

whom only 36 are schoolmistresses. The principle of mixed schools, as to the sexes, does not obtain, we believe, in any civilised country in the world, except in Scotland and the Province of Otago. The experience and innate sense of mankind is opposed to this principle; and in our opinion this principle is the second great objectionable feature of the Otago system.

DUNEDIN HARBOUR.

As we write, there is a motion before the Provincial Council of Otago, to establish a Trust for the purpose of dredging a channel sufficiently deep to permit the largest vessels to come up to Dunedin, and generally to improve what is called the Upper Harbour. That there is no engineering difficulty of any moment to be encountered is certain; and it is also certain that the land to be reclaimed will, when reclaimed, produce twice the amount that will have to be expended in the improvement. A day or two ago, two acres of reclaimed land were sold by auction and realised between £10,000 and £11,000. It is proposed to endow the Trust with 100 acres of reclaimed land, and as this land will become more and more valuable as population &c. increases, it is no exaggeration to say that this 100 acres will give the Trust at least three-quarters of a million of pounds sterling. Yet with these facts patent to every one who considers the subject, there are to be found members of the Provincial Council who oppose the creation of the Trust. The opposition is at once absurd and ridiculous; and it is greatly to be regretted that the business of the country and the best interests of the Province and the Colony at large, are trifled with in order that some gentlemen may have an opportunity of spiting the Government because they are not in office, whilst others may have an opportunity of ventilating their vocabularies, and displaying the statesman.

NEWS OF THE WEEK.

By the Otago, which arrived at the Bluff on Thursday, we learn that Melbourne has been created an Arch-diocese under its present Bishop the Right Rev. Dr Goold, and that Ballarat and Sandhurst have been made dioceses, the former under the episcopal charge of Dr O'Connor, and the latter of Dr Fortane.

THE collection for the Holy Father, at Ross, amounts to £3 10s.

By telegram from Auckland we learn that the Catholics of that province are not relaxing their efforts to obtain their just rights. A numerously-signed petition is to be presented to the Provincial Council for aid towards the erection of Catholic schools.

A ROBBERY with considerable mystery surrounding it has taken place within the last few days. It appears that the workshop of a locksmith in town was burglariously entered, and although articles of a greater value were to hand, the only plunder selected by the thieves was about four dozen of block sake keys. Of course these can be easily cut to fit any safe, and the fact that such a selection was made—the intrinsic value being but trifling—apparently discloses the ulterior views of the thieves. It therefore behoves owners of safes to be well on their guard, and be prepared for unwelcome visitors.

It appears that Mr Macassey, not satisfied with the verdict in his prosecution of the 'Star,' intends to apply for a new trial. It is also reported that the legal gentlemen who conducted the case on his behalf, have, according to professional etiquette, refused their professional fees.

ACCORDING to the Registrar-General's report on the vital statistics for the month of April, we notice that Dunedin, with a population of 18,505, had 85 births registered against 24 deaths; while Wellington had an equal number of deaths, and only 27 births, in a population numbering 10,486 souls.

INCENDIARISM has been most alarmingly prevalent of late. In the Provincial 'Gazette' of the 13th inst., no fewer than six cases are reported, and rewards amounting to over £500 offered for the apprehension of the perpetrators.

TELEGRAPHIC communication being now established between Portugal and the Island of Madeira, messages can be dispatched from the Australian colonies at the undermentioned rates:—To Madeira, via Melbourne, twenty words, £11 5s; every additional ten words, or fraction of ten words, £5 12s 6d. To Madeira, via Sydney, twenty words, £11 8s; every additional ten words, or fraction of ten words, £5 14s. Messages for South American ports may be addressed as follows:—"Rio de Janeiro, &c., Post Madeira;" an extra charge of 1s 6d being made for postage.

HIS HONOR MR JUSTICE CHAPMAN gave judgment on Saturday, on the motion for a rule nisi calling on the directors of the 'Guardian' Printing Company and others to show cause why an attachment should not issue against them. A rule was granted by His Honor, but against the directors of the Company only.

BEFORE proceeding to the business of the day in the Provincial Council on Monday, Mr Turnbull, as a matter of privilege, drew attention to what had purported to be a statement made by him in the House on the 14th, and published in the 'Star' on the following day. It was stated that he had said the late Secretary for Works and the

Provincial Engineer had "analysed the tenders; they were opened in the Engineer's office before the Executive decided upon them." He had neither said, nor had he intended to say, anything of the sort; but as the statement reflected on the Provincial Engineer, he wished to put the matter in its proper light before the public. What he did say was that the tenders were opened by the Executive on the Saturday morning, and were then sent as usual to the Engineer's office, so that that officer might examine and report upon them, and that they came back, as he supposed, through the usual channel—the Secretary of Works—and were decided on by the Executive on the Monday. The statement was corrected by the Secretary of Works, who said they were not returned through him, and he knew nothing of them until they came up for decision on the Monday. Thereupon he (Mr Turnbull) withdrew his statement, and he now made this explanation in order that any imputation might be removed from the Provincial Engineer.

A REGATTA in honor of the Queen's birthday will take place at Port Chalmers on Monday. The programme—which is a long and varied one—consists of thirteen events, particulars of which will be found in our advertising columns.

PERSONS desirous of participating in the benefits of the Dunedin Building and Investment Company had better make applications for shares during the coming week, Saturday, the 30th, being the day appointed for the closing of the share list.

ON Tuesday Mr Milner sold by auction sections 1 to 8, block 52, of reclaimed land adjacent to the Railway terminus. The upset price fixed by the Government was £500 per section. The first lot put up, comprising three-quarters of a rood, was knocked down to Mr James Smith, after keen competition, for £1500; the same gentleman also securing the second one, of one rood, for £1425. Sections 3 and 4, became the property of Mr Robert Sparrow, at £1335 and £1175; sections 5 and 6 were purchased by Messrs. A & T. Burt, at £1350 and £1375; section 7 brought £1300, Messrs Kempthorne & Prosser being the purchasers; and section 8 realised £1250, bid by Mr Proudfoot. All the lots, from 2 to 8 inclusive, were each one rood. The amount realised by the sale amounted to £10,710.

THE Rev. Father Fynes, Vicar General and Administrator of the Diocese of Auckland has, (according to the 'Southern Cross'), received intelligence by the Cyphrenes of the safe arrival of his Lordship Dr Croke at San Francisco, after a rather long passage. Singular to say, his Lordship, in fulfilment of his earnest wish, set foot on the soil of San Francisco on the 17th of March, the great festive day held by Irishmen in all parts of the world. His Lordship at the date of writing—the 31st ult.—was in the enjoyment of good health. His intention was to proceed to Europe, after the arrival of the next mail from Auckland to carry out the great objects of his visit to the old country.

IN the Provincial Council on Monday, in a long and able speech, Mr Stout moved his resolutions providing for the establishment of the Otago Harbor Trust, with power to borrow £250,000, and 100 acres of reclaimed land to be set apart for the purpose of the Trust. The motion was strenuously opposed by Mr De Latour, a motion for the adjournment of the debate till next day, by Mr Browne, being negatived by seven votes.

A MEETING was held in the lower hall of the Athenæum on Monday afternoon for the purpose of presenting Dr Sorley with an address and a testimonial, consisting of a handsome tea service. It may be remembered that damages had been recovered from Dr Sorley for an alleged case of malpractice, and the meeting was one of sympathy with him, considering that the evidence adduced on the trial did not bear out the charge.

DR COUGHTREY, who has been specially deputed by the Government to visit Cromwell, and report upon its sanitary condition, has furnished a statement which shows the town to be in a deplorable condition. He says the water-race from which the town receives its supply is made the receptacle of all kinds of sewage, owing to the leakage of closets and the porous nature of the earth. In most of the houses the drainage runs underneath the buildings into the street channels. All through the town he found heaps of bones, old rags, straw and other rubbish, whilst piggeries and slaughter-houses were scattered indiscriminately over the place. The Doctor states that he would be wanting in his duty if he failed to give expression to the opinion that the corporation had not taken proper precaution to avert or remove the causes of disease, and suggests that instead of the water-race at present in use, the town should draw its supply from Firewood Creek.

JUDGING from the 'Tunapeka Times,' the exodus of persons from the district must have been somewhat extensive of late. That journal occupies one whole page with the names of persons to be struck off the electoral rolls on account of having left the district.

THE Government 'Gazette' of the 7th inst. contains a notification of the disbanding of the Invercargill Highland Rifle Volunteers, by order of His Excellency the Governor.

TWO more have been added to the list of telegraphic stations in Otago. Offices were opened during the past week at Tapanui and Waikaka (Switzer's).

SOME Chinese have offered sixpence per pound for the resin which is so abundant in the lignite deposits of the coal pit at Lawrence. The Celestial physicians, it appears, convert it into some kind of medicine.

FROM Auckland we learn that a monster meeting is convened to be held at Ohinemuri, to consider the land question. Te Hira has disowned the Hawhans for selling land to Mr Young which had been closed to Europeans. A cutter has been chartered at Auckland to convey flour and grog to the place of meeting.

INTELLIGENCE has been received from Napier that Mr Benjamin Butler, a road contractor, was drowned while attempting to cross the Patene river last Saturday. He leaves a wife and two children.