

## NEW ZEALAND: GENERAL.

A WATER gas installation was publicly opened recently in Pahiataua by Mr. O'Meara M.H.R.

THE Union Steamship Company has given up all hope of the safety of the steamer Ohau, which is supposed to have foundered in Cook Strait on May 13.

FROM an esteemed correspondent we learn that the following clerical changes have been made in the archdiocese of Wellington: Rev. Father Golden, of Patea, is to take charge of the Stratford district, Rev. Father McGrath, of Dannevirke, succeeds Father Golden at Patea, and Rev. Father Cahill, now at Hawera, takes charge of Dannevirke.

WRETCHED weather was experienced nearly all over New Zealand on the Queen's Birthday, consequently holiday arrangements had to be cancelled. Two important events took place in Auckland—the presentation of colours to the local rifle battalion, and the unveiling of a statue of the Queen in the Albert Park. The Governor performed the latter ceremony.

THE Christchurch Press says it will probably be interesting to sheep owners in this Colony to learn that a shipment of pedigree sheep from England is being arranged for on behalf of several Canterbury flock masters. It will comprise English Leicesters, Shropshire and Hampshire Downs, and probably Southdowns, both rams and ewes, and will arrive about November.

A GOVERNMENT return shows the enormous slaughter of rabbits which takes place in New Zealand every year. The export of rabbitskins from the Colony in 1892 was, in round numbers, 16,000,000; 1893, 17,000,000; 1894, 14,000,000; 1895, 15,000,000; 1896, 11,000,000; 1897, 8,000,000. Besides these there have to be taken into account hundreds of thousands of rabbits which are destroyed promiscuously by sportsmen, and the numbers which are now sent out of the Colony in a frozen state with their skins on—a trade which probably accounts very materially for the decrease in pelts exported in the later returns.

A VERY pleasant gathering took place in the Catholic Church, Denniston, on Sunday, 30th April (says the Westport News), the occasion being to present the Venerable Archpriest Walshe with an address and purse of sovereigns, in recognition of the high honour recently conferred upon him by his Grace Archbishop Redwood. Mr. Joseph Sherlock read the address, and Mr. Nicholas Smith, in a few well-chosen words, made the presentation. The Venerable Archpriest, who was taken by surprise, feelingly replied, and thanked the congregation, but said that he did not at present need the gift, but as the presentation was made he would accept it, and devote the amount to some necessary work. After wishing his flock every blessing, both spiritual and temporal, the meeting dispersed.

MESSRS. Connor and Harris, the new proprietors of the Commercial Hotel, (says the Cromwell Argus May 23), are expected by to-day's coach. Prior to leaving Dunedin Mr. J. J. Connor, junr., was presented by the Dunedin Amateur Boating Club, with a handsome travelling case, as a token of his valuable services since his connection with the club. Mr. Connor's abilities as a gymnast being of a high order, he having also acted as honorary instructor for his club's gymnasium for a couple of years, his services may prove of benefit to our rising generation. He is also likely to prove a decided acquisition to our social and musical circles, being a vocalist of some repute, and one who frequently appears on the Dunedin concert platform with evident acceptance. His partner in business, Mr. A. Harris, is also very popular in social affairs, and takes a big interest in cycling, having filled the captaincy and other positions in the Otago Cycling Club for some years past. Both are hard workers in anything they undertake, and will soon be very popular among the people of Cromwell, who are quite prepared to give them a hearty welcome.

THE Mayor of Wellington has prepared a scheme for carrying out certain important and necessary works. He proposes to prepare one comprehensive empowering bill for submission to Parliament, giving the Corporation power to carry out certain works involving a total of £306,000. His scheme involves £100,000 for the acquisition of the tramways system and wood-paving the main thoroughfares of the city from the corner of Cuba street to the Government Buildings. Then £35,000 would be allotted to the acquisition of the electric light system. Another work, and one of urgency, he states, is an addition to the waterworks and better distribution. The cost of this is estimated at £80,000. For street widening a working fund of £25,000 is required. Mr. Blair says that if the necessary borrowing powers were given for raising by a loan of £306,600 it would mean an addition of 7d in the £ to the present rates; but this could be mitigated by the Corporation being able to retain the revenue derived from the use of water power, by increased revenues through the growth of the city (which shows an increase this year of £3,500 upon last year's total), and a saving by the conversion of loans.

THE following bit of practical reasoning is from the pen of 'Butcher Boy' in the *New Zealand Times*:—A peculiar statement appears in your finance and trade column this morning. I may not be as well up in the prices as the 'boss,' or the man that writes about money and things in your paper; but my mates and I have been talking about the rise in mutton. It has only gone up ½d all round, whatever your financial man may say, and then the retail butchers are not able to increase the price on everything, consequently their profits will be reduced slightly for a time. But I am not so particular about that as I am about the wrong 'hang' you have of the price of mutton. In this trade column of yours you tell your readers that 'the price of fat sheep off the shears was about 8s 6d, it is now 13s for sheep of less weight by about 12lb to

15lb—the difference is equal to about 1d per lb.' When I read this I wondered if it had been written by my 'boss,' for that is just like the exaggerated way he talks. The mutton is, when he speaks to the customers, very dear to buy, and he always sells it at a loss, and—and you haven't seen his bank book. I have a fancy about stock, and I mean to be buyer some day for a big company, and I can see you have made a 'bloomer' about that mutton. When the butcher bought the sheep off the shears at 8s 6d he just got the bare pelt, now he buys with the carcase a good coat of wool, worth, as wool now goes, about 3s or 4s; and the best butchers' mutton was selling at Johnsonville on Tuesday at 12s 6d. Now, if you will allow for the value of the wool you will be able to see that there is no necessity for the increase in the price of mutton, and the rise in the price is not 'capable of explanation'; at least the conclusion you arrive at is not borne out even by the facts, and the assertion you make is only an attempt to justify the rich butchers in increasing the price on the poor consumers.

## INTERCOLONIAL.

A Melbourne paper states that Mr. J. C. Williamson offered Miss Amy Castles £30 a week to sing one song every night in 'The Belle of New York.' Miss Castles was, however, unable to accept the tempting offer owing to her promise not to appear in public prior to her benefit concert.

The following clerical changes have taken place in the archdiocese of Sydney:—The Rev. Father Meagher, who was recently ordained, has been appointed to Concord; the Rev. Father Donnelly from Concord to Surry Hills; the Rev. Father Bunbury from Leichhardt to Parramatta; and the Rev. Father Kenny from Parramatta to St. Francis', Haymarket.

A new Catholic school was opened and blessed on May 1, at Gundagai, in the Goulburn diocese. His Lordship Bishop Gallagher performed the ceremony. The church, convent, and presbytery are a group of buildings which would do credit to any town in New South Wales. The ceremonies were of a most impressive character. Bishop Gallagher delivered an eloquent discourse on the worth of religious education. In conclusion he said the Catholics of Gundagai had done noble work towards that end, and he would quote their example not only throughout the Goulburn diocese, but wherever he went in Australia. The great struggle of the priests and people for religious education deserved encouragement.

The question of a capitation grant to denominational schools was brought up at the late general election in South Australia, and the grievance under which Catholics labour was very forcibly shown in addresses by Archbishop O'Reilly and his clergy. Here is the *Southern Cross* sums up the result:—His Grace the Archbishop has expressed a feeling of satisfaction so far as the result of the recent appeal to the country is concerned on the subject of redress to religious schools. With that sentiment we heartily concur. Certainly the tangible results, as far as the return of candidates is concerned, are not very great, but it was not expected that any great move would be made in that direction. The campaign was directed more with a view of educating the public than to secure the election of particular candidates. And in this respect there is reason to be gratified with the results of the appeal to the country.

An interesting ceremony took place at Perth on Sunday, April 23, when Mr. T. F. Quinlan, M.L.A., was invested, in the Cathedral, as a Knight of St. Silvester by his Lordship the Bishop of the diocese. Mr. Quinlan attired in the handsome uniform of the order—a scarlet tailed coat with gold epaulettes and green and gold facings, cream-coloured kerseymere trousers with a gold stripe at each side; large black velvet capello or cocked hat, with gold cockade and snow white plume, and high boots, in addition to which are a gold and enamelled cross, suspended from the neck to the breast by a gold chain and a black and red ribbon, a sword and scabbard with pearl and gold mountings, and gilt spurs—entered from the vestry following the Bishops and clergy, and attended by an acolyte. He took up his place in the middle of the sanctuary facing the altar, in front of which was the Bishop's stool. The Vicar-General then read an English translation of the Papal brief of appointment, and made a short address, in which he gave a history of the order. His Lordship Bishop Gibney then blessed the sword and invested Mr. Quinlan.

A banquet was given by Bishop Moore at the Palace, Ballarat, in the early part of May to celebrate the silver jubilee of the ordination of the Very Rev. Dr. O'Leary, Dean of Maynooth College, Ireland, and to present him with an address and a purse of 100 sovereigns. A number of priests from all parts of Victoria, together with laymen of every denomination, were present. His Lordship the Bishop, in making the presentation, said Dr. O'Leary did not require the money, but it was presented as a souvenir of their esteem and respect. The address, after referring to the personal qualities of the recipient and the distinguished position which he held, went on to say:—Cast our eyes where we may, we shall find the sons of Maynooth coming forward as noble champions of the Church; we shall find them going forth to the ends of the earth bearing the torch of faith and learning, renewing in these latter days the glories of those ages when Ireland's saints and scholars diffused their learning and sanctity over a pagan world. And here in Australia, side by side with equally distinguished associates, we shall find them the very pillars on which the Church rests. Ought we not then to hail with delight your advent amongst us, and ought we not to be filled with the warmest feeling of gratitude and give you the heartiest of welcomes, seeing that in honouring you we honour our Ireland's—the world's great ecclesiastical college—St. Patrick's College, Maynooth.'