

Correspondence.

We are not responsible for the opinions expressed by our Correspondents.]

TUAPEKA MINING NOTES.

TO THE EDITOR.

SIR.—I observe in the last issue of the TABLET a communication from an "occasional correspondent," in which he speaks of the Blue Spur Mining Company's prospects in a depreciatory manner, and retails the idle chatter of local busy bodies in respect to the working of the mine. The statements made are not in accordance with fact, and are evidently dictated by the political and personal antipathy to Mr. J. C. Brown which characterises the writer, who is well-known to myself and others interested.

I am quite sure you would not willingly allow the TABLET to be made the medium of injuring an enterprise which promises to be of great advantage to the district.—I am, etc.,
Dunedin, June 26.

A SHAREHOLDER.

AUCKLAND.

(From our own Correspondent.)

THE CANADIAN DOCTORS.

THE topic of the hour is furnished by the "Canadian Doctors" at present in Auckland. About a fortnight ago Monsieur and Madame Dufloot arrived here from the South, and are staying at the "Star Hotel" Albert street. As the scene of their labours they have taken a large space by the "Reclamation grounds" at the back of the "Waverly." There, in the presence of thousands of people, they give specimens of their wonderful curative powers from two till five daily. Green St. presents an animated appearance, as the "Canadians," punctually at 2 p.m. each day, pass through it to their field of labour. Between the "brass band," the "golden chariot," drawn by three white horses, and the accompanying crowds, there is no lack of noise, bustle and excitement whenever Monsieur and Madame make their appearance. It is really surprising with what rapidity they effect some of their cures, especially the extraction of teeth. A half a dozen teeth extracted in so many seconds with little or no pain. But dentistry is not their only branch, rheumatism and various other complaints are treated with similar success. I don't imagine the local medicos feel very friendly towards them. The *Herald* noticed them once, and then in a complimentary way, the *Star* takes the opposite view in its so itary critique. One thing is certain that they are a regular boon to numbers of poor people who were unable to pay for medical treatment, and who get cured gratis.

RITUALISM AT HOWICK.

The dilapidated little village of Howick has been quite active lately. It seems that the Rev. Mr. Fox Anglican minister, has thought proper at his services to have a "cross," candlesticks, etc., conspicuously displayed, causing thereby offence to some of his congregation, who look on the cross, etc., as Popish mummeries. These pious worshippers remonstrated with their peccant pastor, but to no purpose. Archdeacon Dudley was appealed to, but he left matters *in statu quo*. The offending cross was done away with by someone, or in other words stolen. Ever since the papers are flooded with letters all more or less condemning the Rev. Mr. Fox who has kept a dignified silence, yet is evidently determined to have his way. Judging by their remarks in print, some Protestants must have very hazy notions with regard to the tenets of their Church.

TIMBER SYNDICATE.

The Union Sash and Door Company gave up the ghost last week. The men are all out of employment for the present, but it is to be hoped they will be soon taken on again, as a "Sydney Syndicate" has taken over all the Auckland timber companies and the different mills. Mr. G. Holship, the Auckland representative, is making the final arrangements.

THE LITTLE SISTERS OF THE POOR

For a long time his Lordship Bishop Luck has been endeavouring to secure the services of the Little Sisters of the Poor for his diocese. At last his efforts have been crowned with success. Last week these long expected good Samaritans arrived here, where they will find a plentiful harvest in the way of subjects, and ample scope for that zeal and charity which have made them one of the wonders of the age. The Bishop showed them around, and secured a house for them in Hepburn street, at a rental of some £2 a week. They intend beginning work immediately, and expect the cordial co-operation of the public. Their Order has accomplished a great deal in the cause of Catholic philanthropy. The Society has under its direction 256 houses in all parts of the world, maintaining 29,448 old and destitute people and served by 4,102 "Sisters." Since their foundation in 1840 up to December last, some 9,012 old males and females have passed over to the great majority, their latter years being spent under the hospitable roofs provided for them by the self-sacrificing sisters. They go about from house to house to beg for their portegés. They will take anything, surplus food from hotels, etc., clothing, money, whatever they can get. Last Sunday a special appeal on their behalf was made in the various Catholic churches in the city. Persons of other denominations seem to take kindly to them, as they are aware that the Sisters make no difference and will as soon assist a Protestant as a Catholic. Let us hope that they will meet that support which they so richly deserve.

THE SACRED HEART CHURCH.

Father Lenihan, the esteemed pastor of Ponsonby, had a gala day on the Feast of the Sacred Heart. His Lordship sang Mass, Fathers Lenihan and Smiers being deacon and sub-deacon, Father

Gillan preached a magnificent sermon. At night Father Hackett preached. On both occasions the church was crowded. The decorations were the theme of universal admiration, giving abundant proof of the worthy parish priest's good taste. Too much cannot be said of the choir. Their singing was something worth hearing. Some of the other city choirs might with advantage take a few lessons from them. All things considered, the pastor and people of Ponsonby may well indulge in mutual congratulations.

Diary of the Week.

WEDNESDAY, 20th.

SEVERAL earthquake shocks in Flinders district, S.A.—Clergy of Kapohe diocese pass resolutions of sympathy with imprisoned priests, and initiate relief fund.—Tory Government defeated by majority of 30 on Morley's motion against Quarter Sessions controlling chief constables.—London wool sales brisk.

THURSDAY, 21st.

Jubilee memorial fountain at Timaru handed over to Mayor and Council; Mayor presented with plate in recognition of generous discharge of social duties.—Two British officers and six men killed in fight with rebel Aliwals on frontier of Tibet.—Cardinal Moran has interview with Pope.—Correspondents of *Gaulois* and *Matin*, Parisian papers, expelled from Germany for attacking Emperor William in reports.—Higher Court confirms sentence on Dillon, M.P.

FRIDAY, 22nd.

Artillery instructors sent from Wellington to Lyttelton and Dunedin.—Meeting of traders at Wellington opposes Joyce's Shop Hours Bill. Addresses of sympathy passed by 150 Members of Parliament to John Dillon on confirmation of sentence.

SATURDAY, 23rd.

Death of Lesseps at Panama rumoured.—Cardinal Moran in audience with Pope declares Australian experience intensifies his conviction of necessity of Irish autonomy.

MONDAY, 25th.

Bismarck states Emperor William's first duty will be protection of empire's territory; foreign policy that of his predecessor.—French Senate pass Bill for new force of artillery and engineers.—Crispi said to be trying to drive the Pope out of Italy.

TUESDAY, 26th.

Morley, speaking in House of Commons, accuses Government of imprisoning John Dillon for purpose of killing political opponent.—Arabs harassing British garrison at Suakin.—Pope refuses to leave Vatican voluntarily.—German Emperor at opening of Reichstag promises to maintain Austrian-Italian alliance, and to cultivate friendship of Russia.

TUAPEKA MINING NOTES.

(From an occasional Correspondent.)

THE latest thing in mining undertakings is the floating of the Wetherstones Flat into a company, the preliminary steps having already been taken. Mr. Perry, a well-known mining expert, with a good Victorian connection, has taken the matter in hand; and he has had the ground pegged out and lodged in his application at the Warden's Court. There is a good area of ground, all of which has been worked at one time or another, some of it, in fact, twice over, but in such a way as to lead to the conviction that if worked on a proper system, such as that in force at the Blue Spur, with perfect gold-saving appliances, a payable quantity of gold may yet be taken out of it. The Chinaman, who held two or three claims on the flat, have taken a good bit of gold out of it lately; and a party of Europeans, who recently pegged off a claim, are said to be doing fairly well. It will be a good thing for this place if the Wetherstones Flat does become once more the scene of active mining operations, and employment is afforded to many of those miners residing in the vicinity who have not had much to do of late years.

I told you, in my last, that Captain Pearse was going Home to float the Waipori quartz claims. The same gentleman has also undertaken to float a company among Melbourne capitalists to take up that portion of the Waipori alluvial flat adjoining the Prospecting Company's ground. A great deal will depend on the success or otherwise of the operations now being carried on by the latter company.

By the way, I learn that the Prospecting Company (Dunedin capitalists mainly) are meeting with considerable difficulty in sinking their shafts, the thick layers of clay occasionally met with being extremely hard to penetrate. The cylinders can be sunk easily enough in shingly ground, but a large stone, or any hard substance, brings them to a standstill. However, I believe the contractor will be successful in thoroughly testing the ground by the present process, obstacles notwithstanding.

The owners of the claims at Roxburgh, which were included in the proposed Hercules Company have determined not to rest content with their recent unsuccessful attempt to form them into a company. Another effort is to be made to float them under altered, and, I might say, more favourable conditions. The owners are now agreeable to wait for the cash payment until the money is made out of the mines. I think this is fair enough, as if the company don't make the money they won't have to pay it. A better proof of the soundness of the affair could not be given; and there can hardly be any doubt that under these conditions, the vendors will be more successful than heretofore.

From all accounts Mr. Vincent Pyke's mission to Melbourne, insofar as it referred to the Roxburgh East claims has been a failure. Mr. Pyke was very confident of success, but somehow the Melbourne capitalists did not take kindly to his overtures. Perhaps like King Bruce's spider he may try, and try again, until he finally succeeds.