

We would draw attention to advertisements issued by the Colonial Government for tenders for the supply of road metal at the Dunedin Railway station, and for the construction of a turn-table and engine pits. In each instance tenders will be received at the office of the District Engineer till noon on Thursday, 25th instant.

The following paragraph appears in the Wellington 'Evening Post':—One of the crew of the Chevert (the disabled vessel which put in here recently) called at the office and made a statement that when five days from Newcastle, the weather fine, and a light breeze, vessel going about five knots, Goko, a Tahitian, was sent aloft to splice the mainroyal, which carried away, owing to rottenness in the rigging. The backstays broke, and the topmast and Goko went over the side. After getting clear of the rigging Goko swam after the vessel for half an hour, and, notwithstanding the entreaties of the crew and passengers, no attempt was made to pick up the unfortunate man. The only reason given for not doing so was that it was no use losing other lives for the sake of one. Finding on arrival that the loss of the man was not reported, and considering the rotten condition of the rigging, the crew were afraid to go in her.

### NEWS IN BRIEF.

A MAN named Jerry Hushion has been drowned in attempting to cross the Molyneux, on the Teriot road. He had been in the service of Mr Honner, of Millers Flat, as a ploughman.

MR WILLIAMS, the patentee of Williams's Fire Kindlers, has hit upon an excellent expedient for advertising his ware. He has had a quantity of lollies manufactured, with such as the following inscription, "use Williams's Fire Kindlers," and these are distributed gratuitously to matron and maid.

The total public debt of New South Wales, according to late statistics, amount to £13,962,539.

A HOKITIKA auctioneer has commenced the practice of disposing of coals by auction, in lots to suit purchasers.

A MINER named Tratman has been smothered with gas in a mine at the Thames.

DON FERNANDEZ, the lion tamer, has died at Wellington, of consumption.

The ship Buckinghamshire, which lately arrived at Port Chalmers made the quickest passage recorded for years, making the trip in 77 days from starting.

INTELLIGENCE has been received at Auckland, that the Waimate gum dispute with the Natives has been amicably settled.

A TELEGRAM from Greymouth on the 13th inst., states that the Grey-mouth Coal Company have struck a seam in their main shaft. The coal is of excellent quality, but so far they are unable to state the thickness.

The 'Hamilton Spectator' (Victorian) says the Roman Catholics are making collections all over the Colony in aid of the completion of St. Patrick's Cathedral in Melbourne.

Zephania Williams, the Newport Chartist, has died at Launceston, at the age of 79 years.

John Ward, butcher, Sydney, the husband of the woman who was murdered by W. Crow a short time ago, hung himself at his residence.

The title of the sixth Minister to be appointed in South Australia, is Minister for the Northern Territory.

About 17,000 citizens of California have petitioned the Senate against the further influx of Chinese, there being nearly 60,000 in the State.

A common fellow in California, who had been made a target for revolver practice, was kept in jail as a witness for two months while the gentleman who shot him was allowed out on bail.

Four wars have cost the English Government, within the last fifteen years, upwards of £16,000,000 sterling. The Persian expedition cost £900,000. The outlay on the Chinese war amounted to £2,415,000. Then the New Zealand war of 1866 was covered by £765,000; and the Abyssinian war entailed the expenditure of £8,000,000 or £9,000,000. Now it is estimated that the Ashantee war will cost about £4,000,000.

The sum required in the ensuing year to meet the claims of officers arising out of the abolition of purchase is £657,000.

Hans Christian Andersen, the well-known Danish La Fontaine and friend of Dickens, has been dangerously ill, and there is little hope of a lasting recovery.

1,290,000 watches, occupying 12,000 workmen, are annually produced in the Bernese, Jura.

18,363 British seamen have died during the past four years, leaving 12,242 widows, and 36,725 orphans.

A man named Dodson was sentenced at Oamaru to three months imprisonment, without hard labor, and a fine £25, for making a false declaration.

The number of wrecks reported at the United Kingdom for this year, to date April 4, is 549.

A lad named Clarke, in the employ of Messrs Guthrie and Larnach, met with an accident on Monday. He was playing with a saw in the establishment, and while doing so, his hand coming in contact with it, two of his fingers were cut off.

A singular race, from Paris to Lyons, a distance of 222 miles, has just come off between the Duc de Felton, driving a light carriage, and the Comte Philippe de Nevule, on a velocipede,—the former winning by two minutes.

At a New York ball recently, a lady wore 40,000 dols. worth of diamonds and old point lace.

The will of the Countess of Loudon has just been proved. One of the conditions contained therein is, "that her right hand be cut off and buried in the park at Castle Downington, at the bend of the hill to the Trent, and a small cross or stone placed over it, with the motto "I hyde my tyme."

A curious fact, founded upon long and close observation, is worthily the attention of the British Association. Every spotted dog

has the end of his tail white, and every spotted cat the end of the tail black.

The latest novelty in furniture is black satin chairs with red frames, exactly the color of coral.

The Archdiocese of Cincinnati has 194 churches, 18 chapels, 60 stations, 143 priests, 7 male and 10 female religious communities, 2 theological seminaries, 128 students at Mount St. Mary's Seminary of Cincinnati, and 30 in Carthage, of whom 45 are in the theological class; there are 4 colleges, 12 literary institutions for girls, 3 orphan asylums, 1 protectorate for boys, 2 hospitals, 10 charitable institutions, 132 parochial schools, and a Catholic population of 220,000.

A petition is circulating in Stockton, Cal., in favor of introducing the study of the Irish language in the public schools.

It is said that the Communal Council of Vienna intend to establish in the cemetery of that city the necessary apparatus for cremation. It will be open to all, but the use of it will be optional.

The Burmese vernacular is very difficult for Europeans to learn. It is written from right to left; there are no divisions between the words, and the letters are either circles or parts of circles, the alphabet containing forty-four letters.

There are but two foreign tinkers in London, one being a Dutchman and the other a Russian. Holland also claims the only shepherd of metropolis. All the image-makers are Italians and the stay-makers French.

The total coinage of the United States' Mints for the last financial year amounted to 32,523,670 coins, and to 38,689,183 dols. in value.

Artificial nests have been suspended in many of the trees near Paris with a view of attracting birds that may prove useful in destroying insects. The attempt was first made last year, with the result of filling about sixty per cent of the nests.

In the Provincial Council of Wellington the clause in the Licensing Bill authorising liquor trading in publichouses on Sunday, was rejected by a majority of 13 to 7.

### HIBERNIAN AUSTRALASIAN CATHOLIC BENEFIT SOCIETY.

THE Half-yearly meeting of St. Joseph's Branch, No. 73, was held on the evening of the 15th instant. It was better attended than any meeting yet held since the formation of the Branch.

The meeting opened with prayer. The minutes of the quarterly meeting were read and confirmed.

Letters were read from Mr A. Sligo, Dunedin; and Mr G. S. Cooper, under-secretary, Wellington. The Secretary received instructions regarding them.

The election of office-bearers for the ensuing six months was then proceeded with. President: Bro. Fred. J. Bunny, elected without opposition. Vice-President: Bro. P. Bourke, elected without opposition. Secretary: Candidates—Bro. Cantwell and James Toal. Bro. Cantwell, elected. Treasurer: Candidates—Bros. M. Connellan and James Toal. Bro. Toal withdrew in favor of Bro. Connellan who was consequently duly elected. Warden: Candidates—Bros. Brennan and Moroney; this proved to be the keenest contest of the evening, the result being a tie, which was decided by the President giving his casting vote to Bro. Moroney. Guardian: Candidates—Bros. Gallagher and Shannon; Bro. Gallagher elected.

The late Secretary then read the balance-sheet which shewed £138 19s 11d to the credit of the Society. The balance-sheet was received with marked approbation. The auditors said that they had much pleasure in testifying to the correct manner in which Bro. Fred. J. Bunny had kept the accounts.

Bro. J. J. Connor proposed, and Bro. Thos. O'Donnell seconded, a hearty vote of thanks to the retiring officers, which was carried by acclamation and acknowledged by Bro. Carroll. The newly-elected officers were then duly installed into their various offices.

The new President said that if hitherto, in consequence of the branch being so young, a little latitude had been permitted members must not expect such a state of thing to continue; discipline must now step in, and he wished them to clearly understand that for the future he was determined that the laws of the Society should be most strictly adhered to (applause).

The President appointed Bro. J. J. Connor his right, and Bro. J. Brennan his left hand supporter.

The Vice-President appointed Bro. Joseph Meenan his right, and Bro. F. McGrath his left hand supporter.

A Judicial Committee of fifteen financial members (Brothers R. Carroll, E. Carroll, Connellan, Connor, Bourke, Brennan, Gallagher, Hoffmann, Kirk, Moroney, Moylan, J. Meenan, O'Donnell, J. Toal, and A. Toal), together with the President and Secretary, was appointed for the purpose of hearing, investigating, and deciding upon any dispute, charge or complaint by a member of a branch against another, or by any member against his branch, or any member and the branch officers, or between any member or members, or branch and the medical attendant, or chemist, or vice versa.

Bros. E. Carroll, Brennan, Moylan and J. Toal were appointed a working committee.

£5 and 5 per cent. on all monies paid into the branch was voted as a yearly salary to the Secretary.

Bro. Ling's name was transferred from the Medical Attendant's list, Dunedin, to the Medical Attendant's list, Christchurch.

Messrs. Dempsey, Gaynor, and M. J. Fleming were duly initiated full benefit members; and Messrs. Ennis, Golden, and David Power, were proposed as fit persons to become members.

Business of a routine nature having been disposed of, the meeting closed in the usual manner with prayer.

Switzerland, with a population of little over 2,500,000 boasts 413 daily and weekly papers.