these paars are ideal places for them. The Periya Paar is perhaps the most celebrated pearl-ground in the world, but it is peculiarly exposed to the danger of the monsoon. More than once it has been swept clean by the fierce tides of all save a pitiful few of its toughest and most firmly clinging shells.

When it is decided by Government inspectors that the paars are in condition, official notice is sent out that a certain paar will be fished on a date usually about two weeks ahead. Forthwith the groovy village wakes to life. From all the East come merchants, hawk-eyed and swarthy—Hindoo, Arabian, Egyptian; buyers for the great princes of India, who will have the best that gold can purchase; small traders buying for themselves. From the West come agents of the great jewellers of Bond-street and Fifth Avenue, getting their firms' supplies at first hand, meeting the craft and guile of the East with cool-headed assurance; wealthy private collectors, with an eye for freak as well as first-water gems; and tourists who are in everybody's way. And from East and West also come men



WONDERFUL SWIMMERS THESE ARABS ARE, RECKLESSLY DARING, AND WITH INCREDIBLE POWERS OF ENDURANCE.



THE DIVERS RECEIVE THEIR SHARES, DECREED BY THE LAW OF THE FISHING.

to sell as well as to buy—peddlers, native jewellers, artificers in wood and stone, bazaar-keepers, shrewd-faced Yankees, stumbling into this remote village Heaven, and they alone know how or why, with cheap gimcracks that are displayed side by side with the marvels of oriental handiwork.

A NETWORK OF NARROW STREETS SPRING UP,

unnamed, un paved, wallowing in filth that steams in the blinding sunlight, lined



THE MAIN STREET OF MARICHUKKADAL. A MONTH BEFORE THE FISHING THIS PLACE WAS A BARREN WASTE.

with booths and hovels where grave, turbaned men sit behind their outspread wares. From bazaars, going night and day in full blast, come the throb of drums, the clash of cymbals, and the shrill minor plaint of reeds, rhythmic, monotonous, barbaric. Here a pearl-driller, his ebony body shining with sweat, squats with his primitive outfit, piercing pearls that are to be strung; here an inlayer, with his little charcoal forge, is gravely tapping with his blunt-nosed mallet; yonder a man in shabby European clothes

vile snails; and over it the copper sun is shikng into the western sea, turning to orange the sails of the hordes of chunky, sturdy little boats that are stranded on the beach or from far and near are scattering into harbour.

For at midnight the fleet will start for the pears, that with the first light the divers may begin work. So, as the sun goes down, the uproar on the beach increases. The kottins—thatched ware-houses, surrounded by close stockades, where the shells are taken from the boats

—are watched warily by officials, that no thief may slip in and conceal himself. The Government boats that are to convoy the fishing-fleet are getting up steam. On the beach fires are blazing, and groups, gathered around huge kettles of goat's flesh and rice, are silhouetted blackly against the leaping flames. Eating is an important business to-night; for to-morrow will be an enforced fast day. No diver who knows his business will take food on the day of diving — unless the hours are to be very late—that the action

But, contrary to popular belief, and even to native superstition, divers run small danger from these tigers of the sea. Sharks are notorious cowards; and un-

divers, and each diver is allowed two mandaks, or assistants. Each boat carries also a Government guard, whose duty it is to see that the precious bi-



FROM ALL THE EAST COME MERCHANTS, HAWK-EYED AND SWARTHY.

less a man is wounded or rendered somehow helpless, a vigorous splashing is usually sufficient to drive them off. For all that, and because old beliefs are hardest of all to kill, each charmer has his circle of devotees waiting for the touch and the muttered word that will mean protection.

Somewhere around midnight the fleet gets under way, in dire and shrieking confusion, which the Government boats make gallant and perfectly hopeless attempts to quell. But for all the mad excitement, surprisingly few casualties occur.

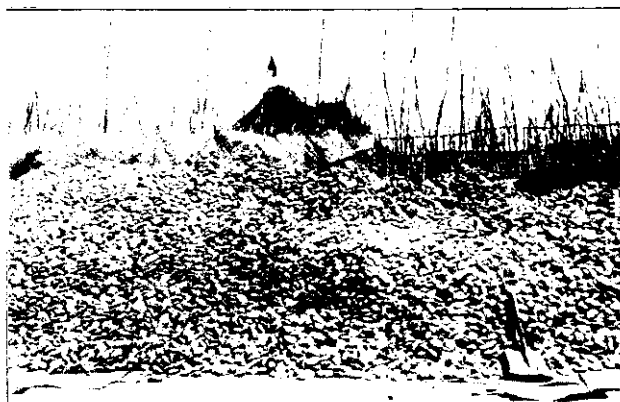
DAWN COMES WITH A FLAMING RUSH:

a burst of crimson far-flung over the sleeping waters, and the sun is striding

valves, lying in their tens of thousands, are not tampered with.

THE METHODS OF DIVING ARE MANY.

Here a stocky little Japanese, naked save for a narrow strap around his waist, slips his feet foremost into the water, two netted bags slung to the strap, with a weight in each bag to take him down. His mandaks hold the rope attached to his belt by which at his signal they will haul him up with his load of shells. The water closes quietly over his round, black head; there is nothing spectacular in his performance, but all through the working hours he will go popping up and down like a Jack-in-the-box, every two minutes, regular as clockwork, blow-



OYSTERS IN THEIR TENS OF MILLIONS YIELD UP THEIR SLUGGISH SPARKS OF LIFE.

up the sky. Twenty miles out at sea the fleet heaves to, hovering over the chosen ground, and when the sun comes, the work begins. Pearl shells live at depths of from eight to twenty or more fathoms; for the naked native diver, twenty to thirty feet is good diving, and forty to fifty feet is the maximum. He can remain under water from sixty to eighty seconds; in this time he must make his descent and ascent, and fill with shells the netted bag he carries slung around his waist. In diving-dress, which is the method employed by Australians, a man can, of course, descend to greater depths, and, when at right to fifteen fathoms, can remain at the bottom for two hours or more, but at any greater depth, for no longer than fifteen minutes. Diving as a profession is dangerous, not so much from the chances of accidents, though these must always be reckoned with, as from the fact that it is ultimately most injurious to health, deafness and ineffectual paralysis resulting if the work is not given up in time.

ing like a porpoise as he rises to the surface, but remaining only long enough to be relieved of his load of shells. Here an elderly Malay, lean and wrinkled, runs outlike on the springboard that reaches out from the boat's side, and goes over with a splash. He, too, has his weighted bags, and a rope. A young Arab pushes through the crowd to the boat's rail, a lithe, clean-limbed fellow, powerfully built, and taller by half a head than most of his mates. He leaps to the rail and poises there, a living statue of bronze.

Continued on page 60.



A RAGGED LITTLE BROWN VILLAGE — A BARTERING-PLACE FOR PEARLS.

is trying to sell a trayful of jangling alarm clocks to a group of chattering, curious blacks. Government men in puttees and pith helmets; divers, and boatmen—Arabs, Malays, Japanese, Chinese—they throng and gibe and chatter. It is the East, the gorgeous, changeless, mysterious East, the filthy, squalid, verminous East, of strange perfumes and

of the heart and lungs may not be interfered with and the danger of cramps may be reduced to a minimum.

Farther away from the groups around the fire are other smaller groups, clustered close around the hawk-charmers, the pillal karas, in whose power the native believes implicitly, and whose spell will ward off the danger of being eaten alive.



THE MANDAKS LADEN WITH BASKETS OF SHELLS WHICH THEY TAKE TO THE KOTTINS.



The boundary of the area to be fished over is marked out by Government launches, and a heavy line is the penalty of the boat that fishes beyond it.

The work is in charge of the Superintendent of the Fishery, whose tug must be in as many places at once as is possible. Each of the hundred odd boats scattered over the banks within the prescribed limits carries twenty or thirty

Australian Artistes in Song and Symphony

Being Brief Extracts from an Article in "Castell's Magazine," by F. Marher Burton

SOMEONE, teasing an Australian, on a recent visit to London, said, "Your violets have no perfume, and your birds no notes like those of our nightingale."

"True," she replied, "we have no feathered songster to equal your rarer avis, but our human nightingales are world-famous, and have the advantage of being more frequently heard than your much-vaunted nightingale."

Australia has indeed furnished many celebrated vocalists, and each season some fresh claimant for limelight is heard on the London concert platform.

Madame Melba, the renowned prima donna, is facile princeps in the long list of singers from the Sunny South land. Mrs. Armstrong took her name "Melba" from her native city Melbourne, Richmond, a few miles out of the town, has the honour of being her birthplace. Both her parents were musical people of Scotch family. Very wisely Mr. and Mrs. Mitchell gave their daughter Nellie the advantages of a good education, at the Presbyterian College, Melbourne, where her talents, musical and otherwise, were soon recognised. Later she studied singing under Madame Marchesi in Paris; her debut was as Gilda in Rigoletto at the Theatre de la Monnaie, Brussels, October, 1887. In London she was first heard in Lucia di Lammermoor and was much admired, but it was in Romeo and Juliet that she first took London by storm. Then, and ever since, as we all

sung before nearly all the crowned heads of Europe, and appeared at all gala and State functions given by the late Queen Victoria and the present King. As is usually the case with the really great

mother's side to the family of the poet Cowley, and made her first appearance in Melbourne at a Philharmonic Concert in 1892, and at Queen's Hall in 1895. Since then she has been a reigning favourite. The Sydney people say that they "discovered" Ada Crossley, and they gave her quite an ovation before she started for England, where she soon gained admiration and popularity from Queen Victoria downwards.

On one occasion the singer was suffering severely from a sprained ankle, but rather than disappoint the audience she came on with the injured member in a bedroom slipper, and endeavoured to sing "Home, Sweet Home," but the pain was so great that she was unable to continue, whereupon the audience sang to her, and the words were, "She's a jolly good fellow, and so say all of us!" Ada

MISS ALICE HOLLANDER.
Miss Alice Hollander is also a prominent and popular singer from Australia.



MISS ALICE HOLLANDER.

Who was paid by the minute for her performances in America.

where she was born and spent many years of early life. Her mother is English and her father came from Buda Pest.



MISS ESTA D'ARGO.

Her singing of "Good-Bye" led one of her hearers to make up a quarrel with his betrothed.

She does not advertise herself as Australian, because as she says, "There have been so many Australian

Continued on page 61.



ones of the world, she is singularly unostentatious. She makes no special entry, but comes on with the whole company.

MADAME ADA CROSSLEY.

Madame Ada Crossley, a native of Gippsland, Australia, is related on her

Crossley is now Mrs. Francis Muecke in private life, for she married Dr. Muecke, a South Australian by birth and a throat specialist by profession. He is naturally specially interested in the throats of great singers, and it was in the practice of his profession he had the pleasure of meeting his wife.



MADAME ADA CROSSLEY.

Who had "Home, Sweet Home," translated into Maori, so as to sing it to the natives of New Zealand.

know, Europe and America have been captivated by her voice.

At the farewell performance in America last year, Madame Melba was recalled no fewer than forty times. The audience remained after the opera La Boheme was concluded. The final scene from Lucia generously given as an encore, the people crowded around the platform and threw flowers, etc. Madame Melba came down to them, saying, "Do go home." With one voice the reply came, "We won't go home!" So, graciously accepting the situation, she sat down to her enthusiastic admirers. Madame Melba has been decorated with various honours from the King of the Belgians, the Emperor of Austria, etc., and from King Edward VII. has received the Order of Science, Art and Literature. She has



MISS IRENE AINSLEY.

"Madame Melba helped me a great deal with my singing. She has been my 'fairy godmother.'"



MISS ELYDA RUSSELL.

The violin was her special study until Professor Lauterbach persuaded her to learn singing.



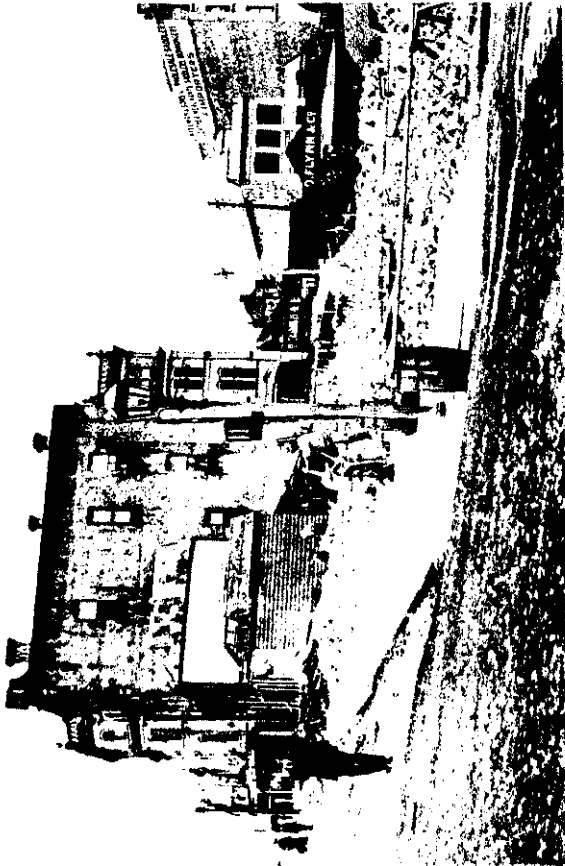
SHELTER SHEDS IN NIKAU PALM GROVE.

Owing to the rough and mountainous character of Sunday Island, it was impossible to go far from camp and return the same day. Sleeping out was thus a common practice. Nikau shacks, or huts, were built facing one another, and a fire fit between them.



HOW SPECIMENS WERE PACKED AND PREPARED FOR TRANSIT TO THE HINEMOA.

LIFE ON THE CHATHAMS—HOW THE MEMBERS OF LAST YEAR'S SCIENTIFIC PARTY LIVED.



CITY IMPROVEMENTS, AUCKLAND.

Clearing ground corner Wellesley-street and Elliot-street for the erection of A. Clark and Sons' warehouse.



THE NEW FOOTWAY ADDED TO THE RAILWAY BRIDGE, HAMILTON.

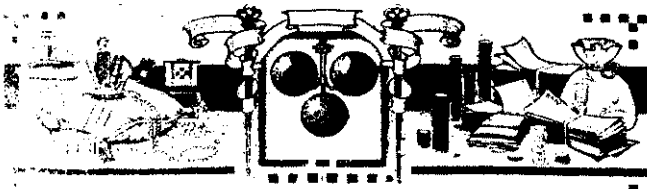
This new footway gives easy access to the residential portion of Hamilton. Previously about a mile and a-half had to be walked and the crossing made by the traffic bridge.



"NO PEDIGREE."

An Up-country Study by P. A. Eadie.

Copy negative m.



MONARCHS IN DEBT

MANY OF THE MODERN RULERS OF EUROPE HAVE FELT THE PINCH OF POVERTY. HOW SOME HAVE MANAGED TO GET OUT OF DEBT AND OTHERS TO BECOME HOPELESSLY INVOLVED.

By WYCOLLAR HALL

ROYALTY suggests wealth, and kings and emperors are usually supposed to be rolling in riches, since the very fact that they make their homes in magnificent palaces implies affluence, just as a workman's cottage indicates straitened circumstances. Yet many of the monarchs of the Old World in modern times have known the pinch of poverty. The debts of nations are often supplemented by infinitely more pressing liabilities of a personal character, in connection with which princes and kings are compelled to submit to all sorts of humiliations.

Among the least bitter of these is the recourse to the pawnshop, and long is the list of the anointed of the Lord who have at one time or another been forced to seek the costly assistance of that avuncular relative who has adopted for his heraldic device the old Lombard banking emblem of the three gilded balls. Thus, the last king of Naples on several occasions

PAWNED ALL HIS SILVER PLATE IN LONDON.

King Milan, while still on the throne of Serbia, reportedly deposited the various jewelled insignia of his sovereignty at the Monte de Pieté in Vienna, in order to obtain the money necessary for the settlement of his "debts of honour"—that is to say, his losses at cards in the Austrian capital, and on two occasions they were, for political reasons, quietly redeemed by Emperor Francis Joseph.

Probably no sovereign has suffered more acutely from the lack of funds than King Edward VII., and it may therefore be of interest to know that, for the

in 1863 under many disadvantages. In the first place he had been brought up with such extreme strictness that when he first attained his freedom he was naturally disposed to extravagance of conduct, speech, and expenditure—in a word, he had to sow his wild oats; and when a prince of the blood, and particularly the heir to a great throne, engages in agricultural pursuits of this kind there are always plenty of men and women eager to propitiate the rising sun by abetting his follies. Then, too, the prince

three million dollars which she received from the civil list for the purpose, whereas their revenues at the time were less than four hundred thousand dollars a year; that is to say, inferior to those of many of the great nobles, such as the Dukes of Devonshire, Bedford, Westminster, Sutherland, Buccleuch, and Northumberland, the Earls of Derby, Dudley, etc. The result of this condition of affairs was that

THE PRINCE OF WALES SOON GOT HEAVILY IN DEBT.

and the time came when even the Rothschilds, whose position in English society he had firmly established, intimated to him that it was impossible for them to make any further advances. It is reported that on one or two occasions the queen, prompted by her ministers, and confronted by them with the alternative of their appealing to Parliament for a grant in behalf of the prince, reluctantly came to his rescue, and relieved him of some of his most pressing liabilities. But, inasmuch as no means was devised for the liquidation of all his debts, and for the prevention of their recurrence, it was not long before his troubles became once more acute.

It was then that the so-called "Benefactors" appeared upon the scene. "Benefactors" are persons of great wealth, who, from motives of patriotism and social ambition, esteem it a privilege to be permitted to place their well-stocked purses at the disposal of royalty. Such a one was Sir James Mackenzie. He had made the greater part of his money in India, originally as a hatter, and after as an indigo-planter, and was a kind-hearted, withal somewhat vulgar, man, whose main occupation during the latter part of his existence was to find means of

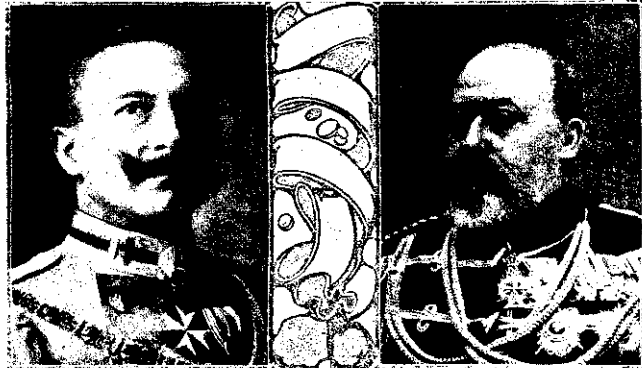
had always been very fond of the Prince, despite the dissimilarity of their tastes, and who, during his long wait for the Crown, had been subjected to very much the same pecuniary disadvantages as Queen Victoria's first-born, readily acceded to his request, and is understood to have loaned him a large sum of money for his most pressing needs. This kindly act met with so much disapproval on the part of the leading dignitaries at the Imperial court at Berlin, that Prince Stolberg actually insisted upon resigning then and there his post as Minister and Grand Master of the Royal House, rather than participate in any such transaction as the loaning of money belonging to the Hohenzollern family to a foreign prince. On Emperor Frederick's death, not long afterward, and the accession of Emperor William, steps were taken to recover the money, and the unpleasantness in connection therewith was the cause of much of the bitterness which marked the relations of the Kaiser and his uncle during the early years of the former's reign. It is said that King Edward was enabled to liquidate his debt to the treasury of the Hohenzollern family by means of the timely help of Baron Hirsch, but that he has never wholly forgotten or forgiven the treatment to which he was subjected in the matter by his nephew and the authorities at Berlin.

Baron Hirsch, it may be remembered, died very suddenly, without coming to any arrangement about the liabilities of the Prince toward his estate; and it was then that

Cecil Rhodes and His Friends

are reported to have appeared upon the scene as benefactors, and rendered possible the publication of a solemn yet significant assurance that England's future King was not in any way indebted to the estate of Baron Hirsch. To what extent the Prince by fortunate investments, suggested by the South African colossus, and his business associates including the Duke of Fife, who is the King's son-in-law, and the Duke of Abercorn, who was the Chief of his Household, it is impossible to say. But the fact remains that when Edward VII. succeeded to the Throne he found himself still burdened with such a heavy load of debt that everyone was prepared for an application to Parliament by the Crown for the settlement of the liabilities which he had incurred as heir apparent.

While a demand of this kind might have given rise to some discussion, there is no doubt that it would have been granted by an overwhelming majority, and would have met with the approval of the people at large, since a very general impression existed to the effect that the King had not been altogether fairly treated in a financial sense, while Prince of Wales. Realising, however, that such an appeal would weaken his position both at home and abroad, and would



EMPEROR WILLIAM II. OF GERMANY.

KING EDWARD VII. OF ENGLAND.

was, thanks to a piece of disgraceful jobbery on the part of those concerned, saddled with the estate of Sandringham, the purchase of which had absorbed most of the accumulations of the revenues of his duchy of Cornwall, which he would otherwise have had at his disposal on attaining his majority—an estate that was not only productive of no income whatsoever, but which has involved the expenditure of vast sums for maintenance, and in order to render it habitable and comfortable.

Moreover, the recent death of the Prince Consort, and the withdrawal of the widowed Queen from public and social life, led to the Prince and Princess of Wales being saddled at the time of their marriage with all those representative duties of royalty which ordinarily fall to the share of the sovereign. Upon them fell

THE BURDEN OF ENTERTAINING MEMBERS OF FOREIGN REIGNING HOUSES,

who visited England, and of dispensing hospitality to the aristocracy, the dignitaries of state, and those people of light and leading who from motives of policy must be kept in touch with the dynasty. Finally, they were required, by reason of the queen's retirement, to surround themselves with a far larger court of lords and ladies and gentlemen in waiting than would have been necessary under other circumstances. In fact, the obligations of which they relieved the queen involved the expenditure of an income almost as large as the

HELPING ALONG HIS FUTURE KING IN A FINANCIAL WAY.

Among other things, he was in the habit of leasing each year one of the most costly and magnificent country seats in the neighbourhood of Windsor, solely for the purpose of being able to place it at the disposal of his illustrious friend for Ascot week, Queen Victoria having saddled so many restrictions upon the use of Windsor Castle during the races by her eldest son, that he was unable to make use of that magnificent and historic palace. When Sir James, who purchased one of the finest estates in the neighbourhood of Balmoral, died very suddenly, his executors called upon the prince to repay at once loans to the extent of considerably over £250,000; and, as they were compelled by their legal obligations to take steps to secure the recovery of the money, they would probably have been obliged in self-defence to institute legal proceedings against the heir apparent, had not Baron Hirsch come to his assistance.

If court gossip in England and on the Continent is to be believed, it was not the first time that the great Jewish philanthropist had shown himself

A FRIEND IN NEED TO THE FUTURE KING

of England. The latter, in 1868, had found himself involved in such terrible financial embarrassments that he appealed to his favourite brother-in-law, Emperor Frederick, who had just succeeded to the Throne. Frederick, who



KING LEOPOLD II. OF BELGIUM.

first time since his marriage, more than two score years ago, he is now entirely free from debt of every kind. It is this that accounts for the phenomenal and altogether unexpected improvement in his spirits and in his general health. I have said that the King is now out of debt, I mean this only in a financial sense. For he owes a deep debt of gratitude to Lord Farquhar, Lord Esher, and Sir Ernest Cassel for his liberation from all monetary embarrassments. The story of his rescue by this trio of devoted friends and able business men is an interesting one, and worth relating.

Edward VII. began his married life



COUNT DOUGLAS,

who was the Emperor of Germany's benefactor before he came to the Throne.

always be cast in his teeth by the foes of the dynasty, he took counsel of his most trusted advisers, and placed himself unreservedly in their hands. These advisers consisted of the great Anglo-German financier, Sir Ernest Cassel, of Nile Dam fame, Lord Farquhar, for many years the managing director of one of the leading banks in London, and Lord Esher, who is generally understood

to be interested in the firm of Cassel. The King undertook to turn over to them the management of his household, and the administration of the civil list, whereupon they assumed all his liabilities; and by means of economies in various directions, by insurance policies, by the sale of useless things and duplicates, by clever investments, and by the establishment of a sinking fund, they have so skilfully managed matters that King Edward has since last summer, and for the first time since his marriage been entirely out of debt, and his civil list free from mortgage. It was

sort to such practices it would scarcely have escaped the attention of

EDWARD VII, WHO HAS DEVELOPED INTO AN EXCEEDINGLY SHREWD AND WIDE-AWAKE MAN OF BUSINESS.

in his mature age. The reports probably had their origin in the fact that on the death of the late queen a careful investigation of the contents of her numerous palaces disclosed a vast quantity of things for which the king could find no possible use, and which he was in consequence advised to sell. The huge cellars at Windsor and at Buckingham Palace, for instance, were crowded with ports, sherries, and other wines which had gone out of fashion, which did not commend themselves to Edward VII's taste, and which had been accumulating there throughout the 60 years of his mother's reign, and even in the time of her two uncles, George IV. and William IV. These were sold at a high price, in order to make way for his favourite vintages.

Then, too, there was much furniture of an artistic character, for which there was no longer any room, and which had to be sold off; while the art collections (that is to say, the paintings, the statuary, the collections of rare porcelain and ivories, the bull cabinets, and bric-a-brac of every description) had to be subjected to a very extensive weeding process, everything being sold for which the king and the queen did not care, or of which there were a superfluous number of examples. The king himself had been collecting during the 40 years of his social life as heir apparent, and it was necessary to secure a place for his own treasures. That is why so much of the contents of the royal palaces, as they were in the days of Queen Victoria, came into the market during the four or five years following her demise as to cause malicious people to start the wholly false rumour to the effect that either the king, or else some of the most trusted and influential members of his household, had gone into business with several of the great art and wine dealers, additional colour being lent to these tales by the fact that Guy Laking, the member of the king's household who is in charge of all the royal armour and of most of the art collections, is admittedly a partner in a celebrated firm of auctioneers in London, and that the king's cellar-master, Thomas A. Kingscote, is a member of a great wine firm.

By means of these sales a far larger sum of money was realised by Lord Farquhar, Lord Esher, and Sir Ernest Cassel than the public would ever dream, and another big amount was obtained by a

RADICAL REORGANISATION OF THE ENTIRE ROYAL HOUSEHOLD.

and by the reformation of the almost incredible abuses and extravagances that had gradually developed at court during the nearly 40 years of widowhood of Queen Victoria, and which were of a nature to cause her thrifty and level-headed husband—a clever business man if ever there was one—to turn in his grave. It is no exaggeration to assert that Lord Farquhar and Lord Esher, by doing away with waste, perquisites, pilfering, and with useless yet costly sinecures, were able to cut down the expenditures of the royal household nearly one-half, without in the slightest de-

gree impairing the brilliancy or the splendour of King Edward's court, which, indeed, is vastly superior in that respect to that of his august mother.

No monarch in modern times has suffered more from financial embarrassments than

THE LATE KING OF PORTUGAL,

who was subjected to every conceivable indignity in connection with his liabilities, the advances made to him by the Exchequer resulting in his being denounced in the Cortes, and also in the press at Lisbon, as a "robber of the national treasury," as a "thief of public money," and as "far more worthy of death than King Louis XVI. of France."

This was not the first sacrifice of the kind which King Carlos had been called upon to make. For, some years ago, it was found necessary to

SELL THE WHOLE OF THE CROWN JEWELS OF PORTUGAL,

some of which are now in America. The money thus obtained was converted into Portuguese Government bonds, the interest of which was assigned to the liquidation of the then-existing debts of the reigning house. It is only fair to the late king to point out that his financial circumstances were not wholly due to extravagance, but to the organisation of his civil list. This was extremely small compared to those of other sovereigns, and, moreover, was saddled with all sorts of charges in the way of the maintenance of national museums and the subvention of national theatres, from which, however, it is henceforth to be relieved. True, Queen Amelie has some money of her own, amounting about 75,000 dollars a year, inherited from her father, the late Count of Paris. But while this would be a comfortable income for a woman in private life, it does not go very far with the Queen, being swallowed up almost entirely by her dress, seeing that her rank does not permit her to appear more than once in the same toilette.

KING LEOPOLD IS NOW ROLLING IN WEALTH;

but there have been times, especially during the early stages of his Congo enterprise, when he was terribly embarrassed, financially speaking, and ready to turn to almost any quarter for assistance. For many years the late Sir William McKinnon was Leopold's particular benefactor, and the king showed his appreciation by receiving him with almost royal honours whenever he came to Brussels, by constantly running over to England, and even to Scotland, for the purpose of seeking his advice and pecuniary advances, and by using his influence with the English Government to secure for McKinnon the title of baronet. After the death of Sir William, his place as benefactor to Leopold was taken by "Colonel" North, popularly known as the Nitrate King. Colonel North was a self-made man who did not include among his very sterling qualities either high breeding or refinement. Indeed, even his best



LORD FARQUHAR.

One of the men who took upon themselves King Edward's personal obligations.

the action by Sir Ernest, Lord Farquhar, and Lord Esher in taking upon themselves all the personal obligations of the King at the time of the accession, which enabled the Government to announce in Parliament that he would be satisfied with the same civil list as his predecessor on the throne, that he would make no application to the nation for an additional grant of money, and that he had no debts with which it was necessary for the treasury to concern itself, an announcement which, while it was received with the utmost satisfaction, at the same time created some surprise, as it was generally understood that the king had not benefited to any extent under the will of the late Queen, the major part of whose fortune had gone to her younger children.

It may be well to declare here, in the most explicit fashion, that there is not a vestige of truth in the malicious stories, widely circulated, and which have even found their way into print, according to which an arrangement has existed with some of the greatest art dealers in London, whereby art treasures of one kind and another were placed on view from time to time in Windsor Castle, Buckingham Palace, and other of the King's residences, in order to admit of their sale to American millionaires at prices far above their real value, in the belief that they formed part and parcel of the royal collections. No one in the entourage of the King would have lent himself to any such trick, so dear to the sharper grade of auctioneers on both sides of the Atlantic; and if there had been any attempt to re-



LORD ESHER.

Another of King Edward's advisers and benefactors.

Indeed, these advances played so important a role in the legislative deadlock, and in the constitutional crisis of the last year in Portugal, which culminated in the murder of the king last February, that a few weeks before his death he as well as the queen yielded to the entreaties of their most trusted advisers, and resolved upon extensive sacrifices in order to liquidate the liability. Thus, although Carlos was devoted to the sea and passionately fond of yachting, he surrendered his beautiful steam yacht, the Amelie, to the nation for conversion into a cruiser; and he likewise abandoned to the State a quantity of real estate forming part of his private property.



SANDRINGHAM HOUSE, NORFOLKSHIRE. KING EDWARD'S PRIVATE RESIDENCE.

The purchase of this estate by the King, when Prince of Wales, was attended by a disgraceful piece of jobbery which absorbed most of the accumulation of revenue from his Duchy of Cornwall.



HE: Hullo! Who's that?
 SHE: Me. That you, darling?
 HE: Yes, darling; what is it?
 SHE: Had to ring you up, darling, to thank you for the Odol you sent me. I never had a dentifrice that was half so nice and refreshing. I want to go about smiling all day long to let people see how white and shiny my teeth are.
 HE: I knew you'd like it, that's why I sent it you.
 SHE: Lovely. I don't wonder all the actresses and fashionable women use it. And all the dentists are recommending the Standard flavour for men.
 HE: You'll tell me when you want some more, won't you?
 SHE: Yes, darling, but you only need such a little that a flask lasts for a long time.
 HE: Want anything else, darling?
 SHE: No, darling.
 HE: Good-bye, darling. I wish I could kiss you.
 SHE: I wish you could. That's the only disadvantage of a telephone, but you shall have a telephone kiss for that Odol. Pswt! Like it?
 HE: Lovely. (They ring off.)



friends were compelled to admit that he was dreadfully vulgar and extremely loud both in manner and appearance. Yet the king overlooked all these defects, associated in the most intimate manner with the colonel, and frequently entertained him at Ostend and at Brussels; and on one occasion he actually went to the length of placing his favourite palace in the Ardennes at the disposal of North, in order to enable North to entertain there, at his expense, a party of friends from London, to shoot over the royal preserves.

Emperor William's benefactor before he came to the throne is generally understood to have been his friend, Count Douglas. The Kaiser, prior to his accession, was kept on an exceedingly small allowance, partly because his parents, the then Crown Prince and Crown Princess, could not afford to do anything for him, owing to their own limited resources, and partly because the old Emperor, who determined the amount of the allowance to be paid to each of the princes of his house from the Hohenzollern fam-

ily fortune and from the civil list, was of an extremely economical turn of mind. The regiments to which Prince William was attached were among the most expensive corps in the service, his fellow-officers being all men of great wealth, and the consequence was that he found it very difficult to make both ends meet. It is generally understood that Count Douglas, who was one of his closest friends, and who derives the major portion of his great wealth from practically inexhaustible mines that he possesses in the Hartz Mountains, frequently came to his assistance and advanced him money, which was, of course, repaid after his accession. But his financial difficulties were a matter of common talk, and led to a certain amount of popular belief being accorded to the mendacious stories subsequently told by ex-Capt. Sidney O'Danne when tried and convicted of fraud at Berlin. O'Danne, who during the boyhood of William, had been one of his military instructors, insisted that after his royal pupil had attained manhood he had

been on two occasions dispatched by him on a secret mission to St. Petersburg, for the purpose of obtaining loans from the late Czar. Of course, there was not a shadow of proof in the assertion, which nevertheless found credence among

unately, the amount of money which the extravagant Egyptian ruler advanced through an untrusting hand to the gallant Tonia. The Khedive lent it, not only from motives of generosity, but also policy, deeming it judicious for a potentate



THE NEW IMPERIAL STABLES IN BERLIN.

The Emperor has lately introduced many reforms for the more economical running of this establishment.




KING EDWARD'S STABLES, NEWMARKET, WHERE HIS RACEHORSES ARE TRAINED.

certain people, who were disposed to believe that the extraordinary animosity which undoubtedly prevailed between the late Alexander III, and the present Kaiser was of a pecuniary origin.


THE LATE KING VICTOR EMANUEL WAS FOREVER IN FINANCIAL DIFFICULTIES.

and at his death left his affairs in a terribly embarrassed condition. Indeed, his son, King Humbert, had just finished the liquidation of his father's enormous liabilities at the time of his assassination at Monza. Khedive Ismail was among the old King's largest creditors, and no one is ever likely to know, even approxi-

in his semi-independent position to have one of the most influential monarchs in Europe so heavily in debt. Humbert did not show himself ungrateful for Ismail's kindness to his father, for when the Khedive was deposed in 1879, and wandered all over Europe, finding the doors of royal and imperial courts closed in his face, that of Italy was the only one where he was welcomed with every manifestation of regard, and received with altogether royal honours. It was in consequence of this that he made his home at Rome and at Naples, in palaces placed at his disposal by the king, until in 1888 he unfortunately permitted himself to be inveigled into visiting Constantinople, where he was kept by the



H 2832.—Greenstone and 9 ct. Gold Sword Brooch, 23/-
Other Designs and Sizes from 13/6 upwards.



H 1654.—9 ct. Gold-mounted Pearl Set Greenstone Brooch, 21/-.


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F 593.—15 ct. Gold Pearl Set Half Moon and Spray Brooch in Morocco Case, £5/10/-.




H 145.—9 ct. Gold Brooch, with raised Letters and Fern, 14/6.




G 9789.—15 ct. Gold Brooch, Set 1 Sapphire, 2 Diamonds, in Morocco Case, £5/10/-.




H 4766.—9 ct. Gold Pearl Set Brooch, in Morocco Case, 27/6.




F 5931A.—15 ct. Gold Crescent on Bar Brooch, 13 Diamonds, 17 Rubies, and Whole Pearl, in Morocco Case, £15/10/-.




H 4949.—9 ct. Gold Watch Pendant Brooch, 14/6.



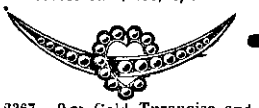
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G 2367.—9 ct. Gold, Turquoise, and Pearl Set Brooch, in Morocco Case, 32/6.




H 4245.—15 ct. Gold, Opal and Ruby Brooch, in Morocco Case, 37/6.




F 7032.—9 ct. Gold, Diamond and Ruby Set Brooch, in Morocco Case, 21/-.




H 2282.—9 ct. Gold-mounted Greenstone Brooch, 27/6.




G 5771.—15 ct. Gold, Amethyst and Pearl Set Brooch, in Morocco Case, £3/10/-.




G 2589.—15 ct. Gold Pearl Set Spray Brooch, in Morocco Case, £4.




H 1389.—9 ct. Gold Topaz Set Brooch in Morocco Case, 22/6.




H 2011.—9 ct. Gold-mounted Pearl Set Greenstone Brooch, 14/6.




H 4942.—9 ct. Gold Brooch, Set with Pearls, 13/6.




G 5210.—9 ct. Gold Pearl Set Safety Pin, 6/6.



H 4334.—9 ct. Gold Pearl Set Brooch, in Morocco Case, 21/-.



H 2530.—Greenstone and 9 ct. Gold Brooch, 10/6.



H 1172.—9 ct. Gold Amethyst and Pearl Set Brooch, in Morocco Case, 16/6.

Sultan in a sort of gilded captivity until his death, in 1895.

Nicholas, ruler of the Black Mountains, father-in-law of the present King of Italy, of King Peter of Serbia, and of a couple of Russian grand dukes, has never been out of debt for the last thirty years or more, his liabilities arising partly from his anxiety to maintain a royal court on a scale similar to that of other European sovereigns without having the means to do so, and partly from his mania for gambling. King Victor Emmanuel, the

funds from the Montenegrin postal department. It was not until the prince had obtained a very large sum of money in this fashion that the Austrian postal authorities discovered the trick, which his absolute control of every branch of the government at Cetinje had enabled him to play at their expense, and thereupon a suspension of all intercourse by mail with Montenegro was decreed from Vienna, which lasted until the prince made a personal appeal to the emperor, who paid the amount due to the Austrian

within the last hundred years have been bestowed in recognition and perhaps as part repayment of personal loans to the anointed of the Lord. There are few of them who have not at one time or another been in debt, or who are in a position to show the same spirit of independence that was manifested by the late Prince of Schaumburg-Lippe at the Congress of German sovereigns at Frankfort, in 1863. At one of the great entertainments given by the Senate of the then Free City of Frankfort, all the rulers present were assembled in a reserved saloon, engaged in animated conversation. Suddenly they all, with one exception, rose to their feet, and advanced to meet a small and insignificant-looking man who had just entered the room. The prince who had remained seated was Adolph of Schaumburg-Lippe.

"Who is the fellow about whom you are making all this fuss?" he growled to the sovereign Elector of Hesse.

"Why, don't you know him?" replied the latter. "It is Baron Rothschild. Let me make you acquainted with him. Surely you do not want to be the only

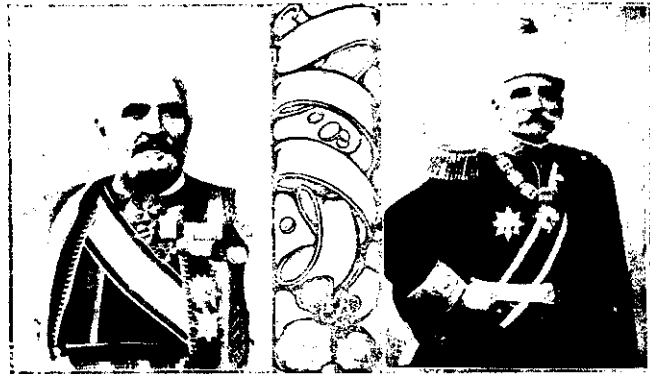
bald crown, it is not because they do not want to, or because they do not fully understand what a capital target it would make; and when the giggling young lady in the first circle drops her programme on his head, it is hard for him to believe it was purely accidental on her part.

And as he sits and revolves the matter over, how indignant he feels against the fashion which compels a man to sit bareheaded in a crowd, while it allows a woman to invest her money in two pounds of false-hair and an ounce of lace feathers, by which all defects in her upper story are concealed.

For if a woman be bald-headed nobody is the wiser for it, and so long as the present style of female hair-dressing continues, it is just as unlikely to be discovered as the source of the Nile, or the precise location of the poles.

Your bald-headed man especially dreads to make calls where there are children. He does not like to be asked "if he varnishes his head like ma does her boots," and "if he is not afraid his brains will freeze," and "if he won't please let me and Tommy draw the map of Europe on it? 'cause he's just beginning to draw maps, and this will be so jolly."

The bald-headed man of old had trouble with the boys, you will remember, but the young rascals met with summary punishment, and we have no doubt but that the bald-headed man of the twentieth century would rejoice if there were bears provided to eat up all the boys who jeer at their affliction! We are sure we should, if we were a bald-headed man!—By KATE THORN.



PRINCE NICHOLAS I. OF MONTE-NEGRO.

KING PETER I. OF SERBIA.

late Czar, Nicholas II., and Francis Joseph of Austria, have all enjoyed in turn the privilege of paying his most pressing liabilities, not once but several times, until he has exhausted their patience and their generosity, and among the many extraordinary devices to which he has had recourse in order to raise the financial wind, has been that of sending large money-orders to various points in Austria and Hungary, where they were cashed through his agents by the Austrian and Magyar post offices, which were subsequently unable to recover the

and Hungarian post offices out of his own pocket.

KING ALFONSO XII,

at the time of his restoration to the throne of Spain, was deeply in the debt of the late Duke of Santona, who had started life as a hatter in Madrid, and subsequently made an immense fortune in Cuba. Indeed, his financial assistance contributed in no small measure to King Alfonso's recovery of the throne of his mother.

Many of the titles of nobility granted



THE LATE KING CARLOS I. OF PORTUGAL.

one here who does not extend a gracious welcome to him?"

"And why not?" retorted Prince Adolph. "What do I care about the fellow? I do not owe him anything."

Prince Adolph was the only one of all the kings, grand dukes, and sovereign electors and princes present, who could afford thus to show his independence, every one of the others having been at one time or another indebted to the house of Rothschild.

A Bald-headed Man.

The man who has a bald head is to be commiserated.

Every change of seasons brings him to grief, in cold weather he has to seek refuge by night in a nightcap; in warm weather his bald spot is the chosen playground and gymnasium for flies.

They hold high carnivals on its polished convexity, and turn somersaults, and execute trapeze movements, and stand on their heads, and buzz in a self-satisfied, secure sort of tone as if they were saying to their victim, "Slap away old fellow! you can't hit us! you haven't got eyes in the top of your head like us."

The bald-headed man is a prominent object in church, or in a crowd of any kind, where custom decrees the removal of the hat. One can no more avoid seeing his shining cranium than he can avoid seeing a bright light on a dark night, even when he is not looking at it, on it.

He is always described as bald-headed. Inquire about him of a stranger, and he will tell you that you cannot miss finding Jones—he is very bald!

A young man with a bald head, if he be sensitive, is continually in hot water. When he meets a young lady who takes his fancy captive, how careful he is always to keep his face towards her, and how the cold sweat of apprehension starts out on his forehead when she gets behind him, and he knows her "dove-like eyes of heaven's own azure" are engaged in studying his bald spot!

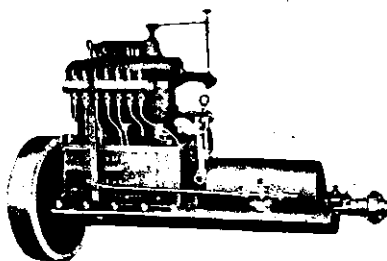
At lectures and concerts—particularly at theatres, where the elevation of dress-circle, family-circle and gallery afford such excellent opportunity for observation, the bald-headed man is always nervous and uncomfortable. He knows that if the impudent little urchins in the gallery do not throw peanut-shells at his



KING LOUIS' CASTLE, NEUSCHWANSTEIN, BAVARIA.

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MADE IN TWO KINDS—Unsweetened, i.e., Plain Lime Juice. Sweetened—i.e., Lime Juice Cordial.

Misrepresenting George.

(By MAX ADELER.)

Early last winter the manager of the little theatre in our town produced a sensational, patriotic drama entitled "The American Spy." The play included all the prominent patriots of the Revolution, and among them, of course, General Washington. This part, however, was not one of the leading figures of the drama, and it was entrusted to a somewhat inexperienced supernumerary, named McGinn. After the first performance the manager sent for McGinn, and conversed with him as follows upon the subject of his manner of representing the immortal Washington:

Manager: "McGinn, I don't exactly like the way you play your part. It lacks dignity and refinement; it is inartistic, and it isn't just to the noble old hero whom you represent."

McGinn: "I dunno about that. What's the matter with it?"

Man: "Why, I noticed, for instance, that four times during the camp-scene at Valley Forge you wiped your nose on your sleeve; and while you were crossing the Delaware at Trenton you actually blew your nose with your fingers. Now, General Washington, McGinn, used a pocket handkerchief, and when he couldn't get a pocket handkerchief he permitted his immortal nose to go unwiped. That's the way he did it, as you might have ascertained if you had paid any attention to history."

McGinn: "I dunno as history says anything about George's nose."

Man: "I was also mortified to observe that during the tableau of 'Washington at prayer' out in the woods, you spit tobacco juice a couple of times, and finally took a fresh chew just as the curtain was about to descend. You know mighty well, McGinn, that the general didn't chew tobacco, and assuredly not while he was saying his prayers."

McGinn: "I dunno whether he did or not?"

Man: "Well, I know, and I don't want it to occur again. You ought to have been more careful of your language, too. I noticed that when the messenger announced to you the discovery of Arnold's treason, you exclaimed 'Gosh!' and when

they asked you to let up on Major Andre you said, 'No, blamed if I do!' Now, there was nothing of that kind in the text, and the old hero never used any language of the sort. Several persons laughed last night; and once, when you were crossing the Delaware in a boat, and a soldier accidentally knocked off your hat with his gun, and you said to him, 'Do that ag'in and I'll bust the whole head off you,' two of the audience who revere the memory of the great Washington got up and left the house in disgust."

McGinn: "I dunno as they did."
Man: "The relations of the general with Mrs W., I believe, were of an exceedingly affectionate description; but it appears to me that you exaggerated the fact to an unseemly extent when in the second act you winked at the woman representing Martha, chuckled her under the chin, and presided at the court martial with your arm around her waist. Your attempt to waltz with her during the siege of Yorktown was even more preposterous, and it excited remark. These things violate the truth of history; they must be reformed; the simplest considerations of artistic propriety require it."

McGinn: "I dunno that they do."
Man: "I noticed, also, that when Benjamin Franklin undertook to sit down in the Continental Congress, you pulled the chair from under him, and let him drop to the floor; and that in the succeeding act you and Lord Cornwallis took a couple of snifters out of a brandy-flask; and then you became so much intoxicated as to imagine that you belonged in the British army, and had just whipped him at the battle of Gettysburg; and when you had concluded your remarks upon that subject, you came down to the footlights and began to sing that comic song about 'Ten Little Injins Sitting in a Line,' and would have finished it if the prompter had not rushed out and dragged you off."

McGinn: "I dunno as I'd finished it."

Man: "Well, anyway that lets you out as G. Washington. That destroys your usefulness as the representative of the Father of His Country. You can skip. I shall put another man in the part, and recommend you to read up in history, buy a couple of handkerchiefs, and abandon plug tobacco while you are on the stage. Good morning."

McGinn: "I dunno as it's a particularly good morning."

Then he went out, and that night a new man filled the vacant place.

The Pope's Parable.

In receiving about 400 Irish pilgrims, the Pope delivered a significant speech regarding the future of the Roman Catholic Church in England.

He expressed in strong terms his belief

that the Eucharistic Congress was a certain sign of the approaching return of England to Roman Catholicism. The Pontiff recalled the parable of the Prodigal Son, applying it to England as the case of a prodigal daughter about to return to the bosom of her mother, namely, the Roman Church.

According to the Pope, all this is due to the efforts, prayers, tears, and sacrifices of Ireland, who, as "a good daughter," has all these centuries been imploring the grace of God on behalf of England.

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Josh Billings' Philosophy.

If God had not appointed Sunday az a day ov rest for man, man would hav to appoint one for himself.

There are no wimmin abazed so much az mother-in-law, and none who seem to stand it so well.

When a man hasn't enny thing aktu- ally to do, I like to see him lazy about it. Aktive lazyness iz one ov the wust disseazes that enny man kan hav.

A snob iz a private party who over- rates himself, and underrates others.

When a man bekums mad with the world, and sez he iz going to go into solitude, I take notiss that the world doesn't try to hold him, but lets him went.

The sassiest man I kno ov iz a hen- pecked hus-band—when he is away from home.

Rust haz eaten bigger holes into man's phisikal and moral kittle than frick-shun ever haz.

There iz lots ov people in this world whose ony pleazure and reputashun kon- sist in always paying more for things than they are worth.

It iz a risky thing to be a professional funny man. Better be a phool; they make fewer blunders.

I would rather be kalled grandpa bi a half-dozen bright, impetuous yung ones, and hav them all light onto me at onst, like a swarm ov bees, than to be the lonely autokrat of all the Rus- sias.

I place a grate deal more konfidence in mi faitl than I do in mi judgment.

Money will buy a dog, but it won't buy the wag of hiz tale.

If mankind would only follow the dik- tates ov their cons-hience, Heaven itself would hav but little to offer in exchange for this life.

People who don't respect the Sabbath don't respect ennything else nutch.

The grate ambi-shun ov life seems to be to liv az long az we can, and make more munny than our nabors.

Might doesn't make right, but right makes might.

It iz only the phools that are past redemp-shun. If a man haz branes, I don't care how corrupt he may be, he isn't past all hope.

What little I kno I hav lernt bi keep- in mi ears and eyes propped wide open and coaxing every man I met to talk on the subjeckt he liked best.

Yung man, don't git down on yure kneeze before the world. If you do it won't be long before the world will in- sist upon yure gitting down on yure stomach.

Very few hav ever added ennything to the pedigree which haz been handed down to them; they seem to be more willing to liv on the interest ov it than add to the principal.

Yung man, always play to win; a game that isn't worth winning isn't worth playing.

WHERE THE LETTER FALETH

Murphy regarded a city building with interest.

"Dolan," said he, "what does them letters, 'MDCCXCVII,' mean?"

"They mean eighteen hundred and ninety-seven."

"Dolan," came the query, after a thoughtful pause, "don't yez think they're overdoan' this spellin' reform a bit?"



MR HENRY KOLKER, THE SUCCESSFUL AMERICAN ACTOR, AS PETRUCIO IN "THE TAMING OF THE SHREW."

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Life in the Garden

Practical Advice for Amateurs

Two New Roses.

We give an illustration of two new roses raised by Messrs. S. MacGredy and Sons, Portadown, Ireland. They were exhibited at the meeting of the Royal Horticultural Society, and both received awards of merit from the Floral Committee. The variety shown in the upper part of the picture—Mrs. Edward J. Holland—is a deep rose-pink in colour, and quite distinct from the reddish-yellow of the bottom flowers that are named after Mrs. Alfred Tate. The varieties belong to the hybrid tea section, a class that has furnished some of the finest roses in recent years. The variety Mrs. Edward J. Holland develops large leaves, which show to advantage the beautiful deep rose colour of the blooms; that in the older petals is of a lighter tone. The variety Mrs. Alfred Tate does not possess a large number of petals, so that a full-blown flower is like a large single rose. The colouring in the buds is extremely beautiful, being of that coppery-red tone that is so much admired in roses. This tone loses itself in a base of yellow suffused with reddish-pink.

Richardson, attractive single chrysanthemum of bronze colour, was employed at one end of the building and the variety Margot at the other, while the sides of the building were arranged with masses of such varieties as Source d'Or, La Triumphante (both the pink and the yellow varieties), white and yellow Mille, Le-croix, crimson and white Quintus, and other decorative and well-known free-blooming varieties.

The main banks on each side of the pathway are unobtrusive, the arrangement displaying to the very best advantage the large-flowering and leading varieties in the Japanese, incurved, and anemone sections. In the centre of the group were several of the best single varieties, including the pink and bronze Pagram, Miss Mary Anderson, Annie Holden, and Mary Richardson. A group of the white Money-maker—the long-keeping qualities of the blooms found a host of admirers—was also employed. The whole was edged with well-grown and profusely-bloomed plants of Lady-smith, a useful single variety, that well withstands the effects of the constant rubbing caused by visitors. At certain times, and especially on Sundays, visitors may be seen waiting in a row extending for 100 yards outside the entrance, for their turn to enter.



Saxifraga sarmentosa.

A New Fruit—The Lowberry.

Hybridists are often producing new flowers, fresh variations in foliage, and improved habits of plants; but their labours in connection with fruits are not rewarded so bounteously, and the process usually takes longer to obtain results. The lowberry is a cross between the loganberry and the blackberry. In appearance it might be described as a gigantic blackberry, measuring 1½ in long, jet black in colour when ripe, and the

fruit is very juicy. Although the raspberry is one of the parents of this new fruit, the habit of the plant is more akin to the blackberry, for the long canes run from 12ft to 18ft in one season. The lowberry should be planted with plenty of room to allow for this abundant growth, and may be trained on trellises in the same way as the raspberry, and it also makes an excellent plant for training over arches.

Mother of Thousands.

(Saxifraga Sarmentosa.)

Apparently soon after its introduction the above saxifrage was recognised as a very suitable one for rooms. Not only is this the case in Britain, but our neighbours on the Continent have also discovered its suitability for window culture. It is a native of China and Japan and so nearly hardy that it will live out of doors in sheltered and well drained situations in gardens about London and, of course, round the south and west coasts where the climate is mild and equable in winter. Planted out under those conditions, runners, somewhat like those of the strawberry, are produced in great numbers and root in the ground round the mother plant, so that the cultivator soon gets quite a dense mass out of them. The plant is worthy of attention in this form for the sake of its foliage alone, and if the cultivator took the trouble to lift a number of these runners but strong runners will branch them in boxes for the winter, he could have a stock of a useful plant for making a small bed of a foliage plant that would answer instead of begonias. Small plants could scarcely be expected to flower, but if flowering specimens are desired, then the plants should be lifted and preserved in the same way. For window culture the plant is quite as serviceable, if not more so, than for out doors, but to be seen at its full beauty it should be suspended, as shown in the illustration. This allows the runners to hang down in quite a graceful fashion. Each produces a little plant just like the parent in miniature at the end of the runner, but strong runners will branch and produce a number of these little plants in the same way as the strawberry. The plant will succeed admirably even though the amount of light is moderate.

Limnanthes Douglasii as an Edging Plant.

If a bold edging is wanted to a long border, this showy annual should certainly be used. The plants in the ac-



A Beautiful Edging of an Easily-grown Hardy Annual (Limnanthes Douglasii).

companying illustration were set out quite 18 in apart in the autumn, and during June made a fine display. L. Douglasii is, perhaps, the hardiest of all garden annuals. Frosts and wet never kill it, even when it is moved in midwinter. It reproduces itself freely from self-grown seed, and will do well anywhere, being a good subject for slug-infested gardens, since these pests do not touch it.

Chrysanthemums in Victoria Park, London.

For many years an exhibition of chrysanthemums has been held annually in this park, and we reproduce a view of one of the principal glasshouses during "chrysanthemum time." This house is 100ft long and 25ft wide, and, as may be seen on reference to the illustration, the plants are arranged on either side of a central path. Each end is pleasingly draped with tall, naturally-grown plants, right up to the apex of the roof. Mary



Two New Hybrid Tea Roses.

Mrs. Edward J. Holland (rose pink) and Mrs. Alfred Tate (yellow, suffused with reddish pink).

A GOOD FERN FOR AMATEURS

Among the many plants that amateurs delight to grow, the maidenhair, with its many varieties, is still the most popular, but where one succeeds there are 99 that fail to grow it well all the year round. In taking notes of really good specimens of any exotic fern that have been grown by amateurs nearly all the year round in the dwelling house, I find that Asplenium biforme is one of the very best, for it

is even more effective during the winter than in the summer months. It is so easily increased, and is so useful, even in the tiny (lump-pots, that, whether for table decoration or for large vases it is equally effective.

J.G.

LIABILITY OF SEED MERCHANTS.

At the Birmingham Assizes Mr. Robert Tunnicliffe Pooler, farmer, of Sutton House Farm, near Newport, Salop, brought an action against Messrs. White Brothers, Limited, seed potato merchants, Evesham, claiming £335 16/11 damages for certain alleged breaches of warranty on the sale of seed potatoes.

Counsel for the plaintiff explained that the defendants admitted that they contracted to supply the up-to-date potatoes, but they denied that they gave any warranty. On the contrary, they said it was part of the expressed term of the agreement that they would give no warranty, and they stated that the potatoes corresponded to the descrip-

are useless in dealing with this pest. A recent number of the "Bulletin" of the Trinidad Botanical Department gives a number of devices for their destruction, from which we quote the following:—

For the extirpation of ants the following remedies are good. To be effective they require attention and perseverance. It is well to find their main burrow or nest, if possible. Arsenic is sure destruction to them, but it is dangerous to handle.

Air-slaked lime plentifully dusted in warm, dry weather over and around the ant hills, or in the house or other places infested, will cause the ants to vacate them in a short time.

Snuff.—Dust a little snuff upon the floor of the rooms or pantry.

Draw a thick chalk line around a smooth tree or across an upright board or post, and they will not pass over it.

Camphor.—Put a piece of camphor, the size of a filbert nut, into two quarts of cold water. When cold apply to pot and other plants, and the insects will be driven off without injury to the plants.

Mix together one part of calomel and 10 parts of finely powdered white sugar, lay it in little heaps about their nests



A New Berry, called the Lowberry, a cross between the Blackberry and Loganberry.

To destroy black ants.—A few leaves of green wormwood scattered among the haunts of black ants will drive them away
Red ants.—Powdered borax sprinkled around will exterminate both red and black ants.

The "drag" which is stocked in 4-prong size, and occasionally 6-prong. These drags are rather heavy, and the prongs too long, but they can of course be shortened by a blacksmith. We think our correspondent could get one made by a handy blacksmith to suit his purpose. We append a drawing of what it should be like. The prongs (5) may be either round or flat. They make good work, but many gardeners won't have them, asserting that they are either too heavy or badly set.

CHRYSANTHEMUM CALEDONIA.

At a recent meeting of the R.H.S., some flowers of this remarkable single variety were shown measuring about 1 1/2 in across. The rays are rosy pink, with a white zone round the orange disc, and they stand out horizontally even after having been cut for some days. An Award of Merit was granted when shown by Messrs. George Williams and Sons, Manor House Nurseries, Canton, Cardiff. They also had a First-class Certificate at Edinburgh, and one of the same flowers were shown on this occasion.

HORTICULTURE ABROAD.

At a meeting of the Horticultural Society of New South Wales, Mr. A. Yates, vice-president, who had just returned from a visit to England, gave a very interesting account of the many fine things he had seen at Home, and the method of showing, etc. He said he arrived just in time for the second day of the Temple Show, and which no doubt is the finest show held. The exhibits were simply amazing, especially the trade exhibits. The centre of the show was composed mostly of orchids, while the sides were taken up with stove and other plants. The trade exhibits were there for sale as well as for show, each exhibitor having his own salesman. Major Halford's exhibit of orchids was something marvellous at the Great quinquennial show, winning the Veitchian Cup, and in which Miltonias were very much in evidence, although not much grown here. The American carnations were excellent blooms, four inches across, and four feet high, grown in pots. In Tuberous Begonias he had seen nothing to equal those at Home. The Shrewsbury Show was also an excellent one. Kerr's Hip-

The "Buco" Cultivator.

Mr. George Hart, of Pukekohe, writes for information about the "Buco" cultivator, which he has been unable to procure.



The cultivator is evidently not stocked in Auckland. The nearest tool to it is



Chrysanthemum House in the Victoria Park, London.

tion given. They denied all damage, and set up a counterclaim for the price of the potatoes. An invoice was forwarded to plaintiff on April 23, and attached to it was a pink slip stating that the defendants gave no warranty express or implied, and, while taking every care, accepted no responsibility in regard to the crop.

The plaintiff, giving evidence, said there were not two per cent of the potatoes of the "Up-to-Date" variety, the others being every mixture imaginable. He estimated his loss at £25 2/6 per acre.

Richard White (managing director of White Brothers, Evesham) said he was satisfied that it was all "Up-to-Date" seed. The pink slip setting forth the non-warranty clause was attached to all quotations and invoices. He wrote to plaintiff, quoting various prices, and to that letter a pink slip was attached.

His Lordship, in summing up, invited the jury to say, first of all, whether the contract between the parties included the non-warranty clause.

The jury said they were of opinion the plaintiff was unaware of the non-warranty clause when the contract was made.

This was a verdict for the plaintiff, and the only question remaining was one of damages.

The jury assessed the damages at £242 less the amount of the counterclaim. Judgment was consequently given for £210 6/6. Execution was stayed on the usual terms.

NATIONAL SWEET PEA SOCIETY

At the annual meeting of the National Sweet Pea Society (England) it was stated that there were 779 members and 51 societies in affiliation. The balance-sheet showed a total income of £573 14/6, including £263 0/7 subscriptions for 1908. The expenditure left a balance of £32 8/11.

TO EXTERMINATE ANTS.

Ants are often a great nuisance in the garden, and we are frequently asked how to destroy them. They are difficult to exterminate, and ordinary insecticides

and runs. The ants will eat it and die. Coal oil, mixed with six times its bulk of water, sprinkled over the nests every few days, will kill and drive them away. Pans or saucers nearly filled with honey or sweet oil attracts ants, and they are drowned in it.

Flowers of sulphur, 1lb.; potash, 4oz. Set in an earthen vessel over the fire until dissolved and united. Afterwards beat to a powder. Infuse a little of the powder in water and sprinkle in places infested with ants.



A Group of Fine Foliage Plants as arranged for Exhibition.

peastrums were very fine. Polyantha and Wichuriana roses were also a noticeable feature, and also a fine display of Alpine plants, which we do not see much of out here. Rear's collection of Japanese dwarfed trees were very good, though, personally, he could not appreciate them himself. At the Holland House Show, held July 17th, were also some excellent exhibits, while at the Wolverhampton Show the New Spencer Hybrid Sweet Peas were very fine. He had not seen anything to equal them anywhere. At the Shrewsbury Show there were six or eight large marquees, in which fruits of many varieties, grown in pots, were shown. Vegetables, stove plants, roses, dahlias, and sweet peas were all very noticeable, and for one to give minute details of everything seen would be too voluminous. He visited Kew Gardens, but for beauty he claimed Sydney Botanic Gardens much the best. He admitted that everything was kept in excellent order, and that the specimen trees were really handsome. He also visited Major Halford's place at Totworth, and it is wonderful the quantity of orchids grown there. A visit to Sanders and Co. was a pleasing one, and while there they had something like 7000 seedling orchids coming along, and any of those that only turned out ordinary were sent to America, where there was always a ready market at prices something like 25 dollars each. On his return journey he visited the Ceylon Botanic Garden, which was the finest he had seen, and quite a change from the general run of them.

RE-NAMING OLD PLANTS.

Like the changes in the pronunciation of English words, this giving plants new names is continually going on. Sometimes the changes have proper reasons for the alteration, sometimes no reasons are given; but we find the *Salisburia adiantifolia* made into Ginkgo by an up-to-date writer, to the bewilderment of the man in the shrubbery. The humorist Josh Billings said that, on being asked how the milk got into the Coconut, he averred it was put in during the night, but who the fellow was that did it, even philosophers were not agreed, and he could not tell himself. This changing of nomenclature of plants is somewhat similar. We find the *Tritomas* called *Kniphofias*, by no means an improvement in ease or elegance to speak, certainly; but where the conference was held, and the authorities who agreed to change the name, we are kept in the dark. Many years ago the *Michaëlmias* Daisies (asters) were a vexed class for confusion of names, also the *Helianthus*. Asa Gray tried to bring order into these unruly families, and the Rev. C. Wolley-Dod agreed with the new order. However, it was not long until this settlement was called in question by Mr. Sam. Appleton, then herbaraceous foreman to R. Smith and Co., of Worcester, who proved to our satisfaction that several names were evidently wrong. Mr. Wolley-Dod admitted in conversation that Appleton was right, but added the class was so difficult, and Asa Gray had been so worried over the names that now we had better adhere to the new nomenclature. The very same thing has happened to narcissus, but in this case the authorities sat in judicial state, and their classification was acquiesced in generally, until now we read of dissent, which will spread, and by and by necessitate a new arrangement. *Lilium* suffer from the same confusion, as *L. testaceum* is frequently printed *Isabellinum*. So it is with *hyacinthus candicans*, a most fitting name, but which we must now vary to *Galtonia candicans*. What florists, professional and amateur, want to know is, by whose authority are these changes made, and where are the printed reports to be had? Leading men may meet and change whatever they please, but such arbitrary variations do not seem improvements to the ordinary lovers of flowers; therefore, they are generally adopted, and the confusion grows from year to year. If there is a printed record of these changes extant, it is a pity it should be buried in the obscure reports of a few London societies, which are never reprinted by any obtained general authority, and, consequently, never receive acceptance by the mass of plant growers. All this leads to the need for a floral House of Lords, whose judgments would become law to nurserymen who print catalogues and all who buy and grow plants. Cannot a federation of all horticultural societies in the British Isles be organized with America, and the Colonies also, if possible, which being representative,

every point of interest could be taken up, thus making for uniformity throughout the English-speaking world? We have the Sweet Pea Society adjusting the varieties of this annual, and seeding out inferior sorts and duplicates. Other societies affiliated to the central one could elect committees, taking up shrubs, trees, bulbs, orchids, ferns, roses, etc., etc. Even in roses, what a duplication of sorts is to be found under differing names, each having certificates (often too easily granted), but all such anomalies would be forbidden were a Court of appeal in being.—"Scottish Garden."

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An Auckland Lady's Travels

SOME INTERESTING EXPERIENCES.

Mrs. King, wife of the well-known Auckland medico of that name, who returned by the Ionic from a tour of England and the Continent, extending over two years, had a number of interesting experiences to relate when I renewed her acquaintance the other day says a writer in the Wellington "Times." Mrs. King spent the New Year of 1907 in London, and in February went to join her brother, the Rev. Grantley Martin, of Stoke Rectory, Guildford, who, with his daughter, was about to set out for a long tour of the Continent. Paris, Lucerne, Milan, Florence, Genoa, Naples, Nice, Mentone, Rome, Venice, were in turn visited by the party. "At Rome," said Mrs. King, "we had an audience of the Pope, and were present at the Vatican on Candlemass Day. Never shall I forget the impressiveness of that scene—the pomp and ceremony—the kissing of the Pope's ring and toe and the obsequences of the faithful; and then the picture gallery at the Vatican; and, above all, that wonderfully impressive picture, 'The Last Judgment.' I cannot explain how I was effected by the whole experience. Then there was the great gallery of Florence, with miles, as it seemed, of the most costly pictures, including the Madonna, for which the American nation has offered a million pounds sterling. It was carnival time when we were in Rome, and we saw King Carnival duly incinerated with all the traditional rites. At Venice we saw the famous glass works, and the 'Bridge of Sighs,' under which our gondola passed several times and saw everything I think, there was to be seen. Our Continental trip concluded we went to the Isle of Wight, and were present at the great review by their Majesties of the Home Fleet at West Cove—a splendid pageant. We also went through Carisbrooke Castle (where Charles I. was imprisoned—Carisbrooke by the way, is my husband's birthplace) and spent an interesting time at Osborne, where Queen Victoria died." Questioned on the suffragist movement, Mrs. King said: "I know all the leaders personally, including Mrs. and Miss Christabel Pankhurst, and Mrs. Petherick Lawrence. I was present at a good many of their meetings. Yes, I admire them immensely; they are grand, grand women, even if their methods are not all one could wish. I saw Mrs. Pankhurst on her release from prison after serving her first term, and her story of the awful treatment she had received at Holloway made my blood boil. The lack of privacy was her chief plaint, to which the prison clothes and elms and coarse fare sank into insignificance. To send delicate women to herd with common criminals, nor have one of the privileges accorded male political prisoners is one of the things that alienates much of the sympathy the Home Government might have in their refusal to grant the suffrage to women. Mrs. Pankhurst looked ill and worn, having just come from the prison infirmary, but her spirit was more unconquerable than ever. I was also present at the great suffragist meeting in the Albert Hall, attended by ten or twelve thousand people. That is another scene I am never likely to forget. Mrs. Pankhurst was then serving her second term, and was not expected to be present. Her vacant chair, was, however, decked out with flowers, and every speaker had something to say in honour of their absent colleague. Judge of the scene when in the middle of the proceedings Mrs. Pankhurst, having been released from prison twenty-four hours earlier than was expected, walked in, and took her place among the speakers! The whole house rose, and rent the roof, and, when the demonstration had subsided, Mrs. Pankhurst, looking very frail and weak, for most of her time had been spent in the prison infirmary, and, besides, the welcome had been very trying to her emotions, rose, and, after thanking the assemblage proceeded to make a speech, the fiery eloquence of which might have scorched her opponent had they been there to hear. Not all the imprisonment and degradation she had suffered had quenched her indomitable spirit in the least. At that meeting over seven thousand pounds were raised for the cause, Mr and Mrs P. Lawrence heading the subscription list with a thousand pounds. An interesting feature of the meeting was a tier of boxes containing released prisoners (suffragettes) from which hung a banner setting forth

that this was so." Mrs. King was also present at the great no-license meeting in the Albert Hall, when the Bishop of London took the chair, and many notable people were present, including the Archbishop of York and Lord Crewe. In the middle of one of the speeches a little gentle-looking lady rose and said, "Let the women help you." She was promptly hustled and ejected by several men. "When are you going to give votes to women?" was another question propounded to one of the speakers by another suffragette who was present. She met with the same treatment as the former interrogator. "This was too much for me," said Mrs. King, "and I joined in the cries of 'Shame!' from all over the building. The great suffragist demonstration in Hyde Park I too attended and was also present at the Albert Hall in September when Christabel Pankhurst pleaded for her mother, who was then again in prison." Stratford-on-Avon was included in Mrs. King's itinerary, and she was present at the Shakespeare Festival, and visited Shakespeare's house. While there she saw Marie Corelli, who has a beautiful house in the vicinity, and who looks artificially youthful. She was also a witness of the Romsy pageant, portraying old English life. In fact, the whole visit appears to have been crammed full of interest and incident—such as very few who do the grand tour are privileged to participate in.

Mrs. Neurich (entering studio): You are the artist who paints miniature portraits, I believe!

Dr. Amber: Yes, madam.
Mrs. Neurich: Well, what's your charge for painting a life-size miniature of my daughter?

WINCHESTER

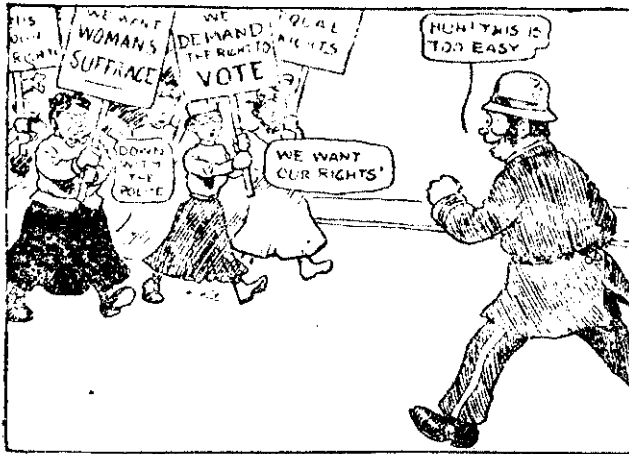


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BILLIARDS. By AN EXPERT.

Transmitted "side" is rather a subject outside the pale of practical billiards, and a matter which few billiard-players take into consideration. Yet it has to be taken account of in the run of many an object-ball, despite the long-standing belief which exists that the latter cannot be made to revolve out of the simple over-and-over or plain ball state. If this were actually so, one would frequently stop to inquire the reason why the first-class professionals use check "side" at an open pocket, and so increase the difficulties of the forced losing hazard. Then, again, there is the screw cannon, a square screw, or a screw-back, in the playing of which the first object-ball can, in a measure, be attuned to the needs of position. There is proof positive that if no "side" is transmitted to an object-ball it can be made to take a fresh direction from a single contact with a cue-ball carrying left or right "side." The spin, of course, must be strong, and it naturally exerts a greater influence at slow to medium pace than when travelling at a faster rate of speed. But, fast or slow, according to the degree of the impact between the two balls, there is a noticeable control over the object-ball.

Whether the object-ball actually takes a certain form of spin from the cue-ball when it carries "side" is a point which has never been definitely cleared up. In theory, it should do so, as all contacts and all angles at which the balls leave another are supposed to be, approximately, equal. Therefore, a ball carrying leading or running "side" ought to cut the object-ball away nearer to a right-angle than a plain ball can do, and a ball carrying check "side" should throw it further forward. To my way of think-

ing, these are the causes leading to the clever effects which come from the professional players' cues. As in many other games, the best executants are not able to explain the why and wherefore of the object-ball taking three different courses, dictated by plain ball or left or right "side." But nearly all are agreed that the object-ball does not actually take "side." Its vagaries are ascribed to the curious throw-off that the lively running "side" or stutful check "side" induces. To be able to give the object-ball a line of travel, even if it be ever so slight, is a feature of the highest flights of billiard science. The cue-ball only strikes an object-ball on a pin-point's part of its central line, yet billiard balls are so sensitive, beautifully balanced and sympathetic that in the thousand part of a second or so they are in contact the peculiar motion carried by the one is imparted to the other.

Some examples of what I take leave to term "side" transmission are to be seen on the two diagrams herewith. There are many others, notably the incorrect "plant" at snooker's pool or pyramids, but the three strokes I am showing will suffice for present demonstrations. Upon the first diagram a double movement of the object-ball, following a forcing losing hazard into the right top pocket, is represented. The danger to the ordinary player would be the failure to keep the red ball in play more than the actual score. Running, or left "side," and even plain ball would direct it too far down the table away under the baulk side cushions, or, as likely as not, behind the baulk-line. This fact might never occur to the average amateur player, who would only periodically stumble across this class of losing hazard, and continue to make the same mistake. It is otherwise with the professional. He builds up his game upon his mistakes and what they serve to reveal to him. Failing to keep the red ball in play and in good scoring position from this same kind of losing hazard, he would ask himself the reason why, and experiment with the stroke until he mastered its eccentricities.

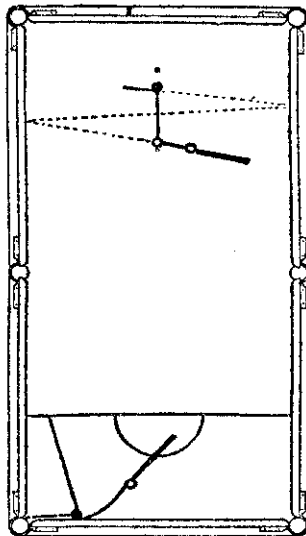
Finding that running, or left "side" turned the red ball so far down the table, and that a plain ball was but little improvement upon the other method, he would play his last card in the shape of a check or left "side" stroke. This would present greater difficulties of execution so far as the losing hazard is concerned. Yet in the guidance of the balls for a series of simple positions, which is the whole art of billiard-playing, it is the more intricate stroke of the several always possible that provides the best results. So it is in this case. The check "side" stroke sends the object-ball more squarely on to the cushion, doubling it across the table, and keeping it in play somewhere between the centre pockets (as represented by the cross marked 1). On the other hand, the running "side" sends the red ball off so slantingly to the cushion that it takes the shortest line for baulk, and enters there after rebounding from a lower side cushion (as represented by the cross marked 2).

Upon the second diagram there is shown a ball-to-ball screw cannon in conjunction with a cushion winning hazard. Try the cannon with left "side," then right "side," and also with a plain ball stroke. The idea is to make it double

across the table, as the diagram shows, to join the red ball. Play the stroke slowly, almost stunning the cue-ball, and note the favourable line at which it meets and leaves the first cushion for your purpose of gathering the balls together. Then attempt the same thing with running "side" or plain ball, and remark the different run of the object-ball. The winning hazard, steering the cushioned red ball into the left baulk pocket, by a curling running "side" stroke on the cue-ball, reveals another phase of "side" communication. The

It has become necessary for me to repeat that there is no test of a billiard-player's quality like his average scoring. His ideas of the game and his stroke play are deceptive. They frequently mislead the spectator and the critic. On the other hand, there is the exceptional case where one's class of game is sure to cause anything but a true estimate of its effectiveness. Only the average scoring for each innings gives a fair analysis of the form which produces it. This will prove correct as a general rule. I have tested this method many a time, with first-class and second-class professional, amateurs of the championship grade, and those who fall away to the very humblest limits of ability. At least seven to eight games in ten proved the cue to collateral ability. The remaining and less transient tests can be robbed of their value by the fact of long periods of safety-play, or, as is bound to happen, one or both players being out of form.

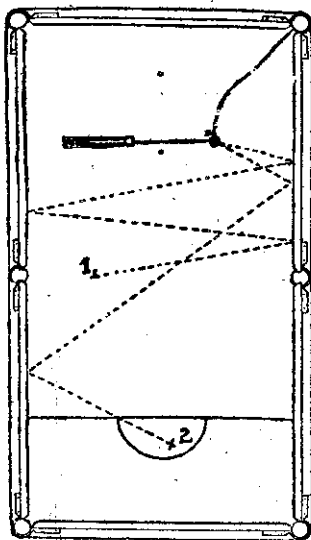
As in other games, the billiard player may be above or below his usual standard of form, the balls may run most contrarily and the tactics of the play conduce to obscure the worth of the average. But this will all come right in the long run. You strike an average in all matters where you are seeking after a general bulk or of a business turnover. In none of them is the mirror held up to Nature so clearly as by the billiard average. Still, the man who checks the average and tries to form comparisons must know a good deal about the ebb and flow of the billiard table and be in a position to make due allowances for altered circumstances and conditions. To gauge the conduct of a game is not given to all. It demands a practical knowledge and a long experience to balance the right with the wrong.



A winning hazard (played by striking the cushion in front of the object ball) and a stunned screw cannon, which seem to point to transmitted "side."

cushioned object-ball is attacked behind its facing centre by the fact of the cue-ball being played on to the cushion, just in advance of it. The result is a slight imparted spin that gathers strength as the ball rubs against the cushion on its way to the pocket, and helps it in there. Played with check "side" on the cue-ball, the hazard is not nearly so certain of being made.

By the heavy defeat he recently inflicted upon Melbourne Iman in the Burroughes and Watts' provincial competition, Stevenson is adding to the many splendid victories he has won in the past three months (says a writer in "London Daily Telegraph"). He promises to win the London Tournament, the snooker's pool championship run in conjunction with this event, the provincial tournament, and the championship which the Billiards Control Club will assuredly promote in the coming spring. He has reduced the art of scoring at billiards to a mechanical nicety, such as no other player has ever contrived to do. It may be, though, that the top-of-the-table game, by means of which he builds up his breaks, lacks the spectacular qualities of the open, old-fashioned style of play. If presenting greater problems and demanding nicer execution, there is no overlooking the fact of the close play between the top pockets being somewhat overdone. The spectators at the leading matches welcome the losing hazard off the red as played by Melbourne Iman, or the good double-strength shots and accurate screw-backs of Harverson.



Forcing losing hazard, played with left and right "side" to indicate the different courses of the object-ball from the same contact.

The continuous line ——— shows the course of the cue-ball, and the dotted line the varying movements of the red ball.

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The Perfect Raconteur.

(An astonishing Incident on the High Seas.)

"This tempest's fearful howl", and this
thunder's frightful roar,
Combined with this here boomin' of them
breakers on that shore,
And taken with you creakin' in the rig-
gin' in the gale,
Reminds me of a singularly interestin'
tale."

Thus spake Dave Snuggles, skipper of the
schooner Sally Chubb,
"Cut out the narrative," I urged, "and
navigate this tub."
In vain I spoke—he heard me not—far,
far away he glanced,
And (while both masts came crashing
down) he dreamily romanced:

"'Twas on a moonlit tropic night, 'way
back in '82,
A starlit night— (just here a wave
washed overboard our crew)—
"A night of soulful balminess—" "Look
out!" I screamed in fright,
"There's rocks ahead!" "In short," he
said, "it was a lovely night."

"And as I sat upon the deck, one finger
on the wheel—"
(Zip, zip! I heard a jagged rock tear
through the Sally's keel.)
"I spied a mermaid swimmin' near—(the
Sail here broke in two)—
"A graceful cuss— (here both of us
into the water blew.)

"She kissed her hand to me, she did, and
yowl! but she was trim!"
"Forget the mermaid, Dave," I yelled,
"and swim, you jackass, swim!"
Then doggedly I kicked and stroked and
struggled for my life.
"Said I," Dave gurgled, almost spent,
"dear mermaid, be my wife."

"And she"—(his voice was weakening)—
"and she—she murmured 'Dave,'
"I—(here he fouled a floating spar and
swallowed half a wave)—
"I'm highly flattered, David, and in answer
I would say
"That"—(David Snuggles vanished in
an avalanche of spray.)

"I'll be your wife on one condition—
(Dave popped up from the sea)—
'And that's—(he bounded toward the
stars in foam-flecked majesty)—
"That—that"—(straight toward the
depths he sank, whilst upward I
was bound)—
"That—that—" O Lord! That—
"What?" I roared. "That—that"—(here
Davy drowned.)

And I— Alas! they rescued me. Would
that my aching bones
Had sunk with Davy Snuggles to the lair
of Davy Jones.
For though all day I ask: "That—
What?" no answer can I find,
And hence I fear my death is near, or—
Rats! There goes my mind!

—Thomas R. Ybarra, in the "Times."

Rondelet.

Because of you the world is fair to-day,
Rose-grey and amber glows transfuse
my skies—
Your laughter trills as rippling waters
play—
All heaven, divinely blue, is in your
eyes!

Because you drove monotony away
I tossed to every wind my weary
sighs—
Because of you the world is fair to-day,
Rose-grey and amber glows transfuse
my skies.

Once I was sad—'twas you who made
me gay,
Each moment brought a newly, sweet
surprise!
Now can I look into your eyes and say,
Although the violet's glory fades and
dies,
"Because of you the world is fair to-day,
Rose-grey and amber glows transfuse
my skies!"

W.M.W.

Bohemia: A Lesson in Geography.

On the north it is bounded by mountains
of Fame,
On the south by the Valley of Tears,
On the west by the mystical Highlands
of Hope,
On the east by the Forest of Fears.

Its products are laurels and oats—wild
oats;
Its minerals gold of the heart;
And its natives are known by the rents
in their coats.
While the name of its ruler is Art.

The tongue of its people is simple to
learn:
Their chief words are "borrow" and
"lend,"
"Technique" and "idea," "broke," "dinner"
and "beer,"
"Love," "wine," and "to-morrow" and
"friend."

The national hymn is a song of good
cheer,
The national flower, heartease;
The national emblem, a tankard of beer,
And its motto is, "Do as you please!"

Its latitude? Some says it lies in the
zone
That runs from the heart to the head;
For its day just begins, when respectable
folk
Are quietly going to bed.

No laws guard its ports from the stran-
ger without.
Would a wanderer enter? He may!
Yet, though wide be the world, it is only
the few
Have succeeded in finding the way.

Would you go? Take a train at the
town, Dream-of-Fame.
(Or a ship at the port of Don't Care,
Sail or ride for a day, through the
Widening Way,
And at Poverty land. You are there.

Put up at the hostelry, Cheap Table
d'Hotel,
Where the prince and the pauper may
dine,
And forget all your ills, all your sorrows
and bills,
In the national-nectar, Red Wine.

'Tis a wonderful draught, full of bubble-
o'-dreams,
This draught of the surcease-of-sor-
row;
So drink to that rare land, that work-
wait-and-dare land,
Bohemia—Land of To-morrow!

HELEN ROWLAND.

A. Malden.

Brown and slim and lissome,
Supple-limbed and wild—
Something less than woman,
Something more than child—
Toss the dusky glory
Of thy wayward hair,
Round thine eyes alluring,
Lest they should ensnare.

Half a woodland spirit,
Half a mortal maid,
Half a thing of sunlight,
Half a thing of shade;
If I run to meet thee,
Throw mine arms around,
Wilt thou not elude me
Soon as thou art found?

Soul of running water
Glimmers in thine eye—
Flashes of the daydawn,
Depths of summer sky.
In thy voice is music
Woven from whispering bowers,
And thy breath is fragrant
With the breath of flowers.

Fain would I resist thee,
Toss the spell away,
Laugh at thy bewitchment,
Ridicule thy sway.
Nain is the resisting;
Thou hast conquered quite,
With thy charms of sunshine
And thy lure of night.



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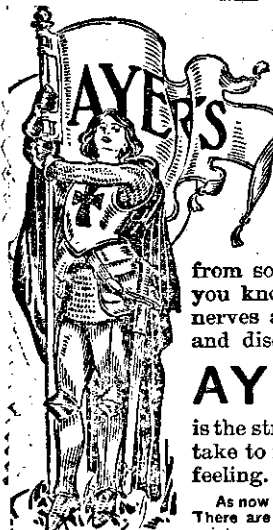
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Mrs. Carrie Nation

THE KANSAS SALOON SMASHER

MRS CARRIE NATION, who is quite an old woman now, did not lose much time after she landed in England bringing herself prominently under the notice of the public—and the police. She started her campaign in Scotland, and—to use her own expression—was “fired” twice in one day from two of the largest public houses in Dundee. She was removed by force by publicans who failed to see the humour of her crusade.

The publicans display placards bearing the words, “All nations welcome here except Carrie,” but she was undismayed by this opposition.

“I saw a woman and a child in a saloon to-day,” she said to a pressman, “and, as straight as any one man can talk to another, I said: ‘Straight out of it. Your place is at home.’ She slammed the door in my face.”

“At another saloon I saw a lot of children coming down the street. I said to them, showing them the bar: ‘These are hell holes. If any one wants to go to hell, that is the hole to go into.’ The youngsters took up the cry. It did my heart good, I can tell you.”

Next to liquor, Mrs. Carrie Nation condemns tea-drinking, and she regrets that it is so common in Scotland. It may be classed with the morphine habit, she says. Dances she bans wholeheartedly, and if Scottish girls accept the attentions of young men who reek of tobacco smoke they are hard run for “beaux,” she declared.

Mrs. Nation met a clergyman in the street in Dundee smoking a cigarette.

“Take that vile thing out of your mouth,” she exclaimed, but the minister passed on with a smile. The martyr’s crown persists in eluding her grasp. She has waited in vain for the police to arrest her, and now she says the force is deficient in “hustle.”

On her way from Dunfermline to Kircaldy, Mrs. Nation had to wait at Thornton Junction. She improved the occasion by addressing the passengers on the evils of smoking, and terrified one man by telling him that if the Almighty had intended him to smoke he would have been built with his nose upside down to serve as a chimney.

She also remarked that some smokers would continue in their evil ways until they reached the region of everlasting smoke.

MRS. NATION’S STORY OF HER LIFE.

“Your labour is never in vain in the Lord.

“Accept this book from one who loves you for your work. Like me, you are bearing the reproach that others may not. I hope to see you when I am in London, and give you a hearty congratulation. — Your loving home defender, Carry A. Nation.”

With this autograph dedication the famous “saloon smasher” forwarded a copy of her book, “The Use and Need of the Life of Carry A. Nation,” to Mrs. Parkhurst, the suffragist, who was serving a sentence in Holloway Prison.

The militant teetotalist and militant suffragist have much in common. Both believe intensely in their mission; both speak strong, “unguarded” language in their public utterances; both urge an appeal to the “gospel of force”; and both, to quote from Mrs. Nation’s work, have journeyed in the Black Maria and endured the physical agony of the prison cell.

Mrs. Nation on love is interesting. “I was a great lover,” she declares. “I used to think a person never could love but once in their life, but I often now say I would not want a heart that could hold but one love. My native modesty,” she is referring to the days of her girlhood, “prevented me from ever dancing a round dance with a gentleman. I cannot think this hugging school compatible with a true woman.”

Mrs. Eddy receives no sympathy from the teetotalist. This is what she says about Christian Science:—“It is the presence of all lies and the absence of all truth.”

A KISS.

In a chapter devoted to the story of her marriages, Mrs. Nation relates how a

Dr. Gloyd astonished her one evening by kissing her. “I felt so shocked,” she says, “and threw up my hands to my face, saying several times, ‘I am ruined.’” She eventually married Dr. Gloyd, who became a confirmed inebriate. These are the Carryisms evolved from this experience:—

“Drinking men neglect their wives.

“The drink habit destroys in men the appreciation of a home life.

“A woman loses love for a husband through his indifference.

“Drinking men are drugged and diseased men.”

Equally unhappy was her life with Mr. Nation. “I found out he deceived me in many things,” she declares. Here, again, the reader is overwhelmed by more Carryisms:—

“I hated lying because I loved the truth.

“I loved, therefore I hated.”

“Had I married a man I could have loved, God could never have used me.”

Millionaires come in for the “hatchet” criticism. Here is what Mrs. Nation has to say about them:—

“The time is coming when the millionaires will be despised of the people.

“There is a class of rich men who would now howl and weep with all their money, if they knew their fate.

“The display of wealth is an evidence of a depraved nature.

“I wish for the power to take the rich take back seats.”

Mrs. Nation began her “saloon smashing” career in Kansas. “I smashed five saloons with rocks before ever I took a hatchet,” she says. Nor were weapons difficult to find. On one occasion she threw a brick at a mirror. The glass remained unbroken, and she looked round for some other missile. “I saw a billiard ball,” she says, “picked it up, and made a hole in the mirror.”

Then followed a crusade with a rod of iron and a stout cane, which ended in prison. Mrs. Nation’s description of her experiences in an American gaol is graphic:—

“I tried to be brave, but the tears were running down my face. I took hold of the iron bars of my door and tried to shake them, and said, ‘You put me in here a cub, but I will go out a roaring lion, and I will make all hell howl.’”

The origin of the notorious “hatchet” is curious. Mrs. Nation was speaking in Topeka, Kansas, when a man ran out of a “candy store,” and, handing her some little pewter hatchets, suggested she should sell them and pay costs and fines with the proceeds.

“This gave me an idea,” says Mrs. Nation. “Since that time the little hatchets have been my faithful little defenders. . . . They cause people to talk, to think, to act. God has blessed the mission of the hatchet.”

The anger and indignation which Mrs. Nation aroused is indicated by an incident which occurred in Enterprise, Dickinson County, Kansas. She “broke up a dive, and smashed up twelve cases of beer.” The proprietor thereupon held her, while a crowd of women “beat her with their fists, whipped her with a raw hide, pulled her hair, and kicked her into the gutter.”

HATCHET AT WORK.

Here is a description of the hatchet at work:—

“I came to one dive. The bar-tender ran towards me with a yell, wrenched my hatchet out of my hand, and shot off his pistol towards the ceiling. I got another hatchet from a woman companion.

“I ran behind the bar, smashed the mirror and all the bottles under it; picked up the cash register; threw it down; then broke the faucets of the refrigerator; opened the door and cut the rubber tubes that conducted the beer. It began to fly all over the house.

“I threw over the slot machine, breaking it up, and got from it a sharp piece of iron with which I opened the bungs of the beer kegs, and the faucets of the barrels, and then the beer flew in every direction, and I was completely saturated.”

It was after this exploit, which resulted in a fine of £20 and imprisonment,

that Mrs. Nation founded a newspaper, “The Smasher’s Mail”—but it only lived to see thirteen issues. “It sufficed, however,” says Mrs. Nation, “to prove that I was not, as many people declared, insane.” The book, as already indicated, abounds with characteristic sayings—aimed chiefly, of course, at alcohol and tobacco. Here are some quotations:—

“Preparation for war is inhuman.
“Angels wept; and devils yelled with diabolical glee.

“It ought to be a crime to manufacture or give away tobacco in any form.
“A man has no more right to poison the air I breathe than the water I drink.

“Cigars are like snakes—they are all bad.
“If it is manly to smoke, why isn’t it womanly to smoke?
“It is my place to meddle with the devil’s business.
“The nation is what its homes are.”

Science Notes.

A four foot coal seam yield, 6000 tons per acre.
Vinegar will successfully clean a dirty powdered gun barrel.

American turbine engines will be used on two of Japan’s new battleships.

To make carbon ink dissolve genuine India ink in common black writing fluid.
The human eye can discern an object as small as 1-825 of an inch in diameter.

A white tiger, the first ever known, recently was killed by some hunters in Assam.

A pound of cork is sufficiently buoyant to support an average sized man in water.

A telegraphing typewriter that may be attached to any typewriter is a recent invention.

A new motor boat is propelled by an aerial screw. Under favourable conditions high speed is attained.

A new German explosive, the invention of a man named Gelbre, is said to be the most powerful yet devised.

A patent has been granted a Chicago man on an electric piano that produces music from bells instead of wires.

Spirits of nitre will remove ink stains from hard woods, which should be washed with clean water after it is used.

A French invention, consisting of bulb thermometers, predicts at sundown whether there will be frost during the night.

The waste products of a near-by coal mine are utilized to furnish the city of Amherst, Nova Scotia, with heat and power.

Electric railways of the United States have attained a trackage of over 40,000 miles, nearly one-fifth that of the steam lines.

The United States, in 1907, produced 166,095,335 barrels of petroleum, an increase of nearly 40,000,000 barrels over 1906.

Berlin’s firemen wear water-tight jackets which may be filled from the hose, affording the wearer protection from the heat.

In Japan a company is manufacturing a product from volcanic ashes which is a good substitute for cement for many purposes.

Tea is a germicide, according to a Boston physician, who claims it is an especially rank enemy of the typhoid bacillus.

Although the house fly lays eggs, the flesh fly, better known as the “blue bottle,” produces living larvae, about fifty at a time.

The electrical equipment of the Cunard liner, Mauretania, includes over 250 miles of cables and more than 6000 sixteen candle power lamps.

A Norwegian factory receives power for six turbines from water that falls 3287 feet through a tunnel from a lake seven miles away.

Japan is building an 1100-ton torpedo boat to have a speed of thirty nine miles an hour and to carry a heavy gun in addition to four torpedoes.

Three parts by weight of boracic acid to one of powdered borax makes a good compound for brazing steel. It should be applied as a paste with water.

The addition of three drops of mercury to each ounce of common solder will make a solder fusing at a low temperature for uniting soft metals.

For the benefit of outdoor workers who must have their hands free, a German inventor has brought out a tent-shaped umbrella that straps to the shoulders.

The railroads of the United States used 18,835,691 barrels of oil for fuel in 1907, an increase of over 3,000,000 barrels over the preceding year.

The most productive insect known to science is the termite, or white ant, which has been known to lay eggs at the rate of 80,000 a day for a month.

Gold and silver anodes should be removed from the solution when not in use, as the bath will dissolve them even when no electricity is passing through them.

A recent English invention is a portable circular saw resembling the street outfit of the scissors grinder, which may be moved up to stationary timber to cut it.

Wealthy natives of India have formed a company with £1,500,000 capital to erect at Bombay blast furnaces and a complete steel plant for the utilization of native ores.

If plans now under consideration be carried out, all railroads entering Paris will be electrified to a considerable distance into the suburbs of the French capital.

Much valuable time can be saved by covering a desk top with plate glass, under which data may be spread for ready reference. It also makes a surface that is easily cleaned.

Diluted ammonia is the best to use to remove paint from tiling, as some tiles are surfaced with a material which will not resist caustic soda, the solvent most often used. Clean water will remove the surplus ammonia.

An English biologist who has been testing the kinship of different animals by blood analysis, has found that the hippopotamus and pig are cousins, as are the walrus and the horse. But he has been unable to connect man with the monkey.



There is a young lady of Clyde,
Who says she is quite satisfied
Laxo-Tonic can cure
What all women endure,
For the Pill only wants to be tried.

With folks on the enter Barcos,
Who live upon beef and bungalow,
The scurvy ‘ilth chronic
Were not Laxo-Tonic
A part of the regimen too!

LAXO-TONIC PILLS. 10/11 & 12, 13.

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HORLICK’S Malted Milk

It contains all the necessary constituents in their proper proportions. It contains no starch and is therefore suitable for infants from birth. It forms bone, nerve and muscle. It is all food and no waste. It is pure and free from bacteria. It is easily and thoroughly assimilated.

Beware of Infants’ Foods containing Starch.

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has been analysed by the Board of Health and admitted free of duty. Chemists, etc., are therefore safe in selling **HORLICK’S Malted Milk**, and parents are guaranteed a suitable food for children from birth, which contains **No Starch**.

No confusion arises when you order **HORLICK’S**, as only one kind is manufactured, and only one is needed to feed your child. No Milk is required in the preparation of **HORLICK’S** as in other foods—water only.

Of all Chemists and Wholesale and Retail Stores, etc.
Samples: 12, Pitt Street, Sydney, N.S.W.
Malted Milk Ltd., Slough, Bucks, England.

ANGLO-COLONIAL NOTES.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

The King returned to London last Monday from Brighton, to preside at a meeting of the Privy Council at Buckingham Palace. His Majesty's health has greatly improved during his stay at the famous Sussex resort, and he will, as usual, spend his Christmas with the Queen and the Royal Family at Sandringham, whither he went on Wednesday.

An amusing anecdote relating to the King's stay at Brighton is vouched for by the Rev. Cecil Mannell, Rector of Thorpe Malor. His Majesty was taking a walk along the esplanade unattended, and was thus accosted by a pert youngster:

"Governor, kin you tell us the time?"

"Yes," replied his Majesty, referring to his watch, "it is a quarter to one."

"Thanks," said the youth, adding "I've bin 'ere two bloomin' hours awaitin' ter see the bloomin' King, an' I ain't goin' ter wait no longer."

"Neither shall I," replied his Majesty, resuming his walk.

It is rather hard to believe that any British youth should be so unfamiliar with the King's lineaments in these days as not to be able to recognise him when actually on the look-out for him, as the Brighton youth was. But one remembers that at Newmarket many years ago, a young Colonial visitor chaffed affably with the then Prince of Wales for quite five minutes without becoming aware of the identity of his casual paddock acquaintance, and was very much surprised to learn who his amiable gossip was. "I thought there was something familiar in his face, but I had not the ghost of an idea who he was, though I knew I'd seen him before," was the young fellow's reply when chaffed about the incident.

Miss Hilda Nathan, daughter of Mr. David Nathan, of Wellington, who was married at the West London Synagogue a few days ago to Mr. A. Salinger, of London, was given away by her grand-

father, Mr. J. E. Nathan, at whose house at 23, Pembroke Gardens, W., a reception was afterwards held. Quite a number of New Zealanders were present. The bride's dress was of soft white satin, made Empire fashion, and trimmed with old Duchesse lace, the lace being the pre-ent of her aunt, Miss Nathan. The veil of plain white tulle was supported by a wreath of real orange blossoms, and the bride wore two clusters of orange blossoms on her dress.

Her going away dress was of natter blue cloth, with large black hat trimmed with feathers to match the costume. She also wore a very handsome set of black fox furs, a present from her father. Four little girls were bridesmaids—Miss Margy Salinger and Miss Hilda Drucker, nieces of the bridegroom, and Miss Queenie Nathan and Miss Rae Resenfeld, cousins of the bride. They wore dainty frocks of white muslin and lace, with big hats of the same, and carried small baskets of pink carnations, white heather, and lily of the valley. Miss Nathan, the bride's aunt, wore a gown of blue chambruse satin. The presents were very handsome and numbered about 200.

The Hon. W. P. Reeves has been appointed a member of the Royal Commission which is to examine schemes for securing a more fully representative character for popularly elected legislative bodies. The chairman of the Commission is Lord Richard Cavendish, younger brother of the Duke of Devonshire, and the other members are Lord Loches of Gowrie, formerly Mr. Edmund Robertson, ex-Secretary to the Admiralty; the Hon. Edwin Montague, M.P., who is under 30 years of age, has been a Liberal member of Parliament since 1906, and is part author of a book on Canada and the Empire; Sir Francis Hopwood, permanent Under-Secretary for the Colonies, and a member of the Royal Commission on Shipping Rings, London Traffic, and Canal; Sir Courtenay Albert, who has been Clerk of the House of Commons since 1892; Sir Charles Eliot, ex-Governor of Eastern Nigeria; and Mr. John Walker Hills, M.P. for Durham City.

Professor Ernest Rutherford, the distinguished New Zealander, who was recently awarded the Nobel prize for chemistry of £7500 for his discoveries and works on radio-activity, visited Stockholm last week, accompanied by his wife, and was entertained for six days. He also made an excursion from Stockholm to Upsala University, where great attention was paid him. He inspected the chemical and physical laboratories before returning by way of Berlin to Manchester, where he occupies the Chair of Chemistry at the University.

Mr. P. A. Vaile is to meet Lord Milner early in January, and put before him the Imperial scholarship scheme lately mooted by the New Zealand writer in an article in the "Manchester Guardian," under the title of "The Rhodes Scheme Revised." Mr. Vaile is highly pleased with the manner in which his new idea has been received.

Mr. L. F. Ayson, Chief Inspector of New Zealand Fisheries, is over in Ireland this week collecting salmon ova for shipment to New Zealand. He will bring a consignment of 1,000,000 back with him to London, and these, together with 350,000 collected from the Tay, the Wye, and elsewhere, will be dispatched to New Zealand by the Turakina next week, under the care of the chief engineer. Mr. Ayson follows later in charge of a second shipment of ova, for the collection of which the High Commissioner's Department is now arranging.

Recent callers at the High Commissioner's office: Mr. W. S. Cederholm (Wellington), Miss Doris Roskrige (Wellington), Mr. D. R. Caldwell (Auckland), Mr. L. S. Humphries (Wellington), Mr. and Mrs. Overton Smith and family and Mr. C. Overton Smith (Auckland), Mr. Collie (Wellington), Mr. L. Rhye, Mr. F. M. Binkley (Christchurch), Mr. L. F. Ayson (Wellington), Mr. E. Tuke (Auckland), Miss Florence Naden (Auckland), Mr. Addison John Newbould (Napier), Mrs. C. W. Sinclair, Miss E. Sinclair and Mr. R. W. Sinclair (Wellington), Mr. W. H. Bird (Wanganui), Mr. Douglas A. McGill (Auckland), Mr. James G. Henderson (Milburn, Otago), Mr. J. H. Coates (New Brighton, near Christchurch), Mr. L. S. Flyger, Mr. J. W. Kendall (Auckland).

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Frootoids are elegant in appearance and pleasant to take; they are immensely more valuable than an ordinary aperient; they remove from the blood, tissues, and internal organs, waste poisonous matter that is clogging them and choking the channels that lead to and from them.

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Frootoids are the proper aperient medicine to take when any Congestion or 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.

Frootoids act splendidly on the liver; a dose taken at bed-time, once a week, is nightly beneficial.

A constipated habit of body will be completely cured if the patient will on each occasion, when suffering, take a dose of Frootoids, instead of an ordinary aperient. The patient thus gradually becomes independent of Aperient Medicines.

Price 1/6. Chemists, Medicine Vendors, or the Proprietor, W. G. Hearne, Chemist, Geelong, Victoria.

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
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TARIFF: From 12.6 per day.

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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.

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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
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FACTS, FANCIES, QUIPS & COMMENTS

FROM THE AUSTRALIAN PAPERS.

They were discussing the proper way to bring up rabbits, when the young man in the white canvas hat with a light blue band threw away his cigarette and remarked dreamily. "Speaking of raising hairs, when I was up in Canada last year I heard of a hair tonic that was so marvellous it made me somewhat sceptical. Finally I borrowed some of it to try on a tame jack rabbit that had been rather out of sorts ever since his tail got chopped off by accident. I gave him some of it, and it sure toned him up great—in fact, I reckon he's running yet. But he left the loose piece of his tail behind him, and I says to myself, 'It's a poor hair tonic that won't grow hair.' So I tried some of it on that chunk of tail. Well, boys, you can believe me or believe me not, but as sure as my name is Bates that stuff was so powerful that it grew another hare on the tail in nine and three-fifths seconds by my watch." There was silence for 48 seconds, and then the stout man in the pink shirt and the pale green tie with purple spots spoke. "That's what you call a hare raising tail," he murmured in a sudden burst of inspiration.

No one has yet been able to explain why the mere smell of salt water should rouse the prehistoric nature of man, and infuse him with a desire to shed his apparel; but it undoubtedly does. A very respectable stout paterfamilias brought his young family to the beach, and decided to bathe with them. He had arrived early, and only a few people were about; but he had only just got out of the water when a perfect avalanche of women and children arrived, and started arranging their lunch baskets on either side of him. Flight was impossible, shelter there was none. Suddenly he was seized with a brilliant idea. His family had collected a small heap of seaweed. This he crawled beneath, his head projecting one end, his feet the other. In this position he performed his toilette on the small of his back. His children, under the mistaken impression that he was being funny, stood and shrieked at his efforts, but he had the satisfaction of knowing that he was carrying a nice bit of seaweed for the garden.

The late John F. Sheridan had an advantage over many a comedian whose reputation is associated with one part. The greater portion of his life was spent in growing up to the character he lived by, instead of growing down from it. Widow O'Brien might have been anything between 45 and 60, and Sheridan probably was something between 30 and 40 when he first appeared in "Fun on the Bristol" in America. He took it to London about 27 years ago and staged it at the Opera Comique, a house with tunnel entrance, that was long time the home of Gilbert and Sullivan opera. In those days his leading lady was May Livingstone, who played a song-and-dance negress character—of the Topsy order—and was almost a rival "star" to Sheridan. The Widow didn't loom so large then as in after years. My recollections of the performance at the Opera Comique are of a bright May Livingstone, a clever John Sheridan, and a very trashy comedy. Two years later I was in Melbourne when Widow O'Brien and May Livingstone (I think), as the black girl, made their Australian debut at the old Royal, but I didn't then rush to renew my acquaintance with "Fun on the Bristol." It was too silly a thing. The snorting critic of the "Age" referred to it as "a music-hall show," quite out of place at Melbourne's largest and most respected theatre. The piece either improved on acquaintance or was adapted to Australian requirements as time went on, or public taste adapted itself to the piece. The character, colour, and identity of the leading lady were changed, whilst the leading man in the old woman part spread himself more and more. Take Johnnie Sheridan for all in all, we will never look upon his like again—as Widow O'Brien. To begin with, he was a Dublin Jew, and an Irish Israelite is a rarity, anyhow. Face, accent, and humour were severely uncommon and col-

lectively unique. He had Jewish prudence and Irish wit. The last time I talked with him was at Fitzgerald's circus what time Adelina Antonio was performing on the high trapeze. Adelina's "act" terminated in a double somersault backwards from the trapeze into a net. She afterwards killed herself in South America in an attempt to perform the same feat, or another of the same sort. On this occasion, and all other Australian occasions, the charming gymnast got through her somersaults all right, but the experienced eye of Johnnie Sheridan saw more danger in the feat than the admiring multitude had a notion of. And, turning to me, he said, "Well, I'd rather risk my life as a low comedian." Johnnie was more than a low comedian, however. He was a famous character actor—always the same character, but none the less famous on that account.

A very old Australian actor, identified with the earliest productions of "Silver King" is nowadays an inmate of the Austin Hospital for Incurables (Vic.). Johnny Bryan it is. Bryan used to pop up periodically in the second act of "Silver King" as the big burly cabman, who comes along, laden with parcels and a birdcage, to the railway station, in attendance on a sharp-tongued female. She wanted to know whether anything had been forgotten, and the cabman replied, "Well, you haven't brought the kitchen-range or the mangle, but, s'elp me Bob! I think you brought everything else." And when she gave him a shilling for his fare, he protested that he and his 'orse didn't work for money, but for honour and glory, whereupon the angry female called him a rude man, and talked of taking his number. To which he replied, "Take it, marm, take it—and drive the bloomin' cab yourself!" Every old playgoer remembers the figure of Johnnie Bryan's cabman, in the long overcoat with the short capes to it, and the fruity tones of his sarcastic remarks. He had a great opinion of his importance, inasmuch as he was the principal person on the stage what time he was speaking his half-a-dozen lines. On one occasion—recorded in a "Bulletin" of long ago—manager Williamson, offering the veteran an engagement (as the cabman) for another revival of the popular melodrama, informed him that business had been very "off," and salaries all round would have to suffer from the prevailing depression. "Reduce my salary!" said Johnnie. "Consider how successful I have always been. I hold the house from the moment of my entrance. I can feel it here," and the proud mummer struck his chest in a majestic manner. J.C.W. ventured to observe that the cabman was but a very small character. Drawing himself up to the full height of his dignity the good old egoist replied: "Mr. Williamson, the value of a work of art is not measured by its dimensions. A very small painting

by Meissonier commands a very high price!" Possibly the argument prevailed. The unconscious humour of it should have been irresistible.

A social ukase has gone forth, and lo! if Lady Dudley can help it there is to be no more "Kitchen" lancing in the dancing halls of our Nicest People. The staid consort of the potentate for whose possession State Premiers, A.N.A. officials and the like wrestle with such dogged energy, has expressed her dislike of robbing amongst society grown-ups, and urged that it shall cease. As a matter of fact, ball-room boisterousness has been a witted fashion in the headquarters of etiquette for some years. The "kitchen" lancer habit and its accompanying uproariousness came into vogue a little over a decade ago. A gentle, peaceable class was maligning when the new fashion was baptised. The noise and rush and violence of it was not borrowed from the silent and depressed regions where the cockroach lies down with the lamb, and meets, all too often, a painful end in a cauldron of boiling soup as a result. On the contrary, it originated at the various joyous London haunts—now closed by a Puritanical body of police—where most of the gilded, and a few of the silver-plated youths of London used to repair after supper at the Savoy or Carlton. I have it on the authority of an unregenerate male relative, who has personal experience to back up his words, that at these resorts—the lineal descendants of Cremorne and Vauxhall Gardens—the lancers took on the semblance of a Broken Hill riot. The male participants were Debrett inmates for the most part, and through their agency the new convention filtered to private entertainments of an elevated social order. Your "Akenehi" remembers hearing about a "small dance" in London some years ago. A band of Bachelors' clubbies (who are among the "smartest" of London clubbies) was there. When the cotillon flourishes were carried in the somewhat vinous glee of the young men passed all bounds. An aged butler, whose silvern locks and stern, judicial bearing, would have surely rendered him immune from insults in the lowest class of suburban council chamber hereabouts, was propelled through the hall-room doorway clinging frantically to the remains of a huge Chinese umbrella. Howls of approval greeted his advent, and more howls followed behind him. No one minded. The excellence of the "rag" condoned the damage to property and butler. But this sort of revelry has been relegated long since to fashion's scrap-heap. It is a belated and undesirable survival locally—like such remnants of Free-trade as still remain unburied. The up-to-date smart-setter diets, drinks mineral waters, endures the simple life, and tin public looks down his or her nose with much demureness. —"Akenehi," in Sydney "Bulletin."

Police-men who believe in lucky and unlucky stations are up against a tough proposition in the Marryatville (S.A.) job. The last three men who occupied the post have all come to a rapid end, and two of them so violently that the Commissioner of Police finds it difficult to induce anyone to be the fourth victim.

The first took it into his head to commit suicide; the second had only been transferred to Glenelg for a short time before he was murdered by a fisherman; and the third (Constable Hyde) provided target practice for three desperados. Hyde intercepted one of half-a-dozen bullets and went to the Heavenly Beat a few days later.


The coast about Champion Bay (W.A.) is infested with sharks. Each shark is invariably accompanied by two pilot fish. Why two? It is a curious question, and puzzling. Conversing with an ichthyologist on this point, I was surprised to hear him cast some doubt on the fact. His view (not gleaned from personal observation, by-the-by) was that there is often one than two pilots with the shark, and sometimes there are a number. The shark is, as a fact, sometimes seen unaccompanied by pilots, but when the latter do accompany it, the number is always two; and this fact is so well known that the aboriginal draftsmen invariably depict this number on their representations of the shark—an object which they are very fond of painting on the rocks of the coast. While I was off one of the islands, noted on the chart as Rat Island, a shark glided slowly under the boat. The appearance of all fish in the depths of the sea is deceptive to the eye, but this shark was remarked by all the fishermen as being enormous. It was accompanied by the usual pair of pilots—one swimming close to the snout, the other near the right side. Neither book nor naturalist that I have yet met with has given a satisfactory explanation of the whyness of the pilot. On the West Coast of Australia I never saw a shark without its attendant scouts—if scouts they are. They seem to guide or warn the shark in some way, but I could never discover proof that they really do so. When the sharks are seen without pilots the latter are probably lurking somewhere near at hand. The pilots never go in shoals, large or small, in Australian waters. Four or five is the greatest number ever seen together; but when many sharks are assembled in one spot, each seems to be accompanied by its pair of attendants. This refers to the common blue and white sharks only; the basking-shark and smaller sharks have no pilots. It is certain that some mutual benefit follows the association of creatures so incongruous in general habits and organisation, otherwise the pilot-fish would not be safe in the other fellow's company.

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News, Notes and Notions.

Lord Avebury, in a recent address on the pains and pleasures of life, remarked that life was not, of course, all "zako and ale." Pleasure and pain were closely interwoven in the web of life. Everyone had anxieties and sorrows; but many writers had greatly underestimated the blessings for which they had to be thankful. In life sunshine and shadow succeeded one another as quickly as on an April day. Whether the result was happiness or sorrow depended a great deal on which elements they looked at or brooded over. If they turned their backs on their blessings and magnified their troubles they made themselves miserable; if they looked to the sunshine and left the shadows behind them they would find that they had much to be thankful for, and in most cases that the good things were real, while what seemed evils were but blessings in disguise. They lived in a very beautiful world, but few good things were to be had without hard work. It was not a world in which anybody could expect to be prosperous if he was easily discouraged. Perseverance, earnest, steady perseverance, was necessary to success. This was no drawback. Good solid work was as necessary to peace of mind as it was for the health of the body; in fact, the two were inseparable. Very few, happily, had cause for anxiety as regarded the real necessities of life—for bread, water, meat, fruit or house room. But they made themselves anxious about delicacies and superfluities, carriages and horses, gold and precious stones, for luxuries and appearance, making themselves anxious and miserable lest they should be deprived of things which they could, perhaps, be even happier and better without. Time was said to be money, but it was much more—it was life. No doubt most of them would have to work for money, but let them not sacrifice their lives to it.

Half-a-dozen schoolboys fell in love with a pretty woman who lived opposite their school, near Paris, and one, aged fifteen, wrote her a love letter. The lady's husband complained to the schoolmaster, who expelled the lad and claimed damages. The boy's father refused to pay the balance of the lad's school fees, and claimed damages for wrongful expulsion, because, he says, the schoolmaster ought to have had opaque windows in the school. The Court took another view, and upheld the expulsion, sentencing the father to pay the costs not only of the schooling but of the case.

Mr. F. A. Heinze, the ex-"Copper King," gave a "stocking darning" dinner party at Rector's Restaurant, New York, in December, at which Miss Elizabeth Stanton, of the Gaiety Theatre, London, was the guest of honour; the other guests included some of the prettiest actresses in New York and a number of millionaires. The dinner, which began at midnight, was served in a private room decorated with hundreds of pounds' worth of orchids. An orchestra was concealed behind a bank of palms. Each guest found under his or her plate a souvenir worth £20. When the dinner was half over the lights were lowered, and each woman was given a needle and some wool, with which she proceeded to darn a small hole in her stocking. Then the lights were turned on again, and the women exhibited the neatly darned hosiery as proof of their domestic abilities. The dinner cost £25 a plate.

Of all devices resorted to by bankers to gain time and inspire confidence during runs on their institutions, there has never, perhaps, been a more novel scheme than that conceived in an American city. The depositors were astounded to find that they could enter the bank only at the cost of spoiled garments, as the astute president had caused the door posts to be freshly painted. An English bank once prevented a crisis in its affairs by exhibiting in the windows large tubs apparently brimful of sovereigns. These tubs, however, were simply turned upside down, only a small quantity of gold being piled on their bottoms. An ingenious device was resorted to in Buenos

Ayres. There was a run on a large bank, and for several days depositors besieged the premises, withdrawing money and placing it in another bank on the opposite side of the street. It so happened, however, that these two institutions had reached a private understanding; so fast as the safe bank received the deposits they were returned to the unsafe one by an underground passage, with the result that everyone marvelled at its continued ability to meet its obligations.

The Kaiser is evidently determined to reform himself off the face of the earth. Not content with his discipline of self-abnegation along familiar lines, with having scorned delights and in the detached and vigorous condition of a recluse, studiously devoted himself to mastering the contents of forbidding Blue Books, and muzzled himself against indulgence in those public utterances that for so long have been his delight, he has determined that there is at least one thing more wanting to complete the iron chain of self-discipline—the estimable virtue of total abstinence from all forms of alcoholic liquors. In view of this extraordinary interest has been taken throughout the Fatherland and elsewhere. But the Emperor, in taking this decision has no wish to compel the members of his Court to follow his example. He has a special temperance drink of the colour and effervescence of champagne, so that the contents of his glass appear in no way different from the contents of the glasses of his neighbours at table. When the Emperor is invited to dinner his especial drink is supplied to his host in advance, and is served from bottles similar to those containing champagne.

Christmas is a time of good cheer for Suffragists as for others (says the "Daily Telegraph"), the only difference being that the Suffragists, when holiday-making, do not forget the aim of their daily life in the arrangement of their menus. All colours save the green, purple, and white are taboo for table decorations, and a lady advertises in "Votes for Women," the organ of the union, offering her services for a moderate fee to produce an artistic combination of the three shades. Appropriate themes are also being thought out just now, and make very intelligible reading beside some of those provided at our restaurants. "Stewards sautes," "Chilled Constable a la Westminster," "Cabinet Ministers on toast," "Dessert a la House of Commons," and "Ministerial Ices," the latter guaranteed to melt in a Suffragist's mouth, are a few items from a suggested bill of fare. The cost of the whole is slyly suggested to be a few Liberal seats. It is to be hoped, at least, that the ladies will have liberal helpings.

M. Eiffel builded better than he knew, for the Eiffel Tower, having been the chief ornament of an international exposition, has since then been of the greatest service in scientific experiment. Investigations of meteorological phenomena, of wind currents, of atmospheric electricity, as well as of the pressure of air on falling planes, have been made by means of it; and besides serving as a rye-peck for adventurous aeronauts, it has for some time past served as a magnificent aerial station for wireless telegraphy. Regular communication by means of it has been kept up with Morocco, and the success of these "aerograms" has induced the Government to fit the 300-metre tower with a new installation of antennae, which will enable communication to be maintained over still greater distances.

Tonnerre, usually a peaceful town, in spite of its thunderous name, in the East of France, has conceived a strange antipathy to beards. It does not mind them in plain clothes, but it cannot abide them in the gorgeous uniform in which the church docks them out, cocked hat, silver-braided scarlet swallow tail, smalls, silk stockings, and buckles

shoes. The Tonnerre beadle ventured out into the streets of his native town thus decorated. He was at once pounced upon, summoned, and fined tenpence. The indignant beadle appealed once and lost, appealed again, this time to the highest jurisdiction in the land, the Court of Cassation, and won. The tenpenny fine was remitted. The very next day the proud beadle once more put on his cocked hat, silver-braided tail coat, breeches, hose, and pumps, and armed himself with his mace of office, and appeared in the streets of Tonnerre. He was again apprehended, summoned, and sentenced to a fine of tenpence. Whether he will once more fight the case is not known. There may be no end to the feud between Tonnerre and its beadle.

According to the annual report of the Smithsonian Institution at Washington, a prehistoric buried city, a regular American Pompeii, is being excavated at Casa Grande, near Florence, in Arizona. Already a number of structures have been discovered, but the largest one excavated during the year was a building 200ft. long, with eleven rooms and massive walls, enclosing a plaza. In the central room there is a seat called by the Pima Indians the "seat of Monte zuma." These ruins at Casa Grande were found to be very much more extensive than was anticipated, and it is stated that their permanent preservation is of great archaeological importance. The Smithsonian Institution, under whose auspices Mr Roosevelt will hunt big game in Africa next year, will undertake the partial reconstruction of the American Pompeii at the legislative capital, so that all citizens may see and realise the high character of the civilisation which existed on the continent in prehistoric times.

Dr. I. Popper, a well-known German physician, has been making some interesting observations regarding the stature of individuals and the relation that exists between height and talent and genius. The doctor finds that not only persons with considerable talent, but the geniuses of the world, all have been and are of medium size or less. The results of Dr. Popper's researches into this subject are very interesting. He has discovered that whilst most great small men are small in stature because of the shortness of their legs they are really tall in the length of their bodies. That is, when sitting down, they are taller than when standing up, as they have big bodies above the waist. This very fact, the doctor thinks, is perhaps the secret of talent and genius—a good stomach, big heart, and lungs in a big body—as they have a direct effect on the intellect. These organs help to feed the brain properly and make big men mentally. He mentions Bismarck, for instance, who was a very tall man, as having a bigger body in proportion. In other words, it is all in the body, and the person who, when sitting down, is taller as compared with another than when standing up has the advantage of the other in good, sound organs, and health mentality. When the organs of digestion have plenty of room they make



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a healthy brain, and, according to Dr. Popper, talent and genius can in most cases be traced to these facts.

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Considerable excitement has been aroused in Paris by the question raised by Dr. Boiredon, of Brive, and taken up by his Paris colleagues, whether a doctor has a right, under certain circumstances, to take a man's life when he cannot be saved, and so spare him needless suffering. The Paris correspondent of the "Daily Express" says that Dr. Boiredon was the first medical man who arrived on the scene of the railway accident in Brive tunnel. The stoker of the engine, a man named Lefort, was caught under the wreck and slowly burnt to death. "When I reached him," writes Dr. Boiredon, "the man was screaming with agony, and begged me to kill him. There was no possible hope of saving his life. He was being slowly burnt to death, and his body was horribly crushed. I considered that my conscience permitted me to put an end to his agony, and asked a gendarme for his revolver. He said that he had none, and the stoker was slowly burnt to death, instead of being put out of his pain there and then." Dr. Boiredon's letter is widely commented on.

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It would appear as if one condition of greatness is a simplicity of life akin to asceticism. In fact, ascetical principles of life can be shown to have produced the great rulers of mankind, the greatest teachers, the greatest warriors, the greatest poets, the greatest thinkers, and, in fine, the greatest geniuses of history, in over ninety per cent of cases. Caesar, whom historians agree in calling the greatest human phenomenon the world has known, was most abstemious in respect of diet as well as heroic in the matter of training his body—in other words, in subjecting it to hardship. Alexander, like his tutor Aristotle, was an ascetic during the wonderful campaigns in Asia Minor and India by which he entered into history. Hannibal, the greatest military strategist of all time, was as ascetic as a hermit. Saint Augustine did not "find himself" till he adopted the ascetic life. Napoleon, like Caesar and Charlemagne, was excessively temperate in respect to his bodily cravings, and as Lord Rosebery points out in his masterly "Last Phase," despite all that has been said to the contrary, was, for the age in which he flourished, a distinctly clean-living man. Coming down to less illustrious beings, the money-makers of the present age have almost invariably shown that their energies were always tempered by a reasoned asceticism. In the athletic field, failure is the invariable result for the athlete who lapses from the ascetic or heroic regime, and the truth is beyond controversy that the man who governs his flesh is the man who helps to govern the world and make human nature respectable.

What Some People Eat.

When I was a small boy, and read how John the Baptist retired from public life and lived on locusts and wild honey, I felt great pity for him, says a writer in an American paper. It was not on account of the honey that I pitied him, for I had an infinite capacity for that myself; it was the locust.

The locust to me, then, meant that tuneful insect which in the summer-time hides itself in the trees and pipes in steady, never-ceasing shrill tones, until the sun goes down. I hated the creature for its incessant noise and its ability to hide from me, and I loathed it for looking like a fat cockroach. And that I thought was what the poor prophet had to spoil his nice honey with.

Later in life I learned that what I called a locust was in reality a cicada, and that what I called a grasshopper was in truth a locust. John the Baptist, then, like others of his time and of the present time, too, gathered the locusts in great heaps, parched them, and considered them as delicious as we hold shrimps and crabs.

And why not? A shrimp or crab or any other shell-fish will eat anything, while the locust is a clean and even fastidious feeder. It is all a matter of custom. We have not been brought up to eat grasshoppers, and therefore do not

like the idea of doing so. Our western Indians, however, look upon stewed or fried grasshoppers as a very near approach to ambrosia, while in northern Africa wagon-loads of "hoppers" are peddled on the streets, as strawberries are with us.

And just now I mentioned the cockroach in terms of contumely, as if it were certainly outside the pale of edibles. Yet a number of persons testify to their succulence, and wholesomeness. One young lady, in particular, is mentioned as being so fond of the brown bug that when the household was buried in sleep she would seek the kitchen and capture and munch the crisp insects as if they were so many freshly roasted peanuts.

Then there is the ant. In India the white ant is caught by the painful, parched on hot stoves, ground up into flour, made into cakes, and greedily eaten. Gluttony in this case carries its own punishment with it, for over-eating of ant-flour cakes will bring on sure death by cholera. In Africa the ants are merely baked, being then beaten like pop-corn. In Mexico the honey ant is a regular article of commerce.

We cannot understand how these things can be eaten, and yet we eat things which to some other people are an abomination. For example, some of these very Africans who revel in baked ants, look on in disgust at the sight of a white man eating butter. Butter! Ugh! Why, they use it to anoint their bodies with. And then let us consider a moment. Do we know anybody who eats a kind of cheese so strong that even the famous boxer Jeffries has been vanquished by it? Is Limburger, then, a dream? And how about the epicure who caves nothing for his cheese until it has experienced a new birth and gives visible signs of life.

The Frenchman, too, who causes his goose to have liver-complaint in order that that bile-producing organ shall become extra large. And the same gentleman's snail soup or fricassee. Frogs' legs, also. But here we come to a pure prejudice. Odoriferous or animated snail I am willing to condemn, though I will eat and like them, too; but for the frog-legs I will make a firm stand. For whiteness and delicacy the spring chicken is nowhere in comparison.

There is the Italian with his baked viper and the negro with his monster roker-snake. The Australian with his earth-worm, and the Chinaman with his *Pedicularis capitata* and *Pedicularis vestimentalis*. These long Latin names are merely synonyms for a little English word of five letters, beginning with l and ending with e, which my modesty will not permit me to write.

We may make faces at the Australian and the Chinaman, but in the matter of snake-flesh we had better be silent, unless, indeed, we be consistent and forego eels.

After all, what should be the test of propriety in selecting an article for food? I shall give it up without making a single guess for an answer. I see people eat crabs who would turn up their noses and stomachs, too, probably, at the thought of a spider, and yet the two are cousins. Not only that, there are whole tribes of people who look upon spiders as dainties. Such are the natives of New Caledonia, who feast on certain large spiders which they catch in large quantities and roast. Further than this, a celebrated naturalist tells of a lady of his acquaintance who was so fond of spiders that as she walked in her garden she would catch and eat them. She said they were better than hazelnuts.

For inconsistency again, see how fond we are of rabbits and squirrels, while we disdain their equally clean and equally tender cousin the rat. We laugh at the Chinaman for eating birds-nest soup, and at the same time we use gelatine, which is much the same material, as a great delicacy.

I suppose we might eat anything if we could only make up our minds to it. Chinamen eat cats, dogs, and horses; some of the Pacific Islanders eat butterflies. Australians eat caterpillars, Mexican Indians eat beetles, Esquimaux eat frozen, rotten meat; Americans swallow living oysters without even biting at them; the Turkish ladies eat the grub of a certain caterpillar, some South Sea Islanders eat missionaries, the Cingalese eat honey-bees, and no doubt there is nothing so nasty but somebody will eat it.

Why, I know persons who say birds are not fit to eat until they have hung by the head so long that the body drops off. The truth is, and I do not see how it can be honestly denied, that eating is entirely a matter of taste.

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Anecdotes and Sketches

AVOIRDUPOIS!

The poor little school-ma'am of the way-back school in one of the Colonies having been carted off to the hospital with a melon seed or something in her appendix, a substitute was appointed who, like the proverbial Mullingar heifer, was beef to the heels.

When the son of the house, aged nine, came back from school the first day the ranch hands evinced some curiosity.

"How d' ye like yer new teacher, Bertie?"

"Oh, all right!"

"What's she like?"

"She's big, when she sits on the stool in front of the organ there's an awful fat hangs over."

IN A DILEMMA.

The late Lord Londonderry once looked very embarrassed, and no wonder. He opened a letter from her ladyship in which she said: "Give the bearer a good thrashing for having had the impudence to open one of my letters." He looked at "the bearer," and saw that he was a massive footman standing six feet three, and he did not like the job. The matter arose this way. The page boy had handed to her ladyship a letter which had most clearly been tampered with. She read it and inserted in the envelope the message stated above, and told the boy to take it to his lordship. The boy, surmising that there was something wrong, gave it to the biggest of the footmen to deliver, and this will explain the difficult position in which his lordship was placed.

A BRIGHT SUGGESTION.

The lamentable lack of uniformity in the use of words descriptive of numbers, in the sensational newspapers, justifies a little attention, perhaps. At a street fight, a hotel fire, or a political meeting, there is seldom time to ascertain the exact number of persons present, to be sure, but the following scale might be used in approximation:

Over 3, but less than 10.....a crowd
Over 10, but less than 20.....scores
Over 20, but less than 50.....a myriad
Over 50, but less than 100.....thousands
Over 100.....a vast concourse

The list would undergo a radical change, however, in case the paper was reporting a political meeting of its opponents. It might then be abridged:

100 or more.....empty house
300 or more.....a few stragglers
500 or more.....a small gathering
1,000 or more.....a small audience
3,000 or more.....only the front seats filled

BERNARD SHAW AND THE CONCERT.

Bernard Shaw happened to be beguiled to a feeble concert given by a prominent London society woman, who, during the evening found the author sitting disconsolate and bored in a corner of the room.

"Now, really, Mr. Shaw," said the hostess, "don't you think this orchestra plays beautifully? These men have been playing together for eleven years."

"Eleven years?" repeated Shaw. "Haven't we been here longer than that?"

NAMING THE PICTURE.

The artist was of the impressionist school. He had just given the last touches to a purple and blue canvas when his wife came into the studio.

"My dear," said he, "this is the landscape I wanted you to suggest a title for."

"Why not call it 'Home?'" she said after a long look.

"Home? Why?"

"Because there's no place like it," she replied meekly.

TUNE KERMIT WHISTLED.

Mr. W. W. Miller, a well-known American lawyer, tells an anecdote of Kermit Roosevelt, the President's son.

"I was acting as steward," says Mr. Miller, "in some gymkhana races at Oyster Bay a few weeks ago, and one of the events was a race in which the contestants had to ride a given distance to a certain spot where an equal number of young ladies stood with pencil, paper and envelope. Each rider had to dismount here and whistle a tune, the lady writing its name down on the paper. She then had to seal it up in an envelope and hand it to the rider, who remounted and finished the race, delivering the envelope to the judges' stand. The first one in with a correct answer won the event.

"As steward I was deputized before the race to write down the name of the tune each entrant would whistle!"

"What are you going to whistle?" I asked young Kermit.

"I'm going to whistle 'Everybody Works but Father,' said the President's son."

WOULD HAVE IT MENDED.

One day, as a farmer of extraordinary meanness was starting out for the town to do his weekly shopping—for even he had to buy something for the support of his family—his wife came out and asked him to buy her a darning-needle.

"What's the matter with the one I bought you last winter?" asked the farmer.

"The eye's broken out," she replied. "Bring the needle here," he said. "I'm not going to allow such extravagance. I'll have the needle mended."

The woman was wise in her generation, and made no protest. She brought out the needle.

The economical farmer rode away into the town and stopped first of all at the blacksmith's shop. He took out the needle and handed it to the blacksmith. "I want that mended," he said.

The blacksmith knew his customer, and, keeping his face perfectly straight, said the eye should be mended in an hour's time.

The farmer rode away, and the blacksmith walked across the street and bought a new needle for a farthing. When the farmer called again the blacksmith gave him the new needle.

The farmer looked at the smooth, polished surface of the steel, and remarked that it was a good job. "How much will it be?" said he.

"Twopence," said the blacksmith, and the farmer as he paid it, remarked that he knew that the needle could be mended, but his wife would have gone to the expense of buying a new one if he hadn't interfered.

COULDN'T OFFER HIM SOAP.

An English nobleman noted for his wealth, and for his disinclination to part with it, once attended a bazaar promoted by Princess Metternich in aid of a hospital.

"Will you buy this cigarette case?" asked the Princess, offering a very pretty article to the peer. No, his lordship did not smoke.

"This penholder, then?" said the Princess. No, his lordship never wrote.

"A bonbonniere? Surely?" "No," said his lordship; "he never ate sweets."

The Princess then took up a cake of soap. "I shall not ask you to buy this soap!" she remarked.

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MATCHLESS FOR THE COMPLEXION.

The Game of Bridge.

SOME REFLECTIONS ON THE GAME

By "CUT-CAVENDISH"

(Author of "How to Win at Bridge," "The Complete Bridge Player," etc.)

How is it that so many Bridge players take so little trouble to improve their game? They play often enough in all conscience, perhaps too often in the estimation of their numerous acquaintances, who doubtless regard them as possessed of no Bridge conscience at all. And now allow me to explain why every self-respecting disciple of the game should have what for want of a better term I have dubbed a "Bridge Conscience."

Take the case of the average member of society, who has none too much time for recreation. If he plays billiards or golf, chess or lawn tennis, he can be handicapped so as to make a good match of it, or, better still, he can engage in friendly combat with players of much about his own strength. In any event, he derives considerable enjoyment from the encounter, and if he be not a positive crank, his opponent has an equally enjoyable time of it. Very different is the position of things at the Bridge table. At the club a man may find his own level pretty soon. On the other hand, how often a rubber at Bridge may be completely spoilt for everyone concerned just because one of the four has never really studied the game. Even his opponents are to be sincerely pitied.

Do not misunderstand me in the matter. I do not advocate that Bridge should be all "hook." Much must be left to the initiative of a player. There are, however, certain conventions which should be common property. These, instead of adding to the difficulties of the game, simply matters considerably, consequently a sound Bridge player who has acquired all that there is to be known about the game has not to tax his mind or memory over trivialities. His energies may be better employed.

A sound declaration covers a multitude of sins, but great importance must also attach to the play of the hand. The object of these articles is therefore to assist the Bridge aspirant to a knowledge of Bridge in all its phases, whilst striving not to make the game too elaborate a one.

WORDS OF WARNING.

Before settling down to my subject, just a few words of warning, which may just as well come now as later. Do not dwell at inordinate length over your cards or your declaration. The slow and tedious player is the greatest bore to be met with in the card room. Beware! the habit is one which grows, and it may be said that once a slow player always a slow player. Nor is there anything to be gained by the process, for you not only exasperate your opponents but your partner into the bargain, and a game of Bridge can be made to drag most horribly.

The man who instead of making the declaration when it is his call talks steadily about the fiscal policy or his fancy for the Derby, about his form that afternoon at golf, or how he strung up forty the other night at billiards, is another pet abomination. Then there are men who, when it is their turn to deal, are invariably filling their pipe or helping themselves to whisky. "I've got them on the list, and they'll none of them be missed."

Of course, the declaration comes first, and in this connection it is remarkable how many players err in the direction of caution, or rush to the other extreme. Playing, as you probably do, over and over again with the same players, one of your first considerations must be to note their characteristics in this respect and try to profit accordingly. It may af-

fect your doubling or redoubling, or actually influence you in your declaration. Be assured that your powers of observation may frequently be turned to account. A knowledge of the conventions supplemented by a fairly good card memory, will make you a decent player, and these attributes are to be acquired by anyone, for the card memory is largely a matter of practice. But before joining the ranks of the select body of first-class players, you must add to these very necessary qualifications the faculties of observation and deduction. Both are essential, as without the one the other could not be put into force.

Bridge has so long been an institution among us that every would-be player has some smattering of the game. Comparatively few people, however, have a thorough knowledge of its laws, which seems passing strange at first sight. There is after all some excuse for them, as the rules take a good deal of knowing, and so many players do not adhere to the strict letter of the law. Long sojourns in the land of "Family Bridge" have conduced to slackness in this respect. This state of things is rather their misfortune than their fault, and they are to be sincerely pitied. Outside such doubtful luxuries as "Family Bridge" and Progressive Bridge, a wider knowledge of the rules should exist, and the strict letter of the game be always enforced. Otherwise where is the line to be drawn, for some people are more generous than others. No; rules are made to be kept, and a player is sadly handicapped unless he knows what penalty to exact for each particular offence. "The Popular Bridge Player," published by Simpkin, Marshall, and Co., 4, Stationers' Hall Court, London, price one shilling, is one of the most recent books on the game which contains a complete code of the revised laws, and I would refer those of my readers, whose education has been neglected in this respect, to remedy the omission at once. When a point of law arises their opinion will then be worth having.

THE ETIQUETTE OF BRIDGE.

Then there are certain unwritten laws which should always be scrupulously observed, the chief of which can be briefly enumerated. They may be said to comprise the etiquette of Bridge. From the nature of the conditions which govern the game, acts may be so done, and words so spoken, as to carry a distinct intimation to a partner, and that such breach of etiquette carries with it no penalty should in itself ensure its faithful observance.

Fortunately, the demands made by etiquette are not very formidable, and we can shortly discuss them together. A player should always use the same formula as in "I make Diamonds trumps," "May I lead?" "Yes, please." "I leave it to you partner." "I double," etc., etc.

Try to take much the same time over one and all of your declarations. To leave it almost regretfully after lengthy consideration points undeniably to an attacking declaration having been in contemplation. Again, the leader should not hesitate over the question of doubling, for his partner might easily benefit, even unconsciously, by the information thus illegitimately obtained. In the event of your partner having accorded you such information as to his hand, on no account allow it to influence you in any particular. All information coming from the enemy's ranks may, on the other hand, be utilised to the full, although no player should hesitate over the play of a card

with the view of misleading an opponent. As may be well supposed, such a proceeding is absolutely contrary to all notions of fair play.

Never play a card ostentatiously, as much as to say "This is my trick," nor prepare to lead again until the trick is taken. In like fashion, a player, who desires the cards to be placed, should never do it with the object of attracting his partner's attention, even if at the time his partner be religiously studying his hand or the dealing. If things go all wrong in consequence you can gently re-monstrate with him at the close of the hand. It will probably do you good and him no great harm.

Do not lead to the first trick before you have asked your partner's permission to play. It would almost point to your holding a worthless hand and fearing a double.

As to Dummy, he should never talk during the progress of a hand, nor rise from the table with the intention of looking at his opponents' hands. To ask to see the dealer's cards is equally irritating and unnecessary.

How often Dummy draws the dealer's attention to the fact that the latter is leading from the wrong hand, and yet this affords a serious breach of the rules, and one which I should much like to see penalised. When will some "Dummies" learn that once their cards are exposed they must take no further part in the game save that they may ask the dealer whether he has none of a suit in which he may have renounced?

Having, as it were, skimmed the surface of things, next week will be given to the consideration of "No Trumps" declaration. The art of declaring may strike some folk as the simplest sort of concern, but I can assure them it is nothing of the kind. Nor can its bearings on the fortune of a rubber be over-estimated. An unsound declaration is very easily made, but once made, the mischief cannot be undone. To appreciate thoroughly the value of a hand and to know almost intuitively when to make an attacking declaration or when to adopt cautious tactics is a great step on the road towards success.

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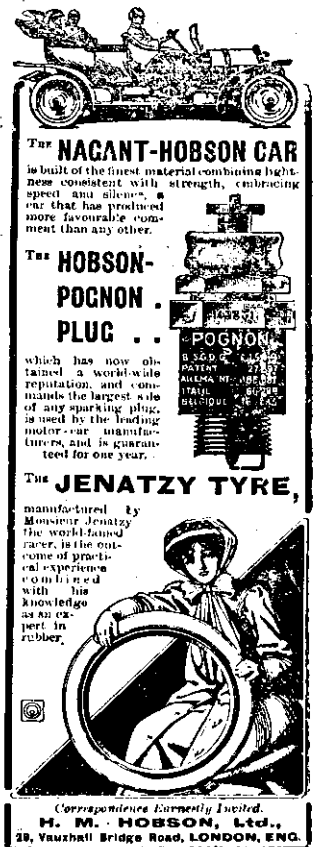
Tourist (out West): "I presume this neighbourhood is full of exciting history." Guide: "You bet. D'ye see that point o' rocks? When the sheriff's posse got after Buffalo Jim, they chased him to the top of that there peak, three hundred feet high, and the only way he could escape them was by jumping."

Tourist: "Goodness me! The fall killed 'em both of course."

Guide: "No. He didn't jump."



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VOLUNTEER NOTES

(By RIFLEMAN.)

The acceptance of the defenses of the Devonport Defence Rifle Cadet Volunteers has been ascertained.

The "A" Battery is now in camp in the Domain for the usual fortnight. The parade muster is 70 strong.

Staff-Sergt. Meikle arrived in Auckland on Saturday last, and has been attached to the Engineer Corps and Signallers for instruction.

The American Military and Naval authorities have decided to lay with mines on board their warships. These tanks will now be converted into infantry.

No. 2 and 3, A.G.A., went under canvas on Saturday last, the former at Fort Cauley, and the latter at Takapuna. Heavy gun practice will take place this week.

The No. 1 Natives will not hold their annual camp till the end of the month, having declined to grant permission and camp allowance.

The conditions of the competition for the challenge cup presented to the Pike Mounted Rifles by Mr J. B. Starker, have been issued. The first competition will be held on March 20th next.

It may be as well to once more remind intending competitors that the entries for the eighth annual meeting of the New Zealand Defence Forces Rifle Association meeting at Trentham close on February 12.

Capt. W. R. C. Walker, commanding the D Squadron, has (says my Waikato correspondent) been recommended for promotion to the position of second in command of the 2nd Regiment A.M.R., with the rank of major.

A number of new regulations have been the subject of an order by the Defence Council dealing with the marks for artillery volunteers under examination, the new clauses affecting field and garrison artillery and engineers.

The whole of the Japanese field artillery has now been re-armed with the 1907 pattern quick firing gun, and the manufacture of reserve material is being proceeded with. The issue of new rifles to the infantry is nearly completed.

Quartermaster-Sergt. Arnold, of the D Squadron (Kaimahoe), has been promoted to the rank of regimental quartermaster-sergt., in place of Quartermaster-Sergt. C. Cowley, who has been promoted to the commissioned ranks.

It is not improbable that the scheme for the improvement of the infantry suggested by Capt. Grant, adjutant of the First Battalion, will come into operation in Auckland by the beginning of the volunteer year. The proposal is to be discussed by the officers commanding the companies on Monday night.

The parade of the First Battalion Infantry, No. 4 Engineers, Bearer Corps and Auckland Mounted Rifles by the Inspector-General will take place at Avondale on the 13th inst. The three town camps are to parade at the Auckland Railway Station at 3 p.m. to strain by the 4.50 p.m. train for Avondale.

Colonel Davies, C.B., Inspector-General, will, as previously stated, inspect the various corps in the Auckland District during February. The 2nd Regiment (Waikato), A.M.R., will, however, not be inspected, it having been seen by the Inspector-General in the annual training camp, when 250 men were on parade.

Sergt.-Major Coleman, Staff Instructor 2nd A.M.R., will attend at the following places during the present month:—Te Aroha, February 4; Haglan, February 6; Cambridge, February 10; Te Kuiti, February 11; Cambridge, February 13; Te Awamutu, February 17; Otorohanga, February 20; Ngaruawahia, February 25; Karamu, February 27th.

A routine order issued by Lieut.-Col. Reed, O.C., the First Battalion, announces the postponement of the Buchanan Cup contest on account of the Inspector-General's visit. The marksmanship course of musketry and Government medal competitions will be fired by the first class shots of the A, B, C, and D companies on the 20th inst., and the E, F, and G companies on the 27th.

I am informed an increased grant to cadet battalions for the annual camp has been notified by the Education Department. The Wellington Education Board has received a letter from the Department intimating that it was prepared to pay the cadets' railway fares not exceeding twenty miles, and grant 3/6 per head for six days' maintenance in camp, providing camp equipment as far as available. The grant would not be payable unless two hundred of all ranks were in camp, except in the case of a battalion, the total strength of which is less than two hundred, in which case the minimum shall be one hundred and fifty or over. Wherever practicable, an instructor from the Education Department will be attached to the camp for instructional purposes. The Wellington Board referred the letter back to the Department asking that the Minister grant 1/3 per day per cadet for 6 days, as even the increased grant was insufficient.

Lieut.-Colonel D'Arcy Chaytor, commanding the 1st Regiment Nelson Mounted Rifles, and Lieut.-Colonel Allen Bell, of the 2nd A.M.R., have been appointed to frame regulations for the proposed Farmers' Union Rifle Club, to be formed of adult members of the New Zealand Farmers' Union. These officers will also draw up rules for the Farmers' Union Cup Competition, which is to be competed for by country school cadet corps with miniature rifles.

The following volunteers have qualified for certificates:—P. C. Daniell and C. Holloway, No. 1 Waikato M.R. Volunteers; both for sergeant. Corporals E. Ballantine and J. Ludlow, both of No. 1 N.Z.G.A., have been transferred to the Reserve of existing corps at their own request, as from 20th November last, and Private J. P. White, of the 1st M.R., as from 3rd May, 1908. The O.C. District has approved of the appointment as hon. acting lieutenant of James Edward Gray, Devonport Rifle Cadet Volunteers, from 20th November, 1908.

A recent general order issued by the Council of Defence, runs as follows:—This appointment having been expressed by some officers that their pay has not been increased in accordance with the scale published in General Order 21 of 1908, attention is drawn to the proviso printed in the two lines beneath the tabulated scale on first page of above order, where it is distinctly set forth that the increment is dependent on efficiency and competency, and, if required, a qualifying examination before the same is granted.

A new drill book for cadets has been issued. It consists of suitable extracts from infantry training, 1906, Imperial, as adopted for New Zealand defence force. In parts the terms are slightly altered to suit the purpose of the work. Some sections are included, not because of direct application to the cadet system, but because they enunciate principles that officers, and even cadets themselves, ought to know. Officers of corps, as far as possible, are requested to carry out those instructions to enable cadets to be trained with a view to future admission to adult volunteer corps.

No. 1 A.G.A. is fortunate in having such a large number of trained specialists, there being more than double the number required by the conditions of the Challenge Shield. The company has 32 efficient signallers, trained in lamp sending by night, heliographing and flags by day, in both the semaphore and Morse codes. The signallers are under the supervision in camp of Sergt. West, a veteran signaller with South African experience, assisted by Corp. Woodford. This company is the only one in Auckland that has a trained detachment able to run its own engines and work the electric searchlight.

"Target Practice" (1908-10) is now with the printers, and will be issued to corps about March 1 (new volunteer year). The following are the leading changes: (a) Targets and value of hits will be same as used at New Zealand Rifle Association meetings. This is introduced to save corps the necessity of maintaining two classes of targets and two systems of marking. It should enable many company prizes to be competed for, in conjunction with the class-drill. (b) The figure targets are amended to count hits on figure, with an inner and magpie circle. (c) The discretion of O.C. corps as to preliminary and further training with rounds available is further extended, especially with cadets. (d) A number of examples of simple schemes for field-drill practices from a squadron to a battalion will be included. In these practices are urged on O.C. regiments and battalions that they be carried out combined with judging distance.

During last week the Bastion Fort, Auckland, has presented an exceedingly busy appearance with the camp of the No. 1 Company Garrison Artillery (Auckland Naval). The company started well by marching into camp on the 25th January with the record muster of 120 men of all ranks—the largest muster which any company in Auckland has ever had, and the keenness displayed by all ranks is a gratifying feature. As an instance of the general enthusiasm of the men it may be mentioned that one day when the weather was very rough the men were unable to proceed by launch to the camp, and instead of going to their homes walked, via Remuera, a distance of nearly seven miles, in the pouring rain. The officers, Capt. Knyvett, and Lieutenants Rodie, Greenhoogh and Tulloh, acting as Battery commanders for the different gun series, in addition to which Captain Knyvett supervised the instruction of the range-finding specialists and the Q.F. gun detachments.

Some Definitions.

By A MAN OF THE WORLD.

- What is whisky?—Whisky is trouble in a liquid form.
- What is flirtation?—Flirtation is attention without intention.
- What is dyspepsia?—Dyspepsia is a good foundation for a bad temper.
- What is a motor car?—A motor car is a succulent lump of animated iron-mongery.
- What is a button?—A button is a small event that is always coming off.
- What is a bachelor?—A bachelor is a standing temptation to women.
- What is a policeman?—A policeman is a never-present help in a time of trouble.
- What is the Yellow Peril?—The yellow peril is orange peel on the pavement.
- What does marriage mean?—Marriage means a few minutes at the head of the procession, and a lifetime in the ranks.
- What are whiskers?—Whiskers are a mistake on the face of it.
- What is Wealth?—Wealth is not everything, but poverty is the very devil.
- What is a Crank?—A crank is a little thing that makes revolutions.
- What is vulgarity?—Vulgarity is a quality seen only in the behaviour of others.
- What is a Patriot?—A Patriot is one who has the Press with him.

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TOPICS OF THE DAY.

LONDON, December 24. THE BAD OLD DAYS.

Black as the seamy side of London is, there is at least some comfort in the knowledge that things are not so bad as they used to be. Some time ago the "Evening News" hit upon the happy idea of publishing talks with old Londoners, and in the course of a hundred such interviews the younger generation have been supplied with a vivid picture of London in the so-called "good old days." Those were the times, indeed! Some of the old men who have been interviewed have told lurid stories of a kind of life which no one wants to see revived. There have been reminiscences of garrotters, riverside thieves and body-snatchers; of aristocrats thrown drunk from public-houses into the dirt heaps outside; of women pugilists fighting for wagers and stakes; of men and women hanged before the eyes of mobs of fashionable people and roughs and school children. Those were the days when black flags waved over streets closed to traffic on account of cholera, when "Little Hell" and the Irish "rookery" of St. Giles existed like festering sores within a stone's throw of Oxford-street; when Hackney was a warren of filthy wooden hovels, packed with poor families. One old fellow tells how he slept in rotting water-carts, and had his head kicked if he attempted to crawl into one already occupied. Others relate the orgies of the "tea-gardens," where tea was apparently the last thing thought of; and wild nights at penny gaffs, where the audience fought and "applauded" with bottles!

Plenty of witnesses remember the "sparring-parlours," the illicit drinking dens, the haunts of the crimp by the docks, the old watchmen—"Charlies"—who preceded the police, the nests of thieves at Westminster, Waterloo and Blackfriars. They have given personal experiences of the Chartist riots in Kennington and Spitalfields, the strike of the cabmen who refused to carry lamps, the old friars, the old songs with their homely choruses, the advent of "Jim Crow," the debut of George Leybourne, the acting of Madame Vestris, the visit of Queen Victoria as a little Princess to a show "opposite where the Al'ambra is now," the freezing of the Thames and the roasting of an ox upon the ice, the fires of the Houses of Parliament, Tooley-street, the Royal Exchange, and the Tower of London.

Others again, with genuine pathos, have summed up their life history in London as "work, work, work—and at last the workhouse." More than one of the old people interviewed had worked all their lives in one locality, and worked so hard that they have never had any leisure to speak of, and knew nothing of what was going on around them. Invariably they ended in the workhouse, when through old age they could work no more. Such was their life. But nearly all the old people agree that, although there is less squalor in present day London, we have more hunger and more unemployment. We are not yet so far advanced that we can afford to feel so very superior towards the London of 50 years ago. One person in every four in this metropolis still dies in a workhouse, an asylum or a gaol.

A COLOSSAL HOAX.

There must be a good many guilty consciences in Germany, to judge by the effect of the latest hoax that has been played upon the well-to-do classes in the Fatherland. The first post on Saturday morning last brought to nearly half a million homes a neat envelope, of a quality much better than is generally used for private letters in Germany. It contained a correspondence card to match, with the following mysterious communication written entirely with the pen:

"Dear Herr So-and-So,—
"I have just read the latest novel with a purpose, 'Double-faced Morality.' Inconceivable! A scandal of the worst kind. We see here once more that the Public Prosecutor fails where he is most necessary, for otherwise such a book could never obtain publi-

cation. Or is it a piece of political calculation? And —, who is hiding behind the anonymous author? At any rate, H. and R. are attacked in the most terrible manner, and will be bound to take action. Will you, too, associate yourself with this prosecution! Unhappily, I have been drawn into the affair as well. Terrible! In haste,

"Yours very truly,

The signature here was an illegible scrawl.

The effect produced by this extraordinary missive is described thus by the "Telegraph's" Berlin correspondent —
"The booksellers' shops had hardly taken down their shutters before they were besieged by pale-faced men and trembling women, who whispered in horror-stricken tones into the ears of the attendants inquiries for the new novel. The only answer they could obtain was that the book, though expected, had not yet reached the retailers. To the astonishment of the shopkeepers, the applicants received this announcement as if it had been a blow in the face. Some of them burst out into furious tirades, others uttered despairing sighs, and not a few gave way to tears. A number of them rushed off to the newspaper offices to see if they could there get any inkling of the threatened revelations."

But the panic did not last long. The hoaxer had overdone the thing. People began to compare notes, and when it was found that the letters were all identical, in form, the aid of the police was called in. Before the day was out the person responsible for the hoax was discovered at Munich, and arrested. He is a man named Peter Canter, who hit upon this daring scheme to advertise a new novel and make his fortune in the process. He had taken an office, where he spent a year and a half in writing or having written 400,000 letters in the above form. These have been printed in the past day or two in Berlin, Hamburg, Frankfurt, Munich, Dresden, and a number of other large towns. Had the scheme worked smoothly, the profit upon the book would have been enormous. Preparations had been made for an unprecedented sale, and 200,000 copies are at present lying at Leipzig alone.

But all Canter's hopes will be disappointed, for even if the police embargoes are withdrawn, the public has been warned, and the booksellers in many towns have unanimously agreed not to sell the novel at all. Canter will probably be prosecuted for causing annoyance to the public.

PAUPERISED LONDON.

One of the most disheartening features of the year now drawing to a close is the terrible growth of pauperism in London. At the present time, the "richest city in the world" contains over 130,000 persons in receipt of poor relief. This means that about 27 people out of every thousand Londoners are wholly or partly dependent on the rates. The number is greater than in any year since 1870, and represents an addition of over 27,000 to the number of paupers recorded at the beginning of the present century. The exact figures, as given in the latest return of the Local Government Board, are 130,543. Of that number 81,506 are classified as indoor paupers, and 49,037 as receiving outdoor relief. Compared with the corresponding period of 1907, the figures show an increase of 4478, and with that of 1906 an increase of 7408. Previous black years were those of 1904 and 1903. The records for both years have now been topped, that of 1904 by 2920, and that of 1903 by 8471.

There are, of course, many theories as to the cause of this great growth of pauperised humanity. In some respects, it may be regarded as symptomatic of the amount of unemployment which has been prevalent during the year. A lax system of outdoor relief in many districts, coupled with the indoor pauper-pampering methods in vogue in others, has, however, undoubtedly assisted materially to increase the number of persons in receipt of poor law relief in one snap or another.

The administration of the Poor Law of London is in the hands of 31 separate

bodies with different ideals and methods, and something like 31 millions per annum is spent annually in maintaining 60,000 indoor paupers, 50,000 outdoor paupers, and over 18,000 in asylums, etc. The salaries alone of the officials responsible for the administration of the Poor Law runs to something like £860,000! That London gets value for money either in respect of what is spent on the paupers or on the salaries paid to officials, nobody believes. Until, however, something is done in the way of centralising the work, and systematising the methods of poor relief, no better result can be obtained.

At present, though recent prosecutions of guardians and others have no doubt had a beneficial effect in checking rognery, gross extravagance still obtains in many of the great metropolitan workhouses, and outdoor relief is given to hundreds who have no real claim to it. Instances of gross extravagance and waste could be cited by the score, but one will suffice. In a certain workhouse there are over fifty able-bodied paupers under sixty years of age, yet the guardians actually employed outside labour to clear the workhouse gardens of the leaves which had fallen from the trees, and dig over the shrubbery.

THE PARIS SCHOOL CANTEEN.

There are some things they do better in France, and Paris long ago set London an example in the matter of feeding, clothing, and medically treating necessitous children. The Paris system has been in operation for twenty-five years, and now some fifteen million meals are served in the schools in the year. The "Caisse des Ecoles," which undertakes the work, is supported by voluntary contributions, but works in close relation to the municipal Government, and its system and finances are annually inspected by the Prefecture of the Seine. In addition to meals it supplies about 100,000 pairs of boots, shoes and goshaws a year, maintains public dispensaries where children can get not only medicines and medical advice, but also free baths and douches. It also maintains orphanages, and organises "fresh air" excursions to the seaside or the country for the school children in the holidays. Each municipal district in Paris has its own "Caisse de Ecoles," which is entirely independent of the others. Some are richer than others, but all seem to manage to cater adequately for the needs of the children of the district.

The "cantine" at each school is attended to by a special staff, usually from three to five matrons and assistants, who work from 8 a.m. till 4 p.m. They are all salaried officials, drawing from 25 to 60 francs a month.

Only the midday meal is furnished. The children arrive at the school at 8 in the morning, and, when the classes are over, at eleven o'clock, they are given a short recreation, and at half-past eleven the big hall that is attached to each school is turned into a dining-room with neat white tablecloths spread over the desks, which for the moment have become dining tables, and metal bowls, spoons, and napkins in place for each child.

Tiny white marble washstands are fixed in rows of ten to fifteen along one wall, or in the centre of some of the halls, and not more than 18in. or 20in. high, to accommodate the tiniest tot, and the children are first made or helped to wash their hands, and sometimes faces, before sitting down to their meal.

The "cantine" furnishes each child with two rations, portion of meat and another of vegetables. Although only two rations are given, still in reality each child may have four, as the servant passes twice and gives each child an additional quantity to satisfy the appetite. The object of this is also to avoid waste, and as a matter of fact the bowls are well cleaned up and nothing remains. The "cantine" however, does not supply the liquids. Each child is supposed to bring its own milk or wine, which the mother puts in its kit or basket in the morning on sending it to school. In case a child should want it, water, previously boiled and cooled, is supplied.

The delight with which little youngsters boys and girls, rush into the dining room is worth seeing, says the Paris correspondent of the "Daily Telegraph," from whose account of the system the above details are obtained. They find everything clean, fresh and appetising, and probably far better than what they are accustomed to, for the most part in their own homes, and as such it is in itself an education for them.

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The Custom of the Country

By THOMAS L. MASSON

"That young Englishman is coming!" said Alice, with a genuine ring of triumph in her voice.

Alice had faith enough in herself to believe that the impression she had made on the Englishman who had come over with them on the steamer was deep enough for visiting purposes. Margy, her sister—more matter-of-fact—had argued to the contrary. "He'll forget all about us, once he has landed," she had declared, sententiously. Now, however, she accepted the situation instantly—an American trait, probably having its root in politics.

"When is he coming?"
"By the next train," said Alice. "He telephoned from town a short time ago. Said he'd been awfully busy visiting the stock exchange, the art galleries—"

"More likely the race track," broke in Margy. "Go on."

"He'd been so rushed he couldn't come before, but he would like to run out and see us, and I told him to come. We must see him at the station, of course. I've been busy ordering the dinner. It's just like mamma to be away at this critical time. Come! We've only got half an hour." Get busy!

"It won't take me long to get dressed," said Margy. "But—" The responsibility of the affair was beginning to crowd her mind. "What are we to do with him? How should an Englishman be treated when he visits us?"

"Good gracious!" exclaimed Alice nervously. "We must do the proper thing, I know!" she exclaimed. "Give him a bath! We can't go wrong there. All Englishmen bathe. Why, they don't do anything else! Motto for treating an Englishman—when in doubt, give him a tub."

"Fine and dandy!" exclaimed Margy, who had had a college course, and was therefore on easy and familiar terms with the best English diction.

"We'll meet him at the station. No we won't—that would be bad form! We'll have him met by the runabout, and then we'll give him a bath, the first thing."

At this moment Bobbie, their small brother, sauntered in.

"Bobbie, there is a visitor coming—a young Englishman—on the next train. Do you go out and have John hitch up and you can meet him if you will. Help him with his suit case—there's a nice boy!"

The prospect of meeting a young Englishman at the station looked good to Bobbie. He ran off obediently to execute his commission.

The train arrived. The girls, on tip-toe, waited for the sound of the carriage wheels on the gravel walk—without which no story of high society is complete.

It came at last. The door was flung open by the waitress, and Mr. Winters entered, his fresh, ruddy face glowing with embarrassment. Bobbie tagged on behind,ugging the suitcase.

"Oh, Mr. Winters! We are so glad to see you!"

"So good of you to come!"

"Now, of course, you must be tired after your journey."

"And, of course, you're hot and dusty."

"Don't say a word. They use soft coal, you know."

Winters flushed crimson with the cordiality of the meeting.

"Thanks, awfully," he said. "I didn't want your brother to help with that luggage. Really, I—"

"Come on!" shouted Bobbie, half-way up the stairs.

"Yes," said Alice. "Go right up. We'll see you later, of course. Bobbie will show you your room."

"Your tub is all ready!" cried Bobbie. Winters began to protest.

"But, really, I—"

"Don't embarrass Mr. Winters," said Margy calmly. "Of course we know all about it," she added. "Take your time, Mr. Winters. Dinner at seven. We'll see you later."

But—

Bobbie grabbed him by the arm.

"Come on," he cried. "Right this way!"

"But, my dear boy—"

"Don't you want to go right up to your room?"

"Thanks awfully. I'll just brush up a bit. Of course, I understand it's the custom. By love, you know, you Americans are so clean."

"We can't come up to you!" said Bobbie, as he showed their guest into his room, and then swung open the door to the bathroom.

"Here you are," he cried. "Water all turned on. If you want anything, let me know. I'll be around."

Mr. Winters' face was covered with perspiration.

"But my boy," he exclaimed, "I don't want to take a bath, you know!"

"You've got to!" cried Bobbie. He winked. "Oh, I understand," he smiled.

"Of course, you'd say that. But even if you didn't, you couldn't get out of it. It's customary," he exclaimed proudly.

"When we entertain people, we know the proper thing. Towels! If you want any more, just shout!"

Mr. Winters looked at the inviting bath-tub, half full of translucent water.

"Suppose it won't do any harm," he ejaculated. "Well, my boy, I'll do it in a jiffy!"

"Good for you."

Bobbie joined the girls. They were sitting on the stairs, craning their necks into the hall.

"Is he all right?"

"Great! Pretended he didn't want to, at first; but he came round all right."

"Listen!" Margy whispered, with her head on one side.

They grew silent. There it was—a sound of water.

"He's in!" almost shrieked Bobbie.

The girls simultaneously put their hands over their mouths.

"Say!" Bobbie looked at them both confidentially. "How would it be for me to offer to scrub his back? 'Twould show we wanted to be polite."

"Hush!"

Again the splash.

"He'll ruin the walls!" whispered Alice. "And we've just had the room papered. Why, he's worse than a walrus!"

"Never mind," said Margy philosophically. "It's worth it." Suddenly she looked at Bobbie. "How many towels were there?" she asked.

"Three!" he replied. "I counted 'em and asked him—"

"Had they been used?" whispered Alice dramatically.

"Only one. I—"

"Horror!"

The girls gazed at each other, transfixed. Alice grabbed her brother by the arm.

"Don't you know," she groaned, "that Englishmen are just death on towels?" Oh! he must have more—more!"

"That's easy," said Bobbie.

In a flash he had left them, and darted to the linen chest. The girls dared not follow him. It was too near the marine cincts that was apparently going on inside the bath-room.

Bobbie piled on towels. Staggering under the burden, he made his way slowly through the guest-room. He kicked at the door.

"Mr. Winters. Let me in."

The door opened on a crack.

"Towels!"

Bobbie forced them in through the door—five, ten, fifteen of them.

"No more! Thanks awfully," came in a strange, sepulchral voice from within. Bobbie joined his sisters.

"I'll bet," he muttered, "he's dry now!"

Alice motioned. She pointed downstairs.

"He'll be ready soon," she whispered. "We must be sitting in the drawing-room when he enters. We must be ready to greet him properly."

Down to the front room they solemnly filed. Muffled voices overhead indicated that there was "something doing" as Bobbie phrased it.

"He's coming!"

A step at the head of the stair. They rose simultaneously.

Winters, his suit-case in his hand, was descending. His hair was wet. His face was redder than usual. He looked at his watch.

"Sorry," he exclaimed. "No time to lose. Took me longer than I meant. Next train back in fifteen minutes. Enjoyed myself immensely. Custom of

country, I understand, of course. Fine tub! Excuse me for mentioning it, but never had so many towels. Altogether charming!"

He began shaking hands.

"Going?" exclaimed Alice.

"Going?" repeated Margy.

"Why, aren't you going to stay to dinner? Your suit-case—"

Winters looked confused—and redder than ever.

"Deah me, no!" he exclaimed. "You see, I only ran out here to make an afternoon call. Brought along my luggage to save time in transferring. My train leaves for Chicago in a couple of hours, you know."

People Who Talk.

"There isn't any rush about it," said the man with the hod. "I've got enough mortar up there now to keep the lazy masons going half an hour, unless the boss comes round and they take a notion to work. Take it easy. Don't get into a sweat."

"I can't help it," said the man with the hoe. "That's the kind of a rooster I am. Working's my pleasure and delight and sloshing mortar round in a box is my delight. I wouldn't have your job, not even if they paid me big wages for it like they do you. How do you fool 'em Sam?"

"Do you mean fool them into paying me big wages?" asked the man with the hod. "They do that on account o' me beauty. They're struck on it. That's what Monyhan told me when he hired me. 'You don't have to do nothing,' he says. 'All I ast of you is to carry the material up to them fellers that's a-laying the bricks. They'll do the work,' he says. 'You won't have to lay your hands to it.' He's a great boy, is Monyhan. But he talks too much with his mouth."

"He isn't like you," said the man with the hoe.

"I let my wife do my talking for me," said the man with the hod. "She's good for my share, and her own, too. Don't it beat everything the way women talk? What's the reason for it, do you know? You never see two of them get together but their tongues start a-clacking. One woman'll be in the back yard hanging up the wash and tending strictly to business; but let the woman next door come out, and there's a talkest on right away."

"It beats me too," said the man with the hoe. "Ever listen to a dozen of 'em together?"

"One's enough for me," said the man with the hod, "and too many most o' the time. The woman, she's always a-saying, 'Now Sam, you ain't a-listening to what I'm saying.' Well, you can't tell her that what she's a-saying ain't worth listening to. If you did, she'd talk all the more."

"I'd just as soon hear what she has to say, if she'd talk sense; but women don't talk sense. They just talk to be talking. It doesn't amount to a row of pins. It's mostly about the neighbours, and the neighbours' kids and the way they've been raised, and how much bluing to put in the rinsing water, and the price o' groceries. Or else they're giving the men fits behind their backs. It doesn't matter what's it about. They'll talk, anyway."

"No matter what they've got to do," said the man with the hoe.

"No matter what they've got to do," agreed the man with the hod. "Visiting," they call it. That means they've both been talking together all the afternoon, and when they've got through neither of 'em know what the other's been talking about. Isn't that so? When they get together they forget about everything else, and they'll just stand and talk and talk, and they may not either of them have their dishes washed."

"That's right," said the man with the hoe.

"The way it is with my wife—" began the man with the hod.

"Hush a minute," interrupted the other man. "Somebody's hollering."

"It's them lazy masons," said the man with the hod, starting up. "Take the shovel and load me up. Them fellers don't want a feller to lake time to drop a long breath."

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SEE THE LABEL ON THE SELVEDGE.

COUSIN BEN

By
M. E.
Francis

Author of
"Frieze
and
Fustian"

Copyright Story.

WHEN the mills in which Benjamin Wright worked were sold, and many changes appeared to be impending, he resolved to carry out a resolution which had been long dormant in his mind, and go to live with his cousins in the country. Margaret Norris had first mooted the project on the day of his wife's funeral, and Ben had waved the suggestion aside with some irritation. One change was enough for him, he said; he reckoned he'd find it hard enough to get on without his misses—though she had been but a new poor body, not able to do much work—without altering his whole way of life. Now, however, the changes were coming against his will, and he made up his mind that he might as well make one great and final change himself.

Mrs Norris was delighted. Her husband's farm was a small one, and they had a long family; the stipend paid by Cousin Ben for board and lodging would be a welcome addition to their income; moreover, having no children of his own and no other kin in the world that she ever heard of, he would be likely to leave his "bit o' brass" among her lads and lasses when he died. He had worked hard all his life, and must have saved a tidy bit; his wife had brought him a nice little fortune, which, as Cousin Ben was a thrifty soul, must have increased rather than diminished. Mrs Norris was careful, however, to keep these expectations on her feet; there was no knowing when folks got talking, what mischief might be made, she observed very sagely. To her husband she spoke under her breath of the possibilities the future might hold for them; to her friends and neighbours she mentioned Cousin Ben's advent in a casual way, dwelling more on the benefits which would accrue to him, poor lone man, than on any likelihood of gain to herself.

Many of Mrs Norris's cronies were therefore under the impression that she was taking in her widowed cousin more or less out of charity, and were loud in their admiration of such disinterested conduct. Everyone without exception congratulated the absent Mr Wright on his change of domicile, and opined that "the poor owl chap would hardly know what to do wif' hissel' when he found hissel' livin' i' the country instead of that nasty dirty town."

There was one exception to the general rule, however—at certain Mrs Ann Waring, a widow half-way in the forties, but one who, if report spoke truly, would not be averse to a change in her condition. From the very first she had refrained from joining in the chorus of approval which sounded so sweetly in Margaret's ears, and remarked more than once with disconcerting frankness that she doubted Mr Wright made it well worth her while to keep him, and moreover insinuated that when a body had lived for nigh upon 50 years in a bustlin' place same as Preston, he'd be like to find the Norris' little farm dull. She was even facetious enough to cull on Margaret Norris at the very moment of Cousin Ben's arrival, and to make herself so officious in helping with preparations for tea, that her neighbour could not for shame's sake avoid asking her to share it. "Sit yo' down, do, Cousin Ben," pursued Mrs Norris; "yo' nina want a cup o' tay for sure after your long journey."

Mr. Wright, a short round-shouldered man of about fifty-five, drew up his chair to the table and answered in a somewhat ungracious tone that it hadn't been so long as that came to. Mrs. Norris jerked open the oven door, and brought out the toast and hot cakes, and Ann with a sidelong glance at her,

opined that Mr. Wright would be like to find the country a great change after the racket of Preston.

Cousin Ben paused with a piece of teacake half way to his mouth.

"It don't seem over an' above quiet here," he returned. "All they wick things—did onybody ever hear such a din as they're kickin' up. A body can't hear hissel' speak. I wonder yo're not all driv' crazy."

There was a general chorus of astonishment at this remark; Farmer Norris himself, who at that moment appeared in the doorway followed by his two eldest sons, inquired what mak' o' din his cousin meant.

"Why, dunnot yo' hear? Their's geese cacklin', an' cows lowin', an' pigs gruntin' an' all sorts. Do they keep up that mak' o' work all day long?"

Mr. Norris laughed till he was obliged to wipe his eyes. My word, yo'll soon get used to it," he rejoined. "We don't never tak' no notice o' they things—do we, mother? Eh, I reckon yo'n a different mak' o' din i' towns, hannot yo'? Talk o' goin' crazy, when I'm forced to spend an hour at Liver-pool or any other town—what wif' the carts an' the carriages an' the trams an' the motor cars bootin' an' tootin' and the folk' hustlin' yo' all roads I'm pretty nigh moidered. And what it must be in a town same as Preston wif' the mill-bells goin' and the crowd i' the streets and the machinery whirr-whirrin' in your ears, eh? they say a mon can scarce hear hissel' speak when the machines are goin' in yo' mills."

Ben Wright smiled and his face lit up as though the recollection charmed him. "Ah they mak' a goodish bit o' noise," he said, "they do that, eh, but I like to hear them. It seems to put life in a mon to feel they great machines thumpin' and whirrin' and to know the engines is roarin' in yo' ingine houses. Eh, I doubt I'm like to miss Preston," he added half to himself.

The Norris family, now reinforced by several younger members, seemed a trifle taken aback, but Miss Waring remarked, with her head on one side, that she was sure it was very natural.

"Tis what folks as have been used to they values most," she contended with the air of one making a great discovery, then noting that this observation was not pleasing to the remainder of the company, she exclaimed persuasively, if a trifle maliciously: "But I'll give yo' a week to lose yo' heart to the country. Mr. Wright: before the week's out yo'll be tellin' yo'ysel yo' never knowed what 'twas to feel yo'ysel 'appy before."

"I don't think that's likely," was Ben's grin rejoinder.

Mrs. Norris pushed back her chair. "Well, if everybody's finished," she observed, "I met as well side the things. I dare-say yo'd like a stroll about the place wif' the gaffer, Cousin Ben?"

Cousin Ben agreed, and went sauntering forth with his host, round the out-buildings and about the fields. Mr. Norris pausing every now and then to point out the beauties of his live-stock, or the promising appearance of the crops.

"There's a pig for yo'," exclaimed its proprietor proudly, "sixteen score I shouldn't wonder!"

"What do yo' mean by that?" inquired the other.

"Tis our way o' reckonin' yo' know: when we com to kill that chap his weight'll be about that."

"Oh," said Ben, glancing at the sty with great disfavour. "I reckon we townsfolk has the best of it. I reckon a mon 'all set down to his rasher wif'

a better appetite if he don't stop to think wheer it's com'd from."

The farmer took out his pipe as though to speak, but thinking better of it, wedged it firmly in the corner of his mouth again.

As they passed the "shippon," however, he felt constrained to be communicative once more.

"You cow i' th' corner is prize-bred," he observed. "She's the best I've got—a splendid milker. My word, the cream 'ull be standin' on her milk afore 'tis cool, a' most!"

Cousin Ben appeared unimpressed. "I allus drinks condensed milk myself," he remarked, "Tis clean and wholesome and wonderful cheap."

"Well, tastes differ I mun say," cried Mr. Norris sarcastically, "I'm noan one as could ever stomach tinned stuff and now wif' all the tales that's goin' i' th' newspapers, it's enough to make a body's hair stand on end."

"If yo' was to believe all what's wrote in the papers there'd be no livin' i' th' world," commented Ben.

"Well, that's true," conceded the farmer, "I'm sure the politics alone is enough to moider a mon."

"Politics is different," said Ben, "there's twenty ways o' looking at politics, and that's wlat newspapers is good for—to point out a mon's views. An' if a mon hasn't got no views, they mak' some for him, an' edicate him."

The farmer gazed at him doubtfully, almost apprehensively, and feeling himself out of his depths, hastily endeavoured to change the conversation; but Cousin Ben talked on, determined at once to air his own opinions and to remedy his cousin's deficiencies, for he speedily detected the latter's case was similar to that which had so contemptuously pointed out. Farmer Norris had no pronounced views and required in consequence to be educated. Therefore when the hapless farmer endeavoured to elicit admiration for his well-grown wheat field Mr. Wright discoursed of Protection; when he observed that the turnits was makin' a fine show his cousin held forth on the Ground Game Act; when he talked of haymaking in the following week Ben desired to know his opinion of the Education Bill. Most unkind of all was his summary of their proceedings on returning to the domestic hearth.

There weren't much to look at, he informed Mrs. Norris, but of course what he looked for in takin' a walk was company. He didn't mean to say naught impolite but a body met as well go for a walk wif' one o' they gate post-ees as with her husband.

On the following day, greatly to the scandal of Margaret and her neighbours, Mr. Wright appeared in clogs—a description of foot-wear long abolished in that particular country district, and

much looked down on by its inhabitants. Mrs. Norris was ready to die with shame, as she told her husband, when one friend after another dropped in to see her cousin from town, and heard him clanking about in his wooden-soled shoes.

"He must be awful bad off," said one good woman, "I never knowed ye had kin so down i' the world."

It is one thing to earn a reputation for kind-heartedness and another to own disreputable relations. Mrs Norris smiled as she returned that clogs was the custom in Preston, an' her cousin wore them from choice, and could afford to buy shoon, ah, an' Ill' em up wif' gold-sovereigs if he'd a mind to.

Ann Waring chanced to look in as she pronounced the last words, and Mrs. Norris stopped short as she caught the gleam of satisfaction in her eye. Sitting down beside Mr. Wright, Ann plied him with such a variety of questions, that Margaret herself sulkily gave up the attempt to join in the conversation.

Much information concerning Preston joys and Preston ways was elicited from Cousin Ben; such a sympathetic and admiring listener as Ann appeared much to his taste, and by and by Margaret, in the intervals of her own clattering performance of household duties, perceived that, not content with praising Preston Cousin Ben was giving vent to his scorn of country folks and country ways.

"Not a mon fit to speak to," he observed, "I called at the Public laist meet but they be a turnip-headed lot their too—they don't know nowt about what's goin' on i' the world—they care nowt o' what's to become o' their own country."

Margaret clapped the kettle noisily on the hob and Ann, with an ingratiating glance at her, remarked that of course Mr. Wright couldn't expect everybody to be his equals.

"Yed feel yeself a deal happier i' this snug little nook," she continued, "nor in any Public."

"Snug!" exclaimed Cousin Ben with a short laugh.

Margaret, who had been poking the fire, dropped the poker and turned round.

"Well, what have ye again' it Cousin Ben?" she cried. "Speak plain. What have ye again' this place, where ye was took in the minute ye chose to come, an' wled done to, an' made welcome?"

"Oh, yes," agreed Ben, with a sarcastic laugh. "Made welcome to the tune o' ten shillin' a week!"

Ann pricked her ears: ten shillin' a week—that was summat.

"Ten shillin' a week!" she exclaimed impulsively. "Ye mean seven or eight. Mr. Wright, I'm sure? That's the figure—Margaret Norris 'ud never go to charge her own kin more."

"I never was one to make favourites," said Margaret sternly. "Kin or no kin,

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It's not worth my while to take a lodger for less nor ten shillin' a week. My Cousin Ben has comforts here he wouldn't have in no other place."

"Comforts!" ejaculated Cousin Ben contemptuously. "A lot o' squallin' children makin' more noise trampin' up an' down the stairs nor all the clogs in Preston. The smell o' the pig-mate worse nor all the smoke nor all the mills i' Lancashire. A cock crowin' when a man's nobbut just got into bed, carts lumberin' out o' the yard afore its leet."

"Folks mun live," said Margaret with tearful wrath. "The waggoo had to start early to be in time for the Liverpool market."

"Well, give me Preston," exclaimed Cousin Ben, thumping the table, "that's all I says—give me Preston!"

"There's quieter places i' the country nor a farm like this," said Mrs. Waring in her most dulcet tone, the outraged Margaret being absolutely voiceless with indignation. "Poor Mrs. Norris does her best, but she has a long family, poor soul, an' I doubt it's as much as she can do to manage anyway. Now there's my little cote nobbut a step fro' here as 'ud happen suit ye better Mr. Wright. I'm used to takin' lodgers an' my front room's empty now. I knows the value of a quiet life. My poor gaffer—my word a quieter man never stepped—if I was to keep up any clack-clacking i' the house, my word I'd have had his boots at my head. My children is all up-grown an' settled an' there's no owick things at my place. I make my livin' so well as I can by takin' in washin' an' I'd make ye as comfortable as ye could wish for eight shillin' a week, Mester Wright."

"Well of all the howld-faced bussies," exclaimed Margaret, "to coom into me own place an' try an' get the better of me! If ye're put an' it for a couple o' shillin' Cousin Ben, there I'll—I'll tak' that much less."

"Thank ye, Cousin Margaret," said Ben with an affable grin, "but ye see it isn't so much the brass; it's the n'ise an' the children an' that."

"Well, I'm afraid I can't get rid o' my childer to oblige ye," said Margaret with a snort.

"Nay, nay, of course ye couldn't," agreed Benjamin blandly. "I wouldn't

be for axin' ye to do sich a thing, so I think it'll be better if I do step down to Mrs. Waring's."

He carried out his resolve that same day, to the intense wrath of the Norrises and the sympathetic disapproval of their friends.

Ann, however, was triumphant. Not only had she secured a most desirable lodger, but she cherished secret hopes of altering her condition at no distant date. Never was a man surely so well taken care of as Uncle Ben; he was coaxed and flattered and made up to from morning till night. Owing to his dislike for noise Mrs. Waring disposed of her laying hens, and in compliment to his dislike of the turnip-headed folk of the vicinity all visitors were discouraged. Ann alone talked to him, ministered to him, washed and mended for him and submitted to all his changes of humour with a meekness that was almost cringing. So a week passed and on Saturday Mr. Wright wrote a letter which in spite of Ann's good-natured proffer to perform the errand, he carried to the post office himself. As he was smoking his pipe that evening he startled her by the query:

"Hav' ye got plenty to eat i' the house?"

"Well, there's a nice bit o' beef," said Mrs. Waring, flattered, "more nor enough to last ye an' me the week."

"I'm expectin' a visitor to-morrow," volunteered Benjamin.

"Oh," said Ann, a trifle frostily, "an' what time met the gentleman be comin'?"

Ben eyed her rather queerly as he responded he didn't know the exact hour, but it would be in good time for dinner.

Next morning he came down to breakfast in his best clothes, and appeared oddly elated and excited. He took up his position in the porch, but frequently rose from his seat and walked impatiently to the gate, on the look out for his expected guest. At length he remarked that he thought he would go a little way along the road, and setting on his hat at a jaunty angle, strolled forth. Ann looked after him with pinched lips.

"He mun be in an awful hurry to see this chap," she said to herself, and

thought that if he had had the feelings of a man, he would have shown a little more anxiety for her company.

Though Ben had said that his friend would arrive in good time for dinner it was passed the hour and the beef was getting unduly brown, when he burst into the house leading not a male guest as Ann had anticipated, but a little elderly woman—a little woman very poorly dressed in rusty, threadbare black, with a figure bowed by work and a face seamed by a very network of lines.

"This here's Mrs. Judson," he remarked, "an' owd friend—an uncommon owd friend."

"Sit ye down," said Mrs. Waring with freezing politeness. "I were lookin' for ye to come in afore this, Mester Wright. It's close upon one—an' I'm sure I hope the beef'll howd out," she added meaningly.

"Ye tow'd me there was plenty," retorted Ben; don't take that cheer. Jane, coom round here, out o' the draught. Coom that's better. Now let's have a gradely crack. Coom, how's dear owd Preston?"

Positively they seemed to have forgotten Ann's existence, a mode of procedure which, though perfectly right when Margaret Norris was in question, now appeared absolutely insulting.

Once again the merits of town were upheld in contrast to the back-sliding of the country, but this time it was not the noise and racket of the latter that called forth Mr. Wright's objections but the exceeding dullness and lack of variety of his surroundings.

"Never a sound fro' morn till neet if ye'll believe me," he exclaimed, "never a soul to speak to without it's Mrs. Waring there. My word I tell 'ee I was forced to go an' sit over yonder alongside of a thrashing machine to try if the din wouldn't heaten me up some road. If it had lasted much longer I reckon I'd ha' gone silly."

"Well then I'm sure I done all I could for ye," exclaimed Ann almost tearfully, "ye'd best go back to Margaret if ye can't live wiout noise and racket."

"Nay, Mrs. Waring," responded Ben with an unctuous smile, "I don't think

I'll go back to my Cousin Margaret's thank ye. Me and Mrs. Judson have made it up between us jest now, on our road fro' the station, as we'll be choused next week, an' as soon as we're tied together I'll go back to live wi' her in Preston."

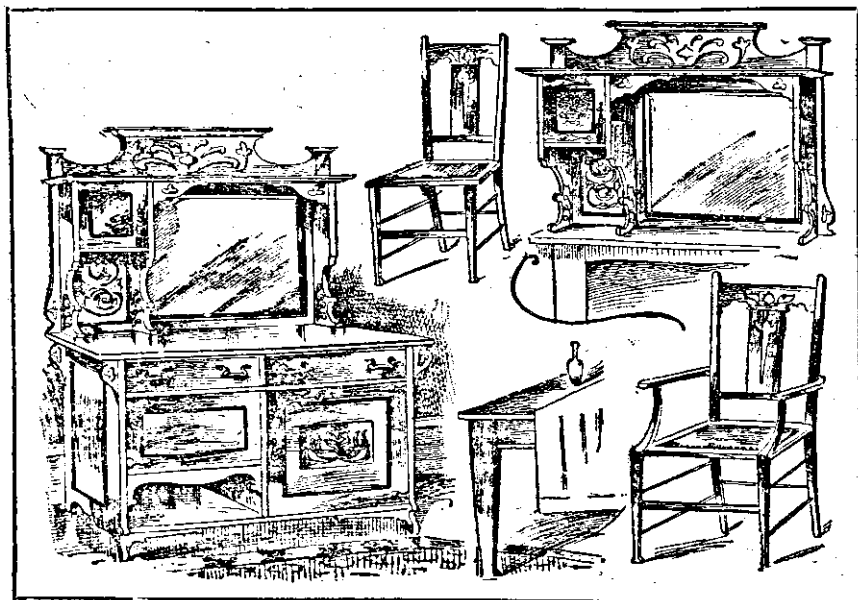
SUMMER SKIN-TROUBLES.

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Boudoir Gossip

Woman—The Fate of Man.

(By MAURICE MAETERLINCK.)

Studies in Discontent.

BY AN IBSEN WOMAN.

The kingdom of love is, before all else, the kingdom of certitude, for it is within its bounds that the soul is possessed of the utmost leisure.

And it is in this common fatherland that we chose the women we loved, therefore it is that we cannot have erred, nor can they have erred either.

There truly they have sought to do but to recognise each other, offer deepest admiration, and ask their questions—dearfully like the maid, who has found the sister she had lost, while far away from them arm links itself in arm and breaths are mingling.

At last has a moment come when they can smile and live their own life—for a truce has been called in the stern routine of daily existence—and it is, perhaps, from the heights of this smile and these ineffable glances that springs the mysterious perfume that pervades love's dearest moments, that preserves forever the memory of the time when the lips first met.

Of the true predestined love alone do I speak here. When Fate sends forth the woman it has chosen for us—sends her forth from the fastnesses of the great spiritual cities in which we live, all unconsciously, and she awaits us at the crossing of the road we have to traverse when the hour has come—we are warned at the first glance.

Some there are who attempt to force the hand of Fate. Wildly pressing down their eyelids, so as not to see that which had to be seen—struggling with all their puny strength against the eternal forces—they will contrive, perhaps to cross the road and go toward another, sent thither, but not for them.

But, strive as they may, they will not succeed in "stirring up the dead waters that lie in the great turn of the future." Nothing will happen, the pure force will not descend from the heights, and those wasted hours and kisses will never become part of the real hours and kisses of their life.

There are times when destiny shuts her eyes, but she knows full well that when evening falls we shall return to her, and that the last word must be hers. She may shut her eyes, but the time till she reopens them is time that is lost.

It would seem that women are more largely swayed by destiny than ourselves. They submit to its decrees with far more simplicity; nor is there sincerity in the resistance they offer. They are still nearer to God, and yield themselves with less reserve to the pure workings of the mystery.

And therefore it is, doubtlessly, that all the incidents in our life in which they take part seem to bring us nearer to what might almost be the very fountain head of industry.

It is, above all, when by their side that moments come unexpectedly, when a clear presentiment flashes across us—a presentiment of a life that does not always seem parallel with the life we know. They lead us close to the gates of our being.

May it not be during one of those profound moments, when his head is pillowed on a woman's breast, that the hero learns to know the strength and steadfastness of his star?

And, indeed, will any true sentiment of the future ever come to the man who has never had his resting place in a woman's heart?

Ivory Toilet Sets.

Instead of silver toilet articles many women are selecting ivory or imitation ones on account of the ease with which these latter can be kept clean. All one needs to do is to give the ivory brushes and trays a wiping with a fresh, soft cloth, and there is no rubbing or weekly polishing to go through with. All the little toilet and dressing table requisites are now sold in this material, and the boxes are charmingly decorated with sprays of flowers if one does not fancy the plain or monogrammed backs.

"If twenty years ago my husband had offered me my present position of house-keeper, nurse and menial in general, what do you think I should have said to him? I then had dreams of a career and ability to attain it, demonstrated by money already earned. To-day he is the success, he is the figure in life, he is the income bringer, and hence has the final word of authority in the house. I am but a part of his background, with the furniture, the library, the children, I love him dearly. I love the children dearly. Yet I catch myself asking myself of late, 'Was it worth while?' I hate myself for the thought, yet I brood over it. Have I been compensated? Are my husband's success and the children and the companionship compensation for my abnegation?"

"Wait a minute. Do not answer until you are quite sure you understand what I mean," continued the speaker. "Take me as I am to-day, a woman of forty-three years, not old enough to feel resigned to all things, not young enough to begin again, and not needed where I am."

"Now, that is nonsense, Adele," interrupted the other.

THE CHILDREN LOOK TO THEIR FATHER.

"Wait. You do not yet understand. The children have come to the point where they do not need my actual tending, as they formerly did; that is, it does not mean what it once meant—greater healthfulness. Mother has become to them one who putters and fusses a good deal about things that do not matter and knows nothing of the things that do matter. Roger was plainly dumfounded when he chanced to run across my high school cards the other day and those of his father, and noted that my percentages ran steadily higher than his father's."

"Why, mother, how queer!" he exclaimed. "Did you really study all these things once and know them better than father?" His amazement was a revelation to me, perhaps a part of the pain I feel to-day.

"I feel bitterly that I must have lost much in the hours of tending babies, looking after the house, keeping bills down and courage up, if my own child is amazed to learn that I started with an education equal to his father's! Indeed, he little realizes that his mother was thought by all her friends, in fact, to be something of a genius who married a dreamer. I was a fairly successful portrait painter, you know."

"To my children then I am merely part of the setting. In their dawning intellectual life they look solely to papa. 'Wait till papa gets home,' James says when I offer to help him with his Latin, and Roger won't give me a glimpse into his difficulties with algebra. 'Wait for papa!' If they only knew it, papa is as rusty as I am, and no more willing to be polished up, but somehow or other they have intellectual faith in him which they haven't in me. I slip back again into the background after one or two such rebuffs, feeling empty, starved and unsatisfied. I don't find reward in my life of to-day."

"Lance is kindness itself, and sympathetic in a way, but not the way of understanding. 'Tired to-night, dear! Too much shopping!' or 'Susan's sudden leave has upset you, hasn't it, dear! Never mind, the new cook is promising.'"

"When I seek to find the old bonds of understanding with him, he says, 'So you want to study, huh! Go ahead, pitch in, take anything you like. Why don't you take up your painting again!' I used to think you had Sargent and the rest beat to a finish." He, too, 'used to think' I knew something.

DOES HE UNDERSTAND A MOTHER'S SACRIFICE.

"The greatness of a mother's sacrifice—does any man ever understand it as it is? Lance doesn't at bottom believe that I have sacrificed anything more than he has. The irony of it all is that he stoutly believes, in making himself,

he has made me, too. Yet the sad truth is that I am plodding far, far in the rear, my talent buried deep under the commonplace details of domestic life."

"When we started we planned to live our intellectual life together, come what might. Kitchen and nursery were not to be allowed to absorb me, as they had my mother and his. Business was not to swallow him up, to the seclusion of family life."

"During the first decade I yielded ground, of necessity, I felt. Two decades have gone. Lance is all and more than he gave promise of being, and he has been true to the intellectual life, as he planned it, so far as concerns himself. But I have fallen out of it altogether. I don't know anything beyond rearing children and keeping house."

"Why not break house—strike—go away for a time, if you feel this way?" said the world worn woman, wishing to be helpful in a crisis which she but dimly understood.

"Like Nora?" replied the mother woman, faintly smiling. "I've thought of that, too—only you see Lance never remembers his rubbers when it threatens rain and his lungs haven't been strong since that attack of pneumonia—and Roger still has attacks of croup occasionally in the night, big boy that he is. Oh, I could never sleep a night away from them, for fear they might be needing me."

"Clained to the wheel of maternity, is how I should describe your state, Adele. You must find your contentment therein, or go without, since break away you will not. I envy you, that's all I have to say," sighed the world weary woman.

To Certain Girls.

(By Charles Hanson Towne.)

Matilda, I have still that scarf
You gave me last year;
And though I never wear it, well,
It does exist, my dear.
(Its lying in the bottom drawer
Of my old chiffonier!)

Katrina, bless your kindly heart!
Pray, do not hem and haw!
I have that pipe you gave me once—
The best I ever saw.
(It's stowed away with my old things;
It simply wouldn't draw!)

Fair Gladys, you're a winsome lass,
And I'm a foolish knave;
I have the razor that to me
Last Christmastime you gave,
(It's somewhere on an upper shelf;
I couldn't make it shave!)

Dear Ethel, you have lovely taste,
But somehow that striped hose
You sent me, with its fear-de-lis
Painted in awful rows,
Made no appeal to me, though I
Love you, dear, goodness knows!

Girls, do not think that I'm unkind:
Gifts you know how to choose them.
The funniest thing from my base thoughts
Would be that I refuse them.
I only ask you won't insist
That I should ever use them!

Moving Pictures of Flowers.

One remarkable fact about the moving picture camera is that it is able to reproduce not only the swiftest moving objects, but the slowest as well. Accordingly, it is now possible to exhibit pictures of a flower in its different processes of growth, and of the transition of a blossom into fruit. Recent experiments have resulted in a process that shows on the screen the changing of a rosebud into a full blown rose, the bursting of a lily from its leafy prison, or the slow uncurling of the frond of the *Osmunda fern*.

The operation of exhibiting anything like the growth of a flower from birth to maturity requires, of course, considerable time, though the result consumes no more than five minutes when thrown on the screen. The negatives must be made at regular intervals, and timed according to the degree of the plant's growth, while the exposures must continue day and night until that point is attained at which it is presumed the object has really reached its maturity.

The *modus operandi* in the case of a rose, for instance, is as follows:—

Just as soon as the bud begins to show, the first film is exposed, and from that time on until the blossom is full blown a fresh negative is exposed every ten minutes both day and night. The time of exposure varies, of course, according to the season, the warmth of the greenhouse, the species of flower, etc. Generally, however, less than three weeks is required for the completion of this work. In that time something like twenty-four hundred films must be exposed, which are not so many when it is considered that most moving pictures of animated objects carry some ten thousand to twenty thousand separate and distinct photographs.

At night the negatives are exposed by means of an arc light.

One of the prettiest effects gained by the moving picture camera is that shown in the emergence of a butterfly from its chrysalis. The films of this were exposed with a fair degree of rapidity, inasmuch as a butterfly consumes little time—a few minutes—to develop, once having shed its ugly shell. The butterfly employed in the experiment referred to was of the peacock variety, and though it was the first attempt on the part of the operator to take a picture of this kind, the films showed up excellently, and the moving picture was most successful.

In order to obtain sharp negatives the chrysalis was placed in the open, the camera focussed on it, and then many days were passed in careful observation before a slight movement indicated that the beautiful prisoner was about to emerge. Before the chrysalis actually broke a negative was made, and then, as the butterfly began to liberate itself, the films were run off very rapidly, the speed being increased as the butterfly began to preen itself. The final negatives show the butterfly floating away in the clear blue sky until it passes from sight.

Novena is New!

The Novena specifics are all the better for that. Intelligent women are taking such interest in themselves now that it pays specialists and savants of the first eminence to spend years of investigation in matters germane to the Cult of Beauty. VALAZE (Jars, 4/- and 7/-, post free) is already a familiar friend of the toilet. Novena merits its appointment as First Lieutenant of Valaze.

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The World of Fashion

(By MARGUERITE.)

Fashions this season are bewildering in their variety and apparent contradiction, and it is an extremely difficult task to steer a direct course through the hundreds of conflicting styles that are so temptingly displayed. Once again it may be stated that if money be no object the summer outfit is not a difficult proposition, for a woman can try anything that suits her individual style and be serenely conscious that she is gowned according to the very latest law of Dame Fashion, albeit she is attired in a directly opposite style to every woman she knows.

Among all these conflicting models, however, a careful search will discern no end of delightfully smart and attractive gowns that are almost exaggeratedly simple and that have a most delightful resemblance to certain fashions that are always dear to the heart of the conservative woman who delights in being smartly and becomingly gowned, and at the same time realises that she looks better in gowns that are on more severe and individual lines than are to be found in the open market, to use an odd expression about the large establishments where the very latest are exhibited.

Evening Coiffures.

A simple coiffure ornament is preferred for evening wear. The Directoire influence has suggested a diadem of flowers which is very becoming indeed. Sometimes this diadem, which is about an inch high at the sides, and perhaps a couple of inches in the centre front, where it ends in a point, is made of real flowers, tiny rosebuds or lilies of the valley being popular designs. Green leaves sprinkled with crystal dew drops, or tiny silver leaves, give a good effect.

A sheaf of silver corn is another effective idea, and one that may be adopted by the matron with advantage. The hair should be dressed high, and the ears of wheat fastened in the coils suggest an aigrette.

For the young girl and the youthful-looking married woman it is impossible to improve upon the ribbon coiffure. Velvet ribbon to match the gown is drawn through the curls, and the coquettish little rosette of the velvet at the side completes the effect.

Coiffure ornaments are so certain to please the majority of pretty girls that

I must just mention the new Greek design. It is composed of a handkerchief of gold or silver net worn below the chignon, which it supports, and held in place by a wreath of little rosebuds, whose province it is to decorate the front of the coiffure.

Another very handsome and gratifying

There are various types. One is made of grey net darned with floss silk; another has a border broad at the ends and narrow at the sides, of Chinese flowers wrought repousse in silks of various colours and satin cut to resemble petals and leaves.

Checked and Striped Materials.

What to wear travelling is a problem that is discussed year after year and never definitely settled. To begin with, all modes of first class travel are nowadays so entirely changed from the olden time, when a woman had to either swathe herself in an all enveloping dust cloak, wear some dust shedding material, practical and generally hideous, or face the alternative of arriving at her journey's end looking very shabby and dirty. With the luxurious surroundings of modern travel such a thing as a regular travelling gown is not needed, and in most instances, whether travelling by land or sea, any sort of gown can be worn. Long skirts are not suitable and yet they are not impossible.

Women now find the entire costume, coat, skirt and waist to correspond, the most practical; but the gown made with separate waist and skirt is by far the most popular, for then waists of different texture may be worn, and in travelling it is necessary to be provided against changes of temperature. The check, stripe or fancy material in the skirt and the plain coat is extremely popular this season and good colour effects can be obtained by the combination. There are cloths and silks, too, for that matter, and of course voiles that have a border, one or more straight bands woven into the material, and these make up effectively in the new or rather complicated pleated skirts that measure so much in



ARRANGEMENT OF ROLLS OF HAIR CAUGHT WITH A VELVET RIBBON AND ROSE.

gift is one of the new scarves that can be worn as a sash or as a corsage drape. The scarf is very quaint and pretty, and is the kind of toilette adjunct that can be put away and brought out for years by women who take care of their most precious and beautiful fal-lals.



THE POLONAISE.


This is of Liberty satin, in a new shade of faded blue, and the corsage is composed entirely of embroidered silk tulle, forming an under-b blouse daintily decorated with fancy buttons. This toilette is surmounted by a large black hat, adorned with feathers.



A PRETTY COIFFURE DECORATION, ADORNED WITH BLACK JET BUTTERFLIES.

P.D CORSETS

being modelled on the finest and sanest principles, enhance the natural grace and balance of the figure, and show those graces perfected. No ordinary strain or wear can destroy the characteristic faultless lines of the P.D.



width around the hem and fit so close around the hips.

There are charming gray and white, tan and white, blue and white stripes, and so on through the different colours. The coat matches the darker stripe, but in truth is, as a rule, still darker. At the moment the preference is given to the coat that is extremely simple, of medium length, with fronts that are closed only just at the bust, and is generally worn open, to show the waist-

softest satin that are very pretty, and one such is shown on the model that graces this page, a loosely formed wild rose upon a debutante's hat of delicate pink Leghorn, swathed with still paler pink tussore.

While on the subject of hats, I must draw your attention to the profile head sketched to accompany this article. This sketch shows one of the favourite hats of the moment. The brim is large and quite flat, while the crown is compara-



CHARMINGLY PICTURESQUE HAT FOR A GIRL.

Made of palest pink Leghorn, with a draping of tussore round it caught together beneath a huge wild rose made of pink satin with a golden centre.

coat or waist, with jabot and lace tie. Lightweight cloth or serge is the best material to choose for this coat, as while some warmth is required in such a costume it should not be heavy nor too warm, as it is intended for wear in summer. This being a season of sharp contrasts, it must not be forgotten that plain skirts and striped coats are fashionable also, although this latter style borders on the extreme, and should not be rashly attempted, as the coat requires to be perfectly cut and fitted. The same rule applies to the plain coat with striped or check skirt, but the stripes in the coat are a harder problem for the average dressmaker or tailor.

tively low and encircled by loose folds of mousseline. It is the hat of the hour, and it is to be seen on all sides, with trifling variations. Sometimes the mousseline trimming comes in scarf form, and in this case it is usual to let one long end fall loose at the back; and sometimes the folds are made of piece mousseline, as in the sketch. In whatever way it is trimmed this flat brimmed hat is becoming and eminently suitable for seaside wear.

The Novelty of the Week.

PARASOLS MADE OF CRETONNE.

The parasol that is most in request this summer at the smartest French watering-places is made of cretonne with a white silk lining. Gay and charming indeed are these sun umbrellas, and of a reasonable size, too, made for utility as well as for ornament.

To the shelter of her cretonne shade goes the bather when she has attended to her toilet and dressed again after her sea bath.

No Abatement in Size of Hats.

To restrain the size of millinery is not fashion's present desire. Hats remain very large, and the feathers and flowers that trim them are monstrous. A persistent preference is evinced towards plumage; clipped quills and drooping ostrich feathers are in high demand. Of flowers there are some made of



ONE OF THE NEWEST SUMMER HATS.

A large flat hat in black chip, simply trimmed with soft plumed muslin, draped around the crown.



A SIMPLE MORNING COSTUME FOR THE SEASIDE.

Of pink and white zephyr, with vest of spotted net. Panama hat, with long pink scarf.

WHY HAVE GREY HAIR?

HEMSLEY BURNET'S HAIR COLOR RESTOREE positively restores grey or faded hair to its natural color, and makes it lifelike and glossy. Price, 4/9 posted. Depilatory for permanently and painlessly removing hair from face, neck, or arms, 4/6. Send stamps or postal notes to:

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AN INEVITABLE REFLECTION!

If you rub Sydal on to your hands at night, they will soon reflect the soft, white, pleasing appearance which is so characteristic of a lady. Anything responds to care and attention; but nothing so readily as your hands to

SYDAL
1/6.

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Are You? Then why not let us help you to reduce your superfluous flesh? Would you not like to be of normal weight and to enjoy the best of health? If you cherish that wish, let us help you to realise it. What we have done, and are doing for others, with **NO OBESITY CURE** we can do for you. Let us lighten your heavy burden and set you on life's way rejoicing. Do not hesitate. Call at our offices, or send us your address, and we will post you a Free Sample of Normal Herbal Treatment, also an interesting booklet on **OBESITY**. Enclose 3d. stamps for postage.

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C.B. Tailor-Made Corsets bear the seal of Public Approval, and render other corsets ordinary and antiquated. They are worn by upwards of Half-a-Million Smart Women in Europe, and have been hailed by the Leading Fashion Experts as the Lightest, Daintiest, and most elegant corsets extant.

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A Single Trial is sufficient to Convince every woman of the immense superiority of C.B. Tailor-Made Corsets over all other types.

Obtainable in 50 types, at prices ranging from **8/11 to 4 Guineas**

OBTAINABLE IN ALL STYLES FROM ALL PROGRESSIVE STORES.

If any difficulty in procuring the correct style write to:

J.E. NEWPORT, BONS & Co., Flinders Lane, MELBOURNE
Barrack Street, ADELAIDE
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The Quest of the Pearl.

Continued from page 29.

HIS SPLENDID BODY SHINING WITH GREASE,

with which these divers coat themselves before entering the water, gathering itself for its spring. He carries the inevitable bags, but he needs no weights to sink him, nor does he wear a rope. A flash, and down he goes, head first, gracefully as a panther, straight as a die, without a splash, and swims to the bottom. Wonderful swimmers these Arabs are, recklessly daring, and with incredible powers of endurance, but their worth is seriously discounted by their intractability and hatred of discipline. And in this connection it is a curious fact that when under water men will invariably become irritable and extremely bad tempered.

All through the morning the work goes on. Men disappear in the green depths, and reappear, clambering, dripping, up the ladders that swing over the boats' sides; and always, with astonishing rapidity, the piles of shells grow larger. Sharp at noon the superintendent's boat whistles; the last diver is pulled up; dingy sails are spread, and the fleet starts for home. Inshore the boats race, piling themselves up on the beach like a school of stranded fish. The mandaks stagger through the shallows laden with baskets of shells, which, under police guard, they take to the kottus. By this time

FANDEMONIUM REIGNS UPON THE BEACH.

A hundred tongues mingle in the clamour: Arabic, Malay, frantic Chinese chattering, Hindoostanee, profane and exasperated English. A thousand naked mandaks sweat and strain ankle deep through the shifting sand under the heavy baskets; angry guards menace and hustle unruly trouble-makers; merchants and spectators hurry toward the guarded kottus. And always the sun beats down on the shimmering sands with their shifting riot of colour, and on the ocean that glazes white-hot, like molten metal; and presently, mingled with the odours of the village, there rises a faint, deadly stench from the million dead shells. Faint at first, but as the hours go by, gaining in power and volume, until by the third or fourth day one's senses are drowned in it. It takes a long time and strong nerves to accept it with equanimity; one wonders how the Government men can stand it as they must. As for the natives, they seem not to mind it in the least.

Now the first stage of the quest is over: the oysters are gathered, and by sundown the eight hugh kottus, each one containing 25 subdivisions, are filled to the brim.

First the divers receive their shares, to each man going the portion that is decreed to him by the Law of the Fishing. This he carries outside the stockade, and disposes of in small lots of 10, 20, 50, or 100 shells to the swarm of merchants and small buyers who jam and crowd and jostle in the open space before the stockades. Everywhere deals are going on between half naked divers and stately, dirty merchants, whose robes flap about their lean shins as they hurry from one man to another and back again, hawk-eyed for bargains, shrieking that Allah must bear witness that they are poor men, and cannot stand such bloody extortion. But none the less, they buy and buy.

Here an old fellow with a beaked nose and fierce, eagle eyes, bearded, and turbaned and villainously dirty, has possessed himself of 30 or 40 fine, large shells. Down he squats, beneath the very feet of the pressing thousands, wrenches open a shell, and pokes with his claw-like fingers into the mass of flesh. In a moment he finds a pearl—not a very good specimen, but into his pouch it goes, while with his free hand he reaches for another shell from his pile. Sometimes rage and disgust inflame his swarthy features; he flings the oyster from him, cursing its fathers and its mothers for four generations back; it has contained no pearl at all. But suddenly, opening a peculiarly large shell, he stops short. Triumph, eagerness, and greed incarnate flash into his face, and are gone, replaced instantly by craft and cunning. He holds a pearl worth more than a prince's ransom, perfect, lustrous, a gracious thing of beauty. He fondles it lovingly in his skinny hands, gawwng shrewdly as to its weight. It

came from the last shell in his pile; with a swift glance around to see whether his prize has been observed, he drops it carefully into his greasy pouch, and flaps off after more shells, loudly complaining that never—no, never—before did Allah create such an utterly worthless lot of oysters. Pearls—bah! who could expect to get pearls from such swines of oysters!

ALREADY THE PEARL-DRILLERS ARE AT WORK,

their enormous black hands and crude tools manipulating the tiny globules with a marvellous deftness and dexterity. Boats are being repaired, and sails and baskets mended in preparation for the next day's work; fires are starting up here and there, and cooking is going on. The divers are tired and hungry, and must be well fed, since again no food may be taken until the next night; and the thousands of shells in the kottus must be disposed of as rapidly as possible to make room for the morrow's catch. So all the beach hums with activity; the crowd around the kottus seems to increase momentarily; and through and under all the frenzied racket, one is aware, suddenly, that the tom-toms are throbbing and the reeds are shrilling their barbaric discord, insistent, suggestive, the dominant under-note of the East.

After dinner, at nine o'clock or thereabouts, the bulk of the shells is put up at auction by the Government Agent, who is overlord of the Fisheries and all that pertains thereto. The sale takes place in the courthouse, or other government building, and the shells are put up in lots of a thousand. A merchant holds up both hands, the fingers outspread; his name is put down for ten lots, or ten thousand shells. Not a few of the Indian merchants buy as many as a million. The largest number known to have been offered on a single night is 1,967,000; the smallest, 400,000.

Every night the same men are on hand—until their limit is reached, or the fishing is over. Every night, too, they are joined by a sprinkling of new arrivals. The game is much of a lottery, since the purchaser cannot tell what percentage of his shells will contain pearls. From the government the buyers purchase the shells; from each other, such pearls as they want, effecting thus a double system of exchange. An Englishman, who perhaps is matching pearls that later will be made into a necklace which his king will give to a royal bride, is a centre of attraction. Hundreds of pearls are brought to him for examination; are weighed and rigorously tested as to colour and sphericity. An agent for one of the big New York jewellers holds equal attention; he is looking for pink pearls for the necklace of an American heiress who will shortly become, if not royal, at least as near it as she can. And here is a saucy, dusky gentleman, low-voiced, always courteous, buying for, let us say, the Rajah of Lahore, and outbidding everyone in sight for any gem that takes his fancy, with perfect nonchalance and a credit that is obviously inexhaustible. For the Non-mahal of to-day must have her whims fulfilled; and her latest longing is for an entire robe of pearls—a garment of gauze sewn so thickly with pierced gems that scarcely an inch of it will be seen. Its weight will make it cling close to her slender limbs; its lustre will enhance the dark softness of her beauty and the gleam of her shadowed eyes, and its cost will quite positively and satisfactorily preclude her rivals from having anything in the least like it. And she will get it, too, since her lord and master loves her with sufficient unreason, and since it is for her pleasure alone that the fisheries exist at all, and the oysters in their tens of millions yield up their sluggish spark of life—that yet is vital enough to produce a thing perfect enough to please her wayward fancy.

WHEN THE PEARLS ARE TAKEN FROM THE DEAD FISH,

they are first sorted according to size. This is done by passing them through a set of ten small brass sieves, called baskets, with meshes of varying sizes. Pearls of the first class that are perfect both in sphericity and in lustre are called cut. Those of the second class, that to the average observer seem equally with the great Southern Cross Pearl, which is cut flaw, are anitari; and most of the pearls we see in the West and on general sale come under this head. Of the third

class, called ma-nuku, are those that are somewhat irregular in shape, and a trifle "off" in colour, but that are valuable for use in clusters, and are largely used by Eastern artificers in mountings of various sorts. Kural is the double or twinned pearl, which when of good lustre and sufficiently freakish shape, is sometimes enormously valuable. In this class the most wonderful specimen on record is in reality nine pearls, naturally grown together, and forming a perfect cross an inch and a half long. It was found off the coast of Western Australia in 1874. Many seed pearls and rejections—called vadivu—are generally ground into chunam and used as an ingredient in a favourite sweatmeat. From China also comes a heavy demand for seed pearls; and in India bushels of them, literally, are used in the decoration of idols and sacred images, and of weapons as well.

Pearl oysters are of two varieties—the large white shell, and a smaller black species; but which produces the best pearls is an undecided question. Probably there is little choice. One rule that does seem to hold good, however, is that the deeper the water from which the shell is taken, the larger and finer will be the pearl.

Popular belief long held that the nucleus of the pearl was a grain of sand, or some minute foreign body, that got wedged into the oyster's shell, and, if the inmate were unable to expel it, gradually became coated with the milky, lime-like secretion of the fish. Lately, science has turned its merciless searchlight on this theory, and, as with many others of our old-time, tenderly cherished notions, has rudely disproved it. Even more humble than a grain of sand is the pearl's origin—a lowly Platylemian parasite that dies within the shell, and is entombed in its wonderful sarcophagus. Out of several hundred pearls decalcified with intent to probe their inner mystery, not more than three or four revealed any other core than the remains of these tiny worms; and in the white as well as the black shells, in coloured pearls as well as orientals, this has been found to be the case.

The fishing may last a month, or two months, and its average value to the government is a million rupees—about £40,000. In Australia, where equally extensive operations are carried on, the average value is £298,000, or 1,438,560 dollars. Singapore is the centre for labour and supplies of the Queensland fisheries, and is one of the largest pearl markets in the world.

Now the fishing is over. The fleet of smelly boats departs; the crowds dwindle and disappear, each unit richer by a pouchful of jewels. And the pearls are gone too—gone to be mounted or strung together as playthings for women the wide world over. The beat of the tom-tom and the plaint of the reeds are no longer heard, and fires on the beach die down; and the ragged little brown village settles down once more into its age-old tranquillity. All the excitement is over—until the next time.

A WONDERFUL MEMORY.

E. C. Laston, who has issued a challenge to the world for the memory championship, although only a young man of 23 years, is a veritable walking encyclopaedia (says "Tit Bits"), for he has memorised 40,000 dates of the principal events in the world's history, since the creation. It was quite by accident that he discovered that he had an exceptional gift of memory. He was being trained as an army officer when an attack of rheumatic fever dispelled his hopes in that direction. At that time he happened to meet the Zangis in India, who, noting what a remarkable memory he had for dates, advised him to cultivate it. He then purchased a copy of Haydn's "Dictionary of Dates," and sought to commit to memory the dates of the most important events in the world's history by writing 50 to 100 dates on a piece of paper, and re-writing them three or four times until he had fully grasped them, with the result that he has a repertoire of thousands of dates, and can give the correct answers without the slightest hesitation.

BRIDGET THE MOBILE.

Cuiler: "So your cook has passed away to a better place?"
Hostess: "Yes, but I don't know if she'll stay; poor Bridget was very hard to suit."

ANNOUNCEMENT.

By Special Appointment to The Earl and Countess of Glasgow. By Special Appointment to 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. Address: Masonic Hotel.
NAPIER—Thursday, February 11. Friday, February 12. Address: Criterion Hotel.
AUCKLAND—Monday, February 15. Tuesday, February 16. Wednesday, February 17. Address: Central Hotel.
NEW PLYMOUTH—Thursday, February 18. Address: White Hart Hotel.
WANGANUI—Friday, February 19. Saturday, February 20. Address: Rutland Hotel.

PERFECT SKIN-TONE. Icilmine, a solidified form of ICLIMA NATURAL WATER, the greatest discovery ever made for the skin, is the most marvelous skin-cleanser and tonic known. Absolutely without soap, grease or any agent but this wonderful natural water, it penetrates to the innermost skin and imparts that perfect tone without which Health and Beauty can not exist. Obtainable from Ralph R. Parham, Chemist North Shore. A. Eccles, Chemist, Queen St. W. H. Woodmans, Chemist, Queen Street. Floor Cream, 2/6 per pot.

A good example is set by those who use Calvert's Carbolic Tooth Powder. Evidently they understand the hygienic importance of brushing their teeth regularly. Obviously, too, they are well satisfied with the result of using this pleasant antiseptic dentifrice. Of Chemists and Stores throughout Australia. Makers: F. C. Calvert & Co., Manchester, Eng.

Australian Artistes in Song and Symphony.

Continued from page 30.

stars, and people might say "What yet another!" Nevertheless, she is one of some magnitude. Miss Alice Hollander came to England before she was twenty-one, and had the advantage of being under the guardianship of Madame Patti, with whom she toured all over England, Ireland, and Scotland in that great singer's special luxurious railway compartment which represents the poetry of motion. Miss Hollander also toured with Kubelik. At first, ballad singing engrossed her attention, then she tried American "turns" with equally good success; her rendering was most characteristic, and she was frequently taken for an American. She generally appeared at the chief halls, for about eight minutes each evening, where she was engaged and paid by the minute. Unfortunately for herself, her manager and the American public, she was unable to fulfil her engagement in New York last year, for—during the voyage across—one of the roughest on record—she slipped on the deck of the Oceanic and so seriously injured the ligaments of one leg that on arrival she had to be carried straight to New York Hospital for treatment until she was sufficiently recovered to return to London. Soon after her arrival Mr. Seymour Hicks asked her to take a principal part in "My Darling," in which, it will be remembered, she was heard to advantage in her fine songs. Miss Hollander had previously appeared in comedy in "Sergeant Brue," in which she took the part at a few days' notice and made it a complete success.

Miss Hollander amuses herself with a little snapshotting when touring, and has many quaint and pretty photos of notable people and interesting places, such as the Cabbage Market in Ireland, groups of queer little Lap children, scenes in Norway, and boating at Henley.

MISS AMY CASTLES.

Miss Amy Castles is another young Australian, whose voice, a rich soprano, will carry her far. Nine years ago she was a little girl in a convent school in Victoria, who was chosen to sing the customary "Ave" at evensong. The wife of one of England's best-known Colonial Governors was present and remarked, "That girl has a gold-mine in her throat," the idea being probably suggested by the districts of Bendigo and Ballarat being so famous for mines of that description. Miss Amy Castles has worked her "gold mine" with study and training, and the yield is a voice of singular purity of tone and breadth of power. She is frequently called the present day Jenny Lind, whose style she is said to resemble. This season Miss Amy Castles has been singing chiefly in Germany at musical festivals, in Cologne and elsewhere, with considerable distinction and success.

MR PERCY GRAINGER.

In the realm of instrumental music Mr Percy Grainger, a young man in the early twenties, takes a conspicuous place. He is a native of Melbourne. His mother, an accomplished musician, was his first teacher, and so successful was her instruction that at ten years of age he gave such excellent musical recitals that Australian experts advised Continental study, and he was then placed with the famous Professor James Kravst for five years, afterwards going to Busoni, whose style he caught so fully that his interpretation of Bach has often been compared to this master's. When sixteen he gave recitals in Germany, then toured Australia, New Zealand, and South Africa. In Great Britain he has taken part in many of the principal concerts and festivals, and the critics have compared him to Liszt, Rubenstein, Von Bulow, and Teresa Carreno.

Percy Grainger makes a hobby of his gift in the study of languages. He speaks Norwegian well, and his fluent Danish was attractive to the late king of Denmark, from whom he received "com-mands" for Court performances. Another hobby is the collecting of folk-songs. His settings of English and Scandinavian folk songs are well known and appreciated.

It is also well known that he was an intimate friend of the late Edward Greig, a great student of his music, and the chosen performer at the Greig in Memo-

riam Concerts in Norway, and at Queen's Hall, London.

Miss Irene Ainsley is another sweet singer from the Sunny South. She possesses a very fine contralto voice, with so extensive a range that many consider it mezzo-soprano. Some years ago she sang before Madame Melba in New Zealand, and since then she has had the good fortune to be a protegee of hers. In New Zealand Miss Ainsley was a pupil of Mr. Arthur Boulton, but since coming to Europe she has had further advantages and study. "Madame Melba," she says, "sent me to Madame Marchesi in Paris, where I stayed for a year." Not long ago Madame Melba organised a concert to introduce her at the Bechstein Hall. Their Royal Highnesses the Prince and Princess of Wales were present, and she had the honour of singing the following week at Marlborough House, and being presented with a handsome initial brooch.

She has sung with Madame Melba in Plymouth and elsewhere, but studied in Paris from time to time, and has lately been giving attention to dramatic matters, and had lessons from some of the Grand Opera teachers, for Covent Garden is Miss Irene Ainsley's ambition. She says, "Madame Melba helped me a great deal with my singing, and I enjoy nothing more than a lesson from her. She has been my 'fairy godmother.'"

MADAME MARY CONLY.

A soprano vocalist of considerable distinction is Madame Mary Conly, from Fitzroy, Melbourne, Australia, in which city she made her first appearance in the Royal Metropolitan Liedertafel and later took the gold medal at Queen's Festival. Since coming to England she has become deservedly popular by her rendering of dramatic solos at the Crystal Palace, Queen's Hall, and Royal Albert Hall, and has also made a name for herself in ballad singing and in oratorio work in the principal provinces. She sang in Stabat Mater with the Royal Choral Society in London last January.

MISS ELYDA RUSSELL.

Miss Elyda Russell, who has been singing a good deal in London during the present season, is a native of Sydney, Australia, but is also of Scottish descent. The violin was her special study until Professor Lauterbach heard her sing and persuaded her to turn her attention to the cultivation of her voice, as he foresaw the possibilities that have since been realised in it. She studied first in Milan, and then under Marchesi.

Miss Elyda Russell has the gift of language as well as song; she sings in several, being acquainted with six, including Swedish and Norwegian, and it was after she had sung some folksongs in these languages that a curious incident occurred. A lady—evidently unfamiliar with the brevity of such songs—came up and expressed the pleasure she had experienced in hearing them, but said what a pity it was that she had stopped short in so many from nervousness; which was the more amusing as Miss Russell is not the least troubled with that tiresome characteristic. Miss Elyda Russell's knowledge of Swedish was of use to her when at Stockholm she sang before Prince Gustavus Adolphus and Princess Margaret of Sweden, who received her with great kindness and marked appreciation.

The foregoing in no way exhausts the tale of singers and musicians from the Sunny South. Madame Miranda, who has already won some brilliant triumphs in opera, Miss Francis Saville, Miss Regina Nagel, Miss Elsie Hall, and many others could be mentioned if space permitted. Australia is rightly proud of them.

ISLE OF WIGHT.

The Isle of Wight inhabitants are not alone in speaking of "going to England" when they leave their own fragment of the kingdom (says the "Daily Chronicle"). A patriotic Cornishman also "goes to England" when he crosses the Tamar. Similarly, inhabitants of the Balkan peninsula talk of "going to Europe" when they leave their own corner of the Continent—in curious contrast with the people of our own island. We regard ourselves as both of and in "Europe," and accordingly it is only "the continent" that we visit. The record in the splendid isolation line is probably held by that minister of the Cumbræ, in the Clyde, who prayed for a blessing upon "the inhabitants of Great and Little Cumbræ and the adjacent islands of Great Britain and Ireland."

What Is Woman's Most Attractive Age?

"When we speak of the attractiveness of woman, we really mean the attractiveness of woman to man," wrote a woman contributor in the San Francisco "Call" recently.

"With men the question of when a woman is most attractive is doubly complicated, because it depends not only on the woman, but on the taste of the man himself. Not many years ago, if this question had been asked, the answer would have been unhesitatingly made that a woman is most attractive between the ages of sixteen and twenty. Most of the heroines of classical fiction are mere children."

"It must be confessed that, with rare exceptions, the modern man prefers something more sophisticated than sweet sixteen, though it is undeniable that the unintelligent woman is at her best when she is in her teens. This is easily understood."

"Almost all young creatures are beautiful, and heaven gives to even the homeliest woman a day of grace between sixteen and eighteen when she is pretty with the prettiness of fresh cheeks, and dewy eyes, and glossy hair."

"Twenty-three is the ideal time of the clock for the woman of average intelligence and pulchritude, unless she happens to be college-bred. If she has had the misfortune of acquiring the higher education, she is still top-heavy with learning and self-esteem over having discovered the ancient Greeks and Romans, and it requires ten years more for her to find out that, for a woman to be thoroughly charming, she should have had a good education, and forgotten it."

"For the woman, however, who is meant to be human nature's daily food,

no age is more attractive than twenty-three. At this age the first flush of having just arrived in the slim promises of girlhood have been realised in the full beauty of womanhood. She still has illusions, but they are not delusions. She is still innocent, but no longer ignorant."

"Her intercourse with the opposite sex has a certain frankness and comradeship that is not the least of her charms. She seems so safe that she is deadly dangerous; statistics show that more women marry at twenty-three than at any other age."

"The bachelor woman is at her best at thirty, because she is consciously charming. She has all the advantages with which nature originally equipped her, and she has added to them the frills and furbelows of art. She has learned to enhance her good looks by better dressing, and to put a red shade on the lamp, and sit with her back to the light. She has also learned how to talk, and, better still, how to be a fascinating listener."

"At thirty-five the extremely clever woman reaches the summit of her fascination. The woman who has more brains than heart is never more dangerous than then, for she has taken the measure of mankind and plays upon its weaknesses as upon a harp with a thousand strings."

No Wonder.

Two theatrical ladies, lodging together in a town in the north of Scotland, were asked in the morning by their landlady how they slept.

"Oh, very well, indeed," was the reply. "Sae wanner!" exclaimed the good dame, with a touch of pride in her tones; "ye were sleepin' in my best funeral sheets."

Snow White Handkerchiefs.

All the Best Grades.

THERE WAS NEVER A TIME when a woman possessed the many handkerchiefs—in other words, the demand for these accessories is constant. Probably you want handkerchiefs now, either for yourself or for the purpose of making a gift. We commend the following as being the best of their kind obtainable in the New Zealand market.

CAMBRIC HANDKERCHIEFS.

Hemstitched, with coloured borders in Pink, Sky Blue, Heliotrope, Navy Blue, and Red, at 2, 2 6, 2 11, 3 3, 3 6, 4 3 a dozen.

CAMBRIC HANDKERCHIEFS.

Hemstitched, for school children, at 1 6 a dozen.

CAMBRIC HANDKERCHIEFS.

With half-inch and one inch hems, at 2 6, 2 11, 4 0, 5 3, 7 6 a dozen.

CAMBRIC HANDKERCHIEFS.

Hemstitched, and with narrow tucked borders, at 4 11, 6 6 a dozen.

LINEN HANDKERCHIEFS.

Half-inch and one inch hems, at 4 9, 6 6, 7 6, 7 11 a dozen.

LINEN HANDKERCHIEFS.

Washed ready for use, half-dozen in box, at 3 11, 4 6, 5 9, 6 11, 7 11, 9 11, a box of half-dozen.

FINE LAWN HANDKERCHIEFS.

Scalloped, hemstitched, and prettily embroidered, at 3 9, 3 11, 4 11, 5 0, 6 6, 7 11, 8 11, per box of half-dozen.

FINE IRISH LINEN HANDKERCHIEFS.

Embroidered with scalloped or hemstitched borders, at 7 11, 8 11, 11 6, 12 9, 14 6 per box of half-dozen.

SHAMROCK LINEN LAWN HANDKERCHIEFS.

Very handsomely embroidered, bears (tobed or scalloped) borders, at 17 6, 19 6, 19 6, 22 6, 25 6, 30 6, 35 6, 39 6, 42 6, 54 6, 59 6, 66 6, 78 6, per dozen.

SILK MALTESE LACE HANDKERCHIEFS.

With Silk Centres, at 3 6, 7 11, 8 6, 9 6, 13 6, 17 6, 19 6, 22 6 each.

Kirkcaldie & Stains,

LIMITED
WELLINGTON.

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 Mr William Robert Emerson, solicitor, Takapu, and Miss Vivian Beatrice Tuke, eldest daughter of the late Major Tuke, of New Plymouth.

The engagement is announced of Mr Herbert H. De Costa, of Gisborne, and Miss Kate Cohen, of Wellington.

Announcement is made of the engagement of Miss Emil A. Hall, daughter of the late Dr. Hall, of Carlisle, England, to Mr. James E. Mulcahy, eldest son of Senator Mulcahy, of Hobart. Miss Hall has left Wellington for Australia, where her marriage is to take place in June.

The engagement is announced of Miss Alice Clark, youngest daughter of Mr G. A. Clark, of Cambridge, to Mr A. R. Cox, eldest son of Mr E. B. Cox, of "Briccadale," Cambridge.

Orange Blossoms.

HERCULES-MACKY.

A very pretty wedding took place at St. Andrew's Church, Lower Symonds-street, Auckland, on February 3rd, when Miss Margaret (Greta) Macky, third daughter of J. J. Macky, Ponsonby, was married to Mr. Harold Gladstone Hercules, third son of John Hercules, of Dunedin. The ceremony was performed by the Rev. Alex. A. Murray, M.A. The bride, who was given away by her father, looked winsome in a dainty Empire gown of white Swiss muslin, tucked and inserted with rich lace, a long court train, beautiful shower bouquet; an embroidered tulle veil over a coronet of orange blossoms, completed the becoming toilette ensemble. The Misses Ecca and Tiny Macky, and Kathleen Hickson made three charming bridesmaids. Their frocks were dainty white muslin made in Empire effect, with knotted sashes of hyacinth blue, cameo pink, and Nil green silk respectively. They wore large white hats with mob-cap crowns, wreathed with flowers the same shade as their sashes and shower bouquets. Mr. J. Victor Macky (brother of the bride) was best man. At the conclusion of the ceremony, the bridal party drove to "Camshannah," Ponsonby, the residence of the bride's parents, where a reception was held, about 60 guests, mostly relatives of the bride, being present. Mr. and Mrs. Hercules subsequently left for the South, where they will spend a few weeks visiting the bridegroom's relatives, before leaving for Coonoor, India, their future home. The bride's travelling costume was brown cloth, tailor-made, and smart brown hat with shaded ribbon and wings.

Mrs. Macky (mother of the bride) wore pale lavender and silver voile, with touches of heliotrope velvet and cream lace, and a pretty toque of violets. The guests were:—Mr. and Mrs. Jno. Macky and the Misses Macky (3), Mr. and Mrs. T. L. Macky and the Misses Macky (2), Mr. Roy and Mr. Keith Macky, Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Macky, Mr. and Mrs. W. S. Cochrane, Miss Cochrane, Mr. and Mrs. Percy Spencer and Miss Spencer, the Misses Hopkins (Christchurch), Mr. and Mrs. Albert Spencer, Miss Dorothy Spencer, Mr. Edmund Spencer, Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Lyon, Miss Froude, Mr. and Mrs. Jas. Trounson, Mr. and Mrs. Hugh Gilmore, Mr. and Mrs. L. Christie, Mr. and Mrs. W. Beaumont, Miss Clara Beaumont, Miss English, Mrs. Lindsay, Miss Hill, Mr. P. C. Carr, Miss Carr, Mrs. O'Hara, Miss Ecca Macky, Mr. Chas. Spencer, Mr. J. T. Leafy, Mrs. T. L. Murray, Miss Murray, Mrs. Hickson, the Misses Hickson (3), Mr. E. Dimant (Melbourne), Rev. and Mrs. W. Jellie, Mr. and Mrs. T. H. Macky, Mr. Jack Macky, Mrs. Mounier, Mr. R. G. Macky, Mr. Jas. Macky, Mr. and Mrs. S. C. Macky, Mr. and Mrs. S. H. Macky, Mr. and Mrs. Jno. Frater, Mr. and Mrs. H. R. Lawry, Miss Lawry, Miss Moore, Mr. H. Lawry (Wellington), Miss Muriel Christie.

GEORGE-GORE GILLON.

A quiet but exceedingly pretty wedding was solemnized at St. Paul's Church on Wednesday, 3rd February, when Miss Doris Gore Gillon, only daughter of Dr. Gore Gillon, was married to Mr. Harley George. The Rev. C. Watson performed the ceremony. The bride, who was given away by her father, looked lovely in a graceful cream Shantung Directorate costume, softened with Irish crochet lace, large cream hat swathed with tulle and long ostrich feather. She wore a charming pearl necklet, which was the bridegroom's gift. Miss Gibson (Patea), the bride's only attendant, was prettily gowned in a pale pink taffeta, with white net yoke and sleeves, large black hat lined with pink, black and white wings. Mr. Finney officiated as best man. After the ceremony the party returned to the residence of the bride's parents, where the wedding breakfast was held.

Mrs. Gore Gillon wore a becoming gown of rose-gold crystalline, with a chiffon taffeta coat of a deeper shade, pretty cream lace vest, and large black hat trimmed with shaded corse ribbons, green rose, and white ospreys; Mrs. Adams (Hutt); handsome brown silk gown, with brown bonnet wreathed with autumn leaves; Mrs. Barnes (Christ-

church) was gracefully gowned in black taffeta, relieved with white, black and white hat to match; her little daughter was prettily frocked in white, with pale blue sash; Mrs. J. Spiers wore a charming pale grey Shantung costume, trimmed with Irish lace and silver buttons, becoming black hat with a cluster of pink roses; Mrs. Scherff was wearing brown silk, relieved with cream and blue, pretty violet toque; Miss Scherff looked charming in white chiffon, with white lace gingham, large picture hat; Mrs. Young, blue and white striped silk gown, with pretty hat to match; Miss Hill was daintily frocked in pale heliotrope mouseline, with it was worn a lace hat garlanded with heliotrope; Miss Hogg, pretty black and white Marquisette costume, with white winged hat; Miss Slater wore a graceful gown of mole-coloured crepe de chine, cream lace vest, and becoming black hat; Miss Runciman's gown was a pure blue and white floral muslin, made Empire, with border of a deeper shade, with blue and white hat to match; Miss F. Walker was prettily gowned in blue, with cream lace gimpes, pale blue hat with white ospreys; Miss Maud Douglas wore a becoming gown of white Louise, with black picture hat; Miss E. Okden was daintily frocked in white insertion muslin, with large white hat.

GLASS-WILFORD.

The Synagogue, Princes-street, was the scene of a very pretty wedding on Wednesday, 27th January, the contracting parties being Miss Esther (Essie) Wilford, second daughter of Mr. and Mrs. L. Wilford, of "Pine Hill," New Lynn, and Mr. Louis E. Glass, of the firm of Connor and Glass, Waihi, second son of Mr. J. Glass, J.P., of Bulli, New South Wales. The Rev. S. A. Goldstein officiated. The bride, who was given away by her brother, Mr. D. Wilford, looked very pretty in a beautiful dress of ivory silk chiffon taffeta, in Empire style, and carried a pretty shower bouquet. The bridesmaids were Misses Sarah, Marion and Rose Wilford, sisters of the bride, who wore smart dresses of white Indian lawn, trimmed with white Valenciennes lace and insertion; Miss Vera Faigan, niece of the bride, acting as train-bearer. They all wore gold brooches, the gifts of the bridegroom. Mr. H. Wilford acted as best man. After the ceremony, the wedding party drove to the Federal Hall, where a reception was held, and about 80 guests assembled. A number of congratulatory cablegrams and telegrams were received from Sydney, Dunedin and Auckland, and after the usual toasts were proposed and honoured, the happy couple left for Rotorua and Te Aroha, where they spend their honeymoon, en route for their future home in Waihi. The bride's travelling dress was a grey tailor-made costume.

Mrs. and Mrs. Glass were the recipients of many handsome presents, among them being: Bride to bridegroom, pair gold sleeve-links; bridegroom to bride, gold dress ruby ring and gold bangle; Mrs. and Mr. J. Glass, J.P. (Bulli, New South Wales); pair silver candlesticks; Mrs. Wilford, trousseau and house-linen; Mr. and Mrs. Faigan (Roxburg), hearth-rug and cheque; Mr. L. Faigan and family (Dunedin), companion and sugar bowl; Mr. and Mrs. L. Glass (Bulli, N.S.W.); silver coffee pot; Master and Misses Glass (Bulli, N.S.W.), dinner service; Mr. and Mrs. Goldman (Sydney, N.S.W.), silver jewel casket; Mr. Joseph Glass (Sydney, N.S.W.), silk talis and solid silver salt cellar and spoons; Mrs. Jacobs (Sydney), cushion and gauze table centre; Mr. D. Wilford, set of silver sarrivette rings; Mr. H. Wilford, silver butter knife and jam spoon; sisters of the bride, salt cellars and cream jug; Mr. and Mrs. C. Goldstone, silver fish servers; Mr. and Mrs. Emanuel, senr., pair of palm stands; Mr. and Mrs. A. Emanuel, silver sugar bowl; Mr. H. and Miss Emanuel, Maryella quilt; Mr. and Mrs. Marks, double jam dish on silver stand; Mr. and Mrs. Connor, pair picture; Mr. Lane, silver teapot; Miss Flavell, butter dish; Mr. and Mrs. N. Phillips, silver butter dish; Miss A. Phillips, cut glass and silver sent bottle; Mr. and Mrs. Posenniskie, silver cake

fork; Mr. Alexander and Miss Posenniskie, silver cake fork; Miss Annett, cushion; Miss Ryan, table-centre; Mr. Follick and Miss Feldman, silver butter dish; Mrs. Levinson, linen table-cover; Miss Smith (Thames), cheese stand; Miss Neville, pair pictures; Mrs. Neville, pair wine decanters; Mr. Grossmann, hand-ome double alarm clock; Miss Lizard, silver jam dish; Mr. Lewis, biscuit barrel; Mr. L. Goldwater, pair ornaments; Mrs. Hyams, vase; Mr. and Mrs. Wittner, biscuit barrel; Mr. and Mrs. Whitefield, Dresden fruit dish; Mr. and Mrs. Arnoldson, solid silver butter cooler; Miss E. Simon, biscuit-barrel; Mrs. Waygood, pair plaques, decanter and glasses; Mr. L. Kahn, handsome pair Dresden ornaments; Mr. H. Kahn, pair silver jam spoons; Mr. N. Finklestein, pair silver butter knives; Mr. A. Levy (Palmerston North), Dresden pitcher; Mr. Esserman, set of carvers; Mr. and Mrs. L. Schneidermann, silver fish servers; Mr. and Mrs. P. S. Schneidermann, set of silver tea-spoons and tongs; Schneidermann Bros., pair framed pictures; Mr. M. Freeman, cheque; Mr. and Mrs. Ornstein, oak and silver butter dish; Mr. and Mrs. Lee and family, double jam dish on silver stand and silver sugar bowl; Mr. H. Myers, pair handsome gold-plated photo. frames; Mr. M. Lallig, silver butter dish; Mr. and Mrs. Yankovitch, pair solid dishes; Mr. and Miss Israel, pair silver mounted vases; Macky, Logan, Caldwell and Co., Wedgwood silver-mounted biscuit barrel; J. Hodgson, costume length; boarders of "Dunedin House," Waihi, handsome solid marble clock and butter dish; Mrs. and Misses Hydes, silver teapot; employees of Connor and Glass, Waihi, framed ornamental mirror; Mrs. Thompson, pair fruit dishes.

STEWART-WEBSTER.

At St. Andrew's Church, Gisborne, Miss Christina Webster, of Kaikōri, Dunedin, was married to Mr. W. Stewart, of Gisborne. The ceremony was performed by the Rev. J. G. Grant. The bride looked very pretty as she entered the church on the arm of Mr. G. Pollock, a very old friend of the bride's family, and attended by Miss Hay (Dunedin) as bridesmaid. Mr. Edward Stewart, brother of the bridegroom, acted as best man. The bride was beautifully dressed in cream silk with trimming of chiffon and silk lace, and wore the orthodox orange blossom and veil. The bridesmaid also looked charming in a white embroidered muslin, with black picture hat. Both bride and bridesmaid carried lovely bouquets. After the ceremony the party repaired to the residence of Mr. G. Pollock, where the breakfast was laid. The usual toasts were honoured. The happy couple were the recipients of numerous handsome and costly presents.

FEAR-SIMPSON.

The marriage was recently celebrated at St. Andrew's Church, Cambridge, Wai-kato, of Mr. Harry Fear (second son of Mr. F. Fear, of "Taumatā" Mount Albert) and Miss Isabelle ("Gis") Simpson (eldest daughter of Mr. G. B. Simpson, of Cambridge). The Rev. A. H. Heron officiated. The bride looked winsome in an embroidered robe, with wreath of orange blossoms and veil. Miss Annie Simpson, sister of the bride, who attended as bridesmaid, was attired in a cream hand-embroidered robe, and carried a pretty shower bouquet. Mr. Geo. T. Simpson was groomsmen. The guests were entertained after the ceremony at the residence of the bride's parents, in Alpha-street. Towards evening the happy couple left for Hamilton, en route for Auckland, the bride wearing a navy, tailor-made costume, with hat en suite.

SAVILLE-CHURCHHOUSE.

At the residence of her parents, at Cross Creek, Wairarapa, the marriage of Miss Maud Churchhouse, daughter of Mr. J. Churchhouse, of Cross Creek, to Mr. Charles C. Savill, of New Plymouth, took place, the Rev. E. Wayne Bond performing the ceremony. The bride wore a frock of silk striped crystalline, with veil and orange blossom, and carried a shower bouquet. The bridesmaid, Miss Ethel Churchhouse, wore a white embroidered frock and picture hat. Mr. James Sandford was best man.

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Sentence Sermons.

Character is what we make of life's conditions.
It takes more than good living to make the good life.
It takes a lot of piety to stand up against prosperity.
He is a foe to truth who would try to defend it with error.
The holy life is the one that is healthy all the way through.
No day is long enough to waste any of it in nursing enmity.
The unanswered prayer finds its fruitage in the disciplined heart.
The man who is going to heaven never tries to take up all the road.
Do heaven's business and heavenly beauty will take care of itself.
There's little of the water of life in works on religious hydrostatics.
There's a lot of difference between the tongue of fire and a fiery tongue.
No man is as good as he might be who does not try to be better than he can be.
No man needs our pity more than he who is indifferent to the sorrows of others.
It's always safe to deny the authority of an opportunity that thrusts itself in on a duty.
The steps downward are so many and so small that men seldom recognise the grade.
There's some moral disease present when the sight of another's happiness gives us pain.
It is often worth while to do an apparently fruitless act for the sake of acquiring a helpful habit.
When people are hungry for the living bread it's folly feeding them lectures on agriculture.
Too many of us make the mistake of thinking that the more load we can carry the more life we will live.

BYERS—FUNNELL.

At All Saints' Church, Palmerston North, the marriage of Miss Eleanor Funnell, eldest daughter of the late Mr. T. Funnell, of Cobhitto, New South Wales, to Mr. William Ernest Byers, second son of the late Mr. H. Byers, of Whakaranga, took place. The Rev. G. B. Stephenson officiating. The bride, who was given away by her brother, Mr. J. Funnell, wore an Empire frock of grey silk lustre, with silver trimmings, and a gray hat trimmed with tulle and ostrich feathers. Her bouquet was of white and pink roses. The bridesmaid, Miss Violet Kruse, niece of the bridegroom, wore a cream frock, trimmed with much lace and insertion, and cream hat. Mr. Ernest Byers was the best man.

MCGRATH—WILKINSON.

The pretty seaside suburb of Island Bay was the scene of an important wedding on Wednesday, February 3, between Miss Caroline Margaret Wilkinson and Mr. J. J. McGrath (solicitor, of Wellington). Archdeacon Deyou performed the ceremony at St. Francis' Church, which was crowded with guests. The bride, who is the daughter of Mrs. F. Wilkinson (Island Bay), wore a most becoming gown of ivory satin, made in the semi-directoire style, the sleeves and yoke being of lace and net. The corsage was draped with Honiton point lace, and the veil was of embroidered Brussels net, worn over a wreath of orange blossom. Her only ornament was a pearl and ruby necklace, the bridegroom's gift. Two little train-bearers, Misses Curran and Sullivan, looked picturesque in white frocks, with fringed sashes and Juliet caps. Miss May Wilkinson, chief bridesmaid, was in pale pink souple satin, with lace yoke and sleeves, and a big black hat, wreathed with pink roses. Miss O'Neil was somewhat similarly attired in pale blue, but her hat was swathed with tulle and fur, and finished with a cluster of shaded purple and yellow roses. Each maid received a bouquet of pink sweet peas, and a pearl and chrysoprase brooch from the bridegroom. At the reception which followed, there were over two hundred guests, and many speeches were made.

Mrs. Wilkinson, the bride's mother, wore black souple satin, with a yoke of ivory chiffon, veiled in black, black ostrich feather boa, black and white picture hat; Mrs. McGrath, black brocade, lace yoke, and black picture hat, with yellow roses; Miss McGrath, pink chiffon tulle and pink hat; Mrs. McMennin, ivory orient satin Empire gown and hat, with sweet peas.

The bride's travelling dress was of a directoire coat and skirt in ivory cloth, with facings of moire, and a pale blue picture hat, massed with feathers. The honeymoon is being spent in the North.

POYNTER—LIBEAU.

At St. Stephen's Church, Tamahere, Waikato, recently, Mr. Ernest Poynter, youngest son of Mr. H. U. Poynter, of Whatawhata, was married to Miss Louise Libeau, youngest daughter of Mr. T. Libeau, of Rukuhia. The Rev. E. M. Cowie officiated. The bride looked pretty in a white silk dress with wreath of orange blossoms and veil. Miss Olive Baker and Miss Eileen Libeau, nieces of the bride, attended as bridesmaids. They were attired in white embroidered dresses with blue sashes and carried baskets of blue and white flowers. Mr.

F. Poynter was groomsmen. After the wedding the guests drove to the residence of the bride's parents, where a sumptuous breakfast was partaken of. Subsequently the happy couple left to catch the express for Etorua. The bride's travelling dress was a grey cloth with white silk trimmings, white hat trimmed with white chiffon and feathers.

BROWNNETT—ROWE.

A wedding of considerable local interest (says the Thames "Star") took place at the residence of Mr. W. Rowe, Park-road, Auckland, when Miss Lulu Rowe was married to Mr. W. Brownnett. The bride was most becomingly attired in a white silk dress, tastefully trimmed with Valenciennes lace. A handsome veil was arranged over a coronet of orange blossoms, and in her hand she carried a dainty bouquet. The bridesmaids were Miss Gribble and Miss Cora Gribble, the former's dress being a pale pink mercerised muslin, and the latter's a pale blue mercerised muslin, both being effectively trimmed. Mr. T. Maxted supported the bridegroom and Mr. W. Rowe acted as groomsmen. The Rev. W. R. Tuck, M.A., was the officiating minister. Mr. and Mrs. Brownnett subsequently left for Hamilton, where their honeymoon was spent. The bride's travelling dress was a navy blue cloth costume, white vest, and black hat.

Grim Old Days.

SOME STIRRING REMINISCENCES.

The Hon. G. F. Richardson, who arrived in New Zealand in 1851 and was Minister of Lands in the Atkinson Ministry, told the assembled surveyors at a recent gathering in the Masonic Hall, Wellington, some stirring reminiscences of the days of the Dominion in the early 'fifties.

He recalled how, in 1853, he had set out with a mate to drive a mob of cattle from Otepepo to the mouth of the Mataura, a distance of about two hundred miles. His only companion was an old Maori. Very soon after they started the food supply gave out, and after some difficulty they located an accommodation house. Supplies, however, were very short with the latter. The proprietor, in fact, did not think he could spare them anything, as the steamer which brought him regular supplies had not put in an appearance, and nobody knew when the next consignment was likely to arrive. He, however, rooted round the establishment, and after an exhaustive search, a case of Scotch gingerbread was discovered. With that alone the speaker and the Maori started out on their long and lonely tramp, driving the cattle before them. The morning they started, Mr. Richardson said, they had to breakfast chiefly on porridge, so that by the time the sun approached the meridian he was famished. A halt was called and they made a lunch on gingerbread and veal, and repeated the bill-of-fare for breakfast. In fact, that was the only thing they lived upon for several weeks as they passed through what in those days was largely a wilderness of forest and loneliness. Since that day he had never eaten gingerbread. It had, in fact, been a cause of bringing him under suspicion. He knew an old Scotch lady in the South who had several good-looking daughters, for whom there were a number of suitors. The old lady used

specially to provide a very hot brand of gingerbread at meals and insist on the young gentlemen partaking thereof, as it was her particular belief that a young man who ate her gingerbread would never want to drink whisky. "Needless to say, I was never in favour," added the speaker grimly.

A MYSTERIOUS CRASH.

On another occasion he was once out with a small surveying party in the wilds of the Ngawaka-a-kupe Block, near Martinborough, which was a very lonely and heavily timbered place in those days. One night he and his party had camped on the banks of a stream in the depth of the bush. He was in a tent by himself and just as he got into bed he was startled by a noise like that of falling timber. From the sound of it he had no doubt that it was totara. His mind instantly flashed back to the table, which had been left several yards away, where the week's bread, cooked that night, was piled up. Acting under the impression that some pigs had invaded the camp, from a Maori pa some distance away, he rushed out in his shirt to save the ruin. It was very much to his surprise he found the table and its load intact, whilst there was not a sign of life or movement anywhere. The fire adjoining had not been disturbed. In fact a great silence reigned over the bush. The peculiar thing was that his dog, which slept outside the tent, refused to accompany him down to the table, but remained crouching outside the tent with bristles erect and growling.

Next morning several of his mates asked him if he had heard a noise of falling timber in the night. Two or three evenings after, when the incident was almost forgotten, the same sound was heard at identically the same time. There was a certain dry resonance in the sound that made him positive that it was totara that fell. He immediately rushed out to the edge of the creek in the direction which the sound appeared to emanate from, and called out, "Who is there?" There was no answer. The bush was as silent as the grave. "Do you want any help?" he called again. Not a sound came back. After some hesitation he went to bed. Next morning he put a bridge across the creek with his party, and they scoured the neighbourhood for nearly a day to see if anything could be located. But apparently there was no cause for the mysterious noise.

Several nights after, resumed the speaker after a pause, the number of the party in camp was swelled by the arrival of several surveyors. On the Sunday evening he and one of the surveyors, who had been making some calculations in his tent, went outside for a smoke in the dusk. Mr. Richardson had said nothing to his companion about the disturbance that had taken place. They were chatting softly in the stillness when in the bush across the creek once again the crash of falling timber was heard. He started to his feet in time to see through the trees the loins of a pair of bullocks, followed by the figure of a man faintly outlined in the gloom, disappearing among the trees. His companion, who did not come to his feet so quickly, only saw the figure of a man and the wheels of a timber dray. Then the deep silence of the bush settled down upon them again. Several nights after the same thing was repeated, and although he called out to the driver there was no answer. The whole thing was so uncanny that they were glad to make a

move. Shortly after they dropped across some Maoris, who, after being questioned by the speaker, told him that none of them dared to visit the place after dark. Some weeks previous, a young Maori had been driving a bullock-dray through there with a load of totara posts, when the vehicle capsized and fell on him, crushing him to death. Not one of the party had known of this. "It appears to me, gentlemen," added Mr. Richardson to his enthralled listeners, "I am the only man you have met who has spoken to a spook."

SIZE OF A SPOOK'S FOOT.

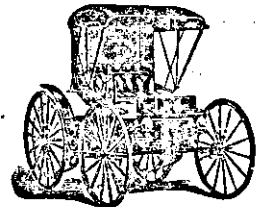
Talking of spooks reminded the speaker of a curious case in which he believed the smallest grant of land that had ever been made by a court of law was awarded to a Maori on the Tararua ranges. It appears that the Maori had claim to a particular spot on the ground that the ghost of his ancestor had been seen standing there. Other Maoris gave evidence in support of the contention. The Court, being satisfied with the evidence, formally awarded the native a title to the particular spot, fixing the area on which the ghost stood as exactly twelve inches square. "That is the first time," said Mr. Richardson, "that I know the size of a ghost's foot has been judicially determined. I know the case to be perfectly true, as I signed the certificate myself authorising the transfer."

The German Crown Prince has invented and patented a new style of cuff links. They have been registered in the Imperial Patent Office under number 44 A.W. 30139.

The invention is described as double cuff links with two looped buttons, and the inventor is stated to be William Crown Prince of Germany and Prussia, Imperial Highness, residing at Potsdam.

Enterprising manufacturers are endeavouring to purchase from the inventor the patent rights, anticipating a great sale among the dandies of all countries. The Kaiser recently invented a new brake.

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The Sorrows of the Sallow.

DRESS AND COMPLEXION.

"She is so hopelessly sallow" says the mother of a sallow daughter irritably, and forthwith she proceeds to dress her girl in drab greys and neutral browns of the saddest tones of beige; and in course of time the child grows to regard herself as hopelessly ugly, and loses all interest in her personal appearance. In course of time, too, she develops into one of the women whose personality can only be described as drab-coloured, and all for want of a little forethought! Now, no woman need regard herself as "hopelessly ugly" solely because she may chance to be possessed of a sallow skin. Putting on one side the fact that in these days of the face specialist no woman need continue sallow unless she chooses, or unless she is one of those rare folk whose sallowness is constitutional (and consequently incurable), let us take into consideration the law of compensation.

Now as a rule the law of compensation generally decrees that sallow-skinned women shall have fine eyes. I do not pretend to explain it, but there it is, and if one counts up the number of sallow-skinned women one knows, it will be found that on an average nine out of ten possess good eyes.

The sartorial duty then of the sallow woman lies clear before her.

She should dress up to her eyes, not, most emphatically, down to her complexion; and so shall her sallowness fall from her as a garment.

Let us see briefly how she can best do this.

To commence with, delicate colours are not for, with the solitary exceptions of warm hues and pale yellows.

There are the usual exceptions to every rule, and if the hair chances to be of the hue most easily described as nondescript, then the case must perforce be altered.

Assuming for the nonce, however, that the hair is of the dark shade of brown verging on black, which so invariably accompanies a sallow complexion, then those tones should be chosen which exercise a distinctly whitening effect upon the skin. Thus, for evening wear, vivid red, or orange, Indian red, tomato red, flame colour, and the gorgeous hue known as flamingo red.

These may, if wished, be relieved with touches of black, but the black must on no account be placed in close proximity to the face; and unless of necessity, black should not be worn except in combination with a colour; the latter, of course, being placed near the face, since just as yellow and orange diminish sallowness, black acts in a contrary direction.

For her outdoor wear the genuinely sallow woman should always fix upon some shade of red, the deeper richer tones chosen in preference to the others. Golden tan and the silvery and steely hues of grey are also a safe choice.

When the hair is fair, or inclining to fairness, matters are rendered extremely difficult, since the choice of a very few colours is all that is open to her.

For evening pale yellow and pale yellow only should be worn.

—Daily Graphic—

A RELIEF.

If I might have his daughter's hand, I asked old Mr. Crockett. He answered: "If you take the one That's always in my pocket."

Society Gossip.

GISBORNE.

Dear Bee, February 8.

AUCKLAND.

Dear Bee, February 8th.

To be even ordinarily comfortable these days you must be in a darkened room, as near the ice chest as possible. The heat is awful, and the most annoying people imaginable are those that will tell you what lovely weather we are having, and how they like the heat. Even the theatre walls to attract me. We went to see "The Thief" the other night and though it was awfully good, we only eat and pined for iced drinks.

Wednesday, the last day of the Takapuna races was a beautifully fine day, and we really did not feel the heat so much over at The Shore—there really was a slight breeze, and perhaps the excitement had something to do with it; some of the finishes were lovely and, for a wonder, there were no bad accidents, though there were two horrid-looking falls. I think these races are getting more popular every year. There was a big crowd over on Wednesday, and amongst them I noticed: Mrs Wilfred Colbeck, daintily gowned in a white inserted muslin, with pale blue coat and a pretty flower wreathed hat; Mrs. Markham wore a white linen coat and skirt, with a Tuscan hat swathed with black tulle and black and white daisies; Mrs. Frank Ross' gown was white inserted muslin with touches of pink, and a Tuscan and pink hat; Mrs. W. Walker was wearing a grey and white striped marquise with white lace vest, and a black and white toque; Miss Nora Walker was prettily frocked in a white embroidered muslin, with Tuscan hat garlanded with shaded roses; Mrs. E. B. Simpson, navy linen costume faced with white, pretty floral hat; Miss Ruby Porch wore a blue and white striped cambie, with a picture hat; Mrs. R. B. Lusk, pretty green and white floral mousseline, with a nattier blue hat; Miss Lusk, white inserted muslin, with Tuscan and black hat; Mrs. Lloyd, dainty muslin gown, with white and blue hat; Miss F. Smith, white cloth skirt, pretty white silk blouse, and a white hat to match; Mrs Herz was becomingly gowned in a white embroidered muslin with chine ribbon ceinture, and a white flower crowned hat; Mrs. Purdy, white costume with Tuscan hat wreathed with tiny roses; Mrs. Collins wore a blue and white checked taffeta toilette with bands of dark blue, and a very large patten green satin hat swathed with black tulle; Mrs. Guinness looked charming in white with a Tuscan and white hat; Mrs. C. Owen was daintily frocked in a white embroidered muslin, with a white and pink flower-wreathed hat; Miss Duder in a pretty white muslin with touches of pink, becoming white and pink hat; Miss Ivy Duder wore a white inserted muslin threaded with black velvet, black and white hat to match; Mrs. Gouch was wearing a graceful blue and white striped gown, with white embroidered gumpie, hat en suite; Mrs. Hartland was gowned in a heliotrope and white floral mousseline with heliotrope ceinture and a pretty lilac crowned toque; Mrs. Sinclair was wearing white, with a Tuscan hat wreathed with shaded roses; Mrs. Hambro wore a green and white striped Directoire coat and skirt piped with green, and a large black hat; Miss Davy, blue and white costume, with small cornflower hat; Mrs. Benjamin wore a dainty white embroidered muslin, with a Tuscan and black hat; Miss Marks was in a pretty white and pale blue figured cambie, with a green hat swathed with tulle; Mrs. Coyle was gowned in a blue and white striped gown with a smart blue toque; Mrs. Pilkington, in a grey and white striped summer-tweed sallow-made, with a Tuscan and yellow hat.

PERSONAL NOTES.

Miss Eva Macky left by the a.s. Victoria on Monday for Sydney, where she will remain for some three months prior to going to Wellington to take up the position of secretary to the Y.W.C.A. Association in that city. The marriage of Miss Elsie Massey

(daughter of the Leader of the Opposition) will probably take place at Mangere in March. She has received from the Opposition a presentation, consisting of a tea-service, a large vase, and an exquisite chateleine bag, all solid silver.

PHYLLIS BROWN.

CAMBRIDGE.

Dear Bee, February 5.

We were all very disappointed that the Welsh Choir did not come to Cambridge, after being advertised to do so, but gave a concert in Hamilton instead. Crowther and Bell ran two brake loads through, and I hear every one thoroughly enjoyed them.

Next week Miss Ada Crossley is to give a concert in Hamilton, and a special train will run if a sufficient number give in their names.

We are all looking forward to the time when our new Town Hall is built, which will not be long now, as they are calling for tenders, and when it is finished we hope the good companies will come here as well as the other Waikato towns.

On Monday evening an orchestral concert was given in the Alexandra Hall, under the management of Mr S. Adams, of Auckland. The hall was not as well filled as could have been wished, but it was much appreciated by those present. On Saturday afternoon the company went up to the Sanatorium, and gave a concert. They were caught in a thunderstorm on the way up, and arrived drenched, but the matron and nurses soon made them comfortable with a change of clothing, and the patients and nurses thoroughly enjoyed the concert. The matron thanked them upon leaving for the pleasure they had given.

On Tuesday evening the same company gave a concert at Te Awamutu, when the hall was crowded.

On Wednesday several members of the Cambridge Tennis Club journeyed to Hamilton to play the Hamilton Club. Our Club were defeated by 8 matches to 5. They found the Hamilton courts very much faster than the local ones. A return match is to be played here on the 13th, when our Club hope to reverse the order of things. The Te Awamutu Club play here on Wednesday next; they were to have come over on the 20th, but the weather was too bad.

A small but enjoyable bridge evening was given by Mrs A. H. Nicoll on Thursday evening for her cousin, Miss Dunne, who is at present staying with her. Mrs Nicoll was wearing a becoming frock of natter blue ninon de soie, made in the semi-Empire style, with square yoke and sleeves of tucked net, the yoke outlined with creme silk embroidered insertion; Miss Dunne, a dainty blouse of white chiffon taffeta, with yoke of tucked white net and ruffled sleeves, and black chiffon taffeta skirt; Mrs (Dr.) Roberts, a lovely frock of white and green striped chiffon taffeta, made in the semi-Empire style, the silk was made on the cross, and finished at hem with a band of reseau velvet, the bodice had a yoke of silk gauze worked in pale green and pink and outlined with gold; Miss Wells, creme voile, trimmed with bretelles of Ceylon lace; Miss Gwyneth, heliotrope chiffon taffeta blouse, with creme vest and bretelles of silk, finished with French knots, black silk skirt. Amongst the men were Dr. Roberts, Dr. Bennett (Devonport), Messrs Wells and Nicoll.

PERSONALS.

Dr. Bennett, of Devonport, is at present staying with Dr. and Mrs Roberts, of Cambridge.

Mrs A. H. Nicoll has returned to Cambridge after a five weeks' visit to Auckland. Her cousin, Miss M. Dunne, returned with her for a short visit.

Mr and Mrs Wells, of "Oakleigh," Cambridge, have gone for a month to Rotorua for a holiday.

Mrs Ross, of Wanganui, is at present visiting her daughter, Mrs W. L. C. Walker, of Cambridge.

Miss Mitchell, of Auckland, is at present visiting Mrs James Hally, of "Valmai," Cambridge.

Miss Ethel Willis, of Papakura, who has been on a visit to Mrs Hammond at the Bank of New Zealand, Cambridge, has returned home.

ELSIE.

The Gisborne Racing Club held their Summer Meeting at the Park Racecourse on Thursday and Friday, when beautiful weather prevailed, and the many recent improvements provided by the club for the comfort of the general public were much appreciated, including the new stewards' stand, which is built on new and up-to-date lines. The attendance of ladies was not perhaps so large as usual, probably due to restriction of so many complimentary tickets to our sex. Amongst those present I noticed: Mrs Sydney Williamson (Ngatapa), wearing a charming gown of pale blue chiffon, prettily trimmed, and large cream straw hat with black ostrich plumes; Mrs John Murphy, cream lace gown made over silk, pale blue hat with trimmings of black net; Mrs John Clark, brown and white halstone voile, with dark brown border, pale green and brown hat; Mrs F. Parker, ash white muslin, with trimmings of cream lace, etc., large burnt straw hat with bows of black ribbon; Mrs Parker, senr. (Napier), black silk, black bonnet; Mrs A. Rees, brown striped silk, biscuit coloured straw hat with pink roses; Miss Donne (England), striking Parisian gown of Wedgwood blue taffeta, made in Empire style, hat of black Panne wreathed in daisies; Mrs Charles Bennet, cream voile, with lace trimmings, embroidered hat to match; Mrs Lusk (Napier), white linen, hat trimmed with bows of heliotrope and green ribbon; Miss Reynolds, white embroidered muslin, black hat with clusters of blue and white daisies; Mrs O. Sainsbury, dark green Shantung silk, made in kimono style, cream Leghorn hat with wreath of crimson and pink roses; Mrs H. M. Porter, white embroidered linen brown hat, and scarf of same shade; Mrs Tomleson, Saxe blue taffeta, with sleeves and yoke of lace, hat of blue straw, with feathers of same shade; Mrs Selmuacher, gown of blue silk, navy hat with blue and crimson roses; Mrs Willock, black and white spotted muslin, heliotrope hat with trimmings of chiffon and flowers; Miss Rosie Rees, fawn muslin, large black hat with wings, etc.; Mrs G. Reynolds, pale grey silk, very pretty burnt straw hat trimmed with tulle and cornflowers; Mrs C. Buecke, blue and white striped costume, with Directoire coat; Mrs H. White and Miss White, "Acton"; Miss Washmaun, pale blue silk, hat to match, with ruching of blue and black lace; Miss Symes, Mrs Gillingham, Saxe blue silk costume, large black hat; Mrs Symes, rose coloured taffeta, small black hat with trimmings of tulle and feathers; Mrs Stevenson, green and pink silk, large white hat trimmed with silk; Mrs Traill, Mrs Bright, Miss Bright, Miss Lewis.

Mrs Carmichael gave a most enjoyable euchre party at her residence one evening last week, to which about 30 young people were invited.

VISIT OF SIR JOSEPH AND LADY WARD.

Sir Joseph and Lady Ward, Miss Ward, Mr. Gladstone Ward, and Master Pat Ward paid a short visit to Gisborne on Saturday last. A special launch conveyed the party ashore from the Manuka, arriving at 10 a.m., where they were

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welcomed by his Worship the Mayor (Mr. W. D. Lyman) and Mrs. Lyman, Mr. and Mrs. F. B. Barker, Messrs. J. Towley, W. D. S. Macdonald, F. Hall, and others. Afterwards, Lady Ward and some of the party were taken out for a drive in motor cars (lent by Messrs. Hall and F. Barker) to Te Arai to visit the Maori Church and settlement. On returning to town they were entertained to morning tea, etc., by the Mayoress (Mrs. Lyman), who also invited a few friends to meet her guests. They subsequently rejoined Sir Joseph at the wharf, and left at 10 o'clock for Auckland, en route for Rotorna.

The new Anglican Church at Te Karaka was consecrated on Sunday morning by the Ven. Archdeacon Williams, on behalf of the Bishop of Waipapa, assisted by the Rev. M. W. Butterfield, principal of Waerenga-a-hika Native College, and the Rev. W. H. Roberts. The church, which seats 120 people, was crowded, and the choir gave special music, whilst Miss Brousefield ably presided at the organ.

The new additions to St. Mary's Roman Catholic school were opened by the Very Rev. Dean Gillan, of Auckland, on Sunday morning. His Worship the Mayor (Mr. Lyman) was also present, and made an appropriate speech, congratulating the authorities and those interested on the results of their efforts.

At the regatta held in George Sound by the passengers of the Waikare, great interest was taken in the ladies' race, for which five crews entered, the winning crew being comprised of four New Zealand girls, including Miss A. de Lantour and Miss Chrisp, of Gisborne.

PERSONAL ITEMS.

Mr., Mrs., and Miss Waschmann, who have been visiting Napier for a few days, returned by the Waikare on Wednesday morning. Mrs. Ken. Williams (Tokomaru) is staying with Mrs. Williams, sen., Russell-street. Mrs. Margoliouth returned from her trip to Napier by the Manuka on Saturday, accompanied by Miss Margoliouth, who intends spending a few weeks in Gisborne. Mr. Gibbs, inspector of the Bank of New Zealand, is on a visit to Gisborne. Mr. and Mrs. George Reynolds were in town for a few days last week.

ELSA.

HASTINGS.

Dear Bee, Feb. 5, 1909.

The weather of late has been beautifully fine, altogether, the summer has been very pleasant, as the heat has not been so continuous as in former years. Tennis, croquet, and bowling, cricket, and polo, have each had their clubs well supported. The tennis courts are looking well, and present quite a gay scene with the various coloured frocks of the ladies, and the white suits of the gentlemen flitting about the green award. Afternoon tea is frequently dispensed at the different recreation grounds, and much appreciated by the players and visitors.

The end of season's sales now warn us of the approach of winter. The shops are busy, and bargain-hunters are abroad from nine in the morning till the closing hour.

A LADIES' READING-ROOM.

has been added to our Carnegie Library; it is quite a large, airy room on the upper floor, with a goodly number of tables arranged about the room, scattered with all the up-to-date, readable matter, weekly papers, from the "Weekly Graphic" down to our local "Bulletin" magazines, fashion journals, etc., etc. There are comfortable chairs upholstered in dark green leather, and the walls are fitted with book shelves, containing books of useful and interesting information. The ladies, especially those who drive in for a day's shopping, find this a very useful and pleasant retreat. Mrs. Price (the librarian) is at all times most genial and obliging, and is to be complimented upon the excellent management and order prevailing throughout the institution.

THE NGATURI TEA ROOMS.

are immediately opposite the library, and have been enlarged and fitted most tastefully with soft tones of green, which is very pleasant and cooling to the eyes,

after the glaring white streets. Refreshing also are the fragrant cups of tea and the delicious cakes with which Mrs Heolop always supplies her tables.

LADY RUSSELL'S "AT-HOME" AT FLAXMERE.

on Wednesday was very enjoyable. Shortly before 3 o'clock the Omaha-road seemed to be one cloud of dust, with the sweeping of motor-cars and carriages on their way to "Flaxmere," the beautiful residence of Sir Wm. and Lady Russell. The long drive was lined with motor-cars and carriages.

"Flaxmere" was resplendent in all its summer loveliness, the magnolias being particularly noticeable along the drive; the tennis court was much in evidence. It is most picturesque. In one of the sequestered corners of the beautiful grounds, and surrounded by the roan trees in full bearing, was a unique gipsy tent, where the fortunes of those desirous of peeping into the future, were told, creating great fun. Afternoon tea was served at small tables arranged under the shelter of the trees, and further over another table dispensed delicious fruit salads and other dainties, including claret cup. Comfortable chairs were grouped "tete-a-tete" fashion about the lawns and shrubberies. From a shrubbery at a short distance issued the delightful strains of a band in attendance. Altogether, the arrangements were perfect, and, with a sapphire blue sky and the coolest of summer breezes, and so many good things bestowed upon them, the guests all voted the afternoon's enjoyment as quite one of the nicest social functions of the season.

Sir Wm. and Lady Russell received their guests on the lawn. Lady Russell looked charming in a black silk dress, drapings of handsome black silk lace, very smart bonnet, trimmed with black and white silk, long white ospreys; Miss Russell, white muslin dress, very pretty violet hat; Miss Majorie Russell, navy blue and white striped muslin, trimmed with bands of navy blue silk, lace yoke, coral ornaments and straw hat, navy trimmings; Mrs (Dr) Nairn, black silk spotted muslin dress, very pretty pink floral toque; Mrs (Colonel) Fox, navy blue and white striped silk dress, beautiful large hat of black, large white ostrich plumes; Mrs. Guy Russell, heliotrope floral muslin, heliotrope silk belt, hat trimmed with heliotrope; Miss Williams looked exceedingly well in a handsome black silk dress, cream net yoke, smart black hat; Mrs. G. W. Stead, lovely dress of brown silk net over white silk, brown silk trimmings, fancy straw hat with large tea roses; Miss Bawcett, dress of heliotrope muslin, hat trimmed with large roses; Miss Austin looked pretty in white muslin dress, hat with violet and long drooping white ostrich feathers, pink neck ruffle; Mrs. McLean (Maraekakaho), champagne-coloured embroidered muslin over pink, hat to match; Miss McLean looked sweetly pretty in a spotted silk, Empire sash of pink and floral silk, hat of sage blue straw, and feathers; Mrs. Williams (Havelock) wore a smart gown of white striped muslin, handsomely trimmed, black and white toque; Miss Williams (Havelock), white frock, Merry Widow black hat with roses; Miss Nelson, white embroidered muslin, and smart hat; Miss Hodge, champagne coloured costume, hat en suite; Mrs. Charlie Scott looked very handsome in a stylish black chiffon taffeta, richly trimmed with lace, and a charming hat with long black plumes, pretty pale blue chiffon sunshade; Mrs. Tuke (Napier) wore a black costume, black hat with pink touches; Mrs. (Dr.) Henley (Napier), green striped silk union trimmed with pink silk Oriental insertion and lace, black plumed hat; Miss Large (Napier), wore a stylish gown of pale green embroidered silk, very pretty toque to match; Miss Evans, pretty embroidered white muslin dress, Merry Widow hat of black chip and tulle, lined with shrimp pink, pink sunshade; Miss and Miss A. Wellwood both wore smart costumes; Miss Wellwood, striped biscuit coloured coat and skirt, cream hat, brightened with touches of wallflower brown; Miss A. Wellwood, dainty pale blue Shangtung silk, and a lovely black hat; Mrs. Wellwood looked handsome in rich black silk; Mrs. Kayle, cream costume, pale blue toque; Mrs. T. H. Lowry, black and white striped muslin, picture hat; Mrs. Jack Faulkner, powder blue faced cloth costume, cream net and insertion trimmings, black hat; Miss Harding, cream spotted voile, hat with brown trimmings; Miss — Harding, pink frock, hat to match; Miss Parker, pink costume, smart hat.

PERSONAL ITEMS.

Mrs. (Dr.) Tosswell, who is a very enthusiastic horticulturist, was fortunate in securing several prizes at the Wellington Flower Show the other week. Mrs. Tosswell's garden is at present a perfect blaze of colour, and her passion fruit promises exceeding well.

Colonel and Mrs. Goring intend building on Omahu-road, and at present they have taken a small cottage adjoining the site chosen.

Mr. Mackersey has added a motor launch to the numerous pleasure facilities his family already possess, and as they are all camping at the Grange this summer they have ample scope to enjoy this adjunct to the full.

Mrs. Jack Beamish's alterations to her house are completed; and it looks most artistic. The house is much admired, and the blending of the many-coloured paints give a rich effect. Mrs. Beamish entertains her friends at croquet during the summer months, and we always look forward to the afternoons spent in her genial and charming company.

SHEBA.

NEW PLYMOUTH.

Dear Bee, February 6.

On Thursday last the Choir of St. Mary's gave a very enjoyable

GARDEN PARTY

in aid of the church funds, Mr. Sole kindly lending for the use of the public his lovely grounds, "Aotea." The weather was all that could be desired, but on account of counter attraction not so many people were there as might have been expected. The choir provided a delicious afternoon tea for the visitors. Amongst those present were: Mrs Collins, brown and white striped frock, green hat; Mrs Ivan Standish (nee T. Wordsworth) looked sweet in white tucked muslin, Tuscan straw hat; Miss E. Standish, blue linen, white insertion yoke, white and black hat; Mrs Oswin, pale blue muslin, trimmed insertion, pretty black hat with feathers; Miss B. Webster, white muslin, heliotrope belt and heliotrope hat; Miss C. Bayly, white embroidered muslin, white hat edged with green; Mrs C. A. Jones, dark blue silk, brown hat; Miss Deacon, cream frock, hat trimmed cerise ribbon; Miss Crawford, Miss Chong; Miss Ruby Skinner, green colienne, black hat, rose coloured crown; Miss Skinner, white muslin, white hat with large black and white rosette; Mrs Skinner, sage green silk, cream lace yoke, black hat; Mrs Standish, heliotrope muslin, black hat; Mrs Walter Bayly; Miss B. Evans, white muslin, hat trimmed with green; Miss F. Evans, pink floral muslin frock, hat trimmed pink roses; Mrs Taylor, black; Miss Bayly, green chiffon taffetas, hat trimmed with brown and blue roses; Mrs Bayly, black silk relieved with white; Miss M. Blunell, pink, white muslin hat; Miss Cole looked charming in a dainty white muslin, white chip straw hat, muslin ruche edged with lace; Mrs Cole, grey, with black facing, black hat; Mrs C. Weston, white embroidered muslin, black hat; Miss W. George; Miss Muir, champagne coloured frock, black hat with feather; Miss Matthews, white muslin; Miss Devenish; Miss Baker, pale blue silk, white hat, pink roses; Miss K. Saxton, heliotrope, muslin hat with brown roses; Miss Hempton, grey, black hat; Mrs Newman, black and white muslin, black hat; Mrs Webster, black silk; Mrs Watson, Mrs Pope, Mrs Evans, Mrs Messenger, and others.

On Friday

AN "AT HOME"

was given by Mrs R. Cook in honour of her daughter, Mrs A. Williams, who is at present her guest, at her beautiful residence, "Overdale." The grounds looked perfect with all the flowers out, and the orchard most enticing. The guessing competition (animal description) was won by Mrs Penn, who received a silver purse; Mrs Sam Teed being second, was presented with a pretty china ornament. Mrs Cook received her guests in a handsome black chiffon taffetas, black lace trimming, tiny white front; Mrs Williams, pale green and white striped muslin of lettuce green glaze, semi-Empire style, trimmed cream lace and net; Miss Snowball, white muslin, green belt; Mrs Hall, green silk, cream lace, green hat to match; Miss Hall, dark green linen pinaflore dress, white hat; Miss Young, black silk, black hat; Mrs Quilliam, brown chiffon taffetas, black hat; Mrs Collier, black corded silk, pretty black bonnet; Mrs Fraser, floral muslin, hat to match; Mrs Kelly,

black and white trimmed guipure lace and black bonnet; Miss Fenton, white muslin; Mrs Snackenbungh looked well in Empire green silk, green hat to match; Miss D. McAllum, pretty green muslin, long cream coat, white hat; Mrs Penn, heliotrope muslin, hat to match; Miss Penn, green and white Empire frock; Mrs Bannister, white embroidered frock, green belt and hat; Mrs B. Teed, pale pink floral Empire gown, green hat, large roses; Mrs Chamey, cream, cream hat; Mrs F. Foote, black and cerise silk frock, black hat; Mrs Syd. Rennell, pale heliotrope delaine, Empire frock, white hat; Miss Kirk, white embroidered muslin, black hat; Miss Kennell, blue and white striped dress, white hat, pink roses; Miss Rodd, cream cloth dress, cream hat; Mrs P. Webster, white embroidered muslin, black hat with feathers, black sash; Mrs Blyth, black silk, trimmed white lace, black hat; Miss Deal, pretty white muslin, white hat; Miss E. Comry, white embroidered muslin, heliotrope sash, and heliotrope in hat; Mrs A. D. Gray, lovely heliotrope frock, pretty hat to match, shaded green feather; Miss Faulkner, white muslin; Mrs V. Beat, pale blue muslin, white hat; Miss Quilliam, pale blue silk, cream hat; Miss Avery, pink dress, brown hat, pink ruche; Miss G. Avery, green silk, cream hat; Mrs Doyle, cream dress, hat to correspond; Mrs G. Cottier, green floral muslin, black hat; Mrs D. Cottier, luscious silk, pretty cream hat; Mrs Hanna, black silk, black hat; Miss Hanna, green linen, trimmed cream lace, white hat; Miss I. Hanna, dark blue muslin, burnt straw hat; Miss Goldwater, white glaze silk, pretty blue hat; Mrs Kelsbell, Tussock silk, long cream coat, white hat; Mrs Tille, navy blue silk, green bonnet; Miss Tribe, white muslin, pink belt, hat with pink roses; Mrs Bedford, plum coloured silk, pretty cream and pink bonnet; Mrs C. Webster, cream cloth, cream Leghorn hat; Miss A. Cunningham, dove grey, black and white hat; Mrs Day, brown, trimmed cream lace, hat to match; Mrs R. Colson, cream dress, black hat; Mrs Hood (Palmerston), black and cream lace dress, hat to match; Mrs Esph (Auckland), cream, white hat with roses; Mrs Ewing, cream Tussock, cream hat; Mrs Mills, black and white silk, black hat; Mrs Collins, grey silk, black hat; Mrs J. Avery, black silk, black bonnet; Mrs G. Grey, white frock, white hat with roses; Mrs C. White, black and white silk, black hat with feathers; Mrs G. White, cream, hat to match. The drawing-room was decorated with white flowers and blue, while on the dining-room table was a lovely large horn of white and yellow flowers, and a small bowl of flowers of the same colour.

TENNIS.

An interesting match was played at New Plymouth on Thursday against the Stratford Club, the local club defeating the visitors by 212 games to 83. The visitors were entertained at luncheon at the Kia Ora Rooms, and at afternoon tea by the club. The players representing Stratford were: Mrs Robinson, Mrs Paget, Mrs Raikes, Miss Gynes, Miss Grant, Messrs. Fussell, Mackay, Young, Anderson, J. H. Thompson, and V. Crawshaw; the New Plymouth team being: Miss Simpson, Miss L. Thomson, Miss Brewster, Miss D. Simpson, Mrs Norman Balthary, Messrs. Nicholson, S. I. Smith, E. W. Griffiths, N. Balthary, Weir, and Dr. Fookes.

PERSONAL ITEMS.

Mr W. Kerr, President of the Taranaki District Law Society, who left New Plymouth on Saturday for his new appointment as S.M. at Wanganui, was presented by the members with a handsome silver salver as a memento of their kind regards and esteem. Subsequently he was entertained by the members of the Taranaki Club. Miss B. Evans, who has been visiting Wellington, has now returned to New Plymouth. Dr. Buckley has returned to New Plymouth after a pleasant holiday in Hastings and Napier. Mrs Rankin, of Wanganui, is visiting her mother, Mrs Cottier, in New Plymouth. Dr. and Mrs Christie, who have been paying a short visit to New Plymouth, left last week for their home in Wanganui. Mrs Kelsbell, who has been on a long holiday to Nelson, has now returned to New Plymouth. Miss Alice Brewster, of New Plymouth, is the guest of Mrs Stewart, of Normanby. NANCY LEE.

BLENHEIM.

Dear Bee, February 4.
Mrs C. J. Griffiths and Miss Belle Griffiths entertained a large number of guests by means of a

GARDEN PARTY

at their residence, "The Barton," on Wednesday afternoon, when a very happy time was spent in playing croquet and strolling round the sheltered prettily-laid-out garden surrounding the home-stead. A very dainty afternoon tea was dispensed during the afternoon. Mrs. Griffiths received her guests in a pale grey voile relieved with white, and a black hat; and Miss Griffiths looked very charming in a white embroidered linen dress, and large hat with black trimmings. Others present were: Mrs. L. Griffiths, cream serge costume, hat with roses; Mrs. Waddy, white linen, hat with roses; Mrs. McCallum, stylish black and white spotted muslin, embroidered with pink, black hat with ostrich feather tips; Mrs. Adams, heliotrope muslin, hat to match; Mrs. Horton, black costume, black and white hat; Mrs. Scott-Smith, grey figured muslin, relieved with black velvet, and black hat; Mrs. J. Mowat, blue figured muslin, hat with blue; Mrs. Neville, grey bengaline relieved with cream; Mrs. R. Bell, white men costume, brown hat; Mrs. W. Bell, black costume; Mrs. Bennett, cream striped voile, made Empire style, white hat with cerise geraniums; Miss Lucas (Christchurch), brown checked voile, brown hat with roses; Miss Anderson, white linen, brown hat; Miss Clouston, cream delaine, black hat; Miss Goulter, navy blue costume, hat to match; Miss Rogers, cream serge, pale blue hat; Miss Neville, cream voile, and hat with wreath of roses; Miss R. Horton, grey striped cloth costume, relieved with white and brown hat; Miss Bell, white embroidered muslin, white hat with ostrich feathers.

DANCE.

A small dance was held in the Orange Hall on Thursday evening, given jointly in honour of Miss Griffiths and Mr. K. Moore, the former being about to take a trip home to England with her parents, while the latter has recently left the staff of the local branch of the Bank of New Zealand, and is joining his brother at Waipapa, where he will take up station life. Dancing commenced at 8.30 p.m. Some of those present were: Mrs. Griffiths, Mrs. Waddy, Mrs. Adams, Mrs. Walker, Mrs. L. Griffiths, and Mrs. Hulme, Misses Griffiths, Horton (2), Maclaine, Harley, Neville, Clouston (2), Lucas (Christchurch), and Curry, Messrs K. Moore, Griffiths (2), Hodson, Churchward, A. Adams, White (2), Scott-Smith, McShane, and Drs. Bennett and Adams.

AFTERNOON TEA.

On Wednesday afternoon Miss MacLaine entertained a number of friends at "York Terrace" in honour of their guest, Mrs. Reid (Wellington) by means of an afternoon tea. During the afternoon tennis and ping pong were played, and consequently a happy time was spent. Some of those present were: Mesdames Reid (Wellington), Duckworth, Horton, MacLaine, Hulme, Walker, McCollum, J. Mowat, Puffine (Auckland), Misses J. Horton, R. Horton, Horne, Harley, Rogers, Puffine (Auckland), Griffiths, and Lucas (Christchurch), Messrs White (4), Lucas, etc.

PERSONAL ITEMS.

Miss R. McEae (Nelson) is the guest of Mrs. J. Mowat at "Springlands."
Mr and Mrs. D. Strachan are visiting friends in Wellington and Nelson.
Mr A. J. Cooper and Master Arnold Mills (Wellington) are the guests of Mrs. S. Neville, "Fairview."
Miss Old (Wellington) is the guest of Mrs. R. Bell, "Riverlands."
Miss Ita Willis is staying with Mrs. K. Mowat, at Fairhall.
Mr S. O. Battersby has left for Dunedin. Before taking his departure he was presented by the staff of the local branch of DeLacy & Co. with a handsome rug, he having been a member of that firm here for the past few months, during which time he made himself very popular.

JEAN.

PALMERSTON NORTH

Dear Bee, February 5.
The Cherniavskis, the Russian instrumentalists, gave concerts at the Opera House on Friday and Saturday of last week. Seldom do you find an opinion universal, but all agree these musicians are wonders. Their Excellencies Lord and Lady Plunket, accompanied by Mr. and Mrs. Waterfield, Miss Hill and Mr. Joyce, occupied the vice-regal box. Others included in the audience were Mr. and Mrs. Davis, Mr. and Mrs. Gunter, Dr. and Miss O'Brien, Mr. and Mrs. A. D. Thompson, Miss Wilson, Mr. and Mrs. Sommerville-Brown, Mr. and Mrs. J. Pascal, Mr. Harman, Mr. A. Barrard, Mr. and Mrs. Bagnall, Mr. and Mrs. Rogers, the Misses Park, Mrs. Martin, Mr. and Mrs. Seifert.

POLO.

On last Wednesday a polo match was played on the Hokowhitu grounds between teams representing Rangitikei and Manawatu. A number of ladies were present and took keen interest in the game. Mrs. R. S. Abraham and the Misses Abraham, Mrs. Alan Strang, Mrs. W. Strang, Mrs. Gifford Moore, Mrs. R. Levin, the Misses Wilson (Rangitikei), Mrs. F. Pratt, Mrs. H. N. Watson, Mr. and Miss O'Brien, Miss Snow, Miss T. Russell, Mrs. L. A. Abraham, Miss Monro, and others, were looking on.

TENNIS.

The weather has been glorious lately, and tennis is reviving. The tournament, which was to have been finished before Christmas, has nearly reached its weary end, only the finals in the men's doubles and combined doubles are now to be played. On Saturday, I hear, we are to be visited by a team from Feilding, six men and two ladies. Perhaps I will have more to tell you next week. Mrs. W. L. Fitzherbert, Mrs. F. S. McCrae, Mrs. Adams, Mrs. A. D. Thompson, Mrs. Pickett, Miss Lord, Miss Warburton, Miss Porter, Miss Waldegrave and a few others, have been practising during the last few days.

PERSONAL NOTES.

Mr and Mrs C. Smith and family, Bank of New Zealand, have gone to the seaside at Foxton for a month. Also Mrs. W. Harden and her two little daughters, and Mrs. Fuller and her children.
Mrs Warburton and Miss F. Waldegrave have returned from a short trip to Wellington.
Miss F. Randolph is back from Napier.
Mrs Oliver, Wangaiti, is visiting her daughter, Mrs. F. McPherson.
Mrs Barnicoat and family, Union Bank, have returned from a three weeks' stay in Napier.
Mrs J. P. Innes is back from Wangaiti.

VIOLET.

WELLINGTON.

Dear Bee, February 5.

Thursday was extremely hot, but it did not prevent all the guests from enjoying

THE RECEPTION AT MRS. WILLIAMS.

It is long since the hospitable house has been opened for entertaining, and there was a great gathering of relations and friends—Mr. and Mrs. Guy Williams, and Mr. and Mrs. Q. Williams came from the Wairarapa, the Misses Russell (Mrs. Williams' granddaughters) from Palmerston North. Miss Una Williams' friends were pleased with the opportunity of meeting her fiancé, Mr. Hoare, who has just come out from England, and with her he goes back directly after the wedding. Mr. Hoare has a delightful baritone voice, his singing of several songs, notably "Mull-samde," was enjoyed by everyone. It is only a week since Miss Maud Williams returned from her long absence in Europe, so she was soon surrounded by people glad to see her again, and to hear how her work was progressing. It is pleasant to learn that after Miss Eila Williams' marriage she will be living in Wellington for a while, as Mr. Reed's duties as M.P. for the Bay of Islands will bring him to the capital for the session. It was a great occasion for the display of beautiful dresses, and many

well-known people who had just returned from Home were present, so their toilettes were regarded with much interest. Of course the clinging Princess or semi Directoire gowns prevailed, particularly charming examples being worn by the Misses Harcourt and Miss Brandon, while the beautiful Venetian rose point lace on Mrs. W. Barton's ivory satin was the envy of every woman present. A Directoire gown of intense peacock blue souple satin with heavy guimps was worn by a girl who has not been long back from England. Mrs. Williams wore a very handsome dress of amethyst

chiffon velvet draped with beautiful old Brussels lace, her ornaments being pearls and amethysts; Miss Maud Williams was wearing a draped Princess dress of a vivid hue of red, the long mitten sleeves being of lace dyed the same shade; Miss Una Williams had a very graceful gown of diaphanous black over white chiffon, a cluster of Malmaison carnations being tucked into the delicate lace which gowned the rest and sleeves, she wore her fiancé's gift of an exquisite pearl and diamond necklace, an upstanding ornament of the same jewels in her hair; Miss Eila Williams was in pastel

Preliminary Announcement



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blue charronise finished with lace; Mrs. Guy Williams (Masterton), "dead roses" chiffon velvet, the corsage draped with lace; Mrs. H. Williams (Masterton), black chiffon velvet with sleeves of Alencon lace; Mrs. Algar Williams, pale green ninon de soie, the sleeves of frilled Valenciennes in a delicate biscuit colour; Miss Russell (Palmerston), pale pink Liberty satin lace; Miss I. Russell, pale blue full with an oversleeve of amethyst chiffon and garlands of violets; Miss Ella Vallance (Masterton), pale pink chiffon taffetas, made in the Empire style and finished with lace; Lady Stout, grey brocade with sleeves of ivory guipure and chiffon; Mrs. Turbull, mist blue Liberty satin, made in the Directoire style, the skirt opening over a panel of lace, steel embroideries defined the corsage which was softened with lace; Mrs. Johnston, black and white striped satin, lace draperies touched with jet; Mrs. U. Johnston, flame coloured satin with heavy embroideries in sequins; Mrs. Rolleston, grey souple satin, the skirt draperies being caught up by a velvet rosette centred with a diamond button; Miss Johnston, ivory satin Directoire gown with a draped scarf of pale blue crepe de chine, diamond ornaments; Mrs. W. Barton (Waipara), ivory satin Princess gown with bertha bouffes, and sleeves of Italian rose-point; she wore a wreath of pearl roses in her hair; Mrs. Wilford, gold tissue veiled in changeant chiffon, and nished with gold roses; Mrs. W. Moorhouse, white chiffon exquisitely embroidered in ribbon work, with a design of pink roses; Mrs. Fitzgerald, ivory satin with skirt panel and bretelles of silk fillet heavily embroidered in gold, black chenille; Mrs. Martin, palest pink crepe de chine and lace; Mrs. Brandon, oyster brocade and lace; Miss F. Brandon, ivory satin Empire costume, the corsage encrusted with gold and pearls and finished with a deep graduated gold fringe, a gold Empire fillet in her hair; Miss Nora Brandon, who is our latest debutante, had a charming frock of white mousseline de soie made with a becoming simplicity, and finished with touches of white satin; Mrs. Colveridge, lace robe with Empire belt of palest blue velvet; Miss Coates, black chiffon taffetas, the skirt bordered with silver embroideries; Mrs. A. Crawford, floral chiffon taffetas striped with black; Miss E. Fell, pale yellow brocade with chiffon frills; Mrs. Dymock, white chiffon with an oversleeve of black embroidered net; Mrs. Newman, white and grey striped ninon with a bayalero effect, guimpe sleeves of delicate lace touched with silver; Miss Harcourt, ivory souple satin embroidered in silver; Miss G. Harcourt, ivory charronise, the corsage having a wide band of gold Grecian embroidery, which also bordered the tunic skirt; Miss Holmes, black Chantilly lace over chiffon; Miss Richmond, black chiffon satin and fichu of lace; Miss E. Richmond, green velvet sleeves of net; Mrs. Findlay, grey satin with bertha of lace; Mrs. V. Riddiford, ivory satin Empire gown, draped with lace; Mrs. C. Crawford, sky blue souple satin; Mrs. Duncun, grey satin, the lace fichu caught up with a knot of black velvet; Mrs. Tweed, white chiffon with a striped over dress of lace and narrow black velvet; Miss Tweed, ivory satin with touches of gold; Miss Medley, white lace robe, with rouleaux of pale blue velvet; Mrs. W. Johnson, ivory satin, the seams inset with gold embroidered lace, which also composed the pretty draped sleeves; Miss Reid, white souple satin Empire costume, the corsage draped with delicately tinted embroideries; Mrs. Bell, black chiffon taffetas with hanging sleeves of lace; Miss Bell, pale pink chiffon with revers of painted silk; Miss V. Bell, white chiffon glace and lace; Mrs. J. Tripe, black lace and net; Mrs. K. Duncun, white silk and silver sequins; Mrs. Hacon, grey brocade with bands of black jet; Mrs. Field, amethyst chiffon taffetas draped with beautiful lace, pearl and amethyst ornaments; Mrs. Haddfield, ivory satin, the skirt cut short in front to disclose brocade underskirt; Miss Seddon, black souple satin and lace; Miss Barron, esprit net with rouleaux of black velvet ribbon; Miss Ashcroft, pale grey crepe de chine with a fillet of white chiffon; Miss Fitzgerald, pale pink crystal-line and lace; Miss Fraser, peacock blue satin.

Also among the guests were Miss Mildred Fell and Mr. Dillon, whose wedding and departure for England took place the next day.

PERSONAL ITEMS.

Miss Coates has returned from her trip to Auckland.

Dr. and Mrs. Fitchett, who have been away in Auckland, are back and staying at Day's Bay.

Miss Mouro (Palmerston), has been here for a few days, having come to be bridesmaid at the marriage of her cousin, Mr. Dillon, to Miss Fell. The ceremony was extremely quiet, and the only other bridesmaid was Miss Erica Fell.

During the autumn their Excellencies the Governor and Lady Plunket are thinking of taking a trip to the Cook Islands, and Radford.

Miss Gidford, of Auckland, is at present in Masterton. She is the guest of her cousin, Mrs. H. T. Wood.

Mrs. R. J. Collins and Miss Evelyn Collins accompanied Colonel Collins on his trip to Rotorua, Te Aroha, and Auckland.

Mrs. and Miss Monteith (West Coast) are in Wellington at present, and staying at the Royal Oak.

OPIHELIA.

CHRISTCHURCH.

Dear Bee,

February 5.

There are few social events taking place in Christchurch; at present everyone has been occupied in various ways with obtaining funds for the children's ward of the Hospital.

A GARDEN FETE

organised by the Hospital Lady Visitors' Association, was held on Tuesday afternoon in the Hospital grounds; it was a most enjoyable and successful affair; no more suitable spot could have been chosen; the gardens were looking their best. The stall holders were—Doll Stall: Mrs. Heaton Rhodes and Mrs. Arthur H. Turbull; Sweets Stall: Mrs. Boyle and Mrs. A. E. G. Rhodes; Flower Stall: Mrs. Wardrop; Refreshment Stall: Miss Turner (secretary), Mrs. Neave and Mrs. William Irving. The Garrison Band was in attendance and played at intervals. A large number of people were present, and the promoters expect to be able to present fully £100 towards the building of the Children's Ward. Amongst the many patrons present were—Mr. and Mrs. G. Rhodes, Mr. and Mrs. J. Cracroft Wilson, Mr. and Mrs. Alister Clark, Mrs. Moreland, Mrs. Gower-Burns, Miss Burns, Mrs. and Misses Payne, Mrs. and Miss Campbell, Mrs. Vernon, Dr. and Miss Nedwill, Dr. and Mrs. Irving, Mrs. L. Harley, Mrs. G. Helmore, Mrs. and Miss Olivier, Mrs. Blunt, Mrs. and Miss Moineaux, Mrs. H. Cotterill, Mrs. and Misses Hanner, Mrs. W. Day, Mrs. and Miss Bowden.

On behalf of the same object

A CONCERT

was given on Wednesday evening in the Choral Hall, under the patronage of Lord and Lady Plunket. The soloists, Mrs. Gower-Burns, Mrs. Pidgeon, Miss Allison, Miss Arrowsmith, Colonel Day, and Mr. March, were all enthusiastically applauded and encored. Part songs were sung by the Liedertafel quartet. The Empson played a pianoforte solo. The "Vignoles" gave instrumental items. Dr. Leslie Crooke and Miss March were the accompanists. The programme was an excellent one, and, apart from the object for which the concert was given, well merited the liberal patronage bestowed. Some of those present were—The Bishop of Christchurch and Mrs. Julius, Mrs. Denniston, Professor Cook, Mrs. Cook, Mrs. Andrew Anderson, Miss Anderson, Mrs. and Miss Wilking, Dr. and Mrs. Westera, Dr. and Mrs. Finch, Mrs. Neave, Mrs. G. Harper, Dr.

and Mrs. Crook, Mrs. and Miss Mollinoux, Mrs. Symes, Mr. and Mrs. Wood, the Misses Wood, and Miss Cholmondeley.

On Thursday next

A BENEFIT MATINEE

will be given in His Majesty's Theatre by the members of Mr. J. C. Williamson's Comedy Company, also for the purpose of raising funds for the Children's Ward. Several of the young ladies of the company intend during the next four days to station themselves in various parts of the city to sell tickets. It is to be hoped that this generous effort of our professional visitors will meet with every encouragement and success and be liberally supported by the public.

AN AT HOME

was held by Mrs. W. H. Triggs on Thursday afternoon at her residence, St. James-street, Avonside, in honour of her niece, Miss Mona Dombell (Wellington). Miss H. Anthony played pianoforte solos and accompaniments. Miss M. Anthony, Miss Craddock, and Mr. J. S. Triggs sang several songs. Afternoon tea was served on the verandah and in the garden, and afterwards an amusing competition was held. Prizes were given for the best twelve word telegraphic message. The winners being Miss A. Craddock, and Mr. Redhead. Amongst the guests were—Miss Evans, Miss Macdonald Brown, Miss Guthrie, Miss Arrowsmith and Miss Eckford, Messrs. Edwards, Redhead, Jennings, Wilcox, Dawn, Fraser, and Greenwood.

AT THE THEATRE ROYAL

the Williamson Musical Comedy Company have been producing "The Red Mill," which to-night will be replaced by

A PICNIC PARTY

was given by Mrs. C. Reid (Riccarton) on Saturday afternoon at "Moon Hay," Cashmere Hills. Amongst the guests were: Mr. and Mrs. G. Helmore and children, Mr. and Mrs. C. Dalgety and children, Mrs. Payne and children, Mrs. Boyle, Mrs. T. Cowlishaw and child, Margery and Barbara Thomas, Miss Joan Lee, and Miss Symes.

THE SUMMER MEETING AT RICHMOND RACECOURSE.

There were some pretty dresses for the first day's races on February 4. Mrs. Boyle, silver grey ninon, with trimmings of satin of same shade, black picture hat; Miss Boyle, cherry coloured chiffon over white, with lace insertions, black and white hat; Mrs. Alister Clark, cream ninon, relieved with cream satin and lace, large black picture hat; Mrs. A. Rhodes, shell pink cloth costume, large hat trimmed with pink; Mrs. Heaton Rhodes, cream radium, with Empire coat of cream lace, black hat; Mrs. C. Dalgety, pink and white floral chiffon, trimmed with hands of pink satin, black hat with ostrich feathers; Mrs. C. Reid, white voile, white hat; Mrs. T. Cowlishaw, white embroidered muslin, viciu rose Empire sash, pink hat; Mrs. Lee, blue and white striped muslin, dark blue hat; Mrs. R. Allen, deep rose eolienne Empire frock, black hat; Miss Ogley, white muslin, white and pink hat; Miss Lee, white muslin, picture hat of white; Mrs. G. Rhodes, grey silk costume, hat with grey ostrich feathers; Mrs. W. Moore, dark blue taffetas, hat to match; Misses Moore, white muslin frocks, floral hats; Mrs. G. Ronalds, mauve ninon Empire gown, large tasean hat; Mrs. J. D. Hall, cream voile, large black hat; Mrs. Kettle, saxe blue gown, black hat; Miss Kettle, dull violet voile gown, hat to match; Mrs. Nancarrow, grey cashmere, black hat; Miss Nancarrow, dress of saxe blue, large blue and black hat; Mrs. Symes, blue shantung, trimmed with oriental embroidery, floral hat; Miss Nedwill fawn Empire coat and skirt, tasean and black hat; Mrs. W. Montgomery, reseda green taffetas, leghorn hat with roses; Mrs. H. Reeves, pale blue over white, with lace inser-

tions, leghorn hat. Others present: Messdaughters Wigley, Stevenson, Beawick, Wells, Knight, Louison, Gorton, Campbell, Steele, Holmes, Gow, Misses Wells, Wigram, Burns (2), Knight, Mathias, Campbell, and Pyne.

A SMALL BRIDGE EVENING

was given on Tuesday at "Avonside" by Mrs. H. H. Loughnan. The players included Mr. and Mrs. Thomas, Mr. and Mrs. Butterworth, Dr. and Miss Nedwill, Mrs. Nancarrow, Mr. and Mrs. Kirkpatrick, and Mr. Brittain.

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WAS CURED IN A MONTH BY CUTICURA REMEDIES

"My trouble started with swelling on my face which became red and very painful and irritating. From there it went to my head and it is impossible for me to give any idea of the agony I went through during the six months that the eczema continued. I tried first one remedy and then another, only too glad to test anything that my friends suggested. Nothing seemed to be of the least good. I went to a doctor several times and his treatment was as ineffectual as the rest. I was almost in despair. One day I read of a similar case of eczema having been cured by the Cuticura Remedies, so I thought I would have at least one more try to get my head and face right. I bought the whole treatment (Cuticura Soap, Ointment, and Pills) and persevered with it for a week. By that time the improvement was apparent to anyone and the relief I felt was great. I continued with the Cuticura Remedies for about a month, using two complete treatments, and I can tell you candidly and heartily that I was cured. I have occasion to have great faith in Cuticura for skin ailments, not only because of the great good it has done me but because of the benefit I know has accrued from its use in other cases. My experience with other remedies for eczema, and I should think I tried them all, enables me to appreciate Cuticura to the full. Miss Maggie Hynes, Esker, Kilkenny, Mayo, Feb. 13, 1907."

Send to nearest depot for free Cuticura Book on Treatment of Skin Diseases.

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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 should so like to become a cousin, and have my letter printed in the "Graphic." It is so nice to read the other cousins' letters. I think I like the younger ones best, for I am not old enough to understand the others. How very clever Cousin Hilda must be. I wonder she does not get tired reading so much about the Balkans. I think there is quite enough to learn at school without writing about it in the holidays. Mother says if I knew as much as Cousin Hilda she would think I was going to be ill; but there is no fear of that, is there, Cousin Kate? I hope you will send me a badge.—With love, from Cousin CECIL.

Dear Cousin Cecil,—I will be very pleased to have you for a cousin, and I will send you a badge, though you don't say what colour you would like best. I am afraid the elder cousins' letters are rather beyond most of the little ones, but you will soon be able to understand them and write them too, I expect, when you are a little older. I don't suppose they had very much time to read when they were at school. I know I had not; my lessons used to take up all my evenings, and from school time till dinner mother used to insist on our staying out of doors. She used to say it would do us less harm to get wet than to be shut up in the house all day. What do you do with yourself after school? What is your favourite game?—Cousin Kate.

Dear Cousin Kate,—We have had a very happy Christmas this year, and I hope you had the same. Most of our friends could not come up here, and we were very sorry. We went to two very nice picnics in Mr Wellin's launch. The first one was to Timbo Bay. There was a big party of us, most of them from Whakapirau. The next one was to the North Islands. We were going to see the lighthouse, but it was too rough, so we landed at the wharf. We had great fun on the beach, and in some places we went up to our ankles in sand, but the worst was trying to climb the sandhills. I like coming down them best, because we can roll. We do not like going for baths here very much, because of stings that come quite close to the shore. The little baby here can play ball, and it is very funny to watch his face. We were going to the Paparua sports to-day, but it was so rough and wet the day before that we could not get Mr Wellin to take us. There is a little boy named Rongo Pilling, who is staying with us for his holiday. He told me he might write to you when he gets back to Te Aroha. With love to all the cousins, not forgetting yourself. I remain, your loving Cousin MOYRA.

any of you feel ill? Don't you hate get-your friends could not come up to you for the holidays. I am sure they were disappointed too. I have never been to Oneri, but I have stayed at Whakapirau often, and I just loved it. Where is Timbo Bay? That is quite a new name to me. Is it a good picnic place? I was invited to a picnic down at the Heads once, but would not go because I was afraid I would be seasick. Didn't soon. We went to Rabbit Island for a ting your shoes and stockings full of sand. I do; I always take mine off whenever I get near a beach, but I don't suppose you would have liked to go scrambling over sand hills barefooted, would you? Baby is getting so grown-up you will soon have to leave off calling him baby.—Cousin Kate.]

Dear Cousin Kate,—Our Cousin Clifford has gone home, and we miss him very much. Our Christmas holidays are over now. I enjoyed them very much. We will be having hop-picking holidays soon. We went to Rabbit Island for a picnic the other day, and we had a lovely time, but we were very tired when we came back. It takes a long time to go over. We had two very nice horses in the cart; it does not take long to go over in a boat. We had two lovely days for Christmas and New Year. Our auntie and little cousin are staying with us for a few days, while Uncle Ted is away. Our little cousin's name is De Lacey; she is such a dear little baby; she loves horses and other animals. Mother's garden has not got very many flowers in it now, but there is a beautiful plant in it called Californian poppy; it has a beautiful scent, and is like tissue paper. There is also a plant called Mandevilla; it is a creeper; it is all white. We have got three dear little fluffy chickens. I think that is all I have to say, so good-bye. Love to all the cousins and yourself.—From your loving Cousin MABEL.

[Dear Cousin Mabel,—Clifford hadn't been gone very long before you had another cousin to take his place, but I suppose De Lacey is too young to be a playmate, isn't she? I expect she is more of a plaything. I expect you were rather sad having to go back to school, especially this hot weather. Do you always have holidays for the hop-picking. I am always sorry when the hops have to be picked; a hop garden is one of the loveliest things imaginable, with those long poles just a mass of beautiful cool greenery, and when it is all picked the place looks like a place of desolation. Picnics are great fun while they last, but I think they are rather tiring, especially a driving one; a long drive makes me ache dreadfully.—Cousin Kate.]

OLDER COUSINS' LETTERS.

Dear Cousin Kate,—Indeed the Older Cousins' Page has been looking very bare of late, and my conscience pricks me somewhat. With the exception of Cousin Hilda's letter, there have been none since the New Year, have there? I went to hear Ada Crossley the first night; I looked forward to a treat, and was not disappointed. What an artist she is—and such a voice—sweet, rich, and soul-

inspiring. She pleases the eye as well as the ear, with her gracious manner, charming appearance, and beautiful gowns. What night did you go, Cousin Kate? for I know you must have gone. I like John Harrison, too. He has the sweetest tenor I have ever heard, and sings with such feeling. Percy Grainger and Sametini were good, too, very good. I liked the baritone least of all, but it was certainly the best concert company I have heard. We have so many star artists out here with inferior companies, haven't we? I am now looking forward to the Cherniavskis, whom I have been advised on no account to miss. Perhaps you will remember my mentioning once that I was about to read "Great Expectations" and was disappointed. You may guess how delighted I was when I received the book from Cousin Hilda as a Christmas present. It is one of the best of Dickens' works that I have read. The characters are splendid. Some of the minor ones attracted me more than the principals at times, for instance, Wemmick and "The Aged." Was not Wemmick's devotion to his dear old parent beautifully portrayed? Joe Gargery, Biddy and Herbert Pocket were the sweetest characters in the book, and "Pip" too, was a good fellow, but I did not like Estella at all. She was not worth "Pip's" devotion. What an extraordinary man Magwitch, the convict, was. His affection for "Pip" was as pitiful as it was extraordinary. It has just struck me that I should not be hard on Estella, when I think of the parents she had, and the way she was brought up by that poor, demented, disappointed old woman. I notice Cousin Hilda wrote pretty extensively on the Balkan question. I shall be pleased to read the "Graphic" articles

she kindly promised to lend. I noted in Cousin Alison's letter that she hoped we remembered Violet Tate. I think Cousin Hilda mentioned in one of her letters that I sent a number of the "Red Funnel" Magazine (Cousin Hilda had sent "Graphics") and several post cards. However, I expect Cousin Alison will know by now, that some of us remembered her friend.

Do you think the subject of Dream would prove interesting for discussion amongst the Cousins, Cousin Kate? Each cousin could give her views and opinions of what is necessary and how to get her clothes. For myself, I have tried to sum up how much I spend a year on clothes, but, as I spend money very easily without taking much account of it, I am afraid I cannot approximate the amount. However, I guard against extravagance, and try to spend as judiciously as possible. The accessories are the most important things, and it is these that run away with the money. Now, as to boots, I find three pairs at a time sufficient, at least two pairs of boots, one heavy, and one light, and a pair of shoes for evening wear. I pay between 8/11 and 10/6 for the latter, and about 18/ to 21/ for the boots. The other day, however, I bought a beautiful tan pair for 16/6, and was so pleased with them that I invested in a second pair. They were really a bargain, for I showed them to an expert, and he said they were simply wonderful for the money. I expect them to last me quite a year, and I give them constant wear, too. I should like to tree all my boots and shoes, but have not been successful in obtaining any trees in Auckland. Gloves are extravagant items. For every day wear kid ones never last me longer than a couple of months; 2/11 or 3/6 is enough to pay for these, and for best ones 4/11 to 5/11. Of course I am referring to short gloves; long ones are much more expensive, but I only wear them for evening, and pay about 7/11 for them. I think white suede gloves are frightfully extravagant. They almost soil if you look at them, and from my experience, certainly do not clean well. A well-cut navy skirt, serge or cloth, is a necessity of a girl's wardrobe, also three or four neat shirt waists to wear with it. One can get the smartest prints and cambrics from 7d. and 8d. a yard, and a girl can run up a blouse for herself for a couple of shillings. Most people buy three yards of material for a blouse length, but I find two and a-half yards ample, except in the case of silk, when one wants from three to three and a-half yards, according to the width of the silk. I am by no means a small girl, but my things are cut economically. A tailor-made coat and skirt is, I think, another essential. It is an expensive item, but well worth the money, for it lasts well, the style does not greatly vary, and a girl always feels chic and well turned-out in one. An evening dress is another big consideration in one's wardrobe. For a girl, who goes out moderately,



THE END OF THE HOLIDAYS.

The old familiar faces—viz.: Mathematics, Spelling, Geography, Grammar, etc.]

one new frock each season is sufficient, for she can always wear last year's gown to the smaller functions. So many girls nowadays are clever with their needle. I know of some who even make their own evening frocks, and very creditably, too. My last evening frock cost me just under three pounds, for I had it made at home, likewise my opera coat, which is of Amazon cloth lined throughout with silk, and it only amounted to 25/. The summer season with its dainty expensive muslins, and smart cambrics and prints, makes dressing easy, but with winter clothes it is different; one has to pay more for materials, and the styles being plainer, one has to be extremely particular about the cut. A couple of dainty silk theatre blouses are also other necessities for a girl. Hats have advanced alarmingly of late. Thirty shillings to two pounds just buys a decent hat now, when at one time the same money would have brought "creations." However, with the exception of one or two, I trim my own, and in this way they rarely cost me more than 10/ or 12/. To come back to accessories, it is well to have a good assortment of belts and neckwear. I find lace scarves, wound twice round the neck and hung down, are useful, economical, and pretty. Half-a-dozen of these keep one go-

ing for a long time. I generally buy half-a-dozen pairs of stockings at a time, paying about 2/3 a pair, and number them all, so as to know which ones I wore last. The chief merit in dressing lies in good taste. A girl should always be careful to see that everything she has on harmonises, and eschew too many colours. It is not always wise to get everything at one particular shop, for I find that different shops are good for different things. In Auckland I go to one shop for gloves, another for silks, another for lace, and another for dress materials. Well, Cousin Kate, I am afraid I have lengthened out this subject rather considerably, but it seems such an endless one. I hope the other Cousins will respond and give their opinions. With much love from Cousin VIOLET.

THE MORAL CHILD.

The mother of a conscientious little miss, wishing to rid her of the fear of some cows in a field through which she had to pass, told her to go right by and pretend she didn't see them.
"But, mamma," protested the small maid, "wouldn't that be deceiving the cows?"

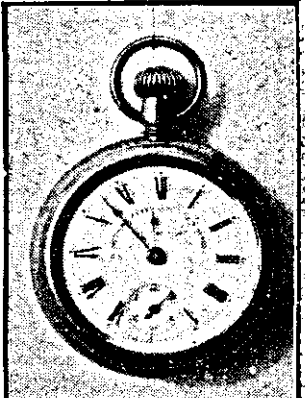
Bribery in the Russian Army.

The crime of accepting bribes for which General Brutus Alexieff was last week dismissed from the Russian army and heavily fined, appears to be quite common in both army and navy. According to a contemporary, a very profitable source is the sons of rich parents, who are allowed all sorts of special privileges by the officers—for a consideration. The second source of bribes comes from the factors who are ready at hand to the unscrupulous officer in search of money. The factors know their business well. They supply the regiment with everything—food, clothing, fodder, and even ammunition. Their contracts depend chiefly upon the colonels of the regiments, and are renewed annually. The result of this system is that the colonels are each in receipt of yearly bribes ranging from £200 to £2000 from each of some half dozen factors—amounting in the aggregate to a very fat purse.
The factory who supplies the regiment with meat should, as a matter of fact, send enough to allow every soldier to have one pound of meat boiled up

with his soup. That is the regulation ration, and the Russian soldier gets it—on paper. As a matter of fact, he gets less than three ounces. Why? Because the factor arranges with the colonel that, instead of sending 400 pounds of meat a day for a regiment of that number of men he will send just half that amount, though the accounts will show that the regiment had been served with the regulation pound of meat per head. The pruning down does not stop there. The other officers take their part in it, and after the colonel, each officer gets one ounce from every man's piece of meat. In some regiments, more honest or more cautious, the officers are satisfied with half an ounce, but neither soldier nor officer would think the colonel fit for any place but a madhouse if he gave the regimental cooks one pound per head a day.
In some regiments this system of stealing has reached such a pitch that only nut-sized pieces of meat and a few bones are thrown into the soup on Sundays and holidays, and on other days its place is taken by cabbage or dried peas. No other form of meat is given, so that, with a particularly unscrupulous colonel, the men are half starved, weak, and unable to do their duties properly.

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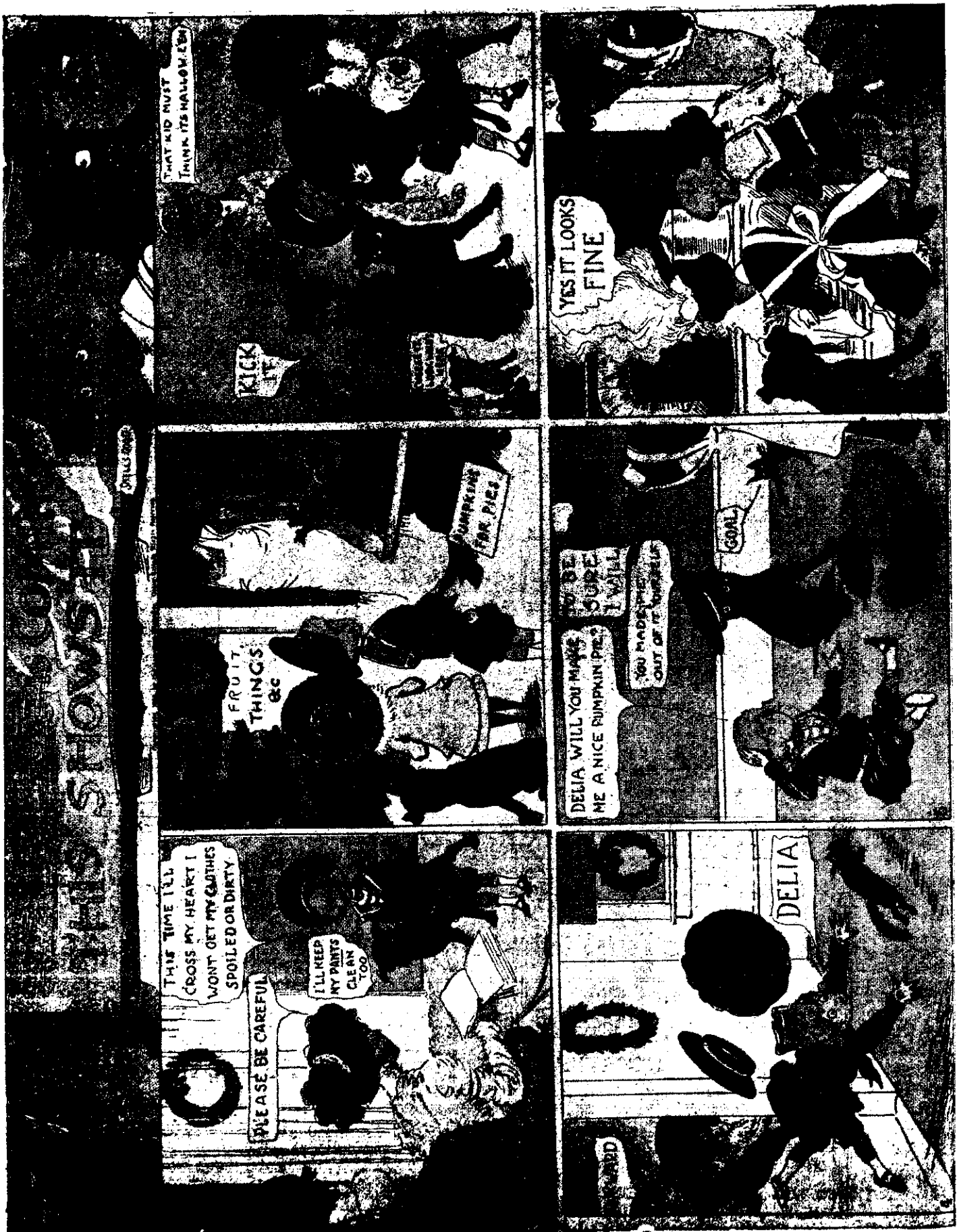
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FEBRUARY 3rd, 1909.
Cut this out and send to
W. J. RAINGER, WATCH DEPARTMENT,
P.O. BOX 417, AUCKLAND.



DELIA'S STOVES

THAT KID MUST THINK ITS HALLOWEEN

KICK ME

YES IT LOOKS FINE

DELIA

FRUIT THINGS &c

PUMPKIN PIE

DELIA WILL YOU MAKE ME A NICE PUMPKIN PIE

YOU MADE ME OUT OF MY PUMPKIN

GOAL

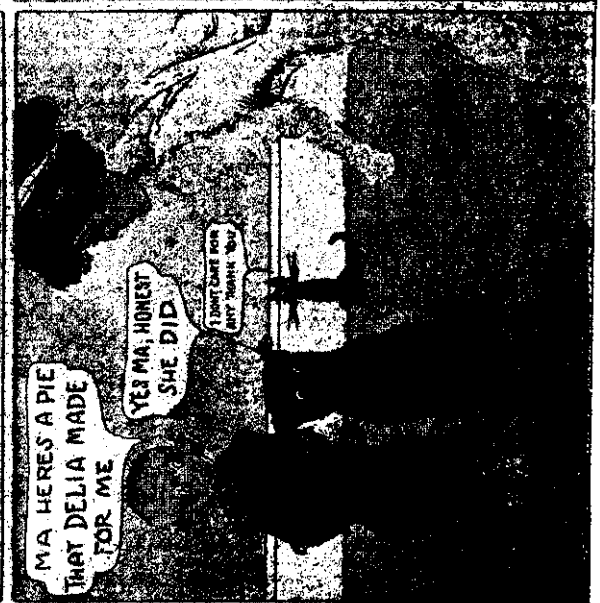
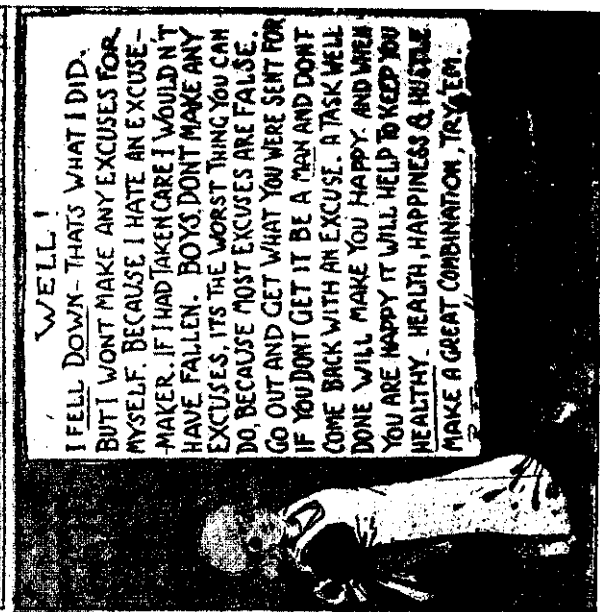
PLEASE BE CAREFUL

THIS TIME I'LL CROSS MY HEART I WON'T GET MY CLOTHES SPOILED OR DIRTY

I'LL KEEP MY PANTS CLEAN TOO

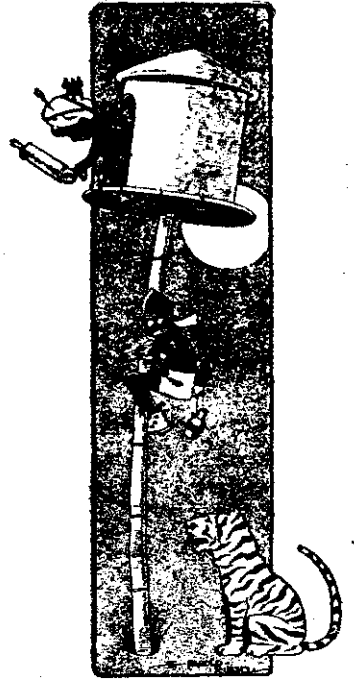
DELIA

BOY





The Doctor: "That's a nasty eye you've got. Your husband, I suppose?"
 Mrs Brown: "My husband! Why you don't know my husband. 'E'd never do a think like that. He's more like a friend than a husband!"



THE LADY OR THE TIGER!

THE TRAMP'S DREAM.

Hobo: "Durin' yer afternoon nap, Willie, you wuz smilin' an' cooin' like a t'ree-mont'-old baby."
 His Pal: "No wonder! I was dreamin' I had a job as demonstrator fer a brew'ry!"—"Puck."

THE WIFE'S RETORT.

Mr. Stubb: "That old chap Argus had a hundred eyes."
 Mrs Stubb: "So they say."
 Mr Stubb: "And I suppose, Maria, if I had a hundred eyes I could see everything too."
 Mrs Stubb: "Everything but your own faults, John."



COLD COMFORT

"Why, man, your pictures will live!"
 "Yes; but how about me?"



"Minnaw! Miasus!! There's a burglar downstairs!"
 (Sleepily) "Tell him I'm not at home, Mary."



A LITTLE DRAMA IN THREE ACTS—NO TRANSLATION NEEDED.—Fliegende Blaetter.