

quently until long past the midnight hour.

Dr. Findlay, Minister for Justice, speaking of the pressure of work upon judges, stated that temporary arrangements had been made to relieve pressure at Auckland. There was a little difficulty just now, but the Chief Justice would be able to resume his duties about the middle of March. Meanwhile the judges were endeavouring, he thought successfully, to meet the pressure, which was due chiefly to the fact that for the first six weeks of the year two judges were absent. Mr. Justice Sim had been able to give a great deal of assistance while not engaged in the Arbitration Court. Dr. Findlay said that he recognized Mr. Justice Edwards as one of the hardest worked judges, being in a district where a large amount of criminal work had to be done.

Suicide at Wellington.

A single man named William Anderson, aged 34 years, was found early on Saturday in a backyard with his throat cut. Anderson resided in a house at Cambridge-terrace. According to a report made to the police, the daughter of the occupier of the house, on returning last night from the theatre, met Anderson, and was assaulted by him, sustaining a split jaw and broken nose. The matter was reported to the police, who found Anderson lying in the backyard with his throat cut, having evidently committed suicide.

Jealousy is said to be the cause of the trouble.

AUCKLAND.

Fire at Te Awamutu.

What might have been a disastrous fire occurred at 9.30 a.m. Friday, when the two-storied building owned by Mr. C. T. Rickit, and occupied by Messrs E. A. Empson (dentist) and A. G. Warburton (printer and stationer), was gutted by fire. It appears that one of the employees of Mr. C. T. Rickit was upstairs, and was handling kapok, when he trod on a match, and soon the upstairs portion was well alight. A large number of residents, with buckets, was soon on the scene, and, but for their untiring efforts, the fire must most surely have spread. The stock of Mr. Warburton was removed, considerably damaged by water. Mr. Empson's premises were also damaged. The upstairs portion of the building was considerably damaged by fire, but the lower part was untouched, except by water. Had the fire spread it must have destroyed the whole block. Nelson Middlebrook states that he trod on a match, which was the cause of the conflagration. He is badly burnt, and may have to be sent to the hospital.

North Auckland Railway.

Some time ago the Auckland Chamber of Commerce passed a resolution endorsing the request of the Railway League to have the scope of the Royal Commission, which was set up to inquire into the deviation of the North Auckland Main Trunk railway north of McCarrroll's gap, extended so as to include the deviation south of the gap. A copy of the resolution was forwarded to the Minister for Public Works, the Hon. R. McKenzie. On Friday the Secretary of the Chamber of Commerce received a reply from the Minister, stating that the Government had arrived at a decision in regard to the deviation of the line between Ross Hill and McCarrroll's gap last June, and that since that time between 300 and 400 men have been employed on the construction of the railway. The matter, therefore, was finally settled and could not be re-opened.

In reply to a communication to the Premier on the subject of the memorial addressed to him by leading citizens, praying that the scope of the inquiry in connection with the North Auckland railway should be enlarged to include both deviation questions, the following telegram has been received from Sir Joseph Ward:—"As indicated to the Hon. e, the Commission is to inquire into the route of the North Auckland Main Trunk railway from McCarrroll's Gap northwards, and it is for this purpose that it is being set up. I shall, however, be glad to consider the representations of the petitioners when the petition comes to hand." The memorial was dispatched to Mr. T. M. Wilford, M.P., last night, for presentation to the Prime Minister.

Dr. Purdy's Successor.

Dr. H. Makgill, Government bacteriologist, has been appointed District Health Officer at Auckland, vice Dr. Purdy, who has accepted an appointment in Tasmania.

So far as is known at present, it is not intended to make any appointment with regard to the duties of Government bacteriologist. These will still be carried out by Dr. Makgill, who will make Auckland his headquarters, paying occasional visits to Wellington.

Reception of Mr. H. Brett.

A public meeting, convened by the Mayor, was held in the Council Chamber Auckland recently to make preliminary arrangements to accord to Mr. Henry Brett, a public reception on his return to Auckland, after an absence of about a year. Mr. A. J. Entrican, president, in the absence of the Mayor, and there were about thirty representative citizens present. Apologies were tendered on behalf of several others.

The Chairman said that the meeting had been called in order that citizens might have an opportunity of according a welcome to one of the leading citizens of Auckland on his return from the Old Country. He was sure all present would be glad to do honour to a citizen so much respected, and of so long standing, especially as he had laid the community under a deep debt of gratitude. One of his most pleasing duties in the Old Country had been the selection of the organ which he purchased and presented to the city for the new Town Hall.

Followed a general discussion as to how Mr. Brett could best be welcomed. The general consensus of opinion was that the occasion could be most suitably marked by a presentation to Mr. Brett of a suitable address. This was agreed upon, and the meeting proceeded to appoint a committee to carry out the arrangements. All present formed themselves into a general committee, and appointed the following gentlemen as members of an executive committee: Messrs. J. Kirker, G. Aicken, C. J. Parr, C. Williamson, G. J. Garland, L. Myers, V. Rice, P. J. Nerheny, A. J. Entrican, and J. Brown.

Auckland Trams.

It is understood that another Commission will shortly be appointed to inquire into the "braking" on the Auckland tramways. Some time ago an official inquiry was made to determine the adequacy of the brake equipment, and it was reported that a number of improvements were desirable. The company, after being pressed by the Government, made experiments in the use of power brakes and air brakes now in use on some of its cars. A commission will shortly be set up to deal specially with the question of the best system of brakes suitable for the conditions prevailing in Auckland.

Money at Interest.

It is the intention of the banks in New Zealand to lower their rates of interest on money at fixed deposit. It is expected that a reduction of one-half per cent will be given effect to in the course of a few days, in view of the fact that there is an abundance of money at present seeking investment. An Auckland bank manager, speaking to a "Star" representative last week said that he did not doubt but that the interest on money let out on mortgage would decrease to a corresponding degree, providing that the security was satisfactory.

It will be remembered that about three weeks ago the building companies reduced their rate of interest from 4½ to 4 per cent per annum.

Harbour Pilotage.

The question of pilotage in the Auckland Harbour as the outcome of the mishap to the Kaipara was brought under the notice of the Harbour Board on Wednesday afternoon. Messrs. L. D. Nathan wrote stating that since the accident to the s.s. Kaipara they had received letters from Capt. Evans, marine superintendent for the Shaw, Savill, and Albion Co., asking them to communicate with the Board in regard to pilotage arrangements. Captain Evans deemed it advisable that all heavy draught steamers, say, above a certain minimum draught, should be piloted until past the green occulting buoy in Rangitoto Channel, and that in consideration of the circumstances such pilotage should be free, or at most only a

nominal sum in addition to the unberthing fee should be charged. There would not be much extra time involved to the pilot excepting in the matter of increased distance for the launch to go to bring him back to the wharf. Capt. Evans thought there was not a sufficiency of buoys in Auckland Harbour to indicate the curve necessary for deep draught vessels to take from the red buoy off Devonport onwards to the two lighted buoys near which the Kaipara grounded. It was hoped the Board would find it possible to make some such temporary arrangement as was desired in the matter of pilotage to the Rangitoto Channel.

The letter was referred to the Board in committee.

A Clerical Bankrupt.

Particulars of the bankruptcy of Meredith Soule, of Kamo, and late Presbyterian pastor of the church at Hikurangi, have been received by the Official Assignee (Mr. E. Gerard). Soule filed his petition on January 25, and in accounting for his bankruptcy says:—"In December, 1908, I was a minister of the Presbyterian Church at Hikurangi, and preaching at Kamo, Hikurangi, and the outlying townships and stations. My stipend was considerably in arrears, and income less than £75 a year. I was minister of the church at Hikurangi until 1907, with varying income and increased arrears. In December, 1907, I left for Sydney, as I had promised of a station there. Before going I sold all my furniture, the proceeds of which were £23. During the 12 weeks I was in New South Wales I earned about £12 in fees as preacher, and returned in February, 1908. Immediately on my return I was sued for an organ, which, as I had paid for it out of collections, etc., I considered to be my own property. I lost the case, and lodged notice of appeal, borrowing £50 as security for costs. The appeal was withdrawn, on a promise being made by the solicitor for the church trustees that the matter would be submitted to arbitration, but I lost the case.

"Later on, I sued for arrears of stipend, about £100; money owing for labour, about £36; and other moneys. I was non-suited. Some time afterwards I moved to Kamo, and purchased a house there. About this time I went up for Parliament, and was informed that it was necessary for me to be a property-holder before I could do so. In consequence of this, I got a house in my own name, although it was really paid for out of moneys borrowed from Mrs. Soule, for which I gave 10 U's. The land and house cost £425, and of this amount £350 was raised from the Government Advances to Settlers Office, and the balance from Mrs. Soule. Besides the small sums earned as a preacher, I had earned a small amount of money by carpentering. These were the only amounts earned by me during the last three years. My wife and daughters earned a little, and assisted to keep the house going.

"I attribute the whole of my difficulties to the fact that I was induced by the Presbyterian Church authorities to go to Hikurangi, and their informing me that there was a considerably greater income to be made than was a fact. I attributed my first losses in regard to the organ to the fact that there was so much local jealousy and ill-feeling on the part of some of the residents of Hikurangi. If I had been paid my stipend in full, I anticipate that I would now be in the position of being absolutely independent of my creditors, and clear of all these present creditors. I thought that my bankruptcy plainly showed that country preachers of some of the denominations should be paid a larger stipend. I found it was impossible to live on the amount I received, and do the work required of me. I had been informed that the Presbyterian Church property trustees, in whom the property of the Presbyterian Church was vested, were to a great extent ignorant of the proceedings which were being taken in Whangarei, and this might be to a great extent the reason that payment of the sums promised by the Presbytery in Auckland was discontinued."

The liabilities to unsecured creditors are set down at £240 15s, and the assets at £140, leaving a deficiency of £100 15s.

MEETING OF CREDITORS.

A meeting of creditors in the estate was held at Whangarei on Monday last, Mr. T. H. Steadman presiding.

Asked when he ceased to preach, and when he commenced business as a carpenter or contractor, bankrupt said he had never ceased to preach, and that he commenced carpentering at Kamo in September, 1908. He worked on his own

NORTHERN STEAM SHIP COMPANY, LIMITED.

Weather and other circumstances permitting, the Company's steamers will leave as under:—

For Russell.
CLANSMAN Every Monday, at 7 p.m.
For Russell, Whangarei, and Mangonui.
CLANSMAN....Every Wednesday, at 5.30 p.m.
No Cargo for Russell.
For Awanui, Waiharara, Koukora, Whangarei, and Mangonui.
APANUI Every Monday, at 2 p.m.
No Cargo Whangarei and Mangonui.
For Whangarua, Helena Bay, Tautakaka, and Whanganaiki.
PAEROA.....Monday, 20th Dec., 1 p.m.

For Great Barrier.
WAIOTAHU....Every Wednesday, midnight

For Waikae and Coromandel.
LEAVE AUCKLAND.

DAPHNE....Every Tues. & Thurs. Forenoon.
LEAVE COROMANDEL VIA WAIOHAE.
DAPHNE....Every Wed and Fri. Early.

FOR WAIHEKE.
Sat. at 2 p.m., commencing 4th Dec.

FROM ONEUNGA.
For Hokanga.

CLAYMORE Every Thursday
For Raglan and Keriwhia.

CLAYMORE.....Every Monday
WHANGAREI SERVICE.

Steamers leave Whangarei as under:—
S.S. NCAPUHI

Train Whangarei S.S. Coromandel
To Whang. *Leaves
Goods re- Pns. Mangapai. Paras
collected till 11 a.m. Bay
2nd-9.15 a.m. 1 p.m. 10 a.m. 1 p.m.
4th-9.15 a.m. 11 a.m. No str. 11 a.m.
7th-11.45 a.m. 2 p.m. 1 p.m. No str.
8th-11.45 a.m. 3.45 p.m. 2 p.m. 4 p.m.
11th-Prevs. day 9 a.m. No str. 9 a.m.
14th-Prevs. day 9.30 a.m. 8 a.m. No str.
16th-9.15 a.m. 11 a.m. 9 a.m. 11 a.m.
18th-9.15 a.m. 11.45 a.m. No str. Noon.
21st-9.15 a.m. 1 p.m. 11 a.m. No str.
23rd-11.45 a.m. 3 p.m. 1 p.m. 3 p.m.
24th-No cargo. 2 p.m. No str. 2 p.m.
28th-Prevs. day 9.30 a.m. 8 a.m. No str.
30th-9.15 a.m. 11 a.m. 8 a.m. 11 a.m.
31st-No cargo. 11 a.m. No str. 11 a.m.

*Goods outward by steamers leaving on following dates: 11th, 14th, 16th, 26th, and 30th, must leave up-country stations by afternoon train previous day.

NORTHERN S.S. CO., LTD.
Agents.

AUCKLAND HARBOUR BOARD.

PUBLIC NOTIFICATION.

PATCH OF ROCK IN RANGITOTO CHANNEL.

Harbour Board Offices,
February 3rd, 1910.

A Small vessel is now moored on the Shoal in Rangitoto Channel, which s.s. Kaipara struck, and a bright light will be exhibited from the vessel showing all round the horizon. The buoy will be moored close to, and outside of the Light Vessel.

Notice to Mariners in relation to the above will shortly be gazetted.

By Order of the Board.

J. M. BRIGHAM,
Secretary.

District Lands Office.

Auckland, 25th January, 1910.

It is hereby notified that eleven lots in the Town of Ngaurua-whaka will be submitted for sale by public auction at the Survey Office, Hamilton, on Friday, 25th February, 1910, at 10 a.m.

Poster plans with full particulars at all Post Office in the locality and obtainable at Hamilton, also on application to

ERIC C. GOLD SMITH,
Commissioner Crown Lands.

HAVE YOU A BAD LEG

With wounds that discharge or otherwise, perhaps surrounded with inflammation and swollen, that when you press your finger on the inflamed part it leaves the impression if so, under the skin you have poison that defies all the remedies you have tried, which, if not extracted, you never can recover, but you are suffering till death releases you. Perhaps your legs are swollen, the joints being ulcerated; the same with the ankles, round which the skin may be discoloured, or there may be wounds; the disease, if allowed to continue, will deprive you of the power to walk. You may have attended various hospitals and had medical advice, and been told your case is hopeless, or advised to submit to amputation. But do not, for

I CAN CURE YOU.

I DON'T SAY PERHAPS; BUT I WILL. Because others have failed is no reason I should. Send at once to the Drug Stores for a box of

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and Pills, which is a certain cure for Bad Legs, Housemaid's Knee, Ulcerated Sores, Carbuncles, Boils, Itchiness, Itching Tumours, Abscesses, Sore Throats, Bronchitis, Rashes and Ringworm. See the trade mark of a "Grasshopper" on a green label. Prepared by ALBERT & CO., ALBERT HOUSE, 17, FABBINGTON ST., LONDON, ENGLAND.