

THE ninth show of the Timaru Agricultural and Pastoral Association was held on the 28th ult. The weather on this occasion proved remarkably fine, and the number of visitors and exhibits were unusually large. The Timaru Artillery Band was in attendance, and discoursed some of the most excellent music during the afternoon.

AN inquest was held at Roxburgh on Wednesday, the 28th October, before W. L. Simpson, Esq., coroner, on the body of the unfortunate man Edward Morrison, late Town Clerk, Roxburgh, who, it transpired, had on the previous night committed suicide by hanging himself to a rafter in the upper room of H. M'Dowall's house. From the evidence adduced there could be no doubt as to the fact of the man being in an unsound state of mind at the time, and a verdict of "Temporary insanity" was returned accordingly. The jury, prior to arriving at their decision, wished the Court to be cleared, but, contrary to the usual and proper custom, the coroner remained, as also did another individual, at the coroner's request, but who was in no way connected with the case. The jury, after deliberation, arrived at their verdict, and added a rider to the effect, "That they much regretted the long and unnecessary delay (Sunday to Wednesday) which had occurred in having an inquest held." The coroner, in a rather warm manner, appeared anything but pleased with the rider, and positively declined to accept of it, adding he was a coroner all over New Zealand, and would arrange for holding inquests when he liked. Some of the jury suggested that any of the resident local J.P.'s could have conducted the inquiry; but the coroner declared that no J.P. should hold an inquest, except with his permission. So in this case, where there was no evidence of a suspicious character adduced, the public had to submit to the painful infliction of having the body of a suicide remaining in a private family's house for four days, one witness detained three days awaiting the inquest, and the incurring of cost of travelling by coroner from Clyde, a distance of thirty-five miles, all of which annoyance could have been easily avoided. The funeral, which was largely attended by the residents in the neighborhood, took place immediately after the inquest, at 7 o'clock p.m., under the charge of the Oddfellows' Society, whose service was read at the grave.

THE Invercargill correspondent of the 'Bruce Herald' says:—"Constable Boyd, stationed at Winton, was brought into the Hospital Wednesday last, having been severely bruised on the previous evening by being thrown from his horse near to the township of Winton. The occasion of his mishap was a very singular one, and exceedingly difficult of explanation. Shortly after seven o'clock in the evening, the night being dark and squally, Constable Boyd, travelling towards Winton, and being close to the Meat Preserving Works, observed the outline of a man among the tussocks on the roadside, and shortly after passing him the discharge of a gun from the spot caused the constable's horse to jump from the road into the drain at the side, when immediately a second shot was fired, at which the horse again plunged and got out, but not without throwing his rider, who was much shaken and bruised, and ultimately, with great difficulty, made his way to the township. No clue is held to the discovery of the man who fired the shots, and no motive can be assigned for the act. The constable is going on very well, and will probably soon get round."

OUR horticultural readers will be interested in hearing that a Nelson gentleman, Mr Lightband, has discovered a remedy for the blight on fruit trees. From the 'Colonist' we learn that for a long time Mr Lightband's trees suffered considerably from both scaly and American blight, and he tried many so-called remedies, but without success. At length, however, he hit upon a plan by which he has succeeded in eradicating the disease entirely. For the American blight he found that by grafting an apple tree with another species of the same fruit (slips from trees bearing an early dessert and a late apple being used as grafts)—the blight was completely destroyed. The grafting process only applies to the American disease, but Mr Lightband happily discovered an equally good cure for the scaly blight. He states that he dissolved one pound of caustic soda in a gallon of water and applied the mixture to the diseased trees with a syringe on a fine winter's day. The trees so treated are now clean and healthy, the scaly blight having disappeared, at least for this season, and should it re-appear next year, the remedy can easily be re-applied. Mr Lightband desires us to state that he will be happy to show the trees to any person interested, and give a full explanation.

ON Tuesday morning Assistant Bailiff Gibb found a parcel which contained a child, apparently newly-born. When on duty near the Cattle-yards, finding it necessary to go into the bush there to obtain shelter from the rain, he observed a paper parcel lying on the ground. On partly opening it he found it contained a young child, and he immediately reported the matter to the police, by whom it was removed to the Hospital. It was then dead. The police are endeavoring to find traces of the mother of the child.

THE Superintendent of the Auckland Fire Brigade, Mr John Hughes, formerly of this city, appears to be giving great satisfaction. In its report of the fire which occurred in Wakefield street on the 22nd ult., the 'Herald' after having referred to the losses of the insurance offices to the extent of £3350, says:—"It is fortunate, however, that the judicious, and well-timed efforts of our new Fire Brigade Superintendent, Mr Hughes, were the means of preventing further damage. Great credit is due to Superintendent Hughes for his skill and judgment displayed, and to the Brigade under his command for their united and untiring exertions in successfully preventing the spread of the fire. Great surprise was expressed yesterday by those who viewed the ruins at the almost miraculous preservation of Mrs. Sandall's premises and the adjoining wooden houses. Expressions of admiration were freely made use of at the indomitable pluck that must have been shown in arresting the progress of the flames on this juncture. The side and roof of the wooden-built house that saved are one mass of charred and blackened substance, thus bearing testimony to the fiery ordeal which it has passed through. If this is a specimen of Superintendent Hughes's skill, then Auckland city has just cause to be gratified that his services have been secured."

NEWS IN BRIEF.

A miserly settler at Hamilton (Waikato), whose wife was on her death-bed, refused to pay the travelling expenses of his son whom the dying mother wished to see. After the woman died he bought a packing case, nailed a bit of black cloth on it, on which he chalked her name, and thus she was buried.

The following appears in the 'Wanganui Herald' in the shape of an advertisement:—"For sale, cheap.—The pewter drinking pot given by the Wanganui Rifle Association as a silver cup, at the last spring meeting. Price—any sum exceeding 5s. The pot was given as first prize, the second prize being £2."

Flour at the Palmer River is fetching £300 per ton.

A rumour is current in Wellington that Sir Donald M'Lean is to be offered the Governorship of Fiji, but it is not known whether the rumour has any foundation.

About one-third of the young cattle in Auckland is said to have been lost through the severe weather.

The New Zealand Insurance Company has increased its capital to one million pounds in £10 shares.

JUDGE GRAY was rather unfortunate during his recent visit to Queenstown. On the trip up his Honor lost a roll of notes containing £28. The loss was not discovered until after he arrived at Clyde, and the manner of the loss is also unknown.

THE Christchurch City Council, with only one dissenter, has resolved to discontinue at the end of the present year the allowance of £300 a year made to the Mayor for official expenses.

The Melbourne 'Argus' thus sums up the conclusion of a speech recently made by Mr Langton, on the question of Free Trade v. Protection:—"The result of ten years Protection is this—that after deducting the gold, wool, cattle, and sheep imported from neighboring Colonies, our imports have fallen off from £14,336,004, in 1864, to £10,604,064 in 1873, our population having increased in the interval from 605,500 to 800,000. During the same decade our exports, after making similar deductions, have dwindled down from £3,529,864 to £2,743,257; so that, while there was an increase of 25.4 in the population, there was a decrease of 17.6 per cent. in the exports.

A half-caste boy, ten years of age, was drowned in Wellington harbor on the afternoon of the 19th inst.

Mr John Dalgleish has been appointed manager of the Invercargill branch of the new Colonial Bank.

Mr Hawthorne has resigned his position as Rector of the High School.

The day of departure of the Northern goldfields' escort from Clyde is altered from the first Monday to the third Monday in each month, and the next escort will not be despatched till the 16th of November.

The yield of gold of the Shotover Terrace Company for the past fortnight amounted to 33oz. 15gr., the work during that period having been principally confined to fresh timbering the ground.

Mr George Ireland, M.P.C. for Roxburgh, addressed his constituents on Saturday evening last.

According to a Berlin paper the British Government has been for some time in correspondence with foreign Powers on the subject of international regulations as to collisions at sea. Proposals have been submitted by England which will probably result in the calling of an international conference.

At a meeting of the tobacco trade of Scotland it was agreed to raise the price of the manufactured article in consequence of an anticipated light crop in America this season.

DUNEDIN PRESS CLUB.

THE adjourned meeting of the Press Club to receive the report of the Committee appointed to draft the Rules was held in the Club's Reading-room, Provincial Hotel, on Saturday night. The President (Mr G. Bell) occupied the chair, and about twenty members were present. His Honor Judge Chapman was amongst the visitors.

The Rules were first read, after which the company sat down to supper. After that meal, very excellently provided as it was by Mr Sibbald, was done justice to, and the customary honors had been paid to "The Queen and Royal Family," the Chairman gave the following toast:—"The Governor, the Army and Navy of England, the English and Colonial Volunteers, and the Legislatures of Great Britain and this Colony, coupled with the name of Mr Vincent Pyke, M.H.R."

Mr Pyke, in reply, wound up a very amusing speech with the following remarks:—"He had the honor of belonging to the Colonial Legislature, and he had no hesitation in stating that it was the most respectable Legislature south of the line.—(Hear, hear.) Their sittings were so very remote that the people of this Province were unable to know what amount of business was done by the Legislature. They would not know anything at all if it were not for the much-abused Hansard. He tendered his sincere thanks on behalf of all those mentioned in the toast.—(Applause.)

Song—"Little Footsteps."

His Honor Judge Chapman proposed the next toast—"The Press Club." He said that he supposed he had been asked to propose the toast from the fact that he once formed one of what Miss Fanny Kemble used to call the "Press Gang." In fact, for many years during the time that he was studying the law, he got his living by his connection with the Press, and a very respectable mode of getting a living he thought they would admit it was. (Applause.) He had been connected with newspapers to a considerable extent; but he was not there to tell the whole of his personal history. He would endeavor to confine himself to some portions of the history of the Press of this Colony, which probably no man in the room knew better than himself. First of all, he would congratulate those in the room upon the organization of a Press Club in Dunedin. He would not go into the common-place remarks with reference to the advantages of union—"Union is strength," and so forth. He would begin by congratulating