

arising out of a letter he sent to the Minister of Defence criticising the action of Colonel Robin, Chief of the General Staff, decided that the matter should go before a court martial. Considerable interest is being taken in the case in the Auckland district, where strong views on the matter are held by Captain Knyvet's brother officers, and the result of the finding is likely to have far-reaching effects.

A Prehistoric Peep.

Mr. Fraser, County Engineer at Whangarei, found at Sandy Bay, on the East Coast, a quantity of moa bones, and a human skeleton—a high type of man, not a Maori. In the lower strata he found the skull of a low-type full grown man. This skull is much lower in the anthropological scale than the famous Neanderthal skull, the crown of the skull being almost level with the eyes and the bone very thick. Mr. Fraser intends to send the specimen to Australian scientists for examination. The low type of skull had apparently been buried for thousands of years.

The discovery of the low-type skull reported above will be of considerable importance if substantiated. Mr. Cheeseman, the curator of the Museum, when interviewed regarding this discovery, said it was by no means unusual to find human bones and the bones of moas in conjunction; he had himself found such deposits at Patana twenty years ago. As to the human skeleton not being that of a Maori, Mr. Cheeseman said that even the most expert anthropologist would be chary of expressing a decided opinion on such a matter, since many Maori crania were similar to advanced European types. The information contained in the telegram was too meagre to allow of his expressing an opinion on the low type of skull found. The Neanderthal skull (a skull approximating very closely to that of the larger apes, and having heavy ridges over the eyes) was that of practically the lowest human type yet discovered, and though discoveries of similar skulls had been made in Europe, it was exceedingly improbable that such should be found in New Zealand. It was impossible to make any comment without first inspecting the skull.

An Important Undertaking.

Cabinet has granted the Waihi Gold Mining Company a license to utilise 10,000 horse power from Horahora Falls, on the Waikato River, twelve miles above Cambridge. The lease is for a period of forty-two years, and the rental is 3/ per horse-power per annum. The Government reserves the right to take over the plant at any time during the currency of the lease in order to prevent any monopoly, the terms of acquisition being the actual value of the installation at the date of purchase, without any allowance for interest. Operations will be commenced immediately, as the Waihi Company hopes to have the whole plant running within eighteen months. The installation will cost £150,000.

SOUTH ISLAND.

Christmas Day.

The fact that Christmas Day this year falls on a Saturday is likely to lead to some confusion amongst shopkeepers, especially amongst those who are not under awards providing that in the event of Christmas Day falling on a Saturday it shall be observed on the Monday following. In order to have matters definitely settled, the officer in charge of the Labour Department here is having enquiries made. It is stated that some tobacconists have decided to keep open on Christmas Day, but it is alleged that if they do so they will be committing a breach of the Police Offences Act.

State Miners on Strike.

Last week the Government circulated a supplementary order paper containing the Prime Minister's answer to the Hon. A. R. Guinness's question as to what attitude the Government intends to take to bring about a settlement of the dispute between the Government and its employees.

"The Government and the management for the State collieries at Point Elizabeth," said the Prime Minister, "have used every reasonable effort to arrive at a settlement of the points in dispute between the mine manager and the execu-

tive of the Miners' Union." The work in the mine, he went on to say, had been carried on during the last 15 months under an agreement, the terms of which were set out in detail.

"All the questions in dispute," said the Prime Minister, in conclusion, "had been settled before the strike took place between the union and the manager with the exception of number 18 (relating to trucking and jiggling). Under the old agreement, and under the Arbitration Court awards, trucking and jiggling have always been done by the miners in the Point Elizabeth colliery, as well as in every other colliery on the West Coast. The mine during the last working six months has made no profit, and there is no immediate prospect of its doing so in the near future.

"In consequence of a considerable influx of water, further expensive machinery for pumping has become necessary, and is now under order. This will involve considerable outlay, as well as increased cost of production. In view of these facts the Government considered it impossible to accede to the miners' requests, as the wages already earned by them—approximately 14/ a day; that is, a shift of seven hours—were fair and reasonable, and could not be increased except at the expense of the public or the consumer.

"The Government has always endeavoured to place its employees at the State collieries on as good, if not better, terms than the miners working in private employment. In proof of this the mine manager advises that the terms of the old agreement are admittedly better than the present Arbitration Court awards in existence in other mines. The Government offered the men, if they would continue their work in the mine under the old agreement, to submit any point in dispute between the men and the manager to the Conciliation Commissioner, or to the Court of Arbitration; but, in view of the difficulties the position presented, the Government could not agree to the miners' demands except by a considerable increase in the cost of coal to the consumer. This, it need not be said, would have defeated the primary object for which the State coal mines were originally established.

"Thus it will be seen that one of three courses presented itself to the Government: (1) Concede the miners' demands and incur a loss to the public of about £4000 a year; (2) increase the price of coal to the consumers; (3) refuse the demands and let all questions be submitted to the Arbitration Court or Conciliation Commissioners.

"After full and careful consideration the Government came to the conclusion that the last course was the only one they could reasonably adopt."

The Prime Minister added a statement to show that the average wage of the miners is 14/1 per man per day, and the manager, he adds, reported that if the concession for trucking and jiggling was granted, it would increase the men's earning power by about 20 per cent.

There has been no change in the position of affairs in connection with the State Colliery strike at Greymouth. The Executive of the Miners' Federation meets at Wellington on Wednesday to discuss the State mine strike.

PERSONAL NOTES.

Mr. J. Vigor Brown, M.P. for Napier, has received news of the death of his mother at Drysdale House, Punt Hill, Melbourne, at the age of 97 years.

The Napier Hospital Trustees last week appointed Dr. Ivan S. Wilson as senior medical officer, in succession to Dr. W. W. Moore, who has resigned and leaves at the end of the year. (Press Association.)

A presentation is to be made about the middle of this month by Sir Joseph Ward, on behalf of the Liberal party of the Dominion, to Mr. E. Gallichan, organising secretary, in recognition of his services to the party.

Mr. I. M. Shields, one of the three general managers of the P. and O. Company, has arrived in Sydney on a visit from London, and will come to New Zealand in connection with the extension of the company's service to Auckland.

At a meeting of the Hawke's Bay Presbytery, held last week, the Rev. S. E. Hill, of Paparua, intimated his acceptance of a call from Liphona, in Canterbury. The Presbytery sustained the call of the Port Phillip congregation to the Rev. Thomas Tall, late of Cromwell. (Press Association.)

Mr. F. B. Birnes, who has for the past thirty years been in the employ of the Union Company on the Auckland wharf,

was last week presented with a handsome piece of plate and a purse of sovereigns by his fellow-employees and friends on the wharf, as a token of their high esteem and goodwill upon the occasion of his retirement from the company's service.

The Rev. Thomas Fisher, at present curate at St. Mary's Cathedral, Farnell, has been appointed by the Bishop vicar of Pokeno-cum-Boubay. Mr. Fisher was admitted to deacon's orders by the Bishop of London in 1903, and to priest's orders by the Bishop of Auckland in 1904. He was curate of Hamilton from 1904 to 1906, when he was appointed vicar of Okato, Taranaki. He resigned that cure in 1908 and accepted the curacy of St. Mary's Cathedral. He will move to his new cure in the first week in February.

The death occurred on Friday at the early age of 40 of Mr. David Stewart, who was well known in Auckland and at the Thames.

Deceased, who was a son of Mr. D. Stewart, son, resided for a number of years at the Thames, and was an ex-Borough Councillor, and also a member of the committee of the Thames Jockey Club. He was a prominent figure in racing and athletic circles, and journeyed to England with the native team in 1888, and also represented Auckland in the football field in 1892-3. He raced a number of which were Tingara, St. Crispin (which won the Great Northern Derby of 1898), and Scotty (which carried his colours at Takapuna on Wednesday last).

About twelve months ago deceased developed Bright's disease, and visited Auckland to be medically treated, returning to the Thames about a fortnight ago. He leaves a wife of high Maori lineage and a large family to mourn their loss. The funeral takes place at the Thames on Sunday.

Mr. Arnin A. Schmidt, a native of Auckland, is a passenger via Sydney to the N.D. Lloyd steamer Friedrich Jer Grosse. He was formerly one of the most promising pupils of Mr. C. F. Goldie, of this city, and has for the last 44 years successfully pursued the study of his art at the Royal Bavarian Academy in Munich, and latterly under the celebrated Professor von Maar in the Komponier Schule, a select class of the Academy, into which only the most talented and promising students of the Academy are admitted, and in this class Mr. Schmidt gained the first honour and diploma. He is expected to arrive at Auckland about Christmas.

Mr. S. Carroll, secretary to the Wellington Chamber of Commerce, left for Auckland by Saturday's Main Trunk train.

A pleasant ceremony took place on Friday at the office of the Gas Works, when Mr. H. Hood, the chief clerk, presented on behalf of the employees, a handsome sideboard, suitably inscribed, to Mr. G. Lovett, the time-keeper, on the occasion of his marriage.

Mr. Arthur E. Wilson, lately organist at Devonport Methodist Church, has been appointed to a similar position at the Baptist Tabernacle, Auckland. A presentation of a dressing case was made to Mr. Wilson by the choir at Devonport prior to severing his connection with that assembly, and the best of wishes were expressed for his future work.

Mr. H. Isaacs, of Dunedin, is visiting Auckland, and staying at the Star Hotel. Mr. and Mrs. A. de Latour, of Gisborne, are at present on a visit to Auckland, stopping at the Star Hotel.

Mr. Arch. Campbell was given a welcome home on the Waitemata Bowling green on Saturday from his trip to the East and Europe.

Mr. B. W. Miller, senior clerk of the Marine Department, left Wellington on Monday on a holiday, which he will spend in Auckland.

Mr. B. L. and the Misses Arrowsmith, of Christchurch, came from the South by the Waikare on Saturday, and are staying at the Central Hotel for a few days.

Miss L. Grimstone, late of the Auckland Telephone Exchange, and now supervisor at Invercargill, who has been on a brief visit here, returned to Invercargill on Monday.

The Rev. P. T. Williams and Mrs. Williams, who have been on a two-years' visit to the Old Country, returned via Sydney, by the Maheno on Sunday, and intend settling in New Zealand. They are at present stopping at the Grand Hotel.

Mr. and Mrs. C. G. Hodgson, of Northcote, who left for Buenos Ayres, South America, over a year ago, returned on Friday, having made the journey from

Wellington by rail, where they arrived this week by the Athenic, after visiting England.

Mr. Edgar W. Walker, manager of the Brisbane branch of the New Zealand Insurance Company, arrived by the Maheno from Australia on Sunday, to take charge of the Auckland office during the absence of Mr. Buttle in the Old Country. Mr. Walker is accompanied by Miss Walker, and is staying at present at the Grand Hotel.

Mr. and Mrs. Crenshaw, of Atlanta City, Mrs. L. S. Wilkinson, and Mr. W. B. Davenport, of New York, and Mr. S. Hayward, of Boston, a party of American tourists, who are bent on seeing all the sights that Australasia has to show, arrived from Sydney by the Maheno on Sunday, and are staying at the Grand Hotel for a few days.

A Press Association telegram from Dunedin reports the death of Mr. Andrew Hildop, father of the Private Secretary to the Prime Minister. Deceased arrived in the ship Philip Lang in 1858, and settled at Taieri. He was in the Gabriel's Gully and Hokitika gold rushes, and joined the railway service in 1880, retiring six years ago, when he settled at Stirling.

There was a very pleasant family reunion at the residence of Mr. J. Hare, Kaeo, on Thursday, when the various members of the family of Mr. J. Hare, senr., met; the occasion marked his 90th birthday, and 48th year in New Zealand. He was congratulated by all in a most hearty manner, and all joined in the hope that he might be spared for many more years. Mr. B. Hare, one of his sons, is on a visit from Australia, and has been away for 20 years. A very hearty congratulatory telegram was received from Sir J. G. Ward, Prime Minister, asking that his best wishes might especially be conveyed to Mr. Hare, senr.

NEW ZEALANDERS ABROAD.

LONDON, October 21.

Mrs. Annie Lennard, of Wanganui, who with her son left New Zealand about the middle of March last to make holiday in the Old Country, is leaving for the Dominion by the new-Orient liner "Orvietto" on November 20th. Mrs. Lennard and her son have had a most enjoyable time ever since they left New Zealand. In addition to seeing a good deal of England, Scotland, Wales and Ireland, Mrs. Lennard has visited Paris and toured awhile in Germany and Belgium. During her stay in England Mrs. Lennard met two prominent leaders in the Suffragette movement in Mrs. Pankhurst and Mrs. Frank Corbett, both of whom have suffered for "the cause" in H.M.'s prison.

Miss A. B. Weir, of Canterbury, who came to England by the Athenic on September 22nd, is now staying in Bristol for the winter with her brother, Mr. Thos. Weir, of West Africa. She spent three weeks in Ireland sightseeing, but they were forced, on account of the weather, to abandon a trip to Scotland. The principal sights of London have also been visited.

Mr. C. F. Hursthouse, of Nelson, who has been gaining experience in electrical engineering during the past two and a-half years with the British Westinghouse Company in Manchester, is leaving England on November 6th for Adelaide, where he hopes to gain a footing in the engineering profession.

A marriage is arranged, and will take place in the spring, between Lieutenant Jack Morris, R.N., eldest son of F. A. Morris, of Pailton House, Rugby, and Muriel, eldest daughter of John Anderson, Christchurch, New Zealand.

Mr. Herbert Allison Wood, of Invercargill, who went to New Zealand from this country two years ago to settle in the Dominion, is revisiting England, having been recalled by the death of his father. Mr. Wood arrived at the beginning of October by the Tongariro, and will remain until the end of the year, returning to New Zealand probably via Suva.

Commissionary-General J. O. Hamley, C.B., retired list, who has just celebrated his 80th birthday, served with the Ordnance Department, at Sydney over 60 years ago, and from 1847 he was in charge of the military stores in New Zealand, and took part in the Maori campaigns of 1847-8 in the Southern district, and of 1860-1 in the Northern district. He retired from the active list in the retirement, and was given the C.B.