

The Dunedin Mayor's Court has been snuffed out of existence, the last sitting having been held on Monday last.

PUBLIC notice has been given that the Waste Lands Board of Otago will not in future protect the improvements of persons squatting on Crown lands without proper authority.

A CORRESPONDENT to the 'Bruce Herald' suggests that the Provincial Government should offer a prize for the best essay on the probable effects of judicious planting in Otago. He rather pertinently remarks:—What improvement would a few nice and well-disposed plantations make in any part of this absolutely barren country so monotonous and naked; 'tis time the inhabitants sowed some leaves together to hide its nakedness.

A CONTEMPORARY says:—We are informed that there is every probability of the Government establishing at an early date a system of storm signals at the various ports of the Colony. There is little doubt but that a necessity exists for some means being adopted by which the state of the wind and weather may be notified on the coast line of New Zealand.

THE HON. C. J. PHARAZYN has presented half of his honorarium of 100 guineas, as a Legislative Councillor, to the Wellington Athenæum, and the other half to the Wellington Diocesan Pension Fund.

THE frequency of floods in Blenheim has caused some of the inhabitants of that town to resolve upon raising their houses some height above the ground.

A CORRESPONDENT informs the 'Timaru Herald' that the native birds are being exterminated in the Waitate bush in the most ruthless manner.

FASTIDIOUS, VERY.—During the discussion on the military estimates, Lord Elcho asked whether the department could not advantageously introduce Australian tinned meats. Sir Henry Storks replied that the soldiers refused to eat them.

JOHN CROTTY, a miner, has been killed by the accidental fall of some stone from the hanging wall of the lode in the Royal Oak claim, Coromandel, while he was at work.

WALLACE'S whaling party were so fortunate as to capture a young fin-back whale off the Otago Heads a few days ago. It was brought to Dunedin for exhibition. On a subsequent day a monster whale, estimated to be about 120ft in length, was observed by the Geelong four miles off the Heads. On rising from sounding it had the appearance of a large vessel bottom up. It is probably the mother of the calf lately caught, cruising about in search of its offspring.

THE 'Daily Southern Cross' says:—"It may not be generally known that on the 1st of January next quite a new series of postage stamps will be issued for use in the Colony. We hear that the plates were received in Wellington by the Government about a month ago and by one and all of those who have seen impressions, they are acknowledged to be the most artistic designs of any stamps now being used in the Australian colonies."

INTELLIGENCE received at Auckland from New Caledonia reports the island to be prosperous, and the state of trade brisk. The copper mines are yielding splendidly, and the goldfields are increasing in area.

THE 'Lyttelton Times' states that the manufacture of boots and shoes by machinery in Christchurch continues to increase very rapidly.

A COMPANY is in course of formation for the purchase of the Moagiel Wollen Factory. The great success which has attended the establishment of this important industry has rendered this step necessary, additional capital being required to overtake the requirements of the business. The capital of the Company is to be £60,000, in 12,000 shares of £5 each. It is proposed to call up £3 in sums of 10s, extending over one year.

SATURDAY last was the first of the half holidays secured to the young women employed in the various business establishments in town by Mr Bradshaw's Employment of Females Act. The streets at two o'clock were rendered quite lively by the numbers of young women set free from their weekly work, and who seemed to thoroughly appreciate their new born freedom.

ANOTHER coach accident. This time it was Iveson's Dunedin and Taieri coach, a wheel of which, while the coach was heavily laden, gave way and was smashed to pieces. Fortunately none of the many passengers was hurt, but it appears to have been pure chance that serious injury at least or loss of life did not occur.

AT a meeting of the shareholders of the Imperial Building and Investment Society was held in the Exchange Chambers, Princes street. A large number of shares were taken up, and permanent Directors were appointed. The members present expressed great confidence in the success of the Society. Mr W. Dalrymple, jun, has been appointed secretary.

A SERIOUS and melancholy accident occurred a few days ago, on board the ship Peter Denny, now lying at the Port railway pier. A lad named James McDonald, about nineteen years of age, and a native of Glasgow, was passing a line down the hatchway, when, through not noticing what was going on, a bale of wool was rolled over the bulwark on to the deck, which jammed him against another bale, thus causing a concussion of the spine. He was immediately attended by Drs Whittock (ship Surgeon) and Drysdale, who are of opinion that his injuries may prove fatal.

GREAT activity exists in building matters at New Plymouth.

LATE frosts have considerably checked early vegetation in Hawke's Bay.

THE 'Tapeka Times' is glad to be able to state that Mr Wilson Grey is recovering, although very slowly, from his sickness.

A CORRESPONDENT of the Press asserts that the Bank of New Zealand in Christchurch "has initiated the pernicious system of Sunday work."

THE bakers of Christchurch have been "considering their position," and have come to the conclusion to fix rules and rate of wages.

WE regret to have to record the death of Mr John Cavalier, formerly employed on the Dunedin 'Evening Star,' afterwards for some years bookkeeper to the City Company, and, at the time of the

unfortunate accident which was so suddenly fatal, acting as collector for the 'Guardian' newspaper. On Friday fortnight the deceased stepped on a French nail which penetrated his boot and the ball of the foot to such a depth that great exertion was required to withdraw it. On Friday week tetanus set in, and at four o'clock on Sunday after having been in great agony he died. Deceased was thirty-four years of age, and, by his active business habits and genial manner, had gained general esteem. He has left a widow and four children.

MR J. B. CURRAN'S thoroughbred horse, Architect, has arrived from Tasmania. Benvolio, the winner of the last Sydney Derby, and which lately died, was half brother to Architect by the sire side.

A GENTLEMAN in Timaru writing to a friend in Dunedin, states that the Catholics of Timaru, noticing in the TABLET the fact that branches of the H.A.C.B.S. have been established in nearly all the centres of population in the Colony, and that other branches are proposed to be formed, feel a great desire to form a branch for Timaru and the surrounding district. The correspondent thinks the Society would bring men together, keeping them from being careless in their religious duties, and from being led away by drink, and hopes soon to see a branch opened in Timaru.

AT a meeting of Catholics held at Christchurch on Sunday afternoon a committee of fifteen was appointed to manage the Catholic schools, Barbadoes street. Amongst the committee are Count de Lapasture, Messrs Loughnan (2), Sheath (2), Maskel and Pender.

MESSRS JAS. STUMBERG & Co.'s tender of £2800 for reclamation of land at Mussel Bay has been accepted.

OUR Auckland correspondent telegraphs on Wednesday evening, Business done:—South British, 44s 6d; Caledonian, £20 to £21, and £18 10s; Crown Prince, 16s; Royal Oak, 18s; Tokatea, 32s 6d to 33; Union Beach, 27s 6d to 29s.

DIOCESE OF DUNEDIN.

ST. JOSEPH'S CATHEDRAL.

ON Sunday last His Lordship the Bishop of Dunedin preached at both masses, and also in the evening.

The Catholics of Oamaru have presented to their pastor, the Rev Father Donovan, a handsome horse, together with a buggy and harness. The vehicle in question is of superior quality, and the whole cost somewhat over £100. The presentation was made by Mr Thos. Dunn, President of the H.A.C.B.S. Many of the brethren appeared in their regalia. The local paper remarks:—"This presentation shows the esteem in which the rev gentleman is held by his congregation, and it is the unfeigned desire of his congregation that the rev gentleman may continue in the discharge of his important duties."

THE NATIONAL BUILDING SOCIETY

ON Monday evening last a numerously-attended meeting of the members of the National Building Society was held at the office of Mr C. R. Chapman. The Rules, as drawn up, were adopted, and Directors appointed as follows:—Messrs C. R. Reeves, R. Kossbotham, T. George, D. Baird, H. F. Hardy, R. Hudson, H. Marsden, A. Rennie, and R. Smith. The first meeting for payment of subscriptions was appointed to take place on Monday next, 20th inst, from 6 to 8 o'clock p.m., and thereafter on the first Monday in every month. A meeting of the Directors was held immediately after, when Mr A. Rennie was appointed President for the first year. Some discussion then arose as to the appointment of Secretary, when it was resolved to advertise for one, Mr C. R. Chapman to act as Secretary in the meantime. It will be seen from another column that the first meeting for receipt of subscriptions will take place at Mr Chapman's office, Young's Buildings, on Monday evening, from 6 to 8 o'clock.

MR. SHAND'S TRAQUAIR APPLICATION.

MR J. H. HARRIS appeared in support of Mr James Shand's application to purchase 3270 acres, being part of the Traquair Hundred. Mr Harris stated that by the operation of the Otago Hundreds Proclamations Validations Act, 1873, which had just been passed by the General Assembly, the land in the Stuart and Traquair Hundreds was now thrown open for application. Mr Shand's former application for this land was lodged on the previous day, and 10 per cent. on the upset price was lodged. He therefore submitted that his client being the first applicant, must, according to law, be declared the purchaser.

The Chairman pointed out that a great many applications for land in the Traquair Hundred had been made and refused. A Validation Act had been passed, and the public had been taken by surprise. They had not got a copy of the Act, and they did not know its tenor, but it was to be hoped it fairly considered the public, and would not give any single individual an advantage over others. He thought the Board had power, with the consent of the Superintendent, to withdraw any lands from sale up to a certain date.

Mr Harris remarked, with reference to the objections raised by the Chairman, that it was not for the Board to consider what was right and proper; it was for them to act according to law. The question to be considered was whether the Validation Act referred to was in operation, and whether it was in operation on the previous day. If that were the case, he contended that his client's application must take precedence above any other, and it was not for the Board to consider what was for the public interest when it was a question of law that was involved.

The Chairman submitted a motion to the effect "that the Board, with the consent of the Superintendent, reserve and withdraw this land from sale, until properly advertised."

Mr Strode approved of the intention of the motion, but was afraid that such a decision would get the Board into a difficulty. Ignorance of the new Act would be no excuse for the Board, and he would hesitate before giving a vote that would involve them in a lawsuit.

Mr Clark also thought that the course proposed by the motion was a desirable one, but he did not believe they had the power to adopt it.

The motion was put to the vote, the Chairman and Messrs Batterworth and Reid voting in favour of it and Messrs Bastings, Clar-