

NEW ZEALAND : GENERAL.

THE seven nursing sisters selected by the Otago Committee left Dunedin on Monday for South Africa by way of Melbourne.

WE understand that the sum of £850 was netted at the recent bazaar in Timaru in aid of the fund for the erection of a new Catholic church.

ALL Government railway workshops are working overtime constructing rolling stock to overtake the pressing demands of a plentiful harvest.

SPEAKING at the turning of the first sod of the Paeroa-Waima railway last week the Premier said that last year New Zealand, with a population of 800,000, exported over 11 million pounds' worth. No other British colony could show such a record.

THE date of the sailing of the Gymeric with portion of the fourth contingent has been deferred until about the 24th inst. She will sail from Dunedin, and will take about 250 men and 300 horses. It is not yet decided how the remainder of the contingent will be shipped.

MR F. W. PETRE, architect, Dunedin, has received instructions from the Rev. Father Regnault, S.M., to prepare plans for the enlargement of St. Patrick's Church, Waimate. The additions include transepts and side chapels, which will double the seating accommodation at present provided.

SERGEANT MITCHELL, of Napier, who has been promoted to the position of Sub-Inspector at Wellington, has left for his new sphere of duties. His many friends will learn with pleasure of Sergeant Mitchell's promotion, which was fully deserved, as there is no more courteous and efficient officer in the force.

MR. R. A. LOUGHNAN and Mrs. Loughnan arrived in Wellington last week from Australia, where they had been for the last three or four years. Mr. Loughnan, as a journalist, is well known all over the Colony, having been for many years editor of the *Lyttelton Times*, and later of the *New Zealand Times*.

IN the course of a speech delivered at Auckland on Saturday in connection with a presentation to the Minister of Railways, the Right Hon. R. J. Seddon said that as regards finance and the present position of the Colony that after meeting the charges of the contingents there would still be a surplus of £300,000. Four months ago the Ministry saw there was going to be trouble, and that money would be dear, so they made arrangements for public works finance for 10 months' ahead, or, in other words, for a million of money. In respect to money for the purchase of lands, they had obtained £300,000 at 100%, while only a week before New South Wales has offered 1 per cent debentures at 99%. As to the defences of the Colony, he could say emphatically that there was no cause whatever for apprehension.

THE Hon. J. G. Ward, Minister of Railways, was on Saturday afternoon the recipient of a handsome presentation from the Lancers of Auckland in celebration of his rejoining the Ministry. The presentation consisted of a beautifully-finished gold medal with a gold sovereign case attached, enclosed in a silver casket. The medal is a massive gold one, with two clasps bearing the dates 1891 and 1899. Mr. Ward, in acknowledging the presentation, said he was deeply indebted to them for their mark of appreciation. Although there had been many able men in the ranks of former Governments, it had fallen to the lot of the present Administration to put on record legislation which was regarded as being in the van of progress. It had been a special pleasure to know that he was asked to rejoin the Ministry without making any request to any of his former colleagues that he should be considered in the matter. He was also glad to know that it had been done with the sanction of the great majority of the people.

IT is expected that there will be a very large influx of visitors into Dunedin from country districts for the purpose of witnessing the departure of the contingent for South Africa. It was computed that on the occasion of the departure of the first contingent from Wellington upwards of 500 persons had to walk the streets during the preceding night for want of accommodation. In order to provide against such a contingency in Dunedin the local committee have requested Messrs. Baker Brothers, Colonial Bank Buildings to compile an official list of available residential accommodation for visitors. Messrs. Baker Brothers are acting gratuitously in this matter, and during the week preceding the departure of the contingent their office will be open every evening until 10 o'clock in connection with the matter. Intending visitors, who are unable to secure hotel accommodation, should communicate without delay with the firm.

AT the last meeting of the Ashburton Catholic Literary Society the members took the opportunity of the approaching departure of the hon. treasurer and one of the founders of the society—Mr. Moison—for France to present him with a token of their esteem in the shape of a handsome dressing case. Speeches were delivered during the evening by Mr. L. Hanrahan (president), Mr. Cooper (ex-president), Mr. R. J. Henry (vice-president), and others, in which reference was made to the great interest taken by Mr. Moison in the society since its foundation. In replying Mr. Moison thanked the speakers for the kind remarks made regarding his services. His great object in the society was to make himself worthy of their company, and judging by their present and their kind remarks towards him that evening he had gained his object. The society was the only successful one of its kind in Ashburton, and was no doubt a credit to the Catholic young men and their elders. As regards his visit to Paris, he was pleased to state that it would only be a short one, and the members could rely on him to do all he could in the way of furthering their interests. Speaking personally, he considered the society had been a great benefit to him in various ways, and he was sorry that he had not its aid many years ago. Mr. Moison, in conclusion, heartily thanked the members for the handsome present given him.

AFTER a concert given about the middle of January by the pupils and employees of the Foxford Technical School, under the care of the Sisters of Charity, an encouraging address was delivered by the Right Rev. Dr. Leihani, Bishop of Auckland, on 'Native Music and Home Industries.' The Most Rev. Dr. Lyster, Bishop of Achnorhy, presided. In the course of his speech the Bishop of Auckland said:—Looking at your district, one carries away the conviction that the rains you experience give you altogether too noble an expanse of water, that your farms must suffer considerably, and that if you content yourselves with simply looking to the soil for your support, poverty and suffering must be your portion. Such being the case, the Sisters of Charity have come into your midst and have erected these looms which are acquiring a world-wide reputation, and I trust that this industry, still in its infancy, is but the forerunner of the comforts and comparative affluence you are one day to enjoy. Much has been done for the district by the establishment of this factory, but much more remains to be done, and you yourselves must help in every way, so that you may ensure for yourselves peaceful possession of your homes, and that your sons and daughters may remain at home to comfort and console you. What is to be your work so as to secure contentment? The Sisters have shown you what they are ready to do on your behalf. They want now to retain you in your own country. They want to see you able to earn your own livelihood at home, so that no necessity will arise for you and your sons to go across the sea to find money for rent during the harvesting season, and that your daughters may have means at hand to deter them from seeking service in the employ of others. For this reason they propose to establish home industries, so that your hands need never be idle. Woollen goods of every imaginable description could be made, and they are ready to supply the wool and teach your children to occupy their leisure hours of the long winter evenings in some rational pursuit.

OBITUARY.

MR. ANTHONY O'CONNELL, NASEBY.

ON Monday evening the sad news was received in Dunedin that a well-known settler of Naseby, and a strong supporter and friend of the N.Z. TABLET from its first issue, Mr. Anthony O'Connell, had died suddenly that morning. The deceased was a highly esteemed resident of the district, and a practical Catholic, always ready to assist in any good cause, and never shirking his duty to his Church or country.—*R.I.P.*

MR. JOHN J. BROSNAHAN, AROWHENUA.

General regret was felt in Temuka when it was reported that Mr. John Joseph Brosnahan, youngest son of Mr. John Brosnahan, Arowhenua, had died at Amberley on Friday last. The deceased, who had only attained the age of 15 years, was very popular in the district. The remains were brought to Temuka on the 5th, and (writes our local correspondent) were interred on the following day. The cortege was very long, the attendance showing the great sympathy felt for the deceased's family.—*R.I.P.*

MR. THOMAS J. GAFFANY, AROWHENUA.

IT is with sincere regret (writes our Temuka correspondent) that I record the death of Mr. Thomas J. Gaffany, eldest son of Mr. Michael Gaffany, of Arowhenua, which occurred at Christchurch, where he had been under medical treatment, on March 1, at the age of 28. Until a few months ago the deceased was in robust health, and certainly hard to excel on the football field; he was a prominent member of the famous team of some years ago of St. Patrick's College. In all weathers his place in the church was always filled, and his duties were never neglected. Since his illness (which he bore with Christian patience) came upon him he was resigned to the inevitable and died an edifying death, being attended by the Very Rev. Father Le Monant des Cheneaux. The remains were brought to Temuka on the following day, and the funeral was the largest ever witnessed there, the Rev. Father Galerne delivering a feeling discourse at the cemetery. Great sympathy is felt with the family in their loss of one who has been esteemed by all.—*R.I.P.*

THE WAR IN SOUTH AFRICA.

IMMEDIATELY following the defeat of the Boer forces under General Cronje came the news of the relief of Ladysmith. The Earl of Dundonald, commander of the cavalry portion of General Buller's army, entered Ladysmith on Wednesday night of last week at the head of the Natal Carabineers and the composite regiment of British regulars—1st Royal Dragoons, two squadrons of the 13th Lancers, and two squadrons of the 6th (Inniskilling) Dragoons.

Later advices from Natal report the entrance of General Buller and the main body of his troops to Ladysmith. The garrison had been reduced to living on the flesh of the horses and mules, with an allowance of half a pound of meal per day.

The news of the relief of the town was received in New Zealand early on Friday morning, and it is needless to say that the rejoicing here was as enthusiastic as in any other part of the Empire. The siege of Ladysmith lasted for 120 days. The besieged lost 30 officers and 513 men killed or died by disease, 70 officers and 520 men wounded, exclusive of civilians and natives. Eight thousand soldiers passed through the hospital. The garrison suffered great privations. Since the middle of January rations were reduced after each of General Buller's rebuffs. Finally the allowance was half a pound of horse flesh, half a pound of biscuit, an ounce of sugar, and one-third of an ounce of tea daily. The garrison were pale and listless, and unable to join in the pursuit of the Boers. Most of the horses belonging to the field batteries were converted into soup and sausages. Twelve thousand shells were thrown into the town. They did little damage, and only killed 35 and wounded 188. There were only four days' rations in Ladysmith when it was relieved.