

such a defect in eyesight as to render further examination distinctly advisable, and whereas 13 children had been under medical treatment for disease of the ear, nose, or throat, only three had had their eyesight examined by a medical man. He had found no cases of disease of the heart or lungs. Generally speaking, it would appear that although the general standard of health had been found to be good, there was a small number of cases of disease of the ear, nose and throat, but relatively a large number of cases of defective eyesight, which required medical attention.

#### French in New Zealand.

Recent letters from Mr. Robert McNab show that he is well on the way to securing very valuable information in regard to the early settlement of Akaroa, and the very interesting Franco-British race for possession. Writing on April 1 to Mr. Ell, M.P., Mr. McNab says: "I think I have unearthed the French correspondence connected with Akaroa. Until it is all copied I cannot be certain if it covers everything, but the reports of the French Commander to his Government are among it, and these will naturally make interesting reading. To Englishmen, the language being different, makes the search very difficult, and being a foreigner does not decrease the difficulties in any way." Writing to the editor of the "Lyttelton Times," Mr. McNab gives full particulars of his finds. "At present," he says, "I am tabulating the material for the copyists. It is at no fewer than four depots, and will probably take a month to copy. The language has been my greatest barrier, and though I know generally what I have I cannot say exactly until it has been copied and translated. These have to be done separately. I have a great quantity of correspondence of 1839 and 1840 dealing with the French Expedition to Akaroa, and the papers include correspondence with the members of the company, official reports of the Commander of the expedition, and, finally, decisions of the French Government relative to the steps to be taken. I have also arranged for search work to be done for me by qualified persons in all directions, which can only be determined when I come to sift out the mass of material I have obtained. Though there were things I hoped to get here, and did not, still I was amazed at the quantity of material available. The Akaroa expedition may be regarded as fairly complete, but I think there is much yet to be got about the French connection with the Peninsula during the years 1830-1840, out of which in a measure the Akaroa settlement sprang. Included in this may be considered the wreck of the Jean Bart at the Charlams. I have full particulars of that. I have cleared up the story of De Surville, who landed at Mougouin in 1826-9, and was there when Cook sailed past. I have found all the ship's papers. There is, of course, a great deal yet to do. There is the establishment of the first Roman Catholic Bishop (Pompallier) in New Zealand, and the connection of the French Government with the notorious Baron De Thierry, which must wait over until I can manage another run round the world."

#### Memorial Services.

An enormous crowd attended the united memorial service held in Grammar Square on Friday afternoon. Prayers were offered up by Brigadier Abiston (of the Salvation Army), the Rev. Tait (Presbyterian), and the Rev. D. McNeill (Methodist). Addresses were delivered by Bishop Julius and the Rev. W. J. L. Cross (president of the Christian Church Ministers' Association). Special memorial services were held in the two cathedrals and other churches in the evening. The day was observed as a close holiday. The memorial services held in the churches were very largely attended. Impressive references were made to the late King, and appropriate hymns were sung. At the conclusion of the services the volunteers, of whom a large number were on parade, marched to the Oval, where six minute guns were fired by the "A" Battery.

#### Scarcity of Leather

Retail boot merchants in Dunedin have been advised that there will be a substantial increase in the price of boots and shoes in the near future. In nine years the price of hides has increased from 3d to 1/6 per lb.

Mr. A. Louden, president of the Boot Manufacturers' Association of New

#### PERSONAL NOTES.

Mr. and Mrs. McGuire, of Mt. Royal, Hawera, are on a brief visit to Auckland, staying at the Star Hotel.

Capt. J. Benton, late of the steamer Squall, trading on the East Coast of the North Island, is now in command of the steamer Inga, which arrived from Newcastle last week.

Mr. Philip H. Pickering, for many years with the Bank of New South Wales in Auckland, afterwards transferred to the head office in Sydney, and later appointed to the Townsville branch as accountant, left for Port Moresby, New Guinea, last month, to open a branch of the bank there.

Mr. Allen Thomson, one of the Dunedin Rhodes scholars, and a son of Mr. G. M. Thomson, M.P., who is one of the geologists of Captain Scott's next Antarctic expedition, has been asked by Captain Scott to study for six months under Professor David (one of the geologists in Shackleton's expedition), and he is now in Sydney for that purpose.

Mr. J. A. Dyson, assistant manager at Auckland of the accident branch of the New Zealand Insurance Company, who is suffering from an affection of the throat, resulting in loss of voice, has been ordered a complete change and rest. He therefore has been granted extended leave of absence, and will proceed to the Old Country, via the Orient, in the course of a few days.

The health of Mr. George Gray, formerly accountant to the General Post Office, is said to have taken a turn for the worse.

Colonel Vores, of the Indian Army, arrived by the Tofna from the South Sea Islands last week, and will spend a holiday in the Dominion, visiting Rotorna and the principal centres.

Colonel F. Fox, an officer of the Indian

South Wales, states that the shortage of leather supplies at present being experienced throughout Europe and America is becoming more and more accentuated owing to the growing demand for tanned goods in the East. The decision of the association to increase the price of boots has become imperative in the face of the phenomenal rise in the cost of raw material. It appears that the outlook for the trade, according to the manufacturers, possesses few features of a reassuring character.

The fact that Japan has entered the market as a buyer of leather adds interest to the situation. She is already a large consumer of American hides, and the demand for increased supplies is rapidly growing stronger. A number of large boot factories have been started in several of the leading Japanese industrial centres, and the Government is now purchasing home-manufactured boots for the army, which alone absorbs immense quantities of leather, as over 1,000,000 men have to be supplied. In addition to this the artisan and labouring classes are beginning to wear boots. Prior to the Russo-Japanese war the army was shod with straw and a flexible material indigenous to the country, but boots and shoes are supplanting the old forms of foot-covering.

The great bulk of the leather required for the Eastern markets is drawn from American and European suppliers, neither Japan nor China being commercial producers of hides. The shortage in America is acute, and is said to have been brought about largely by the cattle ranches being broken up for closer settlement purposes. The same is true of Canada, where the cattle ranches are disappearing before the influx of wheat farmers. Altogether the outlook for the leather industry seems to be rather dismal.

#### Band Contest.

The West Coast band contest concluded on Saturday. The results were:—Test Selection: Reefton, 1; Hokitika, 2; Brunner, 3; Grey Battalion, 4; Grey Citizens, 5; Dennistown, 6. Test March: Grey Battalion, 1; Dennistown, 2; Hokitika, 3; Grey Citizens, 4; Brunner, 5; Reefton, 6. Mr. Wade, of Wanganni, acted as judge.

#### Barque Solgran Released.

The barque Solgran, which was arrested at Lyttelton on Saturday week, under warrant of the Vice-Admiralty Court, in connection with a claim for salvage, has been released. It is understood that the owners and the insurance company interested in the vessel have given a bond for the value of the ship's cargo and freight. The vessel will now be able to make a start to discharge her cargo.

Army, who is interested in astronomy, and who came out to Hobart to witness the eclipse of the sun, arrived at Wellington from Tasmania by the Corinthic.

The Rev. E. H. Thorold, a British Army chaplain stationed in Pretoria, was one of the Corinthic's passengers to Wellington from Capetown on Monday. He will visit Rotorna and return to South Africa via Australia.

A presentation was made last week by the members of the St. Benedict's Club to the Rev. Father Williams, who has been transferred to Waiuku. The presentation, which was in the shape of a silver-mounted riding crop, suitably inscribed, was made by the Right Rev. Monsignor Gillan on behalf of the club.

Mr. Frank Dyer, of Wellington, was a passenger from Sydney by the Tysar steamer Nerehana, which arrived in Auckland last week. Mr. Dyer is a director of Bannatyne and Co., Ltd., merchants, Wellington, and son-in-law of the late Mr. Seddon. Mrs. and Miss Dyer, who arrived in Auckland from the South last week, met him on his arrival in Auckland.

Mr. Sydney Nathan has received the following cable message from his London representative:—"Mrs. Baume sincerely thanks yourselves, the University College Council, the Law Society, and Dr. McDowell for their sympathetic messages. She will return to Auckland by the next boat, the name of which will be telegraphed as soon as possible. The burial will take place in Auckland."

Mr. H. C. Waterford, private secretary to Lord Plunket, will be a passenger for England by the Rangitira.

The Rev. W. George, of Mornington, has declined a unanimous call to the Presbyterian charge of Palmerston North.

The Rev. H. H. Robjohns was ordained priest, and Messrs. H. G. Coates and H. Collier were ordained deacons, at Napier on Sunday.

Mr. Daniel Bayly, a very old resident of Taranaki and Wanganui, died at Wanganui on Sunday morning, as the result of apoplexy. Deceased, who was 75 years of age, came to New Zealand when about five years old. He has been a settler in the Wanganui district for over 30 years.

The death occurred on Saturday evening of Mr. George Foster, a well-known and highly-respected resident of Parnell, and proprietor of Martin's stables, of which he has had the management for the last seven years. That dreaded disease, diabetes, from which the late Mr. Foster had been suffering for some time past, was the cause of his untimely end at the age of 39 years. The deceased was a popular figure in sporting circles, and at the time of his demise held a position of steward on the Auckland Trotting Club. He was also a prominent member of the Foresters' Lodge, and held a seat on the Parnell Borough Council. He leaves a widow and three young children to mourn a sad bereavement.

The poll for the election of a member to fill the vacancy on the Auckland City Council, caused by the election of Mr. L. J. Bagnall as Mayor, took place on Wednesday. The poll resulted in the return of Mr. H. Shaw (president of the N.Z. Accountants' Association). Mr. Shaw, with 1662 votes, had a two-to-one majority over Mr. Burton, who polled 828 votes, Mr. Richardson polled 318 votes, and Mr. Harkins only 201.

Captain Carson, of the Rakanon, proceeds to Wellington to take the Holotoi to Tasmania, where she is to be permanently employed. Captain E. R. Stewart arrived from the South on Sunday to assume command of the Rakanon.

Mr. L. Chetwyn Parker has been appointed lieutenant in No. 3 Company Garrison Artillery Volunteers. Mr. Parker has had ten years' service, including full service with the Seventh Contingent in South Africa.

Bishop Williams, who retired recently from the bishopric of Waiapu, arrived by the Tarawera from Napier yesterday, and ordained three candidates for the priesthood and one for the diaconate at St. Mary's Cathedral on Sunday.

The Rev. Yam Sang Mark, who was ordained a deacon in California, and has arrived with letters dimissary from Bishop Willis, of Tonga, was ordained a priest at St. Mary's Cathedral on Sunday. The Rev. Yam Sang Mark will return to Tonga, where he will labour. The Rev. H. O. Townsend Hanby and Kariri Arama Karaka will also be ordained priests, and Mr. J. C. A. Calder will be admitted to the diaconate.

Constable James Maitland, a highly-esteemed member of the police force, stationed at Devonport, died at the Auckland Hospital on Thursday, after an

#### NEW ZEALANDERS ABROAD.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

LONDON, April 15.

Mr. J. A. Bruce, of Dunedin, has come to London to gain business experience, and has secured a situation with one of the largest firms of outfitters in London, Messrs. C. Baker and Co. Mr. Bruce came by the Seydlitz, arriving at Southampton on March 15th.

Miss Geraldine Broad, of Wellington, arrived at Tilbury on April 9th by the P. and O. liner Malwa, from Auckland. After a short stay in London she intends to pay visits to Surrey and Kent. The length of her stay in England is indefinite. Possibly she will continue her nursing profession in this country.

Miss Ethel Turner (Mrs. Urlewis), the well-known Australian novelist, after several weeks' travel on the Continent, has arrived in England, but has been compelled to make a halt at Dover for some weeks on account of the illness of her little son. The doctor hopes that they will be able to come to London, however, in a fortnight.

Since the Bishop of London no foreign visitor has had a heartier reception in New York than Sir Ernest Shackleton at the luncheon and dinners given in his honour. The Transportation Club, which answers to the London Travellers' and the Pilgrims' Society, both gave opportunity, under brilliant surroundings, for expressions of international goodwill, and their gatherings were attended by representative members keenly desirous of meeting and welcoming Lieutenant Shackleton. On the lecture platform the explorer won golden opinions, no less than by his after-dinner speeches. The Carnegie Hall assembly, with Mr. Choate as chairman and Commander Peary to introduce his British fellow-officer, brought its enthusiasm to white heat, when the picture of the British flag was shown flying at the point "Farthest South," by rising en masse and applauding for some minutes.

Mr. Edward G. Honey, a New Zealand journalist, who was formerly on the Melbourne "Argus," and who became attached to the "Daily Mail," on arriving in London has been very seriously ill with pneumonia. Though still in a weak condition, the latest report is that he is progressing most satisfactorily.

Mr. Herbert Chapple, who, after spending 31 years in Australia and New Zealand, has been for the last three and a-half years in England, has invented a remarkable instrument. It gives the tone

operation for cancer, and his remains were buried at the O'Neill's Point cemetery on Friday. Constable Maitland, who arrived in the country two years ago, his wife and three children having joined him some eight months back.

Mr. T. Hurie Giles, Conciliation Commissioner, although recovering from the attack of bronchitis from which he has been suffering, has yet been advised by his medical attendant not to undertake any work next week, for which reason the hotel employees v. licensed victuallers dispute, set down for hearing on Monday next, has been postponed till the 30th inst.

#### Dr. Hocken Dead.

Dr. T. M. Hocken, who has been intimately associated with the progress of Dunedin for nearly half a century, died last week at the age of 74 years. He had been in ill-health for several months, and his condition had been more or less critical for some weeks.

The late Dr. Hocken settled in Dunedin in 1862. In addition to filling the position of coroner for 22 years, he acted as surgeon for a number of public institutions for many years, and was the first lecturer on surgery at the Otago University. In 1883 he was appointed a life member of the University Council, and on the retirement of Mr. Justice Williams from the chancellorship this year, deceased succeeded Mr. Jas. Allen as vice-chancellor.

Dr. Hocken took a very keen interest in the early history of the colonies, and went to a great deal of expense to collect maps, manuscripts, plans, papers, etc., relating to the early days. These he recently presented to the people of the Dominion, and the Hocken wing of the Dunedin museum, in which they are housed, was recently opened by Lord Plunket. Another notable memorial of his industry and public spirit in his bibliography of New Zealand, upon which he was engaged for many years, and which was published in 1908.