

see, and it will be years before confidence is restored—and I may add that time must be assisted by "cakes" to remove the odium which has been thrown upon mining. The Enterprise Co. succeeded in their tunnel in striking a body of quartz in which gold is visible, and they have also proved some gold-bearing stone in a shaft about 100 feet higher than the tunnel. Yet, with these prospects before it, the mine is allowed to be idle; whereas, last year, with not half the favorable chance of success, it was taken in hand with laudable energy. This shows the result of injudicious newspaper reports. The Lucknow Co. are in exactly a similar position, and it is questionable whether a start will be made in the mine this summer. The New Criterion Co. are unfavorably situated on account of the principal shareholder having left the district. Although this company has superior prospects, the expenses of opening the mine require a strong company and a well-defined system of work to be done in the mine. In alluvial mining there is a slight revival, and many parties who have resumed mining lately are on fairly payable gold.

A Wanganui paper says that since the victory of the non-smokers over the smokers at Lords, the consumption of tobacco amongst knights of the willow has fallen off in such a marked manner that it is feared the revenue will be seriously affected.

The Tichborne claimant, Arthur Orton, has been released from prison.

It has been decided to limit the strength of the Egyptian army to 3,000 men, but at the same time to materially increase the police force.

A Catholic mission is proceeding to New Guinea.

Intelligence has been received from Tonquin that the Chinese recently attacked the French position at Tuyengugen, but were repulsed with heavy loss. General De Lisle, in command of the French troops in Tonquin, has made a demand for a further reinforcement of 10,000 men. The blockade of the island of Formosa has been notified.

A few days ago we (*Thames Star*) mentioned that the manager had commenced sinking a winze in a likely place for gold, viz., on the famous No. 1 reef, Kurau Hill, seaward of the slide, at the beach level. This is now down about 15ft., and the reef in the bottom is 7 or 8 inches wide. Gold has been seen in each breaking since sinking was commenced, and in taking down the quartz late yesterday afternoon the manager bagged about 9lbs. of stone rich enough to be classed as specimens. The gold is coarse, and is mixed with the mineral, of which the quartz contains a large percentage. The discovery is the more promising as the reef has never been picked up below the beach level seaward of the slide, although on the eastern side very rich returns were obtained from it. The present winze is 60ft. west of the slide, and as soon as it is down deep enough, a few feet of cross-cutting will connect it with the Albion 80ft. level drive on the cross-reef, when the work of systematically opening up the lode can be proceeded with. Another encouraging fact is that a vertical leader is showing at the beach level on the hanging wall of No. 1, and should drop into the latter when the winze has been sunk another 30ft. or so. When the reef is opened up at the 80ft. level, the manager can also open out on several branch leaders which yielded well above. When it is remembered that such exceedingly rich gold was got on the east side of the slide, and also above the present winze, it will be strange indeed if with the good prospects already obtained, a remunerative block is not opened up. We hope this may prove to be the case, and that Mr. Crawford's persevering prospecting may have its reward in the discovery of that hope of all miners on this field—"a patch."

The fifteenth annual report of the Mutual Life Association of Australasia, presented to the members on Tuesday last (says the *Sydney Morning Herald*) is indicative at once of the enterprising management and sound condition of the society, and of the prosperous and progressive condition of the colonies which permits such results to be obtained. Through the past year the Society has issued 2880 new policies for a total sum of £672,040, producing premiums amounting to £23,574 19s 6d. Such business, taken by itself, must be regarded as satisfactory; but, compared with that done in previous years, it is more promising than could have been anticipated. The number of new policies issued is nearly one-third greater than the average of the last four years. The total business now in force is represented by 10,888 policies, from which the annual income is £103,600, or, with interest on invested funds added, £126,000. "This," says the chairman, "as the net result of fifteen years work is very fair progress;" and there seems no reason to differ with him in that opinion. It is good progress, and as good for the colonies as the Society. 10,888 policies in one insurance office implies that a large number of persons have attained a position of prosperity which enables them to save something of their incomes, and a condition of prudence and thoughtful regard for those dear to or dependent upon them, which induces them to make such a provision as to deprive any sudden shock of death of its more cruel consequences. And if so many have through this one office made this provision, how many more have taken advantage of the opportunities offered by the many similar institutions whose agents press so frequently and so hardly upon people the duties of thrift and providence? The question of the advisability of this perpetual pressing was introduced and satisfactorily answered by the Secretary, who, beginning with the homely proverb, "You cannot make an omelette without breaking eggs," proceeded to show that it was impossible to do business in life assurance without spending money. Competition is keen and always increasing, and the sleepy office will be exceedingly likely to become "the extinct volcano or the burnt-out cinder." And if competition is necessary for the Society, it is certainly in the interest of the community. It tends naturally to spread knowledge of the principles of life assurance, to induce more and more to come in; and so long as agents are charged, as the chairman stated the agents of this particular Association are charged, to press no man to assure for more than he can reasonably afford, there can be no danger of unwise investments or crippling obligations. The duty of life assurance is a lesson which the great majority of people have still to learn, and the best thanks of the community are due to the office that does most to teach it.

THURSDAY.

In the House of Representatives yesterday, Mr. White gave notice that he would move—"That if Wellington is to continue the seat of Government, it is detrimental to the interests of the Colony that the district embracing the city of Wellington, and the surrounding country within five miles of the boundaries of the said city should be represented in the House; or that any person permanently resident and interested in property within such district should be a member of the Legislative Council."—Replying to Mr. Seddon, the Hon. Mr. Ballance said the measure used by Government in measuring water for mining purposes was the one nearest a correct standard that could be got, despite the fact that it did not conform to the mining regulation.—Replying to Mr. Wi Pere, the Hon. Mr. Ballance said Government would as soon as existing difficulties could be removed, give effect to the recommendation of the Royal Commission re the setting apart of sections of land at Patutahi and Te Mungua.—Replying to Mr. Loehe, the Hon. Mr. Stout said the correspondence between Clyde and Gisborne was not sufficient to justify the expenditure for an overland mail being incurred at present.—The following reports were agreed to, the bills read a third time, and passed;—Government Insurance Association and Public Works Act Amendment Bills. The following Bills were read a second time:—"Destitute Persons Act 1877" Amendment Bill, West Coast Settlement Bill, Life Assurance Policies Bill, Westland Education District Subdivision Bill. The following passed through Committee, were reported, read a third time, and passed:—Waikato Confiscated Land Bill, Drainage of Mines Bill, Supreme Court Registrar (Taranaki) Empowering Bill. The Police Offences Bill was further considered in Committee.—Mr. Seddon moved that clause 13 be amended to prohibit the prosecution of trade and callings on Sundays. Mr. Stewart moved the addition of the words "for pay or remuneration."

Mr. Bracken closed his lecturing season at the Opera-house in Auckland on Tuesday night. He proceeds to Waikato in a lecturing tour, and returns South in a week, settling permanently in Dunedin or Wellington.

Among the passengers by the Wairarapa was a Christ's Hospital Bluecoat boy in full uniform, with blue coat and yellow stockings. The Auckland branch of "Old Blues" drove him in a carriage round the city in honour of being the first representative in the Colony.

It is announced that the Right Hon. J. G. Dodson has been raised to the peerage. The Right Hon. G. O. Trevelyan, Chief Secretary for Ireland, succeeds Mr. Dodson as Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, and with a seat in the Cabinet. Mr. H. Campbell-Bannerman, Secretary to the Admiralty, is appointed to succeed Mr. Trevelyan as Chief Secretary for Ireland.

N. Z. H. C. B. S.

CHANGE OF NAME.

At a special meeting of the Executive Directory of the New Zealand Hibernian Catholic Benefit Society on September 19, a resolution was carried, viz:—"That the New Zealand Executive Directory be substituted by a District Board under the Melbourne Executive Directory, thus removing an impediment which stood in the way of members or intending members, who left either this Colony or Australia." This change ought to largely augment membership wherever a branch is established, and should also act as an incentive to open new branches in other centres of population.

P. LEAHY, D.S.

An elastic step, buoyant spirits, and clear complexion, are among the many desirable results of pure blood. The possessor of healthy blood has his faculties at command, and enjoys a clear and quick perception, which is impossible when the blood is heavy and sluggish with impurities. Ayer's Sarsaparilla is the best blood purifier and vitalizer known.

The Glendale Land and Colonisation Company offer to colonists the long-desired opportunity of settlement on good land, within reach of the advantages of civilization, and in a neighbourhood inhabited by respectable people. Queensland is a country of unlimited resources, of great natural beauties, and an agreeable and healthy climate, and a well effected settlement there must result in independence, if not positive affluence. The advertisement of the Company will be found in another column.

Read this.—In consequence of the Dissolution of Partnership on September 2, we are compelled to raise a large sum almost immediately, and we shall offer the whole of our Stock at Cost Price for a few weeks, including all the New Goods which we have just opened up. It will pay you to call during our Great Dissolution Sale Carter and Co., Ready-Money Drapers and Direct Importers, 60 and 2 George Street.—Note.—Dressmaking by Mrs. Carter. Best in the city. Lowest charges.—[ADVT.]

In France the plague continues to produce its mixture of tragic and farcical incidents. Clovis Hughes, the poet and Radical member for Marseilles, accompanied the Ministers who paid a visit to the plague-stricken city for the purpose of arresting the panic, and has given a painfully graphic account of the sights in the hospital. The limbs of the patients are black and icy; nothing shows life but the eyes, which look staring and enlarged through the attenuation of the rigid faces. They express nothing but indifference, and when some of the visitors pressed the hand of a boy of twelve he made no sign, did not even turn to look at his visitor, but kept his eyes steadily fixed on the sun-lighted blue sea, which he could see from his bed. A lady whose husband died in one of the small towns outside Marseilles has been refused by the mayor permission to see the corpse of her husband, or even to enter her own house, and has to encamp in the open air. Instances of heroism alternate with the terrible prevalent cowardice. The Sisters of Charity are true to duty.