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## GOLD MEDAL

### BRAND "K" BRAND

## NEW SEASON'S JAM.

APRICOT CONSERVE, in glass jars (2lb nett weight) | RASPBERRY JAM, in glass jars (2lb nett weight)  
 NECTARINE " | RED CURRANT JELLY, in stone jars (1lb nett weight)  
 PEACH CONSERVE, in glass jars (2lb nett weight)

The above are made with this Season's FRESH Fruit and boiled within a few hours after being gathered and retain the FULL FLAVOUR and COLOUR of the Fruit. They are the MOST DELICIOUS and WHOLESOME Preserves in the market.

S. KIRKPATRICK & CO., Manufacturers, NELSON.

### T I M A R U.

(From an occasional Correspondent.)

THE winter we are now about emerging from has been the severest ever experienced in this town and district. In Timaru and its immediate vicinity nothing very disastrous has occurred, the only cause of complaint being the intense cold and excessive rainfall, accompanied with one or two light snowstorms, but in the McKenzie and back country the result has been calamitous. Continuous and severe snowstorms, followed by heavy frosts with cold and piercing winds have played havoc amongst the flocks on the runs. Sheep by the thousands have been snowed up for months without a possibility of rescuing them, and it is computed that at the very least more than half a million of those unfortunate animals have perished, while those that will survive, or are rescued, are practically worthless. The poor brutes are reduced to such an extremity of hunger that they are eating the wool from each other's backs. Up to the present there is scarcely a black patch discernable on the snow-clad ranges, and in some of the flat country the snow lies from three and a half to four feet deep. The exact extent of the terrible loss cannot yet be ascertained, nor, in fact, accurately computed until shearing time, but the above estimate is supposed to be within the mark.

A valuable and handsome addition has been made to the church property by the purchase of the house and grounds immediately adjoining the church on the north side of the Town Belt and known as "The Priory." It consists of more than four acres of land with a handsome two-storey dwelling thereon which is now used as the presbytery. The property was secured at a very reasonable figure by the Rev Father Hurlin, who deserves the warmest congratulations of his parishioners for the successful manner in which he negotiated the purchase. The building is well appointed and, previous to its occupation by the priests, it was thoroughly renovated and improved. It will be a much needed and pleasant change for the reverend Fathers as the old presbytery was far too small and inconvenient for their requirements. With this addition the total acreage of the church property, including the convent grounds, amounts to between 18 and 20 acres. It seems like the hand of fate that the gentleman who, about fifteen years ago, erected this building just purchased should have designated it "The Priory," and that now it should fall into the hands of the Church to which that name peculiarly belongs.

The South Canterbury Board of Education has granted the application made to them to have the Catholic schools in their district examined by the Government Inspector. The examination has taken place and the report of the Inspector will be brought forward at the next meeting of the Education Board, which is fixed on the first Thursday in the month. In his preliminary visit the Inspector

reported that he considered the staff at the Brothers' school insufficient, but notwithstanding this I am confident that all schools will give a good account of themselves.

*Apreros* of the Brothers' schools, it is gratifying to learn that two of their pupils lately sent to St Joseph's College, Hunter Hill, Melbourne—viz, Thomas Mara and Alexander McDonald, both Timaru boys, passed the junior university examination and acquitted themselves creditably. While under the tuition of the Brothers here both boys passed the junior Civil Service Examination. In the college there are also three Timaru boys intended for the Brotherhood undergoing their novitiate—viz, Masters O'Shea, McAtee and Quinn. The college is a handsome and magnificent structure of the same style of architecture as St Patrick's, Wellington. The two departments—viz, that set aside for the instruction of youths undergoing their novitiate for the Brotherhood and that for ordinary college educational purposes are separate and distinct. This novitiate department is meant to be the feeder from which the supply of the Marist Brothers is to be drawn to supply the many applications made by different communities for their services.

It is with very great regret I have to chronicle the death at Waimate of Mr Martin J. Meagher, who was resident school teacher here for many years, and who was highly respected by all with whom he came in contact. Mr Meagher was a native of Parsonstown, in Ireland, but had spent the greater part of his manhood in the colonies. He was a genial, intelligent man, took a great interest in Home politics, was an ardent Home Ruler and a first rate conversationalist. His death took all his Timaru acquaintances by surprise and the deepest sympathy is felt for his wife and children in their sad bereavement.—R I P.

Messrs Brown Ewing and Co, Princes St, Dunedin, are now showing their early spring and summer goods. The firm's new millinery and mantles are especially worthy of attention.

The City of Melbourne Bank, which figures prominently just now, owing to the fact that efforts are being made to reconstruct it a second time, illustrates forcibly that the Australian colonies have not washed themselves clean of the banking crisis of 1893. The run on the banks and their inability to cope with the peremptory demands of depositors, compelled no less than thirteen monetary institutions to temporarily close their doors and reconstruct. Banking institutions are not the only ones that are subject to sudden demands; other establishments find themselves unexpectedly called upon to meet a strong demand, and an instance of this is afforded by the Empire Tea Company, which exalts in the fact that during the past three or four months there has been a welcome run on its blended teas. Consumers, however, have no occasion to be alarmed, as there is not the least chance of the supply running short, nor of the quality deteriorating. The Empire Tea Company, unlike a banking institution, heartily appreciates the run on its teas.

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