

**Gutter and cheese manufacture.** Of somewhat out-of-way significance are the following:—Obtaining fermented drink from banana; drawing off box for soiled linen, calf-feeder, child-holder, clothes-peg, condiment container, drink habit cure, fishing line and fish plate, froth-pretension, geographical game, harbour-channel sweeper, hook boot, mono-rail, demonstrating value of musical notes, meet-box, orery, rabbit trap, rust-destroyer, scrubbing-brush, swimming-teaching method, trousers, whip thong.

**Life is Wealth.**

During the year ended 31st March, 1910, the number of persons who arrived from the United Kingdom totalled 6,250, consisting of 7,569 adults and 1,681 children. These figures include those who made their own arrangements and those who obtained fares at reduced rates. The number assisted by the High Commissioner amounted to 2,672. The number of domestic workers assisted was 615. The number of souls nominated by relatives in the Dominion during the year was 1,241, and the amount of money deposited by the nominators towards the cost of the passages of these persons was £11,339. A proportion of the nominations are received from husbands, on behalf of their wives and families. These men come first and see for themselves whether they are satisfied with the conditions existing, and obtain employment. Three hundred and sixty-eight wives, nominated by their husbands, and accompanied by 672 children, embarked during the year. It was decided during the autumn of 1909 that the time when the approved agriculturists should arrive in the Dominion be restricted to the early summer. By adopting this procedure, every facility was given to the farm worker to get accustomed to his new surroundings before farming operations were discontinued for the season. The medical examination of the persons who pass through the High Commissioner's Office is more rigorous than for those who make their own arrangements with the shipping companies. The examiner for the Board of Trade, being concerned only in excluding from sailing all persons suffering from any infectious disease, to discover whether such persons are constitutionally sound, is left to the medical inspection at the port of arrival. There have been cases where some member of the family has been suffering from consumption. This has been concealed until the inspection on board the vessel, and it is very trying to all persons concerned that the people should be turned away at the last moment by the medical inspecting officer acting for the High Commissioner.

**Cheap Marriages.**

The Hon. D. Buddo, replying to Mr T. E. Taylor, said a marriage before a registrar cost £2 2s 6d, made up as follows:—Notice of intended marriage 2s 6d, certificate authorising the marriage £1, solemnisation £1. If these fees were abolished the revenue would suffer to the extent of £10,000 per annum. Our fees compared very favourably with those of other British countries for similar services. There were nearly one hundred registrars of marriages paid by fees, and provision would have to be made for remunerating them in some other way. Moreover, it was doubtful if the giving of further facilities for marriage by civil contract would meet with general approval.

**Our Mineral Wealth.**

"Never in its history were its prospects more promising than they are at present," says the Hon. R. McKenzie, concerning the mining industry, in his annual report. He goes on to say that it is essential that generous assistance and fostering care should be given in developing our mineral resources. "This industry," he adds, "has, since 1853, contributed approximately £108,000,000 to our national wealth. Every encouragement should be granted to the prospector and the pioneer miner in their arduous and strenuous efforts in discovering and developing new mining ventures. I anticipate substantial progress in developing our mineral resources during the present year, and can assure hon. members we can look forward with confidence to the future expansion and prosperity of the mining industry. Several mines have already installed or are installing electrical machinery to traction, lighting, pumping, and other purposes, and as soon as some of our easiest exploited water powers are utilised, con-

siderable expansion in electrical energy for mining purposes will certainly follow, and mineral areas which are at present useless will become valuable. Our present legislation," adds the Minister, "practically prevents advance being made by the State (Guaranteed Advance Board) for the development of mining enterprises. Several applications for advances were received during the year, but all had to be reluctantly refused, owing to the legal objections referred to. That there are many excellent mining ventures worthy of State financial assistance is invariably admitted. I propose to submit legislation this session to remove the existing legal obstruction."

**Land for Settlement.**

The Land Purchase Inspector (Mr. J. J. Ritchie), under the Lands for Settlement Act, reports that during the year there were 122 properties, containing 231,852 acres, offered to the Government, of which 14, containing 48,287 acres, were purchased, but four had not yet been taken possession of. The actual expenditure for the year was £290,793, making the total £5,407,792 paid since the commencement of the Act as purchase money for estates containing 1,238,096 acres. The balance to the credit of the fund at 31st March was £202,497. A sum of £10,216 has been paid under section 177 of the Land Act, which gives the right to the owner of a lease-in-perpetuity to purchase the fee-simple, and £1,457 under section 191 of the Act which gives the owner of a renewable lease the right to pay 90 per cent of the capital value.

**Ward Co. as Street Singers**

There was an extraordinary outburst of enthusiasm on Saturday when Mr H. J. Ward, whose dramatic company is playing here, put into execution this novel scheme for collecting money for the Children's Hospital. Miss Grace Palotta and other members, led by Mr Ward, who had been lent motor cars by private citizens, sang popular songs and choruses in various parts of the city. Immense crowds followed, and the lady collectors reaped a rich harvest. Vehicular traffic was almost disorganised. Money flowed in from all quarters. The last stand was in Post Office Square, where 3,000 or 4,000 people stood in the pouring rain. So much money was showered that the collecting boxes soon filled, and umbrellas were inverted to receive the coins thrown from all parts of the crowd. Mr Ward received a severe cut on the eye from a coin hurled by one of the enthusiastic men. Already £6000 is in sight, and with the Government subsidy, there will be £12,000 or £13,000 available for the Children's Hospital.

**Skull Fractured in Trap Accident.**

During the Children's Hospital collection procession on Saturday, Geo. R. Paul, proprietor of a restaurant in Lambton-quay, was thrown from his pony cart in Willis-street, through the animal slipping on the wet tram rails. One of the wheels of his cart passed over his head, the skull being fractured. He is in a serious condition.

**Abolishing the Bookmaker.**

In the Legislative Council last week, the Hon. J. E. Jenkinson, on behalf of the Public Petitions Committee (which had reported on Wednesday that a number of anti-gambling petitions referred to it had been found to be of importance for various reasons) moved that nine of the twenty-seven petitions should be referred to the Governor for consideration. Most of the petitions were from the Auckland province, and recommended the suppression of gambling and the abolition of the bookmaker. The Committee thought it would be wise to refer the formal petitions to the Governor for the purpose of having something done. A committee did not usually make recommendations on petitions when their subject matter was before Parliament, but in this case the question was only before the House in an indefinite way. The petitions, which were not irregular, would be dealt with later on, probably the following day.

The Hon. W. Beehan thought people should know that one man could not sign a petition on behalf of a number of people, as appeared to have been done in some cases. The habit of pasting one sheet on to another, and leaving on the printed heading was also wrong, and constituted each sheet as a separate petition. The erasing of names was another informality. Much trouble and expense

**AUCKLAND.**

**No Coal at Cambridge.**

A coal famine exists in Cambridge; many people are without coal. Not a pound of coal can be obtained, none having arrived at the station for upwards of a week, though it has been on order for a considerable time, and invoices have been received. Some blame the colliery proprietors, and others the Railway Department, stating that it gets shunted at Frankton. If matters are not mended at once, Cambridge inhabitants will be petitioning the Government to take over Huntly and Taupiri Mines, and work them by the State. Fortunately, a fair supply of wood is available, or there would be great distress.

**Auckland's Progress**

None who travel upon and down and to and fro but exclaim upon the haste with which Auckland is progressing in population, and the substantial evidences of increasing prosperity, every fresh time their eyes light upon her. It is apparent to Aucklanders themselves, but is yet clearer to the discriminating sight of the occasional visitor, who now has to mingle his exclamations of pleasure at her manifold beauties with genuine tribute to her growth and commercial progress. Appearances are sometimes deceptive, and vague say-so's are often but an excuse for passing idle intervals, and in quitting ourselves of little imaginative flights; but facts speak without compromise, and figures must not show in cold print without the backing of records. In this respect the city by the Waitemata can well take pride, for no better proof of our increasing wealth and progress could be advanced than the record of our leap in capital values during the past twelve months, a leap which reaches the really astounding total of nearly £2,000,000 for Auckland City and suburbs, as shown by official compilations. Not less gratifying is it to note the activity which is evidenced on all sides in the erection of buildings, both public and private, the former class in course of building amounting to no less a total than £388,390, and including the new Town Hall, new post office, ferry buildings, electric power station, technical college, and a number of other constructions of more or less magnitude. Among the public buildings in contemplation, also, are several of big importance, including a new university and railway station, the list of probable running into an expenditure of between £200,000 and £400,000. As a concrete indication of the immense strides which the community is making in the matter of values, especially in some of the outer rings of suburbs—Mt. Eden, Mt. Albert, and Takapuna being together responsible for an increase of over half a million in the year—the following table of figures will be of general interest:—

	Capital Value.	Capital Value.	Increase.
Devonport	479,172	293,987	£185,187
Hokitika	275,121	290,810	15,689
City	10,419,236	10,147,457	271,779
Panmure	758,734	759,271	537
Newmarket	408,633	391,721	16,912
Grey Lynn	809,127	807,017	2,110
Onehunga	647,677	610,864	36,813
Arb Hill	175,328	152,090	23,238
Eden Terrace	246,250	236,498	9,752
Northcote	175,248	170,258	5,000
St. Cleve	176,885	170,230	6,655
Mount Albert	942,172	647,091	295,111
Avondale	299,165	251,240	48,000
Mount Roskill	287,633	378,721	91,088
Mount Eden	1,312,383	1,018,988	293,395
Penryn	621,068	587,563	33,505
One-tree Hill	766,763	724,144	42,619
Remuera	1,299,458	1,259,758	39,700
Panmure	185,220	183,205	2,015
Mt. Wellington	176,497	173,917	2,580
Ellerslie	187,398	180,968	6,400
Orakei	12,982	12,982	—
Takapuna	444,693	227,727	216,966
Orakei	300,860	185,783	115,077
<b>Totals</b>	<b>£22,232,387</b>	<b>£20,310,623</b>	<b>£1,921,764</b>

**TARANAKI.**

**Another Kayvett Affair.**

What is described as a Kayvett affair on a minor scale is reported from New Plymouth. Captain C. P. Mills, of the Taranaki Guards, notified his company on Tuesday week of his intention to resign his command in consequence of the recent promotion of Captain Adjutant Bellinger to the rank of major, he being many years junior to Captain Mills. The latter has had the command of the Guards since 1904, and was for six years previously a member. Besides this he served eight years of broken service, commencing as far back as 1880. Major Bellinger came on the scene in the Taranaki Rifles about four years ago, and rapidly rose. He was promoted to the staff as adjutant, and passed his examination as major 18 months ago. A special meeting of the Guards will be held, and it is quite possible that the corps will disband as a protest. Captain Mills being very popular with his men.

**SOUTH ISLAND.**

**Pride and Poverty.**

There died in Dunedin Hospital last week, of pneumonia, Mrs. Janet Ross, one of the links in the early history of the North End of the city. A pitiful story of pride and poverty is revealed in her death. She was the widow of Mr. J. Ross, who was once vergor of All Saints' Church, and on his death 17 years ago, she opened a small shop in the North End, selling lollies to children. The shop was worth about 4/ a week to her, and she had also a pension, 14/ in all. After paying the rent of the shop and a room, she had 8/ a week upon which to live. Many neighbours used to send her in little necessities, but charity had to be very carefully offered for her pride was equalled only by her distress, and she refused to allow any one to stay with her. On Sunday morning, a neighbour, noticing that no smoke was coming from the chimney, burst open the door, and found Mrs. Ross lying in a semi-conscious condition. Arrangements were at once made for her removal to the hospital. The unfortunate woman, who was 71 years of age, had very little clothing, and her bedding consisted of a counterpane.

**Education Board Scholarships**

An important matter will be brought before the Education Boards' Conference in Wellington this month by delegates from the South Canterbury Board. This Board's solicitors have reported that the validity of its scholarship regulations generally is open to serious question. The powers given to Boards to grant scholarships are conferred by section 51 of the Education Act, 1877 (now section 67 of the Education Act, 1908, Consolidated), and that power is to be exercised "in such manner and at such times as fixed by the regulations." The regulations referred to by the statutes are regulations made by the Governor-in-Council, and they cannot find that any power exists to delegate the making of such regulations to Education Boards. The delegation purports to have been made by the Departmental regulation of July 5th, 1877, but in the absence of a statutory section the attempted delegation would be imperative. Unless some provision for delegation exists, boards have no power to grant scholarships at all, and therefore all that have been granted are illegal.

**Hawke's Bay Squatters.**

A plea was made in the House of Representatives last week by Mr. H. Poland for the settlement of lands in the Hauraki Peninsula. There were, he said, 200,000 acres which could be settled without any interference with those associated with the mining industry. The form of tenure, under which they were offered a 21 years' lease under the Hauraki pastoral leases regulations, was not at all satisfactory, and the method of dual control which obtained led to unending delays. He had actually known cases where applicants had taken three years to secure a title. There was too much restriction placed on the occupation of land in mining districts. Mr. Poland added that his views on the land question were easily stated. The one step the Government should take was to increase the graduated Land Tax.

could be saved if the public knew these things. The Hon. G. Jones urged that the motion be amended by the insertion of the words "favourable consideration." There was, he said, really nothing to show that the petitions were not quite genuine. There was a huge movement against the great vice of gambling from one end of the Dominion to the other. The motion was carried as amended, the petitions named being referred to the Government for favourable consideration. When I was at the Bar I would have faintly if I had had to make such an application to the Judge—to wait till I was ready.—*Mr. Justice Edwards.*