

who it is alleged is cycling around the world for a wager, had for audience the other night a solitary citizen, the local policeman and two firemen, the latter attending apparently with the object of seeing that the hall was not overcrowded.

THE revenue of the Colony shows an increase of £60,000 for the first four months of the financial year as compared with the April-July period of last year, notwithstanding that cash land sales had fallen £8000 in the same period. The railway revenue for July was £5000 above that of July last year, despite the abnormal traffic following the Royal visit.

MILTON celebrated the Coronation on Saturday by laying the foundation stone of a new town hall. Several loyal and patriotic speeches were made on the occasion. Among those who spoke was the Rev. Mr. Small (Anglican) who in the course of his remarks said he was sorry that they could not have Father O'Neill with them, as patriotic functions were those in which the rev. gentleman had excelled himself.

WE have to thank the editors *Our Alma Mater*, the organ of the students of Riverview College, Sydney, for the June number of their admirable magazine. The number before us is taken up mainly with school happenings, and records of the prowess of the students in the athletic field. It is copiously illustrated, and on the whole it is well up to the standard of former issues, and reflects credit on the editors.

SPEAKING of the extraordinary long flights which blackbird have been known to make, Sir James Hector at the Wellington Philosophical Society said that he believed they were not imported to New Zealand, but came without invitation about 1860 or a year or two earlier. They spread immediately over the whole country, and began devouring the fly that was killing the cabbage and turnip.

ON behalf of the Central Society of the Women's Suffrage League, London, Lady Frances Balfour and Mrs Henry Fawcett presented an address to Mr Seddon, acknowledging his services on behalf of woman's suffrage. Mr Seddon testified as to the effect of female suffrage in New Zealand. The Tallow Chandlers' Company, one of the London livery companies, conferred its freedom on the Right Hon. Mr Seddon.

THE Pharmaceutical Association of Canterbury have received a letter from the Canterbury Medical Association stating that the matter of dealing with commissions on doctors' prescriptions rests with chemists themselves. One member of the Pharmaceutical Association, at a meeting the other evening, suggested that other similar bodies throughout the Colony, as well as other branches of the Medical Association, be approached with a view to having legislation passed to abolish the practice of giving commissions, but no steps were taken.

THE usual weekly meeting of the Ashburton Catholic Literary Society took place on Wednesday evening of last week. In the absence of the president, the vice-president, Mr H. McSherry, took the chair, and after routine business was transacted, the programme set down for the evening was proceeded with, and took the form of an 'Editor's box.' Several really good questions of general and local importance were put in, which evoked a considerable amount of criticism and long speeches from some of the members. It is worth mentioning that some of the junior members showed specially good form on this occasion.

WE have received from the Government Printer, Victoria, British Columbia, a pamphlet containing the Budget speech delivered in the Legislative Assembly in April last by the Hon. Mr Prentice, Minister of Finance. The Estimates of revenue for the province for the year ended March last were 2,140,750 dollars, but there was an apparent deficit of 350,000 dollars. The Minister showed that the per capita wealth of the province was 1710 dollars, against Australia, 1229 dollars; United Kingdom, 1450 dollars; and Canada, 775 dollars. The trade during the year amounted to 180 dollars per head against 169 dollars in Australia. There are 1450 miles of railway in the province, which cost about £12,000,000. The Minister, after naming the splendid assets of the province, contended that there were no grounds for the attacks made by the opponents of the Government on the financial credit of the province.

THE CORONATION.

THE Coronation ceremony, which was postponed from June 26 in consequence of the illness of the King, took place in Westminster Abbey on Saturday and was a most brilliant spectacle. Millions of spectators lined the route from Buckingham Palace to the Abbey. Among the guests who came in for enthusiastic recognition by the crowds were the Right Hon. Sir Wilfrid Laurier and the Right Hon. R. J. Seddon.

Westminster Abbey presented a scene of great magnificence. The galleries were so arranged as to avoid hiding the leading architectural features and contour of the building. The nave, choir, and the galleries behind were lined with Mayors, representative working men, Nonconformist delegates, past and present Imperial Ministers and their wives, officers and their wives, and all the Agents-General and their wives, all in uniform, court, or levee dresses. The Abbey was brilliant with color, the magnificent gala dresses of the Indian rajahs being conspicuously splendid.

The Queen and her supporters and officers of the State were the first to take up their positions, after which the King's procession followed. After the prescribed service the Archbishop of Canterbury performed the ceremony of anointing and crowning the King, the Archbishop of York crowning the Queen.

As their Majesties proceeded from the Abbey to the palace they were received with acclamations by the people.

Besides a large number of distinguished visitors from the Commonwealth, the following New Zealanders were invited:—The Hon. A. J. Cadman, Dr. and Mrs. Hoeken (Dunedin), Revs. S. Anson and B. Wood, Mrs R. Heaton Rhodes, Mr T. C. Williams, Mr Cecil Lascelles, Dr. and Mrs Findlay, Lady Douglas, Mr and Mrs Thorne Greyson, Mrs Oliver, Major and Mrs Grey, Mr and Mrs Frank Dyer.

The King looked the picture of health, and was apparently not over fatigued by the ceremony.

In response to the sustained demonstrations outside the palace, his Majesty, robed and crowned, appeared on the balcony. He received an immense reception, which was renewed when he invited Queen Alexandra to join him. He remained bowing to the crowd for some minutes.

In all the Commonwealth States, as well as in the other British possessions, the event was celebrated with great eclat, the proceedings including processions and religious services.

In every centre in New Zealand the Coronation celebrations were observed on Saturday with great enthusiasm. In Dunedin there was a procession, presentation of medals to returned troopers, and fireworks in the evening.

Obituary.

MR J. P. RENNELL, ADDINGTON.

Very much regret (writes an occasional correspondent) was felt at the death of Mr James Patrick Rennell, who passed away on Tuesday evening, August 5, at his residence, Addington. Mr Rennell, who was 62 years of age, was born in Clontarf, County Dublin, Ireland. He arrived in the Colony about 40 years ago and settled in the North Island, where he worked for several years. During his sojourn there he had the great pleasure to see Bishop Pompallier, Bishop Viard, the Rev. Father Séon and others of the devoted French missionaries, who first preached and planted the faith in the Colony. About the year 1865 he came to Canterbury and shortly afterwards married Miss Julia Martin. The late Rev. Father Chervier celebrated the ceremony in the old Catholic Church in Barbadoes street. Soon afterwards he obtained employment as a machinist in the Government Railway workshops, which were subsequently removed to Addington. He followed this trade for 27 years and he therefore ranked among the oldest employees at the workshops.

Mr Rennell had ever taken the greatest interest in Church matters in Addington, where he had lived for the past 18 years. When a Sunday school was established he instructed the children in catechism. He was also one of the church committee, and had charge of the church up to the time of his death. Indeed, when it was a question of doing something for the advancement of religion, to him no position seemed too humble or task too arduous and his demise is therefore truly a great loss to the Catholics in Addington. He was also a diligent reader of the N.Z. TABLET and a subscriber to this excellent paper from its first issue.

Mr Rennell had been in failing health for some time, but his death was nevertheless somewhat sudden and quite unexpected. On the Sunday before he assisted at Mass and approached the Sacraments. He was attended in his last brief illness of three or four days by the Rev. Father McDonnell and received all the rites of Holy Church. A large number of persons assembled at his funeral, which took place on the Friday following his demise. At an early hour his remains were conveyed to the Addington Church, and a Requiem Mass was said by the Rev. Father McDonnell, who, before the Mass, delivered an address on the good character of the deceased. In the afternoon the funeral cortege was reformed and proceeded to the Sydenham public cemetery, where the deceased was interred. The Rev. Father McDonnell, assisted by the Rev. Fathers Richards and O'Connell, officiated at the grave. Many members of the Amalgamated Society of Railway servants, also of the Hibernian Society were present. Mr Rennell leaves a widow and a grown-up family, three daughters and six sons, to mourn their loss.—R.I.P.

Sportive Plants.

THE arts of hybridisation and cross-fertilisation, artificially conducted, are not the only things which bring us novelties for our gardens, says a writer in *Britain at Work*. A plant may 'sport', i.e., throw up one flower that differs entirely from every other on the same plant. If this is good, every endeavor is made to 'fix' it, and a new variety is secured. Chrysanthemums are amongst the 'sportive' plants, and it is a curious fact in relation to them that the same variety may 'sport' in two or three gardens hundreds of miles apart, and the fresh flower will be similar in each instance. Observation, too, has given us many an excellent improvement. For example, when Messrs Carter bought the stock of 'Telegraph' Pea from a Mr Culverwell, they sent the seeds to their Essex farms to be grown. The man in charge was keenly observant, and seeing round and wrinkled seeds, he separated them carefully. The result was a distinct variety, which was named 'Telephone.' The well-known green pea 'Duke of Albany' also came from 'Telegraph.' A gardener named Abbot noticed one pod on a row of 'Telegraph' that was much finer than any other, and he saved it. There were eight seeds, and every one gave a different variety, but one only was good. This was tenfold with special care, was selected and re-selected, until 'Duke of Albany' was secured.

Wanted Known.—That for acute Bronchitis or Pneumonia TUSSICURA is an immediate and permanent remedy.—* * *