

the work. The subject of drainage is of the utmost importance to country settlers, who have a difficulty in disposing of the offensive matter that emanates from the house and out-offices. Bad drains bring zymotic diseases, such as typhoid and scarlatina, and people sometimes wonder how such disease can arise in the country, where all the surroundings seem healthful. Two or three contiguous householders may combine to construct a septic tank for common use, and the Health Department is at all times only too happy to furnish particulars that will enable any workman to instal the system, which costs but little at the beginning and nothing but the smallest amount of personal attention thenceforward.

ST. JOSEPH'S CATHEDRAL.

FOR some years before the death of the Right Rev. Dr. Moran the condition of St. Joseph's Cathedral was a cause of much anxiety to his Lordship, as it was noticed that the towers flanking the main entrance were subsiding and cracks had appeared on both the north and south walls of the sacred edifice. At first it was thought the towers would eventually settle down and that the outward movement would cease. This was, however, not the case, and about two years ago the subsidence became so pronounced that it was found necessary to take immediate steps to remedy the defect. At a general meeting of the parishioners it was decided to obtain expert advice as to the cause of the subsidence, and also to carry out the necessary work in accordance with the recommendations of the experts selected. For this purpose a sub-committee, consisting of his Lordship Bishop Verdon, Messrs Callan, Carroll, Woods, and McEwen, was appointed. Messrs Hay (civil engineer) and Lawson (architect) were asked to report on the building, and on their recommendations the work of strengthening the foundations of the towers was proceeded with. The work was of such a character as to require the highest possible care and technical skill, and it is most gratifying to know that it has been carried out in a very successful manner, and that in the opinion of the architect the Cathedral is now perfectly safe.

On Sunday morning it was announced that his Lordship the Bishop would after Vespers give an account of what had been done, and also that a collection would be initiated for the purpose of defraying the cost of the work. There was a large congregation present in the evening, when his Lordship spoke on the subject. He said that they had a very important matter to deal with that evening—namely, the condition of their Cathedral. The Cathedral was a building which interested the Catholics of the whole diocese, but in an especial manner the parishioners who looked upon it as their own church. They were all very proud of their Cathedral, and that was only right, as it was one of the most beautiful churches in the colonies and was greatly admired by visitors. In the time of their late Bishop it was noticed that the towers were subsiding and that the walls were injured. When this first attracted attention it was hoped the movement would eventually cease, but this was not the case, as it was found a few years ago that the subsidences and cracks were increasing, and it became necessary to take immediate action so as to prevent serious damage being done. About two years ago a public meeting was held in St. Joseph's Hall, at which there was a large attendance of parishioners. It was then decided to secure the services of two experts to report on the state of the building. The matter was referred to a sub-committee, who selected Messrs Hay and Lawson. On the recommendation of these gentlemen it was decided to carry out certain works which were referred to in detail in the reports to be read later on. The work, which was put in hand at once, was done in the best possible manner and to the entire satisfaction of the sub-committee. Mr Lawson visited the building constantly during the progress of the work, and Mr Hay, after he had completed his inspection and made his recommendations, left the matter in the hands of Mr Lawson, as he felt that his presence would only lead to unnecessary expense. It was a very difficult undertaking, and the men engaged in it and Mr Kirk, who directed the work, performed their task in a very satisfactory manner. It was a very serious matter, and it was pleasing to find that the cost was not greater. The building is now thoroughly secure, and there is no further danger. The only matter now which needs attending to is the roof, which requires some repairs. To meet the expenditure it would be necessary to raise money, and as the charity of the congregation was well known, he had no doubt but that they would contribute with their usual generosity on this occasion.

His Lordship then read two reports from Mr Lawson, in the first of which the architect explained the cause of the damage to the sacred edifice and the works required to make the towers secure, and which were absolutely necessary for the preservation of the building. The second report was received a few weeks ago by his Lordship the Bishop, and is as follows:—

'On July 6, 1901, we reported as to remedial works which had been done at the Cathedral, namely, that three shafts had been sunk on to solid rock bottom in each instance at the points considered most suitable under the towers of the building, and the manner of filling in same with concrete of the best description, securely bedded on the rock foundation, bonded with the existing piers and carried up so as to secure firm bearing under the buttresses of towers. At the same date we also reported that the work done had proved effective in arresting the settlement so far as we then could discover, and expressed our opinion that it would remain effective. Several months were allowed to elapse and measurements were taken from time to time, and when it was found that all motion had been arrested, all fractures in the walls were carefully grouted in with liquid cement, tracery of windows made good, arch and

moulding stones taken out and replaced where necessary, and all jobbing work done so as to place the walls, and work generally in workmanlike condition, the whole of the jobbing work being completed in January last. We have now the further satisfaction of reporting to your Lordship that having again visited and inspected the Cathedral externally and internally, so far as the remedial work referred to is concerned, we find that since this was done, now over 12 months ago, no further motion has taken place, so that our opinion as expressed in report of July 6, 1901, has been verified.'

His Lordship continuing said that the total cost of the work was £880. He trusted that with their usual generosity they would assist in meeting this sum, and in conclusion said that it was a great consolation to know that there was no further danger and the building was now perfectly secure.

A collection was then taken up with the result that a sum of £150 in promises and cash was received. At a meeting of the general committee held later it was decided to make collections at the door of the Cathedral at all the Masses on the next and following Sundays, and several gentlemen were appointed as collectors for the purpose.

NEW ZEALAND: GENERAL.

FARMERS in many parts of the Ashburton County complain of the scarcity of feed.

THE Government intend to erect a monument to the memory of returned troopers who have died and been buried in Wellington.

THE Wellington Trades and Labor Council object to gaols in centres of population, and consider they should be located in the country where the prisoners could be put to some productive employment.

THE flaxmills on the Manawatu line are working at great pressure at present, some of them turning out five tons of fibre per stripper daily. The different mills find lucrative employment for a large number of hands.

THE trial bore for hot water in the Rotorua Sanatorium grounds was completed a few days ago, and it was found that an unlimited supply could be obtained at a depth of 26ft, with a temperature of 180deg. Though the water on the surface is of an acid nature, at the lower level it was found to be strongly alkaline.

THE Peninsula and Orient, the New Zealand, the Shaw, Savill, the Messageries Maritimes, the North German Shipping Companies, and the Canadian Pacific Railway have arranged to considerably reduce fares round the world via Australia and China.

THE Bluff Harbor Board have decided to charge only on inward and outward pilotage on foreign-going steamers that visit the port more than once on the same voyage; to reduce the pilotage from 3s 1d per ton to 2s 6d per ton each way; and fixed the maximum charges for the total pilotage, port charges, and berthage at £150. The changes on last year's business means a rebate of about £1300.

THE crops over South Canterbury are now showing well above the ground, and the genial weather that has prevailed of late has promoted a healthy growth. The area under wheat and oats this year is (says the *Press*) extensive, and, given a good season, a bountiful harvest will be the result.

AT the weekly meeting of the Ashburton Catholic Literary Society last week a letter was received from the Rev. Dr. Kennedy, who is now residing at Akaroa, and much regret was expressed by members at the loss of Dr. Kennedy, who had been an enthusiastic member of the Society. The debate for the evening was on a local subject. Messrs D. McDonnell and J. Moison took the affirmative and negative sides respectively, and an interesting discussion ensued, after which a vote was taken, which resulted in favor of Mr Moison's side by a small majority.

A CORRESPONDENT writes to the *Timaru Herald* complaining of the scarcity of labor in South Canterbury. On many farms, he says, ploughing is at a standstill, for the simple reason that no labor can be obtained. There is a considerable amount of grain still in stack, waiting to be threshed, but some of the mill-owners who lately essayed to get through some of their threshing have been compelled to return home for want of hands.

THE annual report of the Wellington Woollen Company shows that the year's profits amount to £10,723 13s, which, with the amount brought forward (£1553 14s 8d), gives £12,277 7s 8d for allocation. An interim dividend for the six months to 31st January last, absorbing £2247 9s 1d, had been paid; £2500 had been written off for depreciation of plant and buildings; and £200 and £1000 transferred to reserve and the employers' liability reserve funds respectively. The directors recommended the payment of a further dividend of 4½ per cent., making 8 per cent. for the year, leaving £1640 6s 11d to be carried forward.

MR. W. WOOD, president of the Canterbury Chamber of Commerce, at the annual meeting urged the necessity for a direct line to South Africa, but said steamers should not call at Australia, which was New Zealand's rival. He suggested that arrangements be made with the Union Steamship Company to take a cargo to South Africa. In regard to the frozen meat trade, he said it was in a satisfactory position, but might be improved by the appointment of an association or individuals to look after its interests in London. The Chamber passed a motion urging on the Government the importance of early arrangements being made for a steam service to South Africa, and suggested that the New Zealand Shipping Company, Shaw, Savill, and Albion Company, Union Company, and the Tyser lines be given an opportunity to tender for the service.

CHRISTCHURCH *Truth* pays the following compliment to the characteristic energy of his Lordship Bishop Grimes and the