

Science Siftings

By 'VOLT.'

Time Signals.

At the St. Quentin station on the Northern Railroad in France there has been installed a wireless telegraph station for receiving time signals from the Eiffel Tower station so as to have the exact time and thus be able to set the station clocks more accurately than before. The distance from Paris is about ninety-five miles, so that the time signals are well received even with the small aerial used. No doubt the railroad will extend the use of the wireless method in the future. A station which is so equipped can also send the time over the ordinary telegraph lines to other railroad stations.

Circular Saw of Paper.

How paper can be made to cut wood was shown at a scientific exhibition recently opened in the Assembly Hall, Surbiton. The demonstration was made by Mr. J. F. Palmer, a local resident, who spun a disc of ordinary drawing paper a foot in diameter by electrical means, so that it made 1542 revolutions a minute. On putting a piece of wood against its edge it cut through the wood like a circular saw, but left the cut edges polished in a high degree. Another experiment shown was the coloring of white tulips by letting them absorb aniline dyes through their stems.

Paper Pulp from Flax Fibre.

An industry which should do much to eliminate the present waste of flax-growing has recently been established at Rosetown, Saskatchewan. For years efforts have been made to solve the problem of what to do with the vast quantity of flax fibre left after the flax seed has been threshed out. Now the Flax Decorticating Company have erected a plant at Rosetown, said to be the largest flax-growing area in the province, which will use the portion of the flax plant formerly regarded as waste in the manufacture of a high-grade paper pulp. It is the forerunner of a number of similar mills. The fibre can be converted into pulp at a very low cost.

The Panama Canal.

The first voyage through the Panama Canal will be made in the autumn of this year, and the War Department of America have invited Captain Amundsen, the famous Arctic explorer, to send his ship, the *Fram*, to be the first vessel to pass from ocean to ocean through the isthmus. Captain Amundsen has accepted the invitation (says the *Universe*). From that day Cape Horn will lose its terrors for the navigator as the Cape of storms. Suez and Panama, tunnels under sea and through mountain, air flight and wireless speech, and the world moves apace to the annihilation of space as a barrier between men and nations. With regard to distances, a ship trading between English ports and Valparaiso or Wellington, N.Z., and steaming at 14 knots an hour, will save four days in the case of the New Zealand port by using Panama instead of Suez, and four days in the case of Valparaiso by Panama rather than Cape Horn. Australian ports will still be nearer to us by way of Suez. The cost of coaling relatively at Port Said and Panama will be a determining factor. Hitherto British coal has had a monopoly, but the two routes will establish a sharp rivalry between English and American coal.

The night was cold, loud was his bark,
For he'd been sleeping in the park;
A friendly policeman heard him yell,
And made him 'comfy' in the cell.
Next morn before the beak he stood;
His Worship thought he looked demure,
So told him to begone and get
Woods' Great Peppermint Cure.

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Intercolonial

The Very Rev. Father Griffin, of Ganmain, has been appointed by the Right Rev. Dr. Gallagher, Bishop of Goulburn, pastor of the important parish of Tumut, vacant through the death of the Very Rev. Dean Butler.

The Very Rev. Father J. E. Colgan, S.J., who, owing to an injury to his hip, has not been able to do parochial duty for some time past, intends returning to Ireland about three months hence. The Rev. Father E. Corish, S.J., who has been in charge of St. Xavier's, Lavender Bay, for the past two years, takes charge of St. Mary's, Ridge street, in place of Father Colgan.

The dedication and opening ceremony of St. Mary's Church, Binalong, which has just been completed and furnished at a cost of £3000, was performed by Bishop Gallagher on Sunday, June 15. There was a large gathering present, visitors being in attendance from Sydney, Yass, Young, Gundagai, and Burrowa. Bishop Gallagher, in a brief address, complimented the residents of the town and district in building such a beautiful edifice in their midst.

Great interest was centred in the golden jubilee of the Ven. Archdeacon Beechinor, of Latrobe, Tasmania, which was enthusiastically celebrated on Saturday, June 14. On the following Sunday the foundation-stone of a new church was laid by his Grace Archbishop Delany in commemoration of the jubilee. The popular interest was enhanced by the fact that his brother, Monsignor Beechinor, lately celebrated his golden jubilee at Launceston. Archdeacon Beechinor was born near Kinsale, Cork, and obtained the elementary portion of the education necessary to fit him for the office of priesthood at St. Patrick's College, Carlow. He was ordained in 1863, and for two and a-half years served Cardinal Cullen at Wicklow. He then came to Tasmania, accompanied by the late Archbishop Murphy, who was his uncle.

The new Church of St. Francis Xavier at Moree was blessed by his Lordship Bishop O'Connor, of Armidale, on Sunday, June 15, in the presence of a large assemblage. The new church is a most imposing and handsome one, and is built of steel, bricks, wood, and cement. After Mass a financial statement was made by Father Lloyd. It was shown that the new church was built at a cost of £4800; £2700 of that amount has already been paid, leaving a debt of £2100. An appeal to liquidate the remaining debt was made by his Lordship, who expressed his pleasure at seeing so many non-Catholics present. It gave him a proof of the amicable relationship existing between the priests and the people of all denominations. He had come prepared to contribute £25 to the church fund, but so struck was he by the work performed that he would double the offering. As a result of his Lordship's appeal a large sum was subscribed, the total reaching £1400.

It is becoming cheerfully monotonous (writes the Brisbane correspondent of the *Catholic Press*), but we must perforce chronicle another itinerary of his Grace the Coadjutor-Archbishop. Dr. Duhig has not allowed the grass to grow under his feet since his return to Queensland. In Ipswich he was just what might be called industrious and ubiquitous; in Brisbane he slaved; in Rockhampton—well, the people of Rockhampton cannot forget his Grace, and back in Brisbane, as Coadjutor, he has managed to go everywhere and find out everything for himself. When one remembers the calls upon a dignitary of the Church it is difficult to realise how so much has been accomplished. His Grace, for instance, believes in Catholics having representation at every ceremony worthy of the occasion. I recollect seeing him at the Governor-General's reception one day. On reading the evening paper of the day after I noticed that he had time to rush into the country and lay the foundation stone of a convent or church. On the day following he was 200 miles away administering Confirmation. Just at present he is touring the western districts—the big back spaces—and the morning journals inform us of the good work that is done at each centre.

Photographs!

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