

The question of laying down tramways in the streets of Dunedin is now under the consideration of a committee of the City Council, and will come before the Council at its next meeting. No doubt some application will be granted, and we hope in the interests of the citizens that the work will be taken up and carried on to a successful execution by local men of undoubted stability. Naturally such men would feel a greater interest in our street tramways, and work them more advantageously than non-residents would. The profits on such lines appear to be enormous everywhere, and we hope that those investing their money will secure reasonable interest, and that the Corporation will have excellent royalties. To judge from extracts which we have read, there can be no doubt that the street tramways will not only pay, but pay well, and in these days when money goes a-begging for employment, the Corporation should see that in a perfectly safe investment too large a percentage be not allowed. A purchasing clause stipulating a price might be inserted in the agreements, so that the shares would not, as in the case of the Water Works Co., acquire an artificial value by the Corporation purchasing the tramways. The Water Works negotiations should serve as a lesson to the Council in dealing with the tramway question. They should know what they would have to guard against in endeavoring to place themselves in a good position in making future negotiations for tramway purchases. The Council now administers with great economy, and why could it not borrow at 6 per cent. and build tramways itself? Then they would be under the direct control of the citizens. That is an aspect of the question which perhaps is worthy of some consideration. The same question is now being paid attention to in Wellington and Auckland; and, we believe, in Christchurch.

OUR SCHOOLS.—The number of children attending the Nuns' schools, Dunedin, is 160. The number attending the boys' school is 80. In Wellington there is, as well as the Cathedral, another church, that of the Nativity, Manners street, and commonly known as Father O'Reilly's. The present church, which is about to be replaced by a new one, has been shifted in its position, and converted into a school for boys. Owing to the indefatigable exertions of the Rev. Wm. Cummins, S.M., two schools have been recently established in Te Aro, Wellington city. They are attended by 131 children, only seven of whom had been attending a Catholic school previously. The girls' school is conducted by the nuns, who come every morning from the convent, a distance of over a mile. The boys' school is held in the old chapel before referred to, and the master is an experienced certificated teacher of the National Board of Ireland. The number of pupils, 131, namely, 65 boys and 66 girls, is the actual daily attendance. At the Cathedral there are two schools, one for boys and the other for girls. At the boys' school, the attendance is from 70 to 80. The girls' school is conducted by the nuns, as also is the Providence of St. Joseph, an institution which is principally intended for children of the Native race; and these two have a total attendance of about 60. By the last census, the Catholic population of the city of Wellington was 800; it may be probably 1,000 now. The laity of Wellington, we understand, contribute very generously to the support of these schools, which are entirely denominational, and which depend for their support wholly upon voluntary efforts, receiving no aid from the Government, except in regard to the Native children in the Providence of St. Joseph's. In the town of Nelson, the Catholics have excellent boarding and day schools. Those for girls are conducted by the nuns, and those for boys by a master and assistant master, under the superintendence of the Rev. Father Garrin, who has been, for more than 20 years, a very apostle of education in Nelson. These schools have a daily average attendance of 200. We shall in future issues continue our notices of Catholic schools throughout the Colony.

WHAT would strike a stranger on arriving at any town of South New Zealand, especially in Dunedin, is the unprecedented activity in the building line. Cottages are springing up almost by magic in every direction, and house rent, notwithstanding, is very dear. In business places of late, Mr Wilson's wholesale store, corner of Jetty and Bond streets, may be noticed as just completed; buildings for Messrs McKerras and Co. are going up adjoining it in Bond street; the Union Bank is about to erect a palatial structure next to Messrs Briscoe's, Princes street; the Daily Times and Witness Company is erecting a substantial newspaper office in Rattray street, near the Railway Station; Messrs G. G. Russell and Co. are commencing to put up a large building at the corner of Crawford, Bond, and Water streets; Messrs Gilchrist, Munro, and Coventry are erecting premises on the scene of the last George street fire; some fine shops have been lately erected further down George street; Mr Wilson has almost re-erected afresh the buildings on his premises, the Otago Foundry, and now Messrs Reid and Gray are erecting buildings for a new foundry in Princes street south, at which, it may be mentioned in passing, a steam hammer is to be employed; Mr Peterson is putting up a new building in Walker street, on the site of the

well-known shop of Mr Blyth, lately pulled down; and Mr Scanlan has built a fine business premises next to Mrs McIlroy's Gridiron Hotel. Extensive improvements at Messrs Guthrie and Asher's timber yard, Princes street south—perhaps the first timber yard spanned by a roof in the Colony—have been in progress for a long time, and if not actually completed now, are nearly so. All the buildings enumerated are either of brick or stone, and those which are being built adjoining wooden erections cause one to make comparisons anything but flattering to the old style of wooden "edifice" in Dunedin. We may mention, in regard to the factory of Messrs Gibbs and Clayton, burned down not long ago, that it has already been rebuilt of wood and iron, the machinery has been fitted up, and work has been just recommenced; also, that the walls of the Princess Theatre, a wood and iron building, are being raised ten feet, to permit of the ceiling being raised correspondingly. Mr Carroll, of the Hibernian Hotel, is about to replace the present wooden building with a three-story brick structure, which is not only to cover the present site, but also the vacant ground adjoining. Building is being proceeded with extensively at Christchurch. A Wanganui paper states that houses are still very scarce in Wellington, and considerable inconvenience is experienced by those of the inhabitants who seek a change of residence, either from inclination or on account of the receipt of that unwelcome missive—the notice to quit. £50 to £60 a year is the average rental for a six-roomed house; and according to the 'Independent,' Wellington "is so prosperous just now, and her population is increasing so rapidly, that the most wretched hovel can command a tenant."

SPECIAL CONDITIONS.—The 'Daily Times,' in its Thursday morning's issue, for its spirited action in calling attention to a sale of valuable land with certain "special conditions," is deserving of the best thanks of the community. Noticing the fact of some very valuable sections, now being reclaimed from the harbor, being offered for sale by auction, the 'Times' says:—"It has probably occurred to many of those who noticed the advertisement that the Government, being somewhat sceptical as to the current high prices of town lands being maintained, were anxious to take advantage of a good market whilst it should last, and had therefore thrust these sections into the market in a hurry. We thought so too until we ascertained the 'special conditions' which are to be attached to the sale. Since we became acquainted with these, we have come to the conclusion that instead of being over-anxious to catch the tide of a rising market, the Government are very desirous of sacrificing a property of great value, and which has been created at great expense, in order that certain individuals whom they desire to favor may be gainers by the sacrifice. Here is No. 5 of the Conditions of Sale: 'Each purchaser shall, within 18 months from the day of sale, erect and place upon the land purchased by him buildings and machinery or plant for purposes of manufactures, of the value of two thousand pounds, for each and every half acre of land so purchased. He shall also, within the said period, undertake to engage five apprentices to such trade as he may follow, for each and every quarter acre of land so purchased.' Wondering what scheme the Government had in the wind when they concocted this unique set of condition for the sale of town sections, we made such inquiry as time permitted. All we can learn is that a firm of jointfounders has expressed its desire to get premises accessible from the water, and has designated a part of this reclamation as a spot which would be suitable if the Government would but cut a channel where hitherto it has been piling up mud. If special industries are to be fostered at a great expense to the public, would it not be better that that should be done openly, and above-board? The condition of sale we have quoted will shut out a large majority of those who would have been disposed to be purchasers to-day. It is utterly improbable that anything like the cost of reclamation and channel together will be offered for the sections under these conditions of sale. Although it is later than the eleventh hour, we would strongly urge the Government to postpone this sale."

THE CROSS KITTEN.

Tiny and Tittens were two little kittens,
As soft and white as the snow,
Who went to play, on a bright summer day,
Where ripe red cherries do grow.

The play was begun in mirth and in fun,
But Tittens soon tired of that;
The cross young rover knocked Tiny over,
And snarled like a tiger cat.

How naughty was this, with a growl and a hiss,
To spoil so happy a play;
With kittens or boys, 'tis temper destroys,
And takes all pleasure away.