as good on paper as those of the Commissioners of the lively State, but we keep our stock in better order.

Tesla, the Wizard.

We are electrified on reading the communication from Mr. Tesla, the magician of the electric world, who tells us that he has found a way to get power transmitted wirelessly to any part of the earth, air, and ocean he pleases. According to his own account, he makes a vast wave of power, much like the flap of a huge wing, and by a process which may be described popularly as a nod, he transmits this to any ship, motor car, flying aeroplane, balloon, factory, foundry, power house, light house, private house, street lamp, or anything else that requires light or motive force, anywhere in the wide world. He has found out how to send this power in any quantity —he talks of thousands of millions of horse power, in a moment, with unerring aim right round the globe, and what is even more wonderful, he can tune every parcel of power so that it will not be of use to any one else than the consignee. This is reducing Puck's time for putting a girdle round the earth to form forty minutes to forty seconds. As everything is ready, but a small formality of invention in some matter of detail, we may, the imperturbable inventor tells us through the interviewers, look to see vast changes very soon on the face of the earth. By the way, he is good enough to place New Zealand well forward in the list of countries where power is to be had from the hills and the streams for the harnessing, and despatch on world journeys.

Among other things we are to do is the establishment of communication with Mars, for the energy of the new process is tremendous enough for the most sustained effort of signalling even to such tremendous distance. As yet we are not quite sure that there are any people there to signal to. Professor Lowell has written some remarkable books to prove that there are, and he has supplemented them with a fresh one, written on the nearer observations of the planet's recent proximity, proving the addition of two new canals. On the other hand, Mr. E. W. Mander, Superintendent of the Solar Department of Greenwich Observatory, told the Astronomical Society, at its last meeting in December, that Professor Hale, of the Solar Observatory of the Carnegie Institute at Washington, using a sixty-inch telescope, had "undoubtedly established the fact that the canalisation of Mars (alleged) is only an optical illusion." The mystery is too much for the local scientists; and the educational authorities are too busy about their own mysteries to solve this one, which concerns the whole world. I have not yet heard of any soldier formulating a theory that messages from Mars ought to be forbidden for fear that military secrets may be given away to the enemies of the country by the impartiality of the Martian observers.

Neither have there been any demonstrations by way of protest from any soldier lets the enormous forces wielded by the new process may be used for the disruption of this and other worlds.

Flying in New Zealand.

For the present we have a locally-invented aeroplane which has got as far as the model stage, and has been subjected to the gliding experiences which precede the art of flight. Mr. Beach, the inventor, is a young gentleman, in full possession of the absolute certainty of manner and expression without which no inventor ever can respect himself or his invention. He has studied, he tells one casually, every class and variety of aeroplane that has ever been noticed in the air, and he has found out all their deficiencies without feeling tempted to use any of their good qualities. Good qualities! My dear sir, there are no good qualities in any of these others, and as for the ideas of the inventors with which the world is making play just now by way of amusement and instruction, he has been long aware of them, and it is as long since he determined their absolute futility. All of which may be, and is, just mannerism of a young man who has long brooded on things within. Of such are most inventors, for the first quality of your inventor is independence of thought and singleness of idea.

What this one seriously claims is that he has found stability, so that his machine is independent—except for speed—on the motor. Break his motor, and his bird will come to earth as safely and as easily and as leisurely as any other bird. His explanation is simple enough. In all other aeroplanes the danger lies from the concentration into a single focus of all the air pressures on their surfaces. This focus changes so rapidly, and the force, suddenly concentrated by unexpected gusts and shifts, to which all air currents are liable, may be too much for any known method of control, so that your machine is always in danger of going suddenly over before you can make the necessary movement of the levers. What the bird does automatically, your aviator has to do by mechanical process, after process of thought. Now, thought is the quickest thing we have, but the movements of air currents may be even quicker. Consequently there is in every aeroplane of the day some element of danger inevitable. This is due, according to the inventor under review, to the concentration of the air pressures. The device that distinguishes the new invention is the device which diffuses these air pressures, so that they no longer act on one spot. By diffusion over many points they are made innocuous, one neutralising the other, with the result of general safety to the machine.

The trial given to the model was declared to be satisfactory by those present at the Masonic Hall for the purpose. The inventor produced his own model, and a model of the well-known Farman biplane, which he maintained to be the most successful of all the machines at present in successful flight. That the model was in every respect correct many present were satisfied. The inventor mounted a ladder 18 feet high, and standing on the top rung launched the models one after the other into space, the fall being something over twenty feet. Both models behaved well, gliding to earth with considerable stability. But the inventor claimed that his model performed better in the air, and his claim was found good by a good many of those present; in fact, it seemed to be the general opinion that the newcomer was a more graceful and quite as sure performer. There is a keel to the car, and there are two planes, in tandem harnessed above the same with an arrangement of side wings and rudders for the diffusion of the air pressures. The machine will carry when complete, the inventor says, three passengers and much petrol. He hopes to win the £10,000 prize offered by the Commonwealth Government for the first aeroplane of Australian construction. He is therefore prepared, as soon as his syndicate finds the £1,800 he wants for the purpose, to go over to Australia for the work of construction to be done there. Finally he claims superior speed and lifting power as consequences of his device for diffusing the air pressures. Coming from the abstract to the concrete, he predicts that he will be able to cover the distance between any two of the great Australian capitals without a stop. The next thing we want to hear is the completion of the syndicate part of the programme.

Word comes from Auckland of another inventor with another aeroplane. Nor is this the only other New Zealander. We had Mr. Forrester some months ago with his aeroplane, which looked very promising, too. It was so constructed that the screw was able to act vertically for lifting her straight off her feet without any glide or run or sweep, as in all other aeroplanes, and after the lift to assume the horizontal position necessary for flight. The model performed well, but the syndicate wanted did not come up to expectations. The ingenuity was considerable, and the cost would have been very small, for the details were of the utmost possible simplicity. We will hear more of Mr. Forrester, who is a hard-headed, persevering Yorkshireman.

Spirits and Their Ways.

We have had spirits from the vasty deep. Rather we have had reasons why they did not come the last time of calling. On that occasion the sceptics made a great hit against the medium Bailey, who seemed to know as much about the spirits as he did about anything else in the world, and enjoyed the special disadvantage of having been sent to gaol in a neighbouring State for fraud and false pretences in the matter of calling spirits from the other world. They brought out this fact during his seances while he was endeavouring to bring things from India's coral strand in the twinkling of an eye during an hour of artificial darkness. The proceedings led to much argument and challenge to a public trial. The argument never ended, the challenge never came off, and the medium retired to another country. The local votaries, however, sent off to their friends elsewhere for corroborative ammunition for their battle. It had been said by Dr. Tudor Jones and others that the authorities depended on by the votaries were broken reeds. In particular, Lombroso and Dr. Hyslop were said to have broken down lamentably. Replies came in due course that neither had broken down, as believers in the various methods of calling up spirits. Thereupon the high priest of the cultus of spirits demanded of Dr. Tudor Jones that he should apologise for his nefarious and exploded statements. But the Doctor stood to his guns, quoting Dr. Hyslop as proving the impostures of Lombroso's medium and his grave doubts about the new science. It only proves what we all knew before, that when you call spirits from the vasty deep, and they won't come, that by no means ends their little affair. To the faithful nothing seems to matter, for the cult goes on living on puerile manifestations in spite of numerous exposures of rascality.

A New Process.

Professor Park has brought his suggestion for dumping wool in a vacuum to a practical stage, and soon we are to see here whether the dumping can be done in a vacuum chamber, just as sugar is boiled in the same. He claims that the process takes out all moisture and all air liable to heating without destroying the lustre of the wool, as the present system of dumping undoubtedly does. All of which being true, there is a fortune for the professor. There are two and a-half million bales of wool to dump every year in Australasia, half a million being in this Dominion. At a shilling a bale royalty there is enough to make the professor comfortable for life in his own country without going near those sceptical Australians at all.

Railway Employees.

The railway men, in conference, have not succeeded in knocking daylight into the question of arbitration v. classification, but in minor matters they have been brilliant. Substitution of punishment by marks for punishment by fines, betterment of the transfer system, employment of casuals, regulation of hours —all these they have talked with excellent meaning always, and sometimes with absolute fairness.

AUCKLAND.

The Famous Terraces.

A project that has been mooted more than once before is being seriously discussed again, namely, the possibility of recovering the famous terraces at Rotomahana. Guide Warbrick stoutly maintains that they were never destroyed, but simply buried, basing his belief on the fact that he has searched the whole of the ground in the neighbourhood of the lake, and never found a fragment of terrace formation. Since the eruption in June, 1886, Lake Rotomahana has filled up to nearly twenty times its original size, and is now more than 100 feet above its former level. There is no outlet, and it is still rising. Another 25 feet will cause it to overflow into its old channel, which would soon be scoured out. The idea is to hasten this process by giving it a start by making a cut. The topmost layer of the terraces was originally 70 or 80 feet above water, and is therefore now submerged 20 to 30 feet. Above this is a deposit of mud, which, it is believed, could be shovelled or washed into the lake with no great labour. If the terraces still exist, the lowering of the water, it is fondly hoped, will bring them to light again. On the other hand, one authority at least believes that, if not destroyed in the eruption, the steam confined below will, by this time, have converted the siliceous formation into pulp and destroyed the beautiful contours of these famous beauty spots. Believers in their existence contest this theory and contend that the formation is much too hard to be injured by steam.

The Malwa's Arrival.

One of the features of the week was the arrival of the P. and O. Company's magnificent ocean liner Malwa, which berthed at Queen-street wharf on Wednesday morning last. Hundreds of people visited the vessel while in port, and at 1 o'clock a public luncheon was given aboard the vessel to commemorate the Malwa's arrival in this port. The Hons. G. Fowlds and Dr. Findlay were present, and the Attorney-General, in the course of an after-luncheon speech, said the occasion marked an epoch in the history of New Zealand. Captain Toque, master of the Malwa, expressed himself as highly delighted with the natural facilities and the safety of Auckland as a port, while Mr. Tridawney, general superintendent of the Company for Australasia, who paid his first visit to New Zealand on Wednesday, remarked that he considered the Auckland harbour quite as picturesque as Port Jackson. The Malwa left again for Sydney on Wednesday evening. Although only a day in Auckland, it is considered that the Malwa took away stores valued at £3000, in addition to coal.

WANGANUI.

Wreck Washed Ashore.

The Customs authorities at Wanganui were advised on Wednesday that the hull of a vessel with the afterpart broken away was seen on the beach, about a mile north of the Wanganui River. The police will visit the scene.

The wreckage found near Wangaehu recently is reported by the police to be part of the schooner Ururoa, wrecked here 15 months ago.

Alleged Incendiarism.

As a sequel to the fire which destroyed the Rutland Hotel, at Wanganui, on the night of January 22, Martin Haynes and Joseph Davis, manager and proprietor of the jewellery and fancy goods shop in which the outbreak occurred, were charged, the former with setting fire to the shop in the Rutland Hotel building, and the latter with counselling Haynes to do so. The men were arrested consequent on a workman finding a quantity of jewellery and fancy goods and books, which were supposed to have been burned in the fire, near their rooms. The police ascertained that three parcels were shipped by Davis to Nelson on January 11, and inquiries made in Nelson revealed that the stock, said by Davis to be worth £300, and insured there by him for £200, had been found stored in a Nelson auction room.

Destruction of Bush.

The Wanganui Chamber of Commerce has decided to send a protest to the Minister in charge of the Tourist Department against the destruction of bush and fern scenery on the banks of the Wanganui river. It was stated that Maoris and others were cutting down bush, and were not even sowing grass, allowing noxious weeds to spread.

SOUTH ISLAND.

Cosmic Impact.

Christchurch working men have formed a committee to assist in raising funds to send Professor Bickerton to England for further work in connection with his cosmic theories. The Committee has decided to urge the Government to give financial help.

A New Gaol.

On Wednesday, before a small gathering of representative people, the Prime Minister opened the new gaol at Invercargill, a fine structure, built by prison labour under the direction of Gaoler Hawkins. The building cost £6,050, and the site was taken by the Public Works Department for £1,250. The prison will be the first used in furtherance of the reform proposals of the Minister for Justice, and to that end has several notable features of construction. The sanitary arrangements particularly are noteworthy, and the gaol is on the one-man-one-cell principle.

Kitchener's Tour.

Lord Kitchener arrived at the Bluff on Thursday afternoon, and reached Dunedin on Thursday evening. On his journey he found assembled at every station large crowds of people, who cheered the Field-Marshal as he passed through. He was afforded a civic reception at the Dunedin railway station. On Friday he proceeded to examine the harbour defences, and reviewed the cadets. The latter ceremony was spoilt by crowds of people breaking through the enclosure and swarming over the review ground.