

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN EARTH-QUAKES.

On Friday last severe earthquake shocks were felt over a great portion of South Australia. Buildings were shaken during the night, and a few minutes after eight the shocks were repeated, but with much more severity, surpassing anything previously experienced in South Australia. From a cold atmosphere the air became oppressively warm and intensely still.

After a preliminary tremor came a severe shock, lasting half a minute, accompanied by a tremendous noise. Buildings rocked and trembled, walls cracked, chimneys toppled down, and pictures and pottery fell from the walls. A great panic was caused. The people rushed into the streets in thousands. The Adelaide Hospital patients left their beds, and some managed to get out, and refused to re-enter the building.

At the Theatre Royal at night, when the shock was felt, the audience began to stampede, but a panic was averted by the presence of mind of an actor, Mr Ward, who ran on to the stage and announced that the tremor was only the result of an experiment in connection with the forthcoming play. Many ladies fainted. Alarming scenes also occurred at a public meeting. All the clocks in the city were stopped five minutes past eight. The Troubridge lighthouse was badly damaged. The oil overflowed and fired the lantern, which was destroyed. The night was intensely dark, and it was impossible to ascertain the extent of the damage, but it is believed that not many buildings were seriously damaged. The direction of the shocks was from south to north. The quakes were particularly severe in the north.

Further slight shocks of earthquake have been experienced.

GENERAL NEWS.

Large importations of Australian cattle and dairy stock into the Transvaal are anticipated.

Sir Joseph Ward proposes to recommend the Government to take over the control of the domain and sanatorium at Te Aroha.

Captain Post, of the Government steamer Tutaneaki, was a passenger for the South from Wellington by the s.s. Rotomahana last week. It is understood that he is sent to Lake Wakatipu to report to the Government as to the tourist steamer traffic in connection with the proposal of the Government to build a steamer for the lake.

Nearly 700 houses in Devonport are now connected with the drainage system, which was recently inaugurated at a cost of over £20,000. The period of grace terminates on December 31st next, after which connection with the system will become compulsory in all parts of the district reached by it.

The Greymouth Council the other night asked the Mayor to communicate with the Colonial Secretary to have over one hundred Chinese corpses removed from the shed where they are now stored awaiting shipment. In discussion it came out that several bodies that had never been interred had been carried into the building without the knowledge of the sexton.

At the annual meeting of the Taranaki Scenery Preservation Society, held at New Plymouth this week, the chairman (Mr W. H. Skinner) stated application had been made to the Government for a grant for the preservation of old Maori pias. He also stated that steps had been taken to prevent the destruction of the tul bird, and the consequence was that the authorities had been instructed to prosecute persons, white or native, who destroyed these birds. There was every chance that a prosecution will shortly take place for killing the bird.

The Australian Federal Government has received evidence which goes to show that the new British

Resident in the New Hebrides, Commander Hason, has produced a salutary impression upon both black and white inhabitants. He has visited the various islands with some ceremonial, the idea being to convey that behind him is the power of Great Britain. The Government residence is being erected in a prominent position on one of the islands, and H.M.S. Phoebe is patrolling New Hebrides waters. The Resident is a good French linguist, and in settling disputes between the rival races will not be at a disadvantage.

Considerable excitement was caused at Petone last week by a boy named Adams, aged twelve years, being discovered with a shattered hand and wounds in other parts of his body, which he said had been caused by some unknown person shooting him from behind. As the position of the wounds on the boy's body gave colour to this story a detective was sent out to make inquiries. Meanwhile the boy had been brought to the district hospital, and after one of his fingers had been amputated he told the surgeon that he had been damaged by a cartridge, which exploded while he was pressing it into the ground with his foot.

The Marine Court has found that the missing steamer Quiraing, lost while bound from Newcastle to Port Chalmers, was well found and sufficiently manned, and though a wet ship and did not steer well, was seaworthy in all respects at the time of her departure. The cargo was stowed in accordance with the practice at Newcastle, and she was not laden to plimsoll mark. The presiding judge said the court was not called upon to say whether she was lost or not. He added that the court could not disregard the testimony of engineers and others in favour of the wild statements made, some of which were palpably false.

Railway statistics for the past month, just published, afford some interesting information. The 857 miles of railway in the North Island cost £26,192 to work, and yielded a revenue of £48,990, showing a balance to the good of £12,798, or 27 per cent. In the South Island the traffic extends over 1395 miles, and the receipts were £78,534 for the month, and the cost of running £58,383, a gross profit without allowance for capital of over 32 per cent. The expenditure on the various North Island sections bears the following percentage comparison to the receipts:—Kawakawa (8 miles), 147.11; Whangarei (23), 51.22; Kaiti (17), 71.35; Auckland (341), 65.02; Gisborne-Karaka (11), 85.20; Wellington-Napier-New Plymouth (457), 77.25. The aggregate totals for the colony are 252 miles, receipts £127,525, expenditure £94,575, percentage of revenue 69.83.

A shocking accident, attended with fatal results, occurred last Monday morning at Newton, a boy named Roy Bartley being killed in jumping off a bus. It seems that Bartley, who is a lad of about 16, and whose parents reside in Ponsonby, got on board a Tramway Company's bus in Ponsonby. The bus was one with three seats in front, and was driven by William Kirkwood. Bartley sat on the second seat. On reaching the corner of Pitt-street, and Karangahape-road the conductor's whistle was blown, and the driver proceeded to pull up. Before he had brought the vehicle to a standstill, however, Bartley jumped off the bus, and in doing so it is thought that his overcoat (he was also carrying a schoolbag at the time) caught in some part of the bus, for he was turned over on to the ground, and the back wheel went right across his head, inflicting terrible injuries. Miss Clapeott, who was a passenger by the bus, and who is a member of the St. John Ambulance Association, did all she could for the unfortunate boy, who was taken to the premises of Mr Kenderidge, chemist. Dr Inglis was quickly in attendance, but death had been almost instantaneous. The boy's father (Mr. Walter Bartley) is a carpenter, and his uncle is the manager of the Newton branch of the Auckland Savings Bank.

The Auckland members appear to be fairly well satisfied with their share of the Public Works votes as a whole. The feeling of Southern members is that Auckland has the lion's share of the total expenditure proposed, and this has been given expression informally in the House since the Statement was brought down. In this connection it is of some interest to quote the views of a few Southern members on the subject of the North Island Trunk railway.

This week a telegram was received by Mr W. Charlesworth, from Mr. C. Charlesworth, engineer to the Opoitiki County Council, stating that Mr Arthur Warbrick, ferryman at the Ohiwa River, Opoitiki, had been washed out to sea and drowned. Mr W. Charlesworth states that deceased was employed by the County Council to ferry passengers across the mouth of the Ohiwa River, the river being nearly a mile broad at this point. The accident is believed to have been caused by the strong current and the heavy weather, which would combine to carry deceased and his boat out over the bar. Deceased was a splendid boatman, and a man of very fine physique. He was about 34 years of age, and leaves a wife and two children. It is a singular thing that a man lost his life some five months ago while engaged in the same work.

The late Mr Arthur Warbrick was a member of the well-known Warbrick family of half-castes, and was a well-known footballer, like his brothers.

The deceased played for the North Shore Football Club in the old days, before the district scheme came in, and in 1888 was a member of the New Zealand Native Team which toured the United Kingdom.

Musical Examinations.

R.A.M. AND R.C.M. RESULTS

The practical examinations under the Associated Board of the R.A.M. and R.C.M., London, by Mr T. B. Knott, A.R.A.M., member of the Royal Society of Musicians, concluded last week. The hon. representative, Mr Hugh Cooper, hands us the following interim report:—

AUCKLAND CENTRE.

Senior (6th) grade.—Passed: Piano—Marzie Ansley, Edith M. Rhodes (Miss J. M. Adams); Rosa M. Binstead (Dr. Thomas). Violin—Maud M. Dyson (M. de Willimoff). Singing—Nora Sibbald, Annie M. England (Mr Hamilton Hodge).

Junior (4th) grade.—Honours: Piano—Helen A. Morris (Mr J. F. Bennett). Passed: Piano—Isabella Bolous, Helen McGregor Hay, Beatrice Moreland (Mr J. F. Bennett); Ivy Ansley, Olive Hodge (Miss J. M. Adams); Violet Hughes (Mr W. H. Webbe); Ethna C. Pierce (Mr H. Connell). Violin—Leo. M. Swales (M. de Willimoff).

LOCAL SCHOOL.

Higher Division (3rd grade).—Distinction: Piano—Helen A. Morris (Mr J. F. Bennett). Passed: Piano—Edith G. MacEliester, Mary A. Geddes, Edith Crowe, Daphne W. Slade, Jeanie Maxfield, Beatrice A. Moreland, Mildred E. Moreland (Mr J. F. Bennett); Nita Ross (Miss J. M. Adams); William A. Carlick (Mr H. Connell); Ella Gillespie (Mr T. Bosworth).

Lower Division (2nd grade).—Distinction: Piano—Ella Mary Browne, Daphne W. Slade (Mr J. F. Bennett). Passed: Piano—Rosa E. Mackenzie, Elsie W. Edmondson, Elizabeth H. Hicric, Elsie E. Cross, Ellen M. Douglas, Hilly East, Helen A. Lamb, Mary R. Le Bailly, Jessie S. Le Bailly, Cleely Le Bailly, William Leonard Chambers (Mr J. F. Bennett); Kathleen Mitchell, Charlotte Cassie (Miss J. M. Adams); Essie McKemmie (Miss Ockenden); Violet Tibbs, Fredk. C. Tibbs (Mr H. Connell); Cassie Currie (Miss Woolmans).

Elementary Division (1st grade).—Distinction: Piano—Joy Hooker (Mr H. Connell); Jessie M. Dewar (Miss Verrall). Distinction: Violin—Ada Davies, Edward Westwood (Mr J. H. Swales). Passed: Piano—Jessie Geddes, Alexander Geddes, Alice Chambers, Amy A. Gallery, Rosemond M. Brewer, Lillian Selley, Rosie Selley, Ada Selley (Mr J. F. Bennett); Gladys Robins (Miss M. R. Blades); Mary Anston, Muriel Grey, Agnes Fowlds, Gladys Griffith, Ada Trevathan, Wynne Dugh (Mr J. H. Swales); Maud Alison, Henry Barker (Mr H. Connell); Cedric Adams, Alan Bennett, Mary Bedford (Miss J. M. Adams). Passed: Violin—Olivia H. Morrison (Mr J. H. Swales).

Auckland: A Sonnet.

Incomparably the fairest of the scores
Of cities manifoldly-clustering
Like pearls about the Southern Ocean's
shores,
Thou art the central gem, out-lustering
The rest—Serene and beautiful and rare!
Ineffably and indubitably blue,
Thy skies look down on waters every-
where
Translucent as the burnished sapphire's
hue;
Thine exquisitely bright and vivid strands,
Set in the glorious sunshine's gleaming
gold,
Or in the streaming moonlight's silvery
bands,
Such treasured pictures, for all time do
hold.
That, when I backward look, thou
seem'st to me
More sweet than elsewhere is, on
land or sea.

LATE SOCIETY NEWS

CAMBRIDGE.

Dear Bee,—

The Presbyterians held their sale of work in the Oddfellows' Hall on Wednesday, the first day of McNicol's big horse fair; the weather was most unpropitious, but notwithstanding there was a large attendance, and it was most successful, realising about £70. The work stall was presided over by Mrs. Erwin, Mrs. J. Fisher, and Mrs. J. Ferguson; plants, Mrs. Brooks; refreshment stall, Mrs. Taylor, Mrs. John Hally, Mrs. R. Fisher, and Mrs. F. Gane; lollie stall, Misses Howard and N. Scott; doll tree, Miss N. Young, and Miss M. Fisher. The stalls were all most tastefully arranged, but I think the lollie stall deserves special mention for the taste and endless trouble taken in the arrangement. Great taste was also displayed in the artistic arrangement of the plant stall with a fountain playing in the middle. The ladies at the refreshment stall all worked hard, and were kept very busy providing tea and delicious cakes, trifles, jellies, etc. The doll tree proved most fascinating to the small folk, and over 60 dolls were disposed of. In the evening a promenade concert took place.

On Thursday evening, the second day of the horse sale, a concert, followed by the amusing comedieta, "After Dinner," took place. There was a very good attendance, as there always is when these sales are on. It was in aid of St. Andrew's choir music, and the result must be very satisfactory to those interested. The Cambridge Orchestral Society rendered several items, which are always warmly received; the trio "Romance," by violin (Herr Engel), cello (Mr E. Kemp), piano (Mr Frazer), was certainly the gem of the evening. Miss Walker sang in a very pleasing manner, "I trust you still," and was encored, and sang "Killarney." Mr Bouillon sang well in "The Toilers," Mrs Polwarth sang nicely the "Japanese Love Song," Miss Care also sang well in "Mid the Hush of the Corn." Miss Clark was well received in "O Promise Me," for which she had an encore. The comedieta brought a pleasant evening to a close.

Miss McCaw, of "Matamata," is at present staying with Mrs Banks, at "Gwynnlands."

Miss Willis has gone to Shaftsbury to stay with Mrs Hubert Cox, to be present at a ball to be held there next week.

Visitors at "Wainoni," Cambridge, September 19th, 1902.—Mrs Massey, London, England; Miss Hutch, London, England; Mrs Guise, Auckland; Mr Guise, Auckland; Mr Tigwell, Hants, England; Mr Wigg, Auckland; Mr Brown, Auckland; Mr Calvert, Lancashire, England; Mr Hoult, Fielden; Mr Kemp, New Plymouth; Mr McArdle, Pirongia.

ELSIE.

The "Labour Question" is, we know,
A problem hard to solve,
But if its progress is but slow,
Results in time resolve.
But in the case of cold or cough,
Results are swift and sure,
If we but take to drive them off
Some WOODS' GREAT PEPPERMINT
CURE.