

NEW ZEALAND: GENERAL.

MR. CHARLES MILLS, M.H.R., has been sworn in as a member of the Ministry.

MR. SULLIVAN, the Acting Defence Storekeeper, Wellington, has been promoted to the position of Defence Storekeeper.

THE Canterbury Jubilee Exhibition is to be formally opened to-day. The Exhibition buildings, erected in Manchester street, were completed last week.

AT a meeting of delegates from the City Council and local bodies in Christchurch last week the desirability of the tramways being under the direct control of the local bodies was discussed and a resolution in that direction passed.

NOTWITHSTANDING the reduction in fares on the New Zealand Railways, there was from the date on which they were lowered to the 13th ult. a comparative increase in the revenue of the department of £17,046.

WE have to thank the Government Statistician of New South Wales for a copy of *Statistics of the Seven Colonies of Australasia*, from 1861 to 1899. The little volume is an admirable book of reference, and reflects much credit on the compiler, Mr. T. A. Coghlan.

MR. SEFFERN, many years editor and manager of the *Taranaki Herald*, and one of the oldest journalists in the Colony, died on Friday morning, aged 71. He came out to Australia in 1851, and later to Auckland, where he was part owner of the *Southern Cross* from 1863 to 1865. In 1868 he went to New Plymouth, and controlled the *Herald* till November, 1895, when he retired from active work.

AT the last meeting of the Ashburton Catholic Literary Society the chair was occupied by Mr H. McSherry (president). The programme for the evening was a debate, the question being, 'Should war be abolished?' Mr W. Soal took the affirmative and Mr J. Moison the negative side. Several good speeches were delivered, and on a vote being taken the verdict was in favor of Mr Moison's views.

THREE members of the community who were enjoying the hospitality of the Government at Mount Cook prison, Wellington, conceived the idea last week that a change of residence would be beneficial to their health. In the small hours of the morning they set to work to remove portion of a brick wall which stood between them and liberty. They had made considerable progress with the work when a warder came upon the scene and put a stop to the self-imposed task.

THE following is a list of the successful candidates from the Convent of Mercy, Greymouth, at the recent drawing examinations held in connection with the Technical School, Wellington—Geometry—Mary Ellen Noonan (excellent), Alice Hannan (excellent), Kathleen McKendry (excellent), Maud Casey (excellent), Mary Ann Heaphy (excellent), Mary Campbell (good), Frances Broad (good), Joan O'Reilly (good). Model—Kathleen McKendry, Freehand—Kathleen McKendry (good), Maud Casey, Mary Ann Heaphy, Joan O'Reilly.

DURING the past 12 months the Wellington Woollen Manufacturing Company made a net profit of £11,770 19s 11d, which, with the amount brought forward (£1109), less the interim dividend paid to March 31 last (£2247 9s 1d), gave a disposable balance of £10,632 10s 10d. From this sum the directors have transferred to reserve £2000, deducted £2000 from the book value of plant, etc., and, as a precautionary measure, written £2000 off the cost price of raw material. The company pay 8 per cent. for the year, and carry forward nearly £1800. This ought to be satisfactory to the shareholders.

THE native race has received an instalment of Home Rule by the legislation which was passed during the session. The Maori Councils Act and the Maori Lands Administration Act are both measures which confer on the natives considerable opportunities for self-government. That the importance of these statutes is recognised by the natives was evidenced by the keen interest with which their progress through the Legislature was followed by chiefs and other representatives of the race. The new department, to which will be entrusted the administration of Maori lands, will be presided over by Mr. Sheridan.

By the San Francisco mail Mr T. McMahon, of Wellington, received advice from his brother, Mr M. J. McMahon, the well-known artist, that the former's novel, *Blind Stabbing*, has finally been disposed of to Mr T. Fisher Unwin, a leading London publisher, who is arranging to issue it in serial form before publishing it as a book. Mr McMahon will receive a fair sum for the copyright, and will also be secured a royalty. Mr Fisher Unwin's reader only had the story under consideration for a day and a half, and reported so favorably that the publisher is now anxious that the young New Zealand author should at once contract to supply a second story of colonial life.

WRITES the London correspondent of the *Otago Daily Times*:—The Hon. T. Fergus and Mrs. Fergus returned to London this week, after a lengthened tour through Scotland and Ireland, winding up at the Dublin Horse Show, after having seen the Royal Show at York and the Stirling Show in Scotland. Of the Dublin Horse Show Mr. Fergus says it was a magnificent spectacle—the best he ever saw in his life. For though he saw better blood at St. Albans, Sir Blundell Maple's place, and at York, yet, for an all-round show of hunters, Dublin could not be beaten. In Ireland, too, he, in company with Mr. Thomas Brown, of Dunedin, had a look round the local industries, the tweed mills, the potteries, and the cottage industries.

AFTER the annexation ceremony at Pretoria Lord Roberts presented Victoria Crosses to seven recipients. He handed the Humane Society's award to Private Cassidy, of the second New Zealand contingent.

THE Chief Justice has decided that the trial of Brothers Wilbertus and Killon, formerly of the Stoke Orphanage, shall take place at the criminal sittings of the Supreme Court at Wellington, commencing on November 12.

SPEAKING at the dinner of the Wellington Drivers' Union on Tuesday night, the Premier said that the action of the House in passing the £10 seasonal allowance to members was the right thing to do; members had earned the money. He promised to bring forward a measure next session, increasing the honorarium to £300 a year.

IT was stated at a meeting the other day in Wellington that the city had already spent nearly a million sterling in development enterprise. At the present time the City Council had some very costly projects in view. For instance, there were the acquisition of the trams and their conversion into an electrical system estimated to cost £100,000, but more likely, in the opinion of experts, to cost £150,000; the purchase of the electric light works, £45,000; the erection of a Town Hall, £50,000; repairs to streets, £60,000; purchase of Miramar, £75,000; widening of Adelaide road, £48,000; widening Fraser's lane, £16,000; Te Aro baths, £8,000; and the extension of the water service, £12,000: a total proposed expenditure of £522,000.

THE Sisters of St. Joseph, Temuka, are sending to the grand bazaar in Christchurch in aid of the Catholic Cathedral a splendid contribution in the shape of a carved hall stand. The stand (says the *Leader*) is about 7ft high by nearly 1ft wide. It has a centre panel of plate glass, the framing of which is handsomely carved, and there are two open frames on either side, upon which are hat pegs. The stand is fitted with a neat drawer, and furnished with umbrella rack. Practically every inch of the woodwork has been carved by the Sisters, the design being very handsome. The material used is kauri, which lends itself to this class of work, and the whole has been stained in imitation of ebony. Accompanying the stand are two hall chairs carved to match, and the whole should form a very valuable gift towards the Cathedral funds.

WELLINGTON people (says the *Free Lance*) are naturally proud of the musical achievements of Miss Katie Connell, the gold medalist of the Convent School, who is about to go to England to continue the cultivation of her vocal powers. Strictly speaking Miss Connell is not a Wellingtonian. She hails from Taranaki, where her father is a well-known citizen. But the convent, whose excellent music-teaching system has done so much to develop her voice, may fairly claim a share of the honor that attaches to one of the most promising young vocalists the Colony has yet produced. Miss Connell's voice is a rich soprano of remarkable power and flexibility, and when she is in England the people of New Zealand will have the same interest in her progress as the Victorians have shown in their Madame Melba and Amy Castles, or the Tasmansians in their Amy Sherwin and Ada Crossley. And why should not another colonial look forward to as great a career as these sister colonials have achieved.

NEWS has been received in Wellington that Mr. C. J. Sanderson, one of the veterinary surgeons of the New Zealand Agricultural Department, who went with the troops to South Africa, has been promoted to the rank of captain, and received the appointment of P.V.O. to the Transvaal Constabulary. He has also been commissioned to write a report on the best means of dealing with animal diseases in South Africa, and for the purpose of making investigations to that end has established a laboratory in Pretoria. His present salary is £750 a year, and if, as he expects, he gets the appointment of P.V.O. of the Transvaal, he will be in receipt of £1000 a year, in comparison with £250 which he received from the New Zealand Government. Mr. Sanderson is of opinion that there will be a good demand for frozen meat in South Africa after the war, in view of the fact that the war has almost exterminated the herds, and even before the war the Transvaal could not produce enough to feed itself.

VERY unseasonable weather has been experienced in Canterbury during the past few days. The rivers in North Canterbury are in heavy flood. At the Waiau the approach to the bridge was washed away on Monday, cutting off access to the township from the southward. The Waimakariri overflowed its banks on Monday night, with the result that the country from the Seven-mile peg to White's bridge is under water, and a considerable area on the other side of the river was submerged. At midnight fears were entertained that the town of Katapoī would be flooded, but though the river rose higher than for many years the apprehensions were not realised. A considerable number of sheep were drowned, and a large area of crop and potatoes damaged. The water subsided considerably on Tuesday. The approaches to White's bridge over the Waimakariri suffered a good deal, and, though traffic was not suspended, it was carried on at some risk.

A SERIOUS accident occurred on the Roslyn tramway line on Saturday morning, which resulted in the death of a Chinaman, and in five or six other passengers being more or less injured. The car was making the trip to Dunedin and had 10 passengers, three of whom were Chinamen. The driver, it is alleged, released the brake before picking up the cable, and the car moved quickly down the hill, increasing its speed as it went along. The driver applied the brake but as the rails were slippery the momentum of the car was not checked. Just after passing St. Joseph's Cathedral one of the Chinamen was either thrown out or jumped out, and instantly killed. When the car got as far as the Shamrook Hotel it turned over, and some of the passengers were pinned underneath. Two