

NEW ZEALAND: GENERAL.

THE Premier anticipates there will be a surplus of over half a million at the end of the financial year.

MISS MARIE BOURNIQUE, Ashburton, has forwarded us a quantity of used postage stamps for Father Kreymsborg's mission.

ATTENTION is directed to the announcement made in another column of the Dunedin St. Patrick's Day celebration.

MISS ALICE DIX, a pupil of the Sisters of Mercy, St. Mary's, Christchurch, passed the recent matriculation examination.

THE Minister for Lands proposes to leave for England during the first week in April, and to be back in the colony about October.

ACCORDING to a London cable message six veterinary surgeons have been selected by the Government to inspect meat from New Zealand ports.

WE have received a parcel of used stamps for Rev. Father Kreymsborg's Mission from Messrs. George and Brendan Lavery, Christchurch. 'A Child of Mary,' Auckland, sends us a parcel also for the same object.

THE Rev. W. J. Habens, secretary of the Education Department, died on Friday night. He had been suffering for some time, and had had an attack of paralysis a short time before his death.

THE Chinese population in New Zealand has been steadily on the decrease. At the end of the year there were 3464 of these aliens in our midst, or 255 less than were accounted for by the census of 1896, and 1016 less than by that in 1891.

THE total gold produced in this Colony last year was valued at £980,204, distributed between the various districts as follows:—Auckland, £392,337; West Coast, £235,430; Otago, £342,187; Marlborough, £3195; Nelson, £7055.

SPEAKING at Nelson last week Mr. Seddon indicated a reduction of the inland postage to a penny throughout. This meant a sacrifice of £70,000, but last year the postal department's profit was £35,000, and the reduction must come.

THE *Inangahua Times* congratulates Master Larkin on winning a scholarship at St. Patrick's College. Master Larkin was educated at the local Catholic School, conducted by the Sisters of Mercy, and his success, says our contemporary, is another unquestionable demonstration of the capability of the Sisters as teachers.

THE Hon. J. M. Twomey, M.L.C., has been elected patron of the Geraldine St. Patrick's Day Sports Association, and Mr. R. H. Pearpoint, vice-president. The gathering from all appearances ought to be very successful, as prizes amounting to £115 will be given for the various events, which are well arranged and very interesting.

THE horse fiend has again made his appearance in the Canterbury district. Three horses were stabbed on Saturday night, which brings the number, attacked within a brief period, up to 26, and most of which were valuable animals. The police and a black tracker, specially brought from Queensland, are searching the country for the perpetrator.

EXCEPTIONALLY unseasonable weather was experienced in the North Island during the early part of the week. Very heavy rain, accompanied by thunder and lightning, was experienced at Wellington, Palmerston North, Stratford and the Wairarapa, which, it is feared, will cause considerable damage to crops not yet harvested. During 24 hours nearly five inches of rain had fallen at Masterton.

A PROMINENT citizen, whose name has been intimately associated with the public life of Otago for upwards of 35 years, passed away in the person of Mr. George Bell on Saturday morning at the age of 90 years. During Mr. Bell's residence in Dunedin he had been an active journalist, having been connected at various times with both the local papers, but more especially the *Star*, with which his name is inseparably associated.

MR. J. C. MARTIN, Public Trustee, has resigned. Various causes are assigned for this step, as Mr. Martin has held the position only for a few years, having been appointed to it in succession to Mr. Warburton, who became Auditor-General. Prior to that Mr. Martin was Stipendiary Magistrate at Wellington, where by his legal acumen and strict impartiality he gained the esteem of all classes. Mr. Martin is about to take a trip to England, after which, it is said, he will settle down in Wellington.

A WELL-ATTENDED meeting of the Timaru St. Patrick's Day Sports Association (writes our correspondent) was held in the Mechanics' Hall on Friday, the 3rd inst., Mr. M. Mullin occupying the chair. A letter was read from Mr. D. Mahoney (president) regretting his inability, through illness, to be present, and notifying that he would contribute £3 3s to the prize fund. A capital programme was drawn up. The total prize money, exclusive of special prizes to be subsequently added, amounts to £-6, allocated as follows:—Running events, £17; cycling, £40 (including one £25 race); general sports, music, dancing, &c., £29. Members' subscriptions have been reduced to five shillings per annum. Promises of special prizes were received.

THE Rev. Father Fauvel, of Temuka, who had been for a few weeks' holiday in the North Island, returned home last week. We are pleased to hear (says the *Leader*) that he has returned in good health, and we have no hesitation in saying that it is a general wish that he may remain so. The Rev. Father Lezer left about the same time for Meaneo, to resume his professorial duties at the seminary. The rev. gentleman bade farewell to the parishioners of St. Joseph's Church, Temuka, on Sunday week, and his address was so touching that many were moved to tears. He has endeared himself to all by his quiet, unassuming manner.

DURING their trip to the West Coast Lord and Lady Ranfurly visited the Catholic schools at Kumara. The distinguished visitors were received by the Rev. Father O'Hallahan, and the Sisters in charge. Miss Marie Moretti, on behalf of the children, presented his Excellency with an illuminated address.

AT the close of the recent fashionable wedding of an Anglican bishop in Christchurch: 'What do you think of the show?' was asked by a spectator of a fellow bystander, a well-known Anglican professional man. 'Well,' said he, thoughtfully, 'it is a fine spectacular display, is it not? But having witnessed it, I think that there is a great deal to be said in favour of the celibacy of the Catholic clergy.' This speech was uttered very emphatically. If the speaker were a 'Melanesian' he might have said it more emphatically still. So writes an occasional correspondent.

A CHRISTCHURCH correspondent, who had been recently on a visit to the Ellesmere district, sends us the following particulars with reference to the Catholic Church at Leeston, which is a standing testimony to the generosity of the people of the district:—the presbytery and the convent are fine buildings. The old church, erected 30 years ago at the other end of the township, has been removed to its present site behind the new church and convent. The cost of removing and renovating the old structure amounted to £100, and it will probably now last another 30 years. It has been newly painted, covered with an iron roof, and placed on a concrete foundation. For the future the building will be used principally for a school, and is at present attended by over sixty children, who are in charge of six sisters of Our Lady of Missions. These ecclesiastical buildings and their excellent site, which comprises seven and a half acres, have cost not less than £6000. There are about 300 Catholics in Leeston and about 250 in Southbridge, and the great amount of work done in the district for the cause of religion certainly speaks well for the zeal and energy of the Rev. Father Chervier and his devoted flock. Most of the donations, if not all of them, towards the present Leeston Church, which is the ninth that Father Chervier has erected since his advent into the province, were very handsome.

O B I T U A R Y.

MRS. JOHN ROUGHAN.

THE many friends of Mr. John Roughan, Lawrence, will regret to hear of the death of his wife, which occurred at her residence Peel St., on Tuesday, January 31. Mrs. Roughan was a sufferer from a trying illness for a long time, but she was not continuously confined to her bed, for even on the Monday prior to her death she was able to move about her room. During the night her illness took a serious turn, and about one o'clock on Tuesday afternoon she passed quietly away in the presence of her family. The deceased was of a most amiable and sympathetic nature; a practical Catholic, and was highly esteemed by all who had the pleasure of her personal acquaintance. The funeral took place on Thursday, when the remains were followed to the cemetery by a very large number of mourners. The very Rev. Dean O'Leary assisted by Rev. Father Delaney officiated at the grave.—*R.I.P.*

FOR NAPOLEON'S SAKE.

SOME people are very fond of telling a story that has a catch in it, and so taking their listeners in. Here is a sample of what I mean:—

Once, when in Paris, Napoleon paid a visit to an hospital for old soldiers. Among the inmates was an old man who had lost an arm. The Emperor asked him:

'Where did you lose your arm?'

'At Austerlitz, sire.'

'Then, no doubt, you curse the Emperor and your country for your fate?'

'On the contrary,' said the veteran; 'for the Emperor and my country I would sacrifice my other arm.'

'I can hardly believe it,' said the Emperor.

The soldier immediately drew a sabre from its sheath and lopped off the other arm.

'A most sublime act of self-sacrifice,' said the old lady who had been listening to the yarn, totally forgetting the impossibility of a one armed man cutting off his remaining arm.

True merriment may be distinguished from false by the fact that it bears reflection; we can think of it with pleasure next day and next week.

Pleasures pall, rest becomes wearisome; but duty faithfully performed crowns the hours with flowers and fills the air with fragrance and music.

One of the great centres of attraction in Dunedin is the D.I.C. The management of this favourite establishment spare no pains to make the D.I.C. a place of interest. No person, either old or young, should miss the opportunity of visiting the war house. If one wants an inexpensive present or one of a more pretentious and costly character, the finest selection is obtainable at the D.I.C. The large increase of space devoted to the display of fancy goods, toys, books and stationery, etc., affords customers an opportunity of viewing the finest stock in the Colony. Goods purchased in quantity for bazaars, guilds, etc., are subject to a special discount. Observe the address—D.I.C., High and Rattray streets.—* *