

NELSON.

December 31.

The Christmas holidays, though quietly spent, have been thoroughly enjoyable to all. The weather, that important factor, has been most accommodating; the heat till Monday night was intense, then some welcome showers fell, followed by a sharp change to cold, which to many was most welcome. On Christmas Day the churches were well filled, and the decorations at the Cathedral, All Saints' Church, and St. Mary's (R.C.) were beautiful, and were greatly admired. A Choral Service was held at the Cathedral on Christmas night, when carols and choruses from "The Messiah" were sung by the choir. Mr. H. Poole, who possesses a sweet tenor voice, sang "Comfort Ye" and "My Hope is in the Everlasting." He also sang a duet with Mrs. Melbush, which was greatly appreciated. Other soloists were Miss A. Harley, Miss Hanby, the Rev. J. P. Kempthorne, and Mr. A. C. Maginity.

On Boxing Day sports were held at Wakefield and Richmond, which attracted a large number of people into the country. A Regatta was held at the Port, and there were picnics innumerable in all directions.

TENNIS.

The Nelson Lawn Tennis Association's annual tournament was held at the Brook Club's courts on Wednesday and Thursday. There were a large number of entries, and some of the matches were most exciting. The Championship Singles were won by Miss Lucy Gibbs and Mr Rowley, and the Men's Championship Doubles were won by Messrs Heaps and Styche. Amongst the onlookers were noticed Mrs Green, black silk costume, bonnet to match; Miss Green, white; Mrs Bunny, violet; Miss Bunny, dark green, large chip hat with black bows; Miss M. Bunny, white muslin; Mrs Clarke, black; Mrs Houlker, navy foulard, toque with cerise ribbons; Miss Heaps, white pique, grey hat; Miss Fell, smart electric blue coat and skirt, becoming hat of black velvet; Miss M. Fell (England), pretty bluish grey costume, chic, white hat with pink roses beneath the brim; Mrs

Fulton (Collingwood), cream canvas, hat en suite; Mrs Roberts, black and white check costume, large black hat with trimmings of white chiffon; Mrs Macquarrie; Miss Levica, a pretty gown of white muslin and lace, large black hat; Miss Leggett, grey silk skirt, white muslin blouse, large black hat; Miss Miles, black and white costume, hat to match; Miss Broad (Wellington), white tacked muslin blouse, pique skirt, sailor hat; Miss G. Jones, red and white striped pique, large black hat; Miss Neely, flowered muslin, large black hat; Mrs J. Sharp, mourning costume; Miss Smith (Wellington), green coat and skirt; Misses Webb, Fowen (2), navy foulard costumes, sailor hats; Mrs Webb-Bowen, black; Miss Blackett, brown coat and skirt, large sailor hat; Miss Harris, light costume, sailor hat; Mrs W. Walker, wedgewood blue muslin, large black hat with black plumes; Miss Evans, white; the Misses Ledger, (2), Gibbs (2); Miss Huddleston, pretty blue costume; Mrs Mackay, black; Mrs Burnes, black; Mrs Kingdon, light blouse, dark skirt; Mrs C. Watts; Miss Crump, flowered muslin; Mrs and Misses Wright, etc., etc.

PHYLLIS.

BLENHEIM.

Dear Bee, December 31.

The weather on Christmas Day was more like what is considered seasonable weather in England than the tropical heat which is usually our fate at this time of year. There was heavy rain in the morning, and on the hills, on both sides of the Wairau plain, large hailstones fell, with quite a wintry effect. The rain ceased in the afternoon, but the sky was gloomy and overcast. Pandemonium reigned in the town on Christmas Eve, diabolical instruments of every kind being called into requisition to add to the noise, which makes one suppose that to children, noise is inseparable from happiness, as each juvenile countenance beamed with delight. The Garrison Band played at intervals on the rotunda in Market Place during the evening, and later on patrolled the town playing Christmas carols, also the Hibernian Band. Musical sounds

at four on Christmas morning indicated that the bands were still on the warpath. Boxing Day was fairly good, and there were numerous picnics to the Bluff and White's Bay; a cricket match in town, when the Nelson juniors were beaten by the local players in one innings; excursions trains to Picton; and the Mounted Rifles' sports at Spring Creek. Many went to Picton expecting to meet the excursion steamer from Wellington, but owing to tempestuous weather there the steamer did not leave, and those who went through had a particularly dull time, as there was nothing going on in Picton. The military sports were good, and were well attended, and the tent for sale of work and refreshments was so thronged that many could not be attended to. Mrs and the Misses Chaytor and other ladies had the management of the tent. Thirty men have sent in their names for the Sixth Contingent, of whom, if they pass the riding and shooting test to-morrow, 24 have been chosen.

FRIDA.

ANGLO-COLONIAL NOTES.

(From Our Special Correspondent.)

LONDON, November 30.

COLONIAL STOCK ACT.

The Colonial Stock Act of last session, authorising trustees to invest in colonial stocks complying with regulations framed by the Treasury, has so far proved a dead letter. No regulations have yet been issued, and I understand that the Treasury officials are finding it an extremely difficult task to draft regulations that will afford proper protection to trust funds and yet not irritate the colonies.

SIR WALTER BULLER ON COLONIAL TOPICS.

Sir Walter Buller made a decided "hit" in his speech at the civic banquet in the Ironmongers' Hall on Thursday evening last. His name was coupled with the toast of the "Vis-

sors," of whom there were many. After suitably responding, he launched off into congenial subjects, that had been just touched upon by previous speakers. Imperial Federation, the Commonwealth of Australia, and the future of the South Pacific. He defended his colony from the suggestion of disloyalty in not joining the Commonwealth. He explained that New Zealand, although only 1200 miles from Australia, had really more in common with this country than with the sister continent, and that the objections to federation were of a purely local character. He declared that New Zealand, although the remotest of our colonies, was second to no part of the Queen's dominions in its devotion to the throne and nation. He reminded his audience of how, when the great wave of patriotism swept over the Empire in connection with the war in South Africa, New Zealand was the very first of the colonies to come to the aid of the Mother Country with offers of men and money. The Colonial Government, without even waiting for the approval of Parliament, raised and equipped several contingents of strapping colonials, and sent them, well mounted, to the scene of action. The movement was so popular with the colonists themselves that, when the Government had done all it could, the people put their hands in their pockets and paid the entire cost of raising two more contingents; and everyone knew how well these men had acquitted themselves in the field! When Parliament met, with one single dissentient voice, Mr. Seddon's action was approved, and the necessary money voted; and that one dissentient voice was effectually silenced at the general elections that followed by the defeat of that member! Instead of federating with Australia, the Premier, with the assistance of his able colleague, the Hon. Mr. Ward, had formulated a statesmanlike scheme for the building up of another great Commonwealth—the Commonwealth of the South Pacific—with the seat of the Federal Government in New Zealand. Now, this was the sort of thing that made for Empire and the progress of made for Empire and the progress of our race. The proposed Fijian federation had been passed by a large majority of the House of Representatives, and had been hailed with satisfaction by the Fijian colonists themselves; but

Paris Exhibition, 1900 British Awards.

The ONLY Grand Prix solely for Toilet Soap

The Highest Award for Toilet Soap at the Paris Exhibition, in 1889, was a Gold Medal, and the only one awarded solely for Toilet Soap was gained by

Pears

Again, at the 1900 Exhibition at Paris, The Highest Award obtainable for anything is the GRAND PRIX, and that also has been awarded to Messrs. Pears and is the only one allotted in Great Britain for Toilet Soap.