

these perfectly. She told me she did not want to be a Catholic. She would give no reason for her conduct, and would not answer or speak to me beyond that. I sent for the Matron and Master, and she would not answer them, beyond saying that no one had interfered with her. The only reason, the Master stated, he could give, was the fact that no Catholic servant being now in the establishment, the children have no one to guide them morning or evening. He assured me no one interfered with the religious principles of these Catholic children. I can only say that Catholic children who knew their prayers well, and used to receive religious instruction from their clergymen with respect and docility, must be very strange beings if, without some prejudicial and unfair influence, they refused to recite their prayers or speak at all, and asserted they did not wish to be Catholics. We charge the system under which these children are reared with these evil consequences; and there is no alternative now left us, after patient endurance for nearly three years, but to disconnect ourselves from the Benevolent Institution. For the past years we have borne many insults in connection with that place. I had to complain to his Honor the Superintendent again and again of the open efforts that were being made to proselytize the Catholic children. At the time alluded to, the Catholic children were taught Presbyterianism in the morning, and were handed over to me in the evening for Catholic instruction. Nay, more: before my face they were led from the Presbyterian instructor to me, the Catholic priest. I admit that efforts were made to remedy the grievances of which we had to complain. The rude impertinence of some officials then connected with the Institution was punished by the committee, and orders were given not to interfere with the religious instruction of the children; but when the children are found to have other influences brought to bear on them, we are bound to warn our people that such an Institution is of its very essence a proselytizing Institution; that any Catholic children who are sent there will certainly lose their faith; and that we can no longer go to the Institution, as it would be not only useless to do so, but calculated to make hypocrites of poor children, the oldest of whom has not yet reached her twelfth year.

The Bishop and his clergy, we are authorised to state, entertain no hope of a remedy, therefore they have not again appealed to the Superintendent or the committee, and make the matter public for the information of the Catholics of this Diocese of Dunedin, and of the colony at large.

WEEKLY EPITOME.

THE magnificent statue of the "Sacred Heart," which has lately been on view at Mr Macedo's shop, Princes street, was raffled in St. Joseph's schoolroom last Monday week. A great many of the ticket holders were present, who elected four of the number to superintend the drawing, 139 being the winning number. We understand that it is the intention of the winner to present the statue to his Lordship the Bishop of Dunedin.

THE Superintendent of Canterbury has, it is said, undertaken the local management of immigration, as requested by the Ministry, after a good deal of objection on his part. There is also a probability of the Superintendent of Wellington withdrawing his objection, and agreeing to the arrangement.

THE 'Lyttelton Times,' referring to a late despatch from Dr Featherston, says:—Taking it as a whole, this despatch lead to the conclusion that recent criticisms on the administration of the Immigration department, and the conduct of the Agent-General, will produce judicious activity and beneficial results.

THE vessels placed on the temporary Californian service, in addition to the Macgregor, and the Mongol, are the Tartar and the Mikado, the latter a magnificent vessel of 3000 tons.

MR EARL has leased a quicksilver mine from the Maoris near Kawakawa. He has paid two years' rent in advance, and has a purchasing clause in his lease, under which, in certain circumstances, he undertakes, it is said, to pay the native lessors £10,000 as the price of the property. The mine is said to be rich in cinnabar ore.

THE number of nominations for immigrants sent home by the last mail was 2351, as follows:—Auckland, 181; Taranaki, 65; Napier, 172; Wellington, 276; Marlborough, 11; Nelson, 31; Greymouth, 28; Hokitika, 64; Christchurch, 297; Timaru, 194; Oamaru, 41; Dunedin, 308; Invercargill, 280; Riverton, 403. The nominations for October were 1025.

THE death of a Maori centenarian is recorded by the 'Press' as follows:—"Petara Kohutuani, the oldest Maori chief of the Rupaki Natives is dead. His age is stated to be 120 years, but as 12 moons are calculated by the Natives as one year, his real age (if correctly stated) is 108 years."

CHINESE and their families almost invariably occupy the front seats at dramatic entertainments in Lawrence.

THE 'Tuapeka Times' hears that Chinese labor is superseding European labor on the railway contracts at Manuka creek.

THE preliminary prospectus of the Wellington Sugar Refining Co. has been issued. The capital is £120,000, in 12,000 shares of £10 each, with power to increase to £200,000. 2000 shares each are reserved for Otago, Canterbury and Auckland; the remaining 6000 shares for other Provinces of New Zealand and elsewhere.

ORDERS were sent Home by last mail for the material for the Clutha railway.

THE Mosgiel Woollen Factory Co. are making extensive additions to their buildings and machinery.

THE attempt to test the deep ground at Naseby by means of the Government boring rods has proved a failure. The 'Mount Ida Chronicle' says:—"If, as is alleged by many, the machine is unadapted to prospect deep ground, except at a cost nearly equal in amount to what would put down and slab a shaft, the sooner that fact is discovered the better."

THERE is now a Chinese ward in the Wakatip Hospital.

AN attempt is about to be made to form a cricket club at Naseby.

THE 'Timaru Herald' states that the export of wheat last year for that port was 250,000 bushels, and estimates that the district this year will produce 450,000 bushels.

IT is stated that Sergeant Walker, late of the Armed Constabulary, Auckland, and now of the constabulary at Christchurch, has received a reward of £300 and promotion for some exceedingly clever captures which he has effected since he joined the police force at that place.

Two very old Wellington settlers have recently passed away, whose united ages reach 140 years. Mrs Dixon, relict of the late Mr George Dixon who died a few weeks ago, died on Saturday last from heart disease, aged 61 years. The other death we have to record is that of Mr Futter, for many years sexton at the Church of England cemetery, who had reached the advanced age of 79.

IT is stated that it is the intention of Mr A. C. Strode to resign his office of Resident Magistrate for Dunedin about the end of the year. Mr Strode has now been in the Government service for thirty-one years, and during that long period has held many offices, among them being the one he now holds. From Mr Strode's well-known and long experience in magisterial matters, his decisions have always been considered as correct, and consequently satisfactory alike to all parties. Mr Strode has for some time past been absent upon leave of absence in consequence of bad health, but he intends in a week or so to return to harness, and will continue so until about the end of the year, when he will finally retire. Several gentlemen are mentioned as likely to be his successors, among them being the Minister of Justice himself.

AN old Irish lady named Mansfield, aged ninety-seven, died at Geelong, Victoria, lately. She was married in the year of the Rebellion, '98, and remembered the invasion and landing of the French troops in Bantry Bay, and was in her prime in the days of Flood, Grattan, and Wolf Tone.

A COMPANY, with a capital of £2000 in £10 shares, is projected to establish Turkish baths at Onehunga.

THE captain of the Italian flagship which was at Auckland in March last, reports very favourably of New Zealand flax ropes.

THE Nelson Exhibition was opened on the 26th ult. There were large crowds from all parts of the Province. A procession marched up to the Provincial Hall, which consisted of Mr Broad, vice-president; Sir David Monro, his Honor Judge Richmond, members of both Houses, the clergy of all denominations, and members of the Exhibition Committee. The Artillery Band played the National Anthem. Sir David Monro delivered the inaugural address. The Exhibition is a great success. The show of pictures and fine arts is said to be unequalled in New Zealand. There is also a creditable display of local manufactures. All kinds of minerals of the Province are on view, including gold, silver, copper, iron, coal, marble, limestone, and flagging stone. The Exhibition will remain open for four days.

FIBRE-CURING has been successfully started by a company at Tauranga, Auckland.

THE activity which prevails in the building trade throughout the Province, is specially noticeable in the thriving township of Balclutha.

AT Oamaru lately, Judge Ward suspended the certificate of a bankrupt named James Kerr for eighteen months. His Honor remarked that some particulars in the bankrupt's accounts were most suspicious, that he had been guilty of fraudulent preference, had made away with or improperly disposed of portions of his property, and had continued to trade after being aware of his insolvent condition. His Honor ordered the cost of opposition to be defrayed out of the estate, but would not direct a prosecution.

THE Riverton paper states that in the course of eight days, Mr T. Daniel, Immigration Agent for the Western District, has received applications for the introduction of 70 souls to the Colony. The persons nominated are chiefly farm labourers.

WE take the following from the 'Daily Times,' in regard to the proposed insurance company:—"We learn that Mr Charles Reid has been very successful in his efforts to float the Standard Insurance Company in the Northern Provinces, and has secured the services as local directors and agents of several influential gentlemen, amongst others the well-known Mr John Martin, of Wellington; Messrs Routledge and Kennedy, of Hawke's Bay; Mr G. W. Binney, of Auckland; Mr Tate, of Timaru; and Mr Aitken, of Oamaru. Negotiations are pending as to the appointment of General Managers for Canterbury and Wellington. The share list is filling up, and no doubt when the time for closing the list is fixed, the applications will be numerous. We also hear that as a result of Mr Reid's mission, the projected companies in Wellington and Christchurch have been abandoned."

THE last Northern escort which arrived in Dunedin brought down the following undermentioned quantities of gold:—Queenstown, 1300 ozs. 14 dwts.; Cardrona, 822 ozs. 15 dwts.; Arrow, 569 ozs. 4 dwts.; Cromwell, 2021 ozs. 14 dwts.; Clyde, 200 ozs.; Alexandra, 602 ozs.; Teviot, 364 ozs. 1 dwt.; Blacks, 1200 ozs.; St. Bathans, 200 ozs.; Mount Ida, 1797 ozs. 9 dwts.; Palmerston, 43 ozs. 15 dwts.; Macraes, 130 ozs. 3 dwts.; Waikouaiti, 5 ozs. 11 dwts.; total, 9247 ozs. 6 dwts.