

## Intercolonial

Out of the farewell purse of sovereigns recently presented to the Very Rev. Father R. Butler by the Cootamundra parishioners, Father Butler gave £100 towards the fund for the purchase of a pipe organ for St. Columba's Church, Cootamundra.

The Rev. Father T. Kelleher, of Rookwood, has just been appointed to the parish of Lithgow to take charge of the outlying parts of the parish with residence at Hartley. The Rev. Father J. H. Kelly goes from Bulli as assistant to the Rev. Father Kirby at Rookwood.

His Eminence Cardinal Moran proposes to organise a roll of honor, to be placed in the completed Cathedral. By public and personal appeal to the friends and supporters of St. Mary's everywhere his Eminence hopes to obtain subscribers of £20 a year for five years. Five hundred such subscribers would realise the goodly sum of £50,000 out of the £100,000, which, it is estimated, the completion of St. Mary's will cost.

Rev. Father J. J. Gunning was presented by the pupils of the Convent High School, Bega, on June 22 with a handsome set of fish knives and forks, and an illuminated address, in honor of the silver jubilee of his priesthood. Father Gunning replied, expressing his gratitude and pleasure at receiving the address and handsome gift. A few days later Father Gunning was presented with a handsome solid silver chalice by his people.

The death of the Rev. Father Joseph P. Ryan, of Sandstone, W.A., took place on June 2. The remains were brought to St. Francis Xavier's Church, Geraldton, where the obsequies were held. Bishop Kelly celebrated the Requiem Mass, and the funeral was the largest seen in the little town for years. Father Ryan was parish priest of Sandstone, Geraldton. He was born in Peshurst, Victoria, in 1873, and ordained at Sale for the diocese of Geraldton, in 1898. The Bishop paid a glowing tribute to his memory.

A large residential property in Upper Hawthorn, containing over 20 rooms, and standing on ground with a frontage of 300ft on Havelock road, has been purchased by the community of the Sisters of St. Joseph (says the *Melbourne Advocate*). It will serve primarily as a residence for the nuns, but it will also be available for the general purposes of the community in Victoria. Here the nuns will make their annual retreat. The building cost originally over £14,000. The formal opening by his Grace the Archbishop of Melbourne takes place on Sunday, July 17.

Rev. Father T. Lee, who has been stationed at Gympie for the past four years, left for Gayndah recently, where he has been appointed parish priest. Prior to his departure (says the *Catholic Press*) Father Lee was tendered a farewell, when he received a purse of sovereigns from the Gympie parishioners; a travelling bag, suitably inscribed, from the choir of St. Joseph's Church, Monkland; a handsome riding whip, from the teachers of St. Patrick's Convent School, Gympie, and a purse of sovereigns from the Christian Brothers' School, Gympie.

The Commonwealth Bureau of Statistics has published a statement of the estimate of the population of Australia for the quarter ending March 31, which shows that while Victoria's population has decreased by 924, the population of New South Wales has increased by 14,420; Queensland's by 5480; West Australia's by 2372; South Australia's by 2325. The 'tight little island' (Tasmania) has lost population, like Victoria, the loss being 1474. The population of New South Wales is now estimated at 870,308 males and 765,789 females, while the estimate of Victoria's population is 654,870 males and 647,533 females. Victoria is behind New South Wales in population to the extent of 333,674, or nearly one-third of a million.

Our valued Catholic contemporary, the *Sydney Freeman's Journal*, has just entered on its sixty-first year. The first issue of the *Freeman*, published at 5d, contained six pages of eighteen columns. The primary objects of the journal, as set forth in its leading article, 'shall be to study and promote the greatest good for the greatest number.' Further, it states: 'While we take care that our Catholic readers shall be supplied with a fair share of information regarding the state and progress of the Church and of their fellow-Catholics throughout the world, especially in that ill-governed, long-suffering, yet ever-faithful land of Ireland, we shall not make our columns an arena for acrimonious or religious controversy. We shall, however, be ready, when assailed, to explain and defend our tenets with that spirit of charity and truth which alone is recognised and sanctioned by the Divine Author of the New Testament.' The records of sixty years (says our contemporary) tell a tale of honorable press activity, in which the championship of Catholicity and the cause of Ireland linked together were adorning features.

Here's a hint of value to you: If you have to shift be sure you get the NEW ZEALAND EXPRESS COMPANY, LTD., to move your things. Their men are expert at the work, and take as much care of things as if they were their own. Careless carriers can do pounds' worth of damage to your furniture. It's wise, therefore, to get the N.Z. EXPRESS CO., on whom you can thoroughly rely....

## Science Siftings

BY 'VOLT'

### Steel Mail Cars.

The United States postal department is having all of the mail cars on the railroads throughout the country built of steel. The reason for this new method of car building is to protect the mail and the clerks in train wrecks or in other accidents where cars are liable to come together and eventually take fire. The cars are built entirely of steel, no woodwork being used at all. From the steps on the ends of the cars to the framework holding the large mail bags inside, everything is of the best quality of steel.

### The Use of the Potato.

Weight for weight, bread is six times more nourishing than potatoes. The potato thrives best in Portugal, where the average yield is twelve tons to the acre. The potato is three-quarters water, and is deficient in nitrogen besides. Hence it is not in itself a perfect food. But eaten with meat the combination is ideally perfect. The gum on the back of postage stamps is made of farina extracted from potatoes. The Dutch make a molasses-like syrup of potatoes, and potatoes form the starch that stiffens the world's shirts and petticoats. A very powerful brandy is made of the potato. The potato but too often adulterates cocoa, potted meats, honey, butter, and tapioca. Potato spirit, a very pure alcohol, is used to fortify wines, and it is prophesied that this spirit will supplant gasoline as the motive power of automobiles. From potato leaves cigarettes are made, and from potato pulp buttons, combs, and pen-holders.

### Suspension Bridges.

Suspension bridges, some of them of considerable length, were common in Peru in the days of Incas. They were formed of cables of twisted oziers passed over wooden supports and stretched from bank to bank, then bound together with smaller ropes and covered with bamboos. The road from Cuzco to Quito is still noted for frail bridges of this sort, which are in constant use and span deep chasms. The Chinese also, according to Kircher, have for centuries been familiar with the 'suspension' theory, and have constructed chain bridges in which the weight of the roadway is supported by the tension of the chains. The first iron suspension bridge in Europe was built over the Tees, near Middleton, in 1741, for the use of miners. Two chains were stretched in a straight line, steadied by ties from the banks below, and the roadway for foot passengers was supported to the chains. The modern suspension system practically dates from 1816, when bridges, both over 100 feet in length, were successfully completed at Galashiels and Peebles.

### Importance of Carbon.

The electric arc light as now so commonly used is produced by the passage of a powerful electric current between the slightly separated ends of a pair of carbon rods, or carbons, about 12 inches long and from three-eighths to one-half inch in diameter, placed vertically end to end in the lamp. The lamp mechanism is so constructed that when no current is passing the upper carbon, which is always made the positive one, rests upon the lower by the action of gravity, but as soon as the electric current is established the carbons are automatically separated about an eighth of an inch, thus forming a gap of high resistance in the electric circuit, across which the current is forced, resulting in the production of intense heat. The ends of the carbons are quickly heated to brilliant incandescence, and by the burning action of the air are maintained in the form of blunt points. As the carbons burn away the lamp mechanism feeds the upper one downward just fast enough to maintain the proper separation. The carbons are not heated equally, the upper or positive one being much the hotter. A small cup-shaped cavity or 'crater,' ordinarily less than an eighth of an inch in diameter, is formed in its end, the glowing concave surface of which emits the greater part of the total light. In lights of the usual size something like half a horse-power of energy is concentrated in this little crater, and its temperature is limited only by the vaporisation of the carbon. Carbon being the most refractory substance known, the temperature of the crater is the highest yet produced artificially, and ranks next to that of the sun. It is fortunate that nature has provided us with such a substance as carbon.

### WITCH'S CELEBRATED HERBAL OINTMENT.

Have you a bad leg with wounds that discharge or otherwise, perhaps surrounded with inflammation and swollen, that when you press your fingers on the inflamed part it leaves the impression? If so, under the skin you have poison that defies all the remedies you have tried, from which, if not extracted, you never can recover, but go on suffering for all time. WITCH'S OINTMENT is a wonderful cleaning and healing agent, which undoubtedly should merit a trial. Price, 1s 6d and 3s 6d. All chemists throughout the Dominion.