

GENERAL NEWS.

In an Auckland drapery establishment the assistants started an anti-slavery club, with a comprehensive tariff, but the laudable effort quickly lapsed owing to the ruinous strain upon the members' finances.

Mr H. Collins' horse, Tide Wave, while being ridden at the Christchurch Hunt Club's meeting, fell at a tricky fence and broke its neck. Mr Collins sustained concussion of the brain, but recovered consciousness at the hospital.

The estate of the late Hon. W. Swanson is valued at £60,000. The property is divided amongst the members of his family, and the Public Trustee, who has been appointed administrator, is instructed to realise the property and divide it as speedily as possible.

Devonport Borough is estimated to have a capital value of £405,659 in property. The borough rates on unimproved value, and anticipates receiving from the property on the threepence-farthings rate the sum of £1321 4/3, the rateable value of the property being £211,394.

A peculiar accident occurred to a Nelson resident. While some coal was burning in a grate, there was a sudden explosion of such force as to scatter pieces of fuel in all directions. One piece was driven completely through thick clothing into the leg of one of the occupants of the room. The wound inflicted was a very painful one.

Mr Laurensen, M.H.R., writes reminding the readers of the Lyttelton "Times" that Capt. Patrick Gilroy, who died at the Bluff a few days ago, was none other than the famous whale fighter immortalised by Frank Bullen in "The Cruise of the Cachalot." Mr Bullen dwells with patriotic pride on Captain Gilroy, who, he says, was unsurpassed as a whale fisher or seaman by any Yankee.

"The Talkies." Wellington, so well known as importers on a very extensive scale of phonographs, graphophones, records, etc., insert a new advertisement in this issue which will repay perusal by all interested in these matters. The firm confine themselves exclusively to this one line of business, and being direct importers are able to offer anything in their line at the lowest possible prices, whilst their stock is thoroughly up-to-date and being added to by every mail.

The Premier makes the following announcement in regard to old age pensions. Compared with what was paid to March 31, 1902, there is for the financial year just closed an increase of only £3000 for the year. From this must be deducted £1050 refunds by Courts paid to the Public Account, and £700 due in 1902, but paid this year, which reduces the increase to £1250. In other words the expenditure of 1902 has been held in hand. This amounts to a saving on the estimates of something like £10,000. The number of pensioners on the rolls on March 31, 1902, was 12,776, and the number on the rolls on March 31, 1903, was 12,557, a decrease of 219.

The memory of the late Miss McLeod, one of the most popular and highly respected school teachers who held the position of infant mistress at Church-street school, Ponsonby, will be usefully perpetuated by scholarships open to children attending the State or any private school in Ponsonby. This was decided last night at a meeting of the committee, which was recently appointed for the purpose, Mr D. B. McDonald presiding. Sub-committees were appointed to carry out the details, and it is to be hoped that the scheme will meet with complete success.

Colonel Porritt, of Paeroa, has received a telegram from the Premier, stating that he would be pleased to unveil the Bradford memorial at Paeroa on Saturday, the 16th May, if the time suited. Mr Porritt has replied, agreeing to the date, and fixing 3 p.m. on the 16th for the ceremony. The No. 1 Ohinemuri Rifles and the school cadets will hold a daylight parade, and the battalion band will also be in attendance. It is intended to ask the business people to observe a half-holiday, and at the meeting of the County Council on Thursday afternoon last it was decided to co-operate with the Citizens' Committee in the ceremony, and no doubt the Council will take steps to suitably entertain the Right Hon. the Premier on the occasion of his visit.

An English tourist, who has been in almost every habitable part of the globe, speaking to Mr Donne, Superintendent of the Tourist Department, the other day said the panoramic view from One Tree Hill, Auckland, surpassed anything he had seen in his travels. To his mind, the view from Mount Eden, though undoubtedly a magnificent one, could not compare with that from One Tree Hill. Altogether, he described Auckland district as "a really magnificent one from a globe trotter's point of view."

Dr. Pomare, accompanied by Mr Jas. Mackay, has been inspecting the Maori settlement at Paeroa, inquiring into the sanitary conditions, and in an interview with our Paeroa correspondent, he expressed himself very strongly on the absolute want of pure water in all the settlements, owing to the Ohinemuri river, on the banks of which the natives live, being used as a sludge channel. The doctor says he will not cease to urge upon the Government the urgent necessity of this matter until it is remedied. Several natives have died within the last few weeks of supposed fever, and another Maori suffering from typhoid fever was yesterday sent to the Thames Hospital by order of Dr. Pomare.

The City Council and the Tourist Department, are taking steps to open up the People's Park at Nihotupu and make it attractive and accessible. The Tourist Department have given £50, and the Council £10 for this purpose, and it has been decided to cut paths through the park to the points of interest, to make suitable camping places so that picnic parties may light fires without danger to the bush, and generally to improve the park as a recreation ground for the Auckland people. The city engineer has been instructed to prepare plans for the improvement of the park.

In this issue Mr Chas. M. Gummer, of Karangahape-road, has an advertisement which will repay perusal. Mr Gummer has recently started business at 142, Karangahape-road, as importer of cycles, sporting goods, gramophones and the latest electrical and other novelties. Mr Gummer is also sole agent in New Zealand for the Coventry Works Company, of Birmingham Cycle and Motor Manufacturers, and the Melnik Manufacturing Company, Toledo, Ohio, who manufacture fire and water-proof safes, specially adapted for household use and small businesses. He is also sole agent for Dr Melcher's shower bath yoke, which is far ahead of the ordinary shower. Illustrated pamphlets and circulars will be forwarded to any address upon application. A speciality is being made of country business, and any orders sent by post will be promptly and carefully attended to.

Free to the Ruptured

Dr. W. S. Rice, the Well Known London Specialist, Sends a Trial of his Famous Method Free to All.

There are people who have been torturing themselves for years with trusses. It is hoped their attention will be drawn to Dr. Rice's free trial.



MR. ROBERT COOPER.

offer. An elderly and retired Gentleman, Mr. Robert Cooper, Little Plumstead, Norwich, Eng., is one of the hundreds attracted to this generous announcement, and as a result he is now completely cured of a bad rupture. Although 66 years of age he had the courage and determination to try this new and novel method, and now he lives in peace, contentment and security. Mr. Cooper looks back to the old days of arduous methods, and in comparison with the wonderful method of Dr. Rice as a marvellous God-sent to the present generations. By all means write at once to Dr. W. S. Rice (Depts. H.D. 8 and 9, Brompton Street, London, Eng.) and he will send you a free trial of his remarkable home cure for rupture. There is no pain, danger, operation or loss of time; by starting now you will be sound and well by early spring.

Commissioner of New Zealand Police.

INSPECTOR WALTER DINNIE'S APPOINTMENT.

(From Our Special Correspondent.)

LONDON, April 9.

Chief-Inspector Walter Dinnie, of the Criminal Investigation Department, New Scotland Yard, who has been appointed Commissioner of Police for New Zealand, retired this week from the Metropolitan Police Force on a well-earned pension, after serving 27 years, and sails for Wellington on the 23rd by the Ruapehu.

Mr Dinnie is a son of the late Mr Robert Dinnie, who was well-known in Scotland as an historian and poet, and is a brother of the famous Donald Dinnie, champion Scottish all-round athlete of the world, and was born at Aboyne, Aberdeenshire. Donald, by the way, is now settled down at Newcastle-on-Tyne. Mr Walter Dinnie in his younger days was a good athlete himself, carrying off many prizes in amateur sports both in Scotland and England. Mr Dinnie had a sound education at the Aberdeen Grammar School, and for two years acted as assistant clerk in the National Bank of Scotland, but wanting to see more of the world, he left the bank, and in 1873 joined the West Riding of York Constabulary, where he was at once appointed as assistant clerk to the superintendent of the Bradford district, and subsequently clerk to the superintendent at Goolse division. After serving three years with the view of improving his position, he resigned, and joined the Metropolitan Police in London in 1876, where again he was appointed assistant clerk to the executive branch of the commissioner's office, and was soon promoted to the rank of sergeant and clerk to the chief constable of the Criminal Investigation Department. In 1883 he began his career as a detective, and will be well remembered in connection with the bringing to justice of many notorious criminals. For a time he devoted his attention to long-firm swindles, such as Messrs Hodge & Co., who had a large place in Oxford-street, and obtained goods from all parts of Great Britain to the value of thousands of pounds, pecul servitude being the result to various members of the firm. The milk frauds, Messrs Plent & Co., also were stopped in a similar manner. The breaking up of the London Fire ring was entirely due to Mr Walter Dinnie, this most dangerous crime—obtaining money from insurance companies by setting fire to private dwellings and coffee houses—having been carried on for some years with considerable success. The result of the prosecution was that nine persons were sentenced to long terms of imprisonment. The Lever frauds on Lords Dudley and Roslyn were detected by Mr Dinnie, who recovered most of the money obtained by a woman who represented she was the daughter of Lord Dudley's trainer and temporarily required money to make certain payments during the absence of her father; two men were concerned with her, and all were sentenced to long terms of penal servitude. Charles Wells, of Monte Carlo fame (the man who broke the bank at Monte Carlo), was arrested and brought to England by Mr Dinnie, his system of fraud being to represent that he had found the secret of using exhaust steam. He had elaborate engineering premises fixed up in Great Portland-street, W., boats running on the Thames, and a beautiful yacht, upon which he was enjoying himself with his mistress when arrested. This roguish Wells obtained thousands of pounds from philanthropic ladies and gentlemen, and although he broke the bank

on one occasion at Monte Carlo he subsequently lost all he won and also all he had obtained by fraud. He had eight years' penal servitude in which to brood over his losses. The robbery of the Duchess of Sutherland's jewels was one of Mr Dinnie's important cases, and it was entirely owing to his practical knowledge of criminals which led to his success in tracing the offender (Harry the Valet), and bringing him to justice, also recovering some of the most valuable articles of jewellery. The thief in this case was sentenced to seven years' penal servitude. The last, and probably one of his most important cases, was the extensive Bank of England forged note enquiry, which lasted two years, when, with the combined action of Mr Dinnie and Inspector Davidson, of the City police, no fewer than 18 persons, mostly foreign Jews, were brought to justice, their combined sentences being 127 years. This was one of the most important prosecutions undertaken by the bank for many years past with such great success. Like most men with much experience in dealing with criminals, Mr Dinnie could easily fill a volume or two with stories of engrossing interest, but he is not sorry to say he has not had many cases of murder or violence through his hands. Most of his experiences have been with cases of fraud, forgery, or blackmailing, and there is plenty of scope for the exercise of one's wits in such cases as these. One thing Mr Dinnie is justly proud of: After he had been a little while in Scotland Yard he entirely re-organised the system of registration of criminals, and his new system is now being adopted. The basis of it is that one docket is kept for each offender, and his whole career can be referred to in an instant. Mr Dinnie has also formed some decided opinions on the evils of the short-service system in the police. Every inducement, by pension and otherwise, should, he thinks, be held out so as to retain in the force the men that have gained valuable experience. In England most of the best men clear out and take their pension when they are only 45. The loss that that means is especially felt in the detective department. A detective is at his best and more valuable than ever after he has had 25 years' service. His memories alone are immensely valuable to the department, and he could go on doing most useful work until he is long past sixty. Frequent changes "at the top" are also an evil, for no sooner do the superiors get to know the men under them than they—the superiors—are moved or retired, and there is consequently disastrous waste of labour.

In the course of his long career Mr Dinnie has been over and over again rewarded for his energy and tact in protecting the law-abiding members of the community against the lawless by bringing criminals to justice, and he holds scores of commendations from judges, magistrates, and the commissioners of the Metropolitan police. It is a great pleasure also to him to know that he has left Scotland Yard with the good wishes of everyone in the force, and of the many friends that he has made in the course of his service.

Mr Dinnie, by the way, is a married man with five boys, the eldest 19. May they all prosper in their new home.

Arthur Adams' Maori opera, "Tapu," accepted for production by Williamson, does not promise to knock creation, judging by information from Maori land. Arthur Adams is well-known here as a "Bulletin" bard with a nice turn for melodious rhyming, and, judging on the capabilities exhibited in his verse, he should produce a neat thing in opera, but the trouble is that the Maori is too near to the New Zealander to bear idealisation. The opera would be more likely to suit in the Commonwealth than in New Zealand, for the reason that over here we see the Maori through a romantic and poetic haze, and know little of his bad odours, bad habits, and inevitable fleas.—"Adelaide Critic."

W. A. RYAN & CO., LIMITED,
SOLE NEW ZEALAND AGENTS

The Oldsmobile.

RAILWAY WHARF, AUCKLAND.