

topics and other events that were taking place in South Africa, and gave numerous instances of the effects of the part played by the Mauser and magazine rifles, the pom-pom, naval 4-7 guns, etc., during the present campaign. The lecture was listened to attentively, and a hearty vote of thanks was accorded Mr. Fraser.

The solemn ceremony of religious profession took place on Saturday, the Feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin, in the Convent Chapel of the Sisters of Mercy, South Dunedin. The ceremony was performed by the Right Rev. Dr. Verdon, assisted by the Rev. Father Coffey. The young ladies who made their final vows on the occasion were Miss Thompson, Phoenix Park, Morpeth, New South Wales (in religion Sister Mary Stanislaus), Miss Bradley, Caversham (in religion Sister Mary Ignatius), and Miss Coll, West Coast (in religion Sister Mary Anthony).

NEW ZEALAND: GENERAL.

THE Government have purchased 4200 acres of the Lyndon estate, near Waiau township. Surveyors are now engaged in cutting up the property in suitable blocks.

THERE are 33 cases of sly grog-selling to be dealt with at the next sitting of the Magistrate's Court at Te Awamutu. All the accused are residents of the King Country.

THE Mines Department has cabled to the Agent-General stating that the Blackball Coal Company has made an offer to supply the whole of the 7500 tons of coal asked for by the Indian Government.

LAND is still selling at big prices in the Stratford district, Taranaki. One suburban farm has sold as high as £50 an acre, and in another case the owner has been offered £100 an acre for land on the Pembroke road.

SEVERAL transfers and promotions in the Post and Telegraph Department are announced. Among others we notice that Mr. Houlihan, Blenheim, has been appointed assistant officer in charge at Napier.

A CONSIGNMENT of 25 Boer Mauser rifles, sent by the war authorities in South Africa to the New Zealand Government, has been received in Wellington. The weapons are to be cleaned and placed as a memento of the war in Parliamentary Buildings.

MR. JOHN MARTIN'S homestead at Purupunga station, near Martinborough, Wairarapa, has been destroyed by fire. Mr. and Mrs. Wilson Smith and an infant, visitors to the family, perished. The other inmates in the house escaped in their night garments.

THE Wellington High Levels Tramway Company have decided to use the steam cable system on their line, which is expected to be open for traffic in February. The system will be on the same lines as the Roslyn trams, Dunedin. It was originally intended to use a water-ballast system.

THE officers of the Auckland branch of the Journalists' Institute met Mr. Donald McDonald, war correspondent, on his landing from the Zealandia, and subsequently at a large gathering of members of the branch in the Commercial Hotel Mr. McDonald was heartily welcomed to New Zealand.

A SOCIAL to welcome Trooper Fahey home from South Africa was held at Roslyn Bush, Southland, on Friday evening, when he was presented by the residents with a handsome gold watch, suitably inscribed, and gold guard, as a mark of their appreciation of the manner in which he had acquitted himself at the front.

A VERY interesting gathering of naval and military veterans took place at Government House, Wellington, on Saturday afternoon, on the invitation of Lord and Lady Ranfurly. Among the veterans present were General Sir G. S. Whitmore, Sir A. Douglas, Colonel Gordon, Inspector Pender, Lieutenant-Colonel Messenger, Lieutenant-Colonel Porter, and Colonel Penton.

A Wellington message of Thursday states that Brother John, head of the Marist Brothers' Order for Australasia, is bringing Brothers Loetus, Wybertus, and Kilian back to New Zealand from Sydney, in order to give them an opportunity to answer any charges that the Government may bring against them in connection with their conduct of the Stoke Orphanage.

AT a public meeting held at Cheviot last week the following motion was carried:—'That this meeting of Cheviot settlers respectfully wishes to bring under the notice of the Government the serious drawback that the present expensive outlet for produce is to settlement, and to remedy this would ask the Government to place a sufficient sum on the Estimates to speedily complete the Cheviot section of the Waipara-Awatere railway.'

MR. JACK, engineer of the Waipara-Cheviot railway, reports that 100 men are employed at present on formation work. The furthest party now working is at Omihiri Saddle, about 11 miles from Waipara. It is at this point that the heavy earthwork commences. Most of the light formation work is well in hand. A contract for the supply of bridge materials has been let, and the rails will be laid as soon as possible. There is now a complete working survey to Mount Parnassus station, on the northern side of the Waiau River.

A SERIOUS fire occurred at Gore early on Thursday morning, which resulted in the destruction of a number of buildings known as MacGibbon's Block in the centre of the town, and the loss of seven horses belonging to Mr. Inder, livery stable-keeper. The following buildings were destroyed:—MacGibbon and Sons' grocery and drapery store; Inder, butcher and livery stable-keeper; Neave, solicitor; Inder, solicitor; and Moloney, tobacconist and billiard saloon. The damage done is set down at £5000 over the insurances.

A LARGE area of land in the Gisborne district is about to be thrown open for settlement. Towards the end of October 3000 acres of the best land on the flats, including the historical Young Nick's Head, which was the first land sighted by Captain Cook when he discovered New Zealand, on October 6, 1769, will be submitted to auction, this being portion of the Hon. Randell Johnston's estate; and early in the new year the trustees of native estates will put in the market between 200,000 and 300,000 acres of good pastoral country, the plans for which are now being prepared.

OUR Wanganni correspondent wires:—Among the successful candidates at the elementary examination held here in June, under the Associated Board of the Royal Academy of Music and the Royal College of Music, were Misses Adelia Doherty and Minnie Barrie, both pupils at the Wanganni Convent, who, out of a maximum of 99 marks, obtained 97 and 95 respectively. Miss Doherty heads the list for Wanganni, while Miss Barrie holds third place. These results give indication of a thorough preparation by the devoted Sisters.

THE Hon. J. G. Ward, our energetic Minister of Railways (writes the Wellington correspondent of the *Otago Daily Times*), is evidently not going to rest content with Westinghouse brakes and reduced fares, and the comfort of the travelling public is not apparently being lost sight of in other directions. I hear on unofficial authority that £100,000 worth of railway carriages are shortly to be imported from America. These carriages will, it is stated, be of the most modern and up-to-date design with all the latest conveniences. They will in all probability arrive here about the beginning of the year, and be put on the Auckland-Wellington and South Island main lines soon afterwards.

THEY evidently know how to appreciate ability in New Zealand (says the Sydney *Catholic Press*), and the recent presentation of a purse of sovereigns to Rev. Father Cleary, the editor of the TABLET, by the clergy and laity of the Colony was an event which every Catholic paper ought to chronicle. It is rare that a Catholic editor gets any reward for his work. If the paper gets along successfully there are only more complaints—only that and nothing more. It never seems to occur to anyone that there is a commercial difference between the man who can run a paper successfully and the man who cannot. Therefore Father Cleary is not only to be congratulated on the substantial recognition he received, but upon living in a community that possesses both discrimination and generosity.

OUR Southland correspondent writes:—The arrival of Trooper James Fahey, of Roslyn Bush, Rakahouka, from the seat of war was made the occasion of a most enthusiastic reception. As is well known, Trooper Fahey is an exemplary Catholic, and the son of sterling Catholic parents. Several members of the family belong to the choir of the Rakahouka Church, and they are well known for open-handed generosity in every good cause.—The Rev. Father Keenan, of Riversdale, has taken possession of his handsome residence, which is close to the church, and commands a prominent position. The rev. gentleman has already endeared himself to his flock, while his genial qualities have won for him universal respect amongst all classes of the community. The interest taken in the matter of providing a residence and the liberality which marked the freely given donations of the people of all denominations show that the residents of Riversdale, Waikaia, and Balfour can keep pace with, and even excel, many city parishes in matters affecting the welfare of the Church.—A number of Gore citizens, whose residence there dates back several decades, intend issuing a book at the end of the year, being 'Gore, to the end of the century,' and containing a complete history of the district, together with illustrations and photographs. Already several people have kindly forwarded notes, etc. and Mr. Gilfelder has consented to act as editor of the literary part.—An Otautau hotel (Whittaker's) is about to change hands, the new proprietor being Mr. Nicholas Kelly, of Invercargill, who takes possession next week.

A TIMARU correspondent writes as follows:—At the meeting of the Aloysian Society on Monday night, September 3, the programme consisted of original papers on various subjects, contributed by the members. These were very interesting and instructive and proved to be of a high standard of proficiency and intellectual ability, and would compare favorably with the work of any literary society. The members also criticised in an able manner, showing knowledge, a keen sense of observation, and general interest in the subjects. On Monday night, September 10, there was a large attendance of the members of the Society and friends in the Boys' Schoolroom to listen to an instructive address on total abstinence, given by Rev. Father Aubrey. The rev. gentleman treated his subject in a very able and interesting manner. The Rev. Father Tubman presided. Mr. M. Mahoney spoke against prohibition, and Mr. T. Mara on the side of moderation. Speeches on other subjects were also delivered during the evening by Messrs. E. and J. Venning and J. Fitzgerald. A hearty vote of thanks to the Rev. Fathers Tubman and Aubrey brought the meeting to a close. The following are the officers of the Aloysian Society for the current year:—Patron, Rev. Father Tubman; president, Rev. Father Aubrey; senior vice-president, Mr. M. F. Dennehy; junior vice-president, Mr. M. Mahoney; secretary, Mr. J. G. Venning; treasurer, Mr. James Dunne; senior warden, Mr. J. Fitzgerald; junior warden, Mr. F. McDonald; council, Messrs. J. Kane, J. Neeson, E. Venning, and T. Mara; editor of journal, Mr. M. F. Dennehy; sub-editor, Mr. T. Mara.

A FEW weeks ago (says the *New Zealand Times*) there appeared in this journal some extracts from letters received by Mr. Hogg, M.H.R., from settlers in the bush, in which some of their hardships were vividly and graphically described. One case referred to was that of a Crown tenant on the Stirling Block, near Eketahuna, who, owing to continued illness, found himself and his young family face to face with want, and in consequence of his inability to meet the demands of the Government Advances to Settlers Office, was threatened with the forfeiture of his homestead. The other day