

spent in any one year, and that to carry on the museum a further sum of £3000 a year be provided. The total cost of the suggested staff is £960. A plan of the proposed buildings includes a square hall, to be used for portraits and memorials of noted persons of the Maori race represented by paintings, and eventually it is hoped by statutory provision being also made for future inclusion of portraits and pictures and events in Maori history. The decoration of this hall would be a study in the application of Maori ornament to modern architecture. The museum proper would be a large hall, divided by two walls, which do not go up to the roof. Cases of specimens would be arranged round the walls and on tables, except that one end would be of glass, giving a view of a winter garden in the rear, in which would be placed Maori war canoes and the different Maori buildings. It is further suggested to place groups of natives modelled in papier mache in the neighbourhood of the canoes. It is considered highly desirable that Government purchasing officers be appointed at once. It is suggested that the services of Capt. Gilbert Mair be obtained for Auckland, for Rotorua it is suggested Judge Scannell might act; while Mr Percy Smith will be glad to act for New Plymouth; for Hawke's Bay Mr A. L. D. Fraser is suggested; while Mr Tregear could probably act for Wellington. It is proposed to give properly constituted officers powers to seize and detain any Maori antiquity attempted to be removed from the colony contrary to the Act, and no such antiquity could be removed from the colony without permission of the authorities.

A most amusing unrehearsed comedy took place in the smoking compartment of a train between Winton and Invercargill the other day, according to a Winton paper. Report has it that a farmer not unknown for his pugnacity when certain conditions prevail, delighted himself in disagreeing generally with everybody and everything. This passed unnoticed until the name of a prominent politician of the South was mentioned, when the irate farmer commenced to hurl the wildest abuse at all and sundry who had "besmirched" themselves by having any connection whatever with the said politician. This roused the ire of a hitherto mild mannered farmer present was significantly demanded of the aggressor if he would pay half the cost of any damage done to the carriage. "Agreed!" Then, rumour has it, the fun commenced. Coats off, teeth clenched, hair on end, they met! A right-hander from the mild man knocked the aggressor into a corner, from which he quickly emerged to return the compliment, whereupon such a delightful scrimmage ensued as defies description, until one of the contestants, catching his foot in a receptacle in the carriage, fell before his opponent, who, losing no time, in his turn fell—but upon his foe—and making good use of the few minutes of grace allotted to him exercised himself until he gasped for breath. This pleasant diversion was, however, abruptly put to an end by the appearance of the guard, and what followed was in camera. Verily, man is a strange animal.

A French newspaper devoted to the fishing industry makes reference to pearl fishing in the Pacific. It points out this is one of the chief resources of French houses in that part of the world. The French Colonial Minister has despatched M. Cheyrouse on a commercial mission to the Pacific Islands for the purpose of studying the best means of getting the pearls and mother of pearl on sale in Paris, such products having hitherto been sent in a somewhat irregular manner to England and Germany. It is considered that both the French and colonial industries will benefit by these efforts.

"It is not generally known that the practice amongst Maoris of rubbing noses when friends meet has Scriptural warrant. 'Iron sharpeneth iron, so doth the countenance of a man his friend.'" "Winton Record."

The s.s. Wakatipu, which has arrived at Sydney from Melbourne, reports a most singular occurrence. When 50 miles off the Victorian coast a fall of chocolate-coloured mud occurred, and the vessel was covered from stem to stern.

The native population of the Hawaiian Islands on June 1, 1900, was 29,834; in 1896 it was 31,019. The half-castes now number 7835, but in 1896 they numbered 8485. The decrease in the number of Hawaiians is therefore 1185, and of half-castes 650.

It has been suggested, with apparently good reason, that the "new star" in Perseus which Dr. Anderson discovered a year ago really blazed up about the period of the Spanish Armada, only it is so far away that the news has taken three centuries to reach us, travelling without rest on the wings of light at 186,000 miles a second.—"Spectator."

A new geyser has broken out at Waitotapu, in the Thermal Springs district. It started on Wednesday on what was apparently the site of an extinct geyser, and threw boiling water sixty feet into the air. It was again active on Thursday. On each occasion it played for half an hour. None of the present natives at Waitotapu remember having ever seen this particular locality active before.

At Arrowtown (Otago) one day lately it was reported to the police that the sum of £73 had been stolen from the hut of Sue Sing, a Chinese gardener. The local constable made diligent inquiries, but no clue could be found, until it was suggested that "John" had buried the money in the ground floor and forgotten the exact place. The floor was dug up and the money discovered, and deposited in the bank for safe keeping.

The Grey "Star" states that a party of Chinamen at Payne's Gully came across a block of greenstone which weighed over 3cwt. They sold it to a local syndicate for £15, who, in consideration of a sum of £40, passed it on to a third party, who has decided to ship it home to the London market. The block is one of the finest yet found on the Coast, and it is thought that it will realise a handsome price at home.

"I have nothing but gold," said a Sydney young man when "bailed up" for Mount Kembla Fund by two pretty girls at the corner of Market and George streets. "Hand it over, and I'll give you change," suggested one girl. As the coin dropped into the box she presented him with a King Edward half-penny.

Dr. Brown, of the Wesleyan missions, who lately returned to Sydney from the Solomon Islands, has a photograph of a Solomon native with an American nickel clock in his ear. The clock measures 13 inches round, and four inches in diameter. The collar box only measured 3½ inches across. It is the young "dandies" who distend their ears in this fashion. When young they pierce the lobe of the ear, and then, by means of heavy weights, gradually force them to become larger and larger.

One or two brave ladies in Melbourne have adopted sandals for outdoor wear—with stockings—brown stockings with toes. The effect, though it may be comfortable, is by no means becoming. Sandals do not suit twentieth century dress; they require a toga, or some loose flowing garment. With a tailor-made gown they look quite absurd. Modes that make for health are frequently very ugly. Modes that are indifferent to it are usually, becoming; the new skirt which grips its wearer firmly to the knees, and then froths out into a cascade of frills, is unhealthy because it gathers up much dust, but unfortunately it is becoming.

A settler of Huiakama, Taranaki, considers hawks are destroying all the pheasants in that district. He says: "One day we saw a big brown hawk pick up a young bird about the

size of a six weeks' chicken. Soon after another appeared, and then another, and every day from that day forward we saw a hawk or two pick up young pheasants, sometimes two and three times a day. In the end they had them all killed. In this part I'm speaking of there was not a shot fired last season, so if it had not been for the hawks there would have been some fine shooting next year."

A case of particular interest to poultry producers was heard in the Magistrate's Court, Wellington, last week. An Otaki poultry breeder, Arthur Leigh Hunt, sued the Wellington and Manawatu Railway Company for £51 damages for the loss of a customer—Miss Malcolm, a boarding-house-keeper—through delay on the railway company's part in two instances in delivering consignments of fowls and eggs. Mr Morison appeared for the plaintiff and Mr Travers for the defendant company. Plaintiff stated that Miss Malcolm was a regular customer for poultry and eggs to the value of at least £7 a month, but owing to the delay of certain poultry and eggs in transit she had refused to deal with him. The second consignment consisted of ten dozen eggs and two pair of fowls, which were delayed in transit. As a result of having lost his best customer, plaintiff said he had given up poultry-farming in disgust, and had sacrificed his stock of three or four hundred fowls. It was contended by Mr Morison that damages for loss of custom would be such as naturally flowed from breach of contract. Mr Travers, on the other hand, maintained that as there was no written contract there could be no secondary liability. Mr Haselden, in giving judgment, said that although the plaintiff was entitled to some damages for breach of contract, the damages claimed by him for the loss of Miss Malcolm's custom were too remote. Further, the plaintiff had not proved what measure of damages he had sustained. From his own evidence he had been too ready to accept the situation. The amount (£5) paid into Court by the defendant company was sufficient, and judgment for that amount was given for plaintiff, out of which he would be required to pay £2 6/ costs.

Mr. Justice Cooper's remarks about the Sunday tram service have raised a storm of dissent in Dunedin. The "Star" points out that Sunday trams are not used chiefly for church-going purposes, but for the heavy traffic to St. Clair and other resorts, and it remarks: His Honor, in instituting a comparison between Auckland and Dunedin, was hardly fair to this city, the environments of which are so very different to those of Auckland. There is no need for tramways to run in Auckland on Sunday, for the simple reason that the population would not patronise them; they take their Sabbath pleasures on ferry steamers or go across to Takapuna. But His Honor knows better than we how thousands of the Auckland people break the Sabbath. And to go no nearer than Christchurch, which affects quite as much godliness as ourselves, the trams run there continuously after morning service. The excursions to New Brighton and Sumner in the season are a sight, and it is no uncommon thing to see trains

of cars fully laden and preceded by brass bands! We have not reached that pass in Dunedin, though we may yet get there all the same.

Mr. O. C. Wason, formerly a member of the New Zealand Parliament, and M.P. for Orkney and Shetland Islands, has, according to the London correspondent of the "Freeman's Journal," visited the De Freyne Estate, and so impressed was he with the eviction scenes that he has become an ardent advocate for the compulsory purchase by the State of the landlords' estates. He considers it the only means of remedying the ills of the present system.

The greatest triumph of the Torrey-Gell mission in Australia was the conversion of Jim Burke, alleged champion pugilist of Tasmania. Referee Torrey came into the ring when Jim and the Devil were in holds, and ordered them to break away. They obeyed to such effect as to bring from Burke the following letter:—"63, Wellington-street, Launceston, Tasmania, 14th July, 1902. My dear friend,—You are the dearest friend on earth, because you were the means of bringing me to Jesus, you and that angel-singer, Mr Alexander. My wife has been smiling ever since, and the youngsters who confessed Christ as their Saviour are continually singing the Glory Song. Even the people about the streets where I live have the Glory Song on the brain, but they have added the following:—'It is good enough for me.' Black Joe, whom I always thought was an ordinary-looking nigger, had a most beautiful expression on his face I ever saw. He jumped around me with his eyes apparently jumping out of his head with joy. With the love of this whole happy household. (Signed) Jim Burke, ex-champion pugilist."

Corporal Otene Paul, of Orakei (a member of the Auckland Mounted Rifles), is one of the natives who went to England in the New Zealand Maori Coronation Contingent. He writes cut giving a diary of the contingent's doings, and expressing himself delighted with all he saw. He was absent from the parades for some time through illness, being sent to a hospital. He warmly praises Lieut. Uru (of Canterbury), who visited him frequently at the hospital. "Lieut. Uru, he says, looks after his men as well as if they were 'his own children,' and as to his military ability, it is 'all up to the mark.'"

"Why is the Cabinet called the Cabinet?" asks a correspondent.

Because, primarily, in former times the common meaning of the term was a private room, a retired apartment; and it was in such a room that the King took counsel with his Ministers. The Cabinet Council originally meant a council of Ministers held in the King's cabinet.

The Cabinet, as we understand the word, originated in its present form in the reign of William III.

The inventor of post-cards has died at the age of sixty-three. He was Dr. Immanuel Hermann, Councillor at the Ministry of Commerce, Austria. In 1869 the idea of a post-card was communicated by him to the "Neue Freie Presse." It was soon adopted by the Austrian Government, then by Germany, and finally by the whole world.

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