

Those who have not recently visited the Catholic Cathedral (writes the Christchurch correspondent of the 'Otago Daily Times') will be surprised at the rapid progress which is being made with the work. The beautiful architecture is now more fully seen, and the building, so far as the exterior is concerned, presents an almost finished appearance. Of course, the interior will take some little time, but the contractors are sanguine of having it completed by Christmas next.

First Communion will be administered to some 30 children in St Andrew's district (writes our Timaru correspondent) in a few weeks' time. Rev. Father Subman has had them in hand for the past few months, it being one of the stations connected with this parish. On Monday night, 2nd inst., during the Quarant' Ore celebrations, Rev. Father Goggan preached to a crowded congregation an eloquent sermon on the fruits to be derived from the devotion. Rev. Father Mahony preached on Tuesday morning, and brought the ceremonies to a close by celebrating High Mass, Fathers Goggan and Le Floch being deacon and subdeacon respectively.

A Feilding farmer has finished digging a field of potatoes which yielded 15 tons to the acre, and a Manaia farmer has finished digging a large piece which yielded 20 tons to the acre.

Some 20 to 30 Lambton quay and Willis street shopkeepers in Wellington, having tried the experiment of closing on Saturday instead of Wednesday afternoons, declare that the departure is turning out better than was anticipated, and other firms are joining the movement. Some of the firms, however, complain that the first use some of the assistants—mostly girls, by the way—had made of their Saturday night's freedom was to be shopping at the business places of those who had refused to join in the Saturday closing movement.

A private cable message received in Wellington from London states that the Newtown licensing appeal has been allowed, with costs. The solicitors acting on behalf of the 'trade' state that the arrangement made prior to the appeal going Home was in effect that a cablegram giving the result of the Privy Council's judgment should be taken cognisance of as if the full judgment were received. The cablegram stated 'Appeal upheld, with costs,' and was signed by the solicitors acting on either side.

The announcement (says an exchange) that Sergeant Griffiths had been reinstated and would shortly be removed from Rakaia to some other part of the Colony, has given satisfaction, mingled with regret, to everyone here. It will be remembered that Sergeant Griffiths, for a very trifling breach of the regulations, and which was never openly proved, was reduced from the rank of sergeant to first-class constable. The late Commissioner was inflexible, but Commissioner Dimmie, having reviewed the circumstances, has taken the obviously wise and just course and reinstated Sergeant Griffiths, who is recognised as a very capable and popular officer. The general public of the Rakaia district are exceedingly pleased at Sergeant Griffiths' reinstatement, but will be sorry indeed to lose his services. The generally expressed hope is that as good a man may succeed him—a better is not hoped for.

Southland News Notes

The Athletic Football Club has had its trial for the opening of the season, but victory has been generally with their opponents. The Club's tussle with the Pirates was an interesting one, and resulted in a win for the Pirates, the scores being 6 points to 3. The Athletic second fifteen tried conclusions with the Pirates second, but were defeated by 6 to 5, but the Athletic third fifteen secured a decisive victory over the High School first by 13 points to 5.

Mr. T. O'Byrne has been appointed to superintend the wood-cutting events at the forthcoming Cycling Carnival. Mr. O'Byrne is at present president of the Southland Sawmillers' Union.

Prospects of the re-opening of the Orepuki Shale Works are not very bright, in fact, locally, the industry is being regarded as a thing of the past. Several parts of the machinery have already been removed, and the number of hands constantly employed is only three or four.

The once famous Waikaia Plains station has just changed hands, the purchaser being Mr. Black, of Sydney. The estate has one of the costliest homesteads in Southland, while the pasturage is excellent. It was long the property of Mr. Duncan Gillanders, and is situated on the banks of the Mataura, at Ardlussa, Balfour.

WEDDING BELLS

JEFFRIES—BRYANT.

(From our Christchurch correspondent)

There was a large gathering in the Pro-Cathedral on Thursday, May 5, on the occasion of the marriage of Mr. William Jeffries, eldest son of Mr. John Jeffries, of Nelson, and Miss Annie M. Bryant, daughter of the late Mr. Daniel Bryant, of Christchurch. The Pro-Cathedral was tastefully decorated, and there was a choral service specially in honor of the bride, who for many years has been a member of the choir. His Lordship Bishop Grimes, attended by the Pro-Cathedral clergy, celebrated a Nuptial Mass, and united the happy couple in the bonds of holy Matrimony. The bride was attired in white silk, and was given away by Mr. T. O'Connell, an old friend of the family. Miss Poff was bridesmaid and Mr. A. Jeffries best man. During the Mass Mrs. A. Mead sang an 'Ave Maria,' and at the conclusion the organist, Miss Katie Young, played the 'Wedding March.' Among those present at the wedding breakfast at the residence of the bride's mother were His Lordship the Bishop, the Very Rev. Vicar-General, and Rev. Fathers O'Connell, Price, Cooney, and Mahony. Mrs. Jeffries (Nelson), mother of the bridegroom, and Mr. Arthur Jeffries (Picton), brother, were also in attendance. Mr. and Mrs. W. Jeffries left the same evening for the North, en route for Rotorua, where the honeymoon was to be spent.

How the Telescope was Discovered

In the year 1590 two children were playing in the garden of the queer old town of Middleburg, Holland (says 'Light'). They were the children of Jansen, the spectacle maker of the town, and had taken, while their father's back was turned, some little pieces of crystal from his table to play with in the garden. Tired of playing, they sat under one of the trees to rest. One of the little ones placed a piece of the spectacle maker's glass before his eye and then held another piece some distance from him, looking through both at the same time. Suddenly he called to his brother, 'Come, look here, I have brought the mountains nearer.'

Sure enough, as his brother looked through the glasses the mountains seemed to be much larger than without. He could even see the trees on the side. Quickly running to his father, the old spectacle maker, he called him to come to see the magic glasses they had found that made things bigger.

The father quickly saw the importance of the discovery and began to experiment with them. He found that if the glasses were covered with a tube and then arranged so that they could be slid together and opened to some distance apart, he could plainly distinguish objects a great distance off. He immediately set to work to make an instrument. He made a telescope twelve inches long and sent it to Prince Maurice and also sent another to Duke Albert, both great warriors of that time. Duke Albert, however, feared that it would not be well for the world if such things came into it, and commanded him to make no more telescopes.

He did, however, and the great instrument which to-day shows us the movements of the stars and is of the greatest benefit to sailors, and, in fact, to all men, was steadily improved. Isaac Newton invented, many years after, the reflecting telescope, which makes it possible to look at the sun through that instrument, and many great scientists have brought the instrument to its present almost perfect state.

But the first telescope was discovered and all the great discoveries that have come from it were made possible by two little children playing in a garden with pieces of glass.

The recent reduction in the duty of British-grown tea reminds us that a preferential tariff would have no such effect less than 40 years ago, for at that time the bulk of our tea came from China. It was in the late '60's, on the failure of the coffee industry, that the cultivation of tea on a large scale was undertaken in Ceylon. Since that time its production has made rapid progress owing to careful selection of seed and the use of machinery in its manufacture. As a result we have now a tea, which for quality and price was unknown a generation ago. The extension of commerce has made it possible for the best kind, such as Hondai-Lanka, to be brought direct from the estate to the purchaser, so that the consumer is guaranteed that he receives only the finest product of the Spicy Isle....