

# News of the Dominion

## Sunday Trams.

THE Auckland City Council has decided to obtain the opinion of the City Solicitor on the application of the Tramway Company for permission to run a continuous Sunday tram service.

## A Great Need.

"There is a great need for the keenest interest in Auckland's new building scheme," says the annual report of the Auckland Y.M.C.A. "The best kind of charity is that which teaches a man to help himself, and this is what we find constantly practised in the Y.M.C.A. Is there any institution which better deserves a rich endowment than the Y.M.C.A.? By giving £100 per year the directors of the Y.M.C.A., with the association equipment, can employ a boys' work director to work every day in the week for the training and uplifting of our coming citizens. It is the opinion of the directors that the greatest need of New Zealand associations is national supervision. A national secretary could consolidate the whole work of the Dominion, and help some associations with their present problems. In view of this fact the directors will heartily support a proposal now on foot to engage such a man."

## Endorsed.

The Otago branch of the Amalgamated Society of Railway Servants has endorsed the action of the conference in approving Professor Mills' unity scheme. The opinion is held by the branch that under the scheme the danger of being involved in a strike is not real.

## Testimonials.

The value of "testimonials" given as regards accused persons during the course of their trial was the subject of some remarks by His Honor the Chief Justice (Sir Robert Stout) at G.borne. He pointed out that it had been stated that the accused, who was then being tried, was honest and industrious. "But," Sir Robert said, "all accused persons are held to be honest until they are once convicted. If a jury is going to acquit a man the first time he is charged because of his good character, then they might, perhaps, find him not guilty if he were charged with a second offence on the same grounds, and so on." His Honor added that the law would not allow the Crown to call a single tittle of evidence regarding an accused person's character during the hearing of a case, and if a jury were to be asked to acquit a man because of his character they might just as well close down the administration of justice.

## Research Scholarships.

Some time ago the Government offered scholarships to be utilised by students going in for original research. The scheme is now to be governed by a research scholarship board for each university, consisting of the professors of natural and applied science. The regulations provide that as soon as any person is entitled to a research scholarship, the Minister for Education shall nominate an expert in the particular branch of research concerned to be a member of the board for the purpose of assisting in its supervision of the work of the scholar. The scholarships, of which there are to be one each annually for the four universities, are to be tenable for four years, and to be of the value of £100 per annum, together with college laboratory fees, cost of special apparatus, and of special books required for the purpose of research, and actual travelling fares or cost of transit while the holder is engaged on the work of research.

## Rumour Discounted.

A rumour to the effect that there will be a shortage of local supplies of butter for the winter months with consequent high prices and panic, is discounted in authoritative quarters. It is pointed out that an auspicious season has been enjoyed, and while the dairying period is tapering off the mid-summer has induced a good finish. Shipments abroad will soon cease, and an ample supply for local requirements was believed to be in store. It is not anticipated that the South Island will be reduced to the necessity of again this year making a call on Auckland supplies.

## Press Association Conference.

The delegates to the annual conference of the Australasian Provincial Press Association, which met in Auckland at the beginning of last week, left for Rotorua on Thursday by the morning express. After spending a few days in and about Rotorua, they went on to the Waitomo Caves and the Wainganni River. Then most of them proceeded to the South Island.

## Methodist Union.

The secretary of the Union Committee of the Primitive Methodist Church reports that the voting received from the whole of the stations in the Dominion in connection with the vote of members of that Church on the basis of union taken by instruction of the last conference resulted in 1477 votes being recorded for and 200 votes against. Both Churches having approved of the basis of union, the committee of the Primitive Methodist Church will meet in Wellington on April 3rd to take the necessary steps for securing the consent of the British conference to the union, which it is expected will be consummated next year.

## Released.

Two lads, undergoing imprisonment at the Lyttelton Gaol for refusing to take the oath of allegiance, were liberated before the completion of their sentence. Two others, who had served their terms, were released at the same time.

## Deadly.

The problem of dealing with the rabbit pest, which has presented serious difficulties hitherto, both in New Zealand and Australia, appears to have been solved by a resident of Auckland, Mr. H. Currie, who has carried out some experiments with such success that he has patented his process, and we understand it has met with approval by the Agricultural Department. The destructive "Influence" is poison of almost any kind, the secret being in its "application." Poison is applied to some particular food which attracts rabbits in hordes where they are at all plentiful, and they devour it ravenously, with the inevitable result. In one experiment, where rabbits were not very plentiful, he killed 120 at the first trial, 120 at the first trial.

## Many Disciples.

Wairarapa possesses a native "tohunga," or priestess of witchcraft, who claims the power to cast out devils, heal the sick, and perform sundry other miracles. She has already established a reputation, and has a number of disciples. Hymns are sung whilst the tohunga performs her ceremonies. The chief medicinal agent employed is brandy, which is prescribed both externally and internally, and as the treatment is not exactly distasteful, the number of patients is daily increasing. The ceremonies frequently extend throughout the night, and a choir has been formed to assist with vocal and instrumental selections.

## A Deficiency.

A statement of the working expenses of the Wellington tramways for eleven months shows:—Revenue, £127,140 1/9; power supply, £9,016 7/11; working expenses, £90,923 17/2; power supply, £3,934 4/1. Estimated capital charges on tramways, £34,724 10/3; on power supply, £4,367 10/9; net surplus, £2,406 1/5. This shows a deficiency of £2,575 19/3 as compared with returns for a similar period of last year.

## A Country "Picnic."

The farmers living in the vicinity of Beaconsfield Village, near Timaru, have been accustomed for some years to hold mixed sports meetings in a paddock on Boxing Day, the sports including some gallops and trots for local horses. The prizes are provided by sweepstakes. The races were not advertised, but it had become an understood thing that there would be horse races, and recently two of the managers of the last sports were prosecuted under the Act of 1909 for holding an illegal race meeting. For the defence it was contended that this was a sports meeting, not a race meeting, and that there was nothing more in the races than if the men agreed to try their horses in reaching some point across a paddock. A conviction was recorded, without a penalty.

## Betting and Football.

The bookmaker peril at Rugby football matches, mentioned at the Wellington Rugby Union lately, also exists at Christchurch. Mr. F. D. Kesteven, a vice-president of the Canterbury Union, says the rule in the question of betting at football matches is a dead letter. Bookmakers frequented the grounds, and betted quietly without hindrance. He did not think the evil had gained much headway in Christchurch, and thought the Union would take early measures to suppress it.

## Wandering the Streets.

At a meeting of the Dunedin Education Board a motion was passed affirming the desirability of the Board being assured that all children of school age were receiving efficient instruction, and a committee was appointed to report as to the best means of attaining that end. In the course of discussion it was asserted that a number of children of school age were wandering about the streets. The question was raised as to what was to be done in regard to private schools, and it was stated that the Board would have to investigate this matter in order to ascertain if efficient instruction was given.

## Auckland Exhibition.

The Exhibition Committee has appointed Mr. Geo. Elliot (president of the Chamber of Commerce) to the position of president in place of Mr. B. Kent, who resigned when it was decided to hold the Exhibition on a site at the Domain. Mr. W. R. Holmes is retaining the position of secretary. The date of opening has been fixed for December 1, 1913, and the Exhibition will extend over three months, or longer if found advisable. The Government is to be asked to donate a cash grant of £2000 towards the cost of the venture, and it is expected that citizens will guarantee an aggregate of £5000.

## New Cable Route.

Survey work is now in progress for carrying the new Pacific cable across the Auckland isthmus. The cable is to be a direct one from Sydney to Auckland, and will come ashore on the West Coast at Muriwai. The route now being surveyed will bring the cable overland to Riverhead, and thence to the Ponsonby reef. At this point the route will again be underground from the bay at the end of Curran-street, via Jervisy-road, to the Three Lamps, where connection will be made with the existing underground conduits. As the route from Muriwai to Riverhead must be trenched so as to put the cable underground, it will readily be understood that there is a big amount of work involved, including many miles of trenching.

## Auckland Y.M.C.A.

At the 56th annual meeting of the Auckland Y.M.C.A. reports received indicated that the movement was forging ahead, and all departments were on a satisfactory basis. The election of officers for the year resulted:—President, Mr. A. C. Caughey; vice-presidents, the Hon. G. Fowlds, the Rev. W. E. Gillam, Dr. Knight, Mr. Wesley Spragg, and Mr. J. W. Stewart; directors, Messrs. W. E. Bush, B. Buttle, G. M. Fowlds, E. E. Grimwade, H. G. Fountain, Floyd Harrop, T. F. Hill, T. Miller, H. E. Peacey, R. L. Stewart, James F. Barry, J. H. Barker, and A. Mill. Mr R. B. Gelston was re-elected as hon. treasurer, Mr. S. Barry as secretary, and Messrs. G. A. Buttle and T. E. Montgomery as auditors.

## Control of Agriculture.

Sir George Clifford, president of the Canterbury A. and P. Association, has put forward a suggestion that instead of the Agricultural Department being left in the hands of the Minister of the day, the best men available should be selected as a board of control to regulate it. The highest results as a business undertaking would then be produced. Sir George said his idea, which would perhaps be regarded as Utopian, was that this Government Department, ably officered as it was now, should be under the management of non-political commissioners, who could devote trained intelligence to the work, whose whole abilities should be at the service of the agricultural community, and who should be responsible for the wise expenditure of the sum which Parliament might entrust to them for their almost paramount purpose. Above all, these men should be independent of the political wrangles which were part of the constitutional system of the day.

## Seddon Memorial.

When Mrs. Seddon was in England, she saw the model of a life-size statue of the late Premier being prepared by the well-known sculptor Sir Thomas Brock, for the New Zealand memorial to be erected in Wellington. The model was not far advanced enough to judge of the ultimate appearance. The Seddens, Lancashire, the house in which the late Mr. Seddon was born is quite a centre of interest, and a marble tablet appears over the door setting forth the fact that it is the birthplace of the New Zealand statesman.

## RHEUMATISM CAN BE CURED!

Treatment through the Blood meets with Success.

An account of how a Cure was Found after Suffering Many Years.

Medical science reveals the fact that in cases of Rheumatism there is a marked thinning of the sufferer's blood. It has also been found that treatment which renews the blood and tones the system enables it to throw off Rheumatism. These are two absolute facts which stand out in the search for the real cause of Rheumatism. The great medical specialists are by no means agreed as to the exact cause of Rheumatism, as many as seven different causes are suggested by different writers. It is an absolute fact that Rheumatism has been cured by Dr. Williams' Pink Pills. Cures are known of and talked of in neighbourhoods where cripples have been restored to active health. Dr. Williams' Pink Pills are a blood-making tonic medicine, and the new blood they make enables the system to throw off the complaint. The case of Mrs. M. A. Hatley, 18, McAndrew-road, South Dunedin, shows how they cure:—

"I had an attack of Rheumatic Fever years ago, and it left Rheumatism in my system," said Mrs. Hatley. "Every winter an attack would come on and last for weeks at a stretch, and I was often laid up for several days and suffered excruciating pain. Years went on this way till at last one dreadful attack came on, and I went to Auckland to my married daughter's home, thinking the change might benefit me a little. I passed through the boat journey fairly well, but a fortnight after my arrival quite a sudden turn seized me. One evening when I got up to go to bed I could scarcely move. In the morning every joint was hugely swollen. My wrists and elbows and the backs of my hands were hardly recognisable. My knees were double their proper size. The doctor was called in; at once he applied hot flannels and fomentations, just to give a little ease, for the pain was enough to make anyone scream. I could not help doing it. For five weeks I was laid up in bed in torture, dreading the lightest touch. They could barely lift me to change the blankets. I would say 'let me lie.' I was in such agony. Every joint was stiffened. I could just feed myself, and that was all. I could barely close my fingers. I could not lift my hands as high as my shoulders to do my hair. I tried plenty of liniments, but I might as well have used water, so in despair I gave them up. When I got back to Dunedin the attack came on again, and I did not know which way to look for relief. I could not get a boot big enough—the toes and instep and ankles were swollen out of all shape. I would have my wrists and knees wrapped up in flannel bandages. If I did get out of bed I was so weak and so bent, too, I could just shuffle along an inch or so at a time. I don't think any woman has suffered worse, and I would have been thankful to die. At last I read about Dr. Williams' Pink Pills, and gave them a trial. Towards the end of the second box I felt a little ease. I took 14 boxes altogether, and gradually the cure came, and I have never felt so well in my life as I do now. I can hustle about and do the housework easily, and I have not an ache or pain."

Dr. Williams' Pink Pills are sold by all dealers, and if in doubt send to the Dr. Williams' Medicine Co. of Australia, Ltd., Wellington; 4/ one box, six boxes 16/6.