

In the Royal Exchange. It is believed Mr Davis' stock was insured for £250, in the New Zealand office, which has a similar risk on the stock of Mr Aynsley, tobaccoist and hairdresser.

The Rutland was a fine brick structure, and was built about six years ago. Practically everything but the walls will have to be renewed.

AUCKLAND.

East Coast Railway.

Tenders close at the end of the month for the Otoko viaduct on the railway between Gisborne and Motu. Situated at a point 31 miles five chains from Gisborne, the structure will span an upper reach of the Waihaka River, which at this point is confined between the hills, and is better described as a ravine. The viaduct is to be a steel structure, mounted on great solid concrete blocks. It will be 370ft in length, whilst the rails will cross the gulch 100ft above the stream below. The contract, which provides for both construction and erecting, requires the work to be completed in 15 months.

Discontent Among Volunteers.

Some of the remarks that have been made with reference to the discontent among volunteers in regard to the administration from headquarters in Wellington, might by those not familiar with defence matters be construed into an expression of dissatisfaction with the instructional staff at Auckland. "Such is by no means the case," said an experienced infantry officer to a "Graphic" reporter last week. "The district instructors have the entire confidence of officers and men, and the work they have done cannot be too highly commended. They are not only efficient, but enthusiastic, and none of us would wish for better men. From Colonel Wolfe downwards, we are in complete accord with the Staff, and you will not find a district in the Dominion where there is a better feeling."

Harbour Soundings.

Commenting on the accident to the a.s. Kaipara, the "Poverty Bay Herald" says: "Hitherto Wellington has been made the port of departure of the largest ocean liners, and even there care has to be exercised in taking out of harbour these great vessels when deeply loaded. A chart of Wellington harbour shows that off Warner Bay, between the Steeple Rock and Gordon Point, there are soundings of 31ft and 33ft, and a little to the right or left patches of from 26ft to 29ft. This does not give much margin to a deeply laden modern steamship, especially if there be a swell rolling up the harbour, and it would be safer, even at Wellington, for such vessels to always choose high water, which gives an additional 3ft, for their time of departure. Auckland and Wellington, it may be interesting to point out, are the only ports in the Dominion from which the Kaipara, with the draught stated, could have taken her departure. At Lyttelton a channel is being dredged to 28ft, but a uniform depth to this extent has not yet been attained. At Timaru the soundings show 23ft, and the limit of Port Chalmers is for vessels drawing 25ft."

The Stranded Kaipara.

Affairs have progressed quietly in the Dominion through the week. The New Zealand Shipping Company's fine steamer Kaipara, which met with an obstruction while steaming out of port last week and damaged her bottom, has been floated off and brought up into the harbour. Several large holes were found in her hull by the divers, and on these being plugged up the powerful pumps of the tug Terawhiti, assisted by the Harbour Board's pump, emptied the holds of water and the liner floated off and was brought up to Holston Bay, where she was beached until more of her cargo has been discharged prior to docking for repairs. It is stated by Capt. Cornwall, master of the vessel, that he discovered a shoal patch with 20ft. of water on it, about 200 yards astern of where the Kaipara grounded, and this the officers say they have no doubts caused the mishap to the ship.

A Big Scheme.

The Auckland City Council has adopted, subject to confirmation at next meeting, a scheme for extending the municip-

pal electric light and power system, providing for the expenditure of £215,000, including the erection of a new electrical power station on the reclaimed land near the Railway wharf, known as the Farmers' Freezing Company's reclamation, recently acquired under the Public Works Act, and now the property of the City Council. At the opening of the University Senate the speech of the Chancellor, Sir Robert Stout, who is now on his way home from England, expressed opposition to the proposal to give the four colleges in New Zealand power to grant degrees. He declared that New Zealand's requirements in mathematics for the B.A. degree were higher than those of Cambridge.

The Knyvett Case.

The latest phase of the case of Captain F. B. Knyvett, who was dismissed as the outcome of the letter he wrote to the Minister of Defence, asking certain charges against Colonel Robin, is that in answer to the deputation sent down from Auckland this week, Sir Joseph Ward has promised to get a full report from the so-called Court of Inquiry, which was supposed to try the Captain, and says he will give the matter his fullest consideration. Sir Joseph defended Colonel Robin, who he said had had nothing to do with the proceedings against Captain Knyvett, the officer who directed them being Colonel Tison. The request for a Royal Commission to inquire into the working of the Defence Administration was declined, Sir Joseph refusing to believe that the volunteer forces were disaffected as alleged by the deputation.

Waikato Miners' Union.

The Waikato Miners' Union ballot on the question of cancellation of registration resulted as follows:—

Waikato: For cancellation, 188; against, 229. Waikato Branch: For cancellation, 34; against, 12. Total for cancellation, 222; against, 241. A bare majority would not carry the proposal, as under the provisions of the Act, with a total membership of 1200, it would require over 600 votes in favour of the proposal to carry it.

TARANAKI.

Sweet Pea Society.

At a meeting of sweet pea growers at Stratford last week, it was decided to form a New Zealand Sweet Pea Society. A committee, consisting of Messrs. C. Goodson (Hawera), E. A. Osmond (Stratford), G. Holder (Porirua), W. B. Scott (Kaponga), W. C. Armstrong (Hastings), E. C. Bradfield (Palmerston North), G. W. Plummer (Auckland), and Dr. Carbery (Stratford), was appointed.

SOUTH ISLAND.

Arthur's Pass Tunnel.

Work on the Arthur's Pass tunnel is proceeding steadily, states Mr. Murdoch McLean, of Messrs. McLean Bros., contractors, who arrived in Christchurch from Wellington last week. Mr. McLean stated that some difficulty had arisen through the shortage of labour, due to grass-seeding and harvesting, but it was anticipated that this trouble would be overcome when the busy season was over.

Coal in Canterbury.

Several bores are being sunk in the Homebush Estate, Glentunnel, in connection with the proposal to test the coal deposits there. Some have gone to a depth of 50ft., and have picked seams from 4ft. 6in. to 7ft. in thickness. Arrangements have been made to put in a long drive, and although the character of the coal has not yet been definitely decided, some of the experiments show that the coal in the best of the seam is likely to be a good gas producer.

Civil Servants' Horticultural Society.

A meeting of Civil servants to consider the advisability of forming a Horticultural Society was held in Christchurch last week, when a resolution affirming the desirability of forming a society having for its object the holding of exhibitions of flowers, fruit, and vegetables, was carried. It was resolved that persons who are in the employ of the New

Zealand Government in any capacity should be eligible as members or exhibitors. Should the support anticipated be accorded, it is proposed to hold the first show about the end of February.

PERSONAL NOTES.

Herr and Madame Wieleart returned to town last week, after having spent four weeks' holiday in Rotorna.

Mr. Horace Baker, of Adelaide, has been appointed organist and choir-master of the Napier Cathedral.—Press Association.

Mr. F. W. Frankland, of Wellington, was a passenger by the Navua on Thursday for Suva to join the Makura for San Francisco.

Among the passengers by the Maheno last week was Mr. J. R. Riddell, en route for the Old Country, where he intends remaining a season on a pleasure and business trip.

Miss Whitelaw, principal of the Auckland Girls' Grammar School, will attend a conference of secondary school principals, to be held at Wellington at the opening of next month.

Mr. George R. Murriner, curator of the Wanganui Museum, has been unanimously elected a member of the Council of the Australasian Ornithologists' Union. This makes him the Union's New Zealand representative.

Mr. F. Harris, secretary of the Federal Boulder Shire Line, was a passenger from Liverpool by the Morayshire last week, accompanied by his wife and family. After visiting all the chief towns of the Dominion, he will return by the Morayshire.

General regret is expressed in the Waikato at the death of the late Mr. Wm. Bankart, of Raglan, and the Raglan County Council, of which the deceased was a member for many years, has passed the following resolution:—"The Council expresses its deep sympathy with the relatives of the late Mr. W. M. Bankart at his untimely death, and conveys to them the regret of the Council at losing the able assistance of such a valued councillor."

Mr. D. Petrie, chief inspector, will represent the Auckland Education Board at the Dominion Conference on educational matters in Wellington next month.

At St. Peter's Church, Onehunga, Mr. Herbert Walker, dentist, of Auckland, was on Thursday married to Miss Muriel Clark, daughter of Captain Clark, of Onehunga. Mr. and Mrs. Walker spend their honeymoon in Wellington.

Mr. H. M. Woodward, relieving manager for the Bank of New Zealand, and Mrs. Woodward arrived in Auckland last week, and are staying at "Cargen."

Dr. Lloyd Clay and Mr. W. C. W. Tringham, of Wellington, and Mr. R. Galloway, of Christchurch, arrived in town by the Main Trunk train last week, and are staying at the Grand Hotel.

On the occasion of his departure for Port Chalmers after 12 years' service in the Presbyterian charge of Havelock North, the Rev. Alexander Whyte was presented with a cheque for £87 10s., and Mrs. Whyte with three silver flower vases, subscribed for by parishioners. The presentation was made last night.—Press Association.

The remains of the late Surgeon-Lieut.-Col. Beale (V.D.), New Zealand Militia, were interred at Purewa last week, the ceremony being performed by Chaplain Lieut.-Col. Calder. The doctor was in indifferent health for the past few years, and was under the care of his friend, Surgeon-Major Carolan. Symptoms of heart failure appeared the day before his death, but consciousness was retained until the last.

Mr. John Brive Mullin, of Millfield House, Buncrana, County Donegal, arrived by the Monowai from the South last week, accompanied by Mrs. Mullin and his son, Mr. A. B. Mullin, on a visit to Auckland, which is likely to extend over several months. Mr. Mullin, who is deputy-lieutenant for Co. Donegal, a member of the Education Board of Londonderry Presbytery, and an ex-president of the Londonderry Chamber of Commerce, came out to Australia by the Otway, arriving at Wellington some days ago by the Manuka. He is an old and personal friend of Mr. A. J. Enrican, of this city, with whom he is renewing a friendship that was formed when both were young men starting life in the Old Country. Mr. A. B. Mullin will probably remain in New Zealand to take up pastoral pursuits.

Dr. Alfred Agassiz, who died on the 6th inst., in a Sydney private hospital, had an adventurous career in New Zealand

and Australia. He was born in Devonshire in 1840, his father being Dr. Lewis Agassiz, late of Bradfield, Essex, took his M.B.A.S. in 1863, and came to Australia, intending to return. In Melbourne he met Colonel Pitt, who was raising a militia force to take part in the Maori war in New Zealand. He accompanied the force to New Zealand, and Sir George Grey appointed him assistant surgeon, in which capacity he served with the 70th Regiment, joining the flying column under Major Ryan. During the war Dr. Agassiz had many narrow escapes, one being on the occasion of the massacre by the Maoris of Dr. Grace and several missionaries. On another occasion Dr. Agassiz was captured and tied to a tree. He managed, however, to convey a message to a chief whom he had cured of typhoid, and who rescued him. After the war, the doctor who had married a daughter of Dr. Deakin, of Whangarei, went to Australia, and was for a time medical superintendent of Bay View House, Cook's River. He went to Cootamundra after this, and was there when the great railway accident occurred in 1885, being for a time the only medical man attending the sufferers. After he returned to Sydney his health failed. Death took place from diabetes.

Mr. C. W. Tringham, of Wellington, who has been staying at the Grand Hotel, left for home on Friday.

Mr. Charles E. Palmer, local manager for the Ocean Fire Corporation, left by Thursday's Main Trunk train for Wellington.

Captain and Miss Maxwell, of Christchurch, arrived from the South on Thursday and proceeded on Friday by the Rotorna train on a visit to the Waitomo Caves.

Mr. E. Di Dimant, of Melbourne, and Mr. C. H. Cranby, of Napier, were arrivals by the Main Trunk train this morning, and are both stopping at the Central Hotel.

Candidates announced for the Nelson Mayorality are Mr. Jesse Piper, the sitting Mayor, who has served five successive terms, and Mr. T. Pettit, a councillor.—Press Association.

It is understood (says the "Wellington Post") that Mr. Haselden, S.M., will carry out the duties of Dr. McArthur, S.M., at Wellington, during the absence of the latter on leave.

Mr. Peter Keddie, well known in commercial circles in Otago and Canterbury, died suddenly at Timaru last week. He had until lately been inspector of factories, but retired owing to failing health.—Press Association.

Messrs. G. H. Dixon, G. C. Fache, and G. H. Mason left Wellington by the Ubinara on Friday, to represent the New Zealand Rugby Union at the football conference in Sydney.

Commissioner Hay, chief of the Salvation Army staff for Australia, accompanied by Mrs. Hay, reached Dunedin on Friday, and were accorded a civic reception at the Town Hall.—(Press Association message.)

The Rev. the Hon. R. J. Yarde-Buller, Warden of the Church of England Naval Church Institute at Chatham, ran for the benefit of the bluejackets, arrived at Wellington on a visit to the Dominion by the Warrimoo on Wednesday.

Messrs. W. F. Suga and W. Vivian, of Dunedin; F. H. Irwin and S. C. Leary, of Wellington; and F. E. Graham and R. Galloway, of Christchurch, who have been stopping at the Grand Hotel, returned South on Friday by the Main Trunk train.

Mr. C. W. Foote, who has been in the employ of Messrs. A. Clark and Sons, Ltd., for the last 8 years has severed his connection with the above firm to join Messrs. Jones and Foote as a partner. He was the recipient of a handsome gold watch on leaving, as a mark of esteem from his fellow employees.

Mr. H. B. Seddon, the first New Zealand student at the Veterinary College, Melbourne University, and who has passed his first year examination, besides securing the gold medal for the best first year student, is a son of the late Mr. Robert Seddon, Te Puke, and well known in the Bay of Plenty and Waikato districts.

Mrs. Goodbehore, relict of the late Mr. Samuel Goodbehore, ex-Mayor of Feilding, died at the age of 99 years on Friday (says a Press Association wire from Feilding). The deceased was the mother of Mr. Edmund Goodbehore, a present Councillor and the Chairman of the Fire Board, and an ex-Mayor of Feilding. The family was one of the first to settle in the district.

The Rev. Herbert C. Fallock, Canon Residentiary and Vice-Dean of Rochester