

personal application was necessary—application by agent not being allowed. The board were of the same opinion, and while they did not think the course laid down was in accordance with sense, they of course had to administer the Act as they found it.

MESSRS DRIVER, STEWART AND Co. have sold by auction 4000 acres of the Winton Estate for £19,000. Other properties were sold by the firm for £8000.

THE case of Captain Johnson, who was arrested on warrant charged with negligence whilst master of the stranded vessel *Surat*, is being proceeded with. Counsel for the accused has commented upon what he termed the shameful manner in which Captain Johnson had been treated, and also the unusual proceeding of arresting him on warrant for a summary conviction, instead of serving a summons upon him.

A MEETING of ship masters at Port Chalmers has passed resolutions of sympathy with Captain Johnson, and started a subscription for him which has since reached over £100.

THE 'Herald' states that the complaint of the want of sufficient house accommodation in Auckland still continues, and although buildings are being run up in all the outside portions of the city and suburbs, the cry is still for more, as no sooner is the roof on a new tenement, and the windows and doors fixed, than it finds a ready occupant.

SEVENTY-FIVE sashes arrived from Melbourne per *Omeo* for St. Patrick's Branch No. 74, H.A.C.B.S., Naseby.

IN our report of the meeting of the H.A.C.B.S. at Naseby, the auditors were stated to be Messrs A. O'Connell and J. Clancy, whereas they should have been Messrs B. Gordon and J. Clancy.

AT a meeting of clergymen and others at Auckland, it was resolved to wait on the Colonial Secretary and protest against running excursion trains on Sundays, as at present.

A TAURANGA telegram of the 23rd instant reports.—About twenty shocks of earthquake have been felt during the last three days. Some particularly severe shocks were felt this morning.

AT a meeting of carpenters held at Nelson, it was resolved to strike in a fortnight for 10s per day. Hitherto the men have been receiving 9s per day.

MR. JOHNSTON, surveyor, has died at Tokomairiro from the effects of an accident, the result of his being thrown from his horse. Mr. Johnston was a gentleman of quiet and unassuming manner, greatly liked by all who knew him, and his loss is much regretted.

AN emigration from Tasmania has set in for Otago.

BURNS'S anniversary was celebrated in the orthodox style at Dunedin and Mosgiel.

THE nationalities of the immigrants applied for through the Immigration Office, Dunedin, between the 24th December and January 20th are—English, 64; Scotch, 90; Ireland, 30; Denmark 3. The Irish on this occasion applied for are in proportion considerably less than usual.

A PERSON who has arrived from the scene of the wreck states that the *Surat* was, unfortunately, grounded upon a rock, which, in all probability, will break her back. At one time, during a high tide, she was afloat, and could, with the aid of a steamer, have been run upon the beach; but no such aid was at hand, and there is now no hope of saving her.

A LUNATIC, who had divested himself of all clothing, attempted to attack people in carriages and on horseback, on the Saddle Hill Road late on Monday night. The adventures of those he pursued are more pleasant to read than to have been concerned in. He was, early next morning, to the great relief of the inhabitants of the district, captured, and is now in safe custody in the Lunatic Asylum.

THE political meeting of aborigines at the Maori settlement at the Heads took place on Thursday week. The meeting was a political one, the object being to discuss the question of applying to the Government for the sum of £2,000,000, compensation for unfulfilled promises in respect to the sale of land within the Province of Otago. Mr I. N. Watt had been engaged on the previous day, and was engaged on that day, in paying over the sum of £4720, compensation given by the Government in connection with the Princes street reserve. A new Council house was opened, and a flag, a present from the Premier, hoisted. After the question of the claims had been discussed, the Hon. W. Katene said he thought the best to do with the matter was to place it before all the Ministers, and let them settle it. That was all he had to say. The gathering was distinguished by great festivities, and much hospitality was shown to the numerous Pakeha visitors.

AT the annual meeting of the Grahamstown branch of the H.A.C.B.S. the following officers were elected:—Bro. J. Corbett, President; Bro. Wilson, Vice-President; Bro. Norton, Secretary; Bro. J. M. Foy, Treasurer; Bro. E. Clark, Warden; and Bro. M. Riley, Guardian. The amount to credit of Sick Fund, £387 5s. 11d.; incidental, £69 2s. 10d.; funeral, £88s. 2d.; total, £464 16s. 11d.

OUR Auckland correspondent telegraphs, business done:—National Bank, 6s; South British, 45s; Caledonian, £11; Golden Calf, (new issue) 3s 6d; Thames G.M. Co. £3 2s 6d.

HIBERNIAN AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC BENEFIT SOCIETY—DUNEDIN

A SUMMONED meeting of St. Joseph's Branch, No. 73, was held last Monday evening for the purpose of settling the disagreement with the Medical attendant. The Secretary read the correspondence which had passed between Dr Bakewell and himself. It was decided to accept a proposition made by Dr Bakewell, viz.—that his agreement with the Society as "Medical Attendant," should be cancelled forthwith.

The Secretary then read an application for the appointment of "Medical Attendant" which he had received from Dr Cole, and after reading the diplomas and testimonials which he (Dr Cole) had furnished, Bro. James Kennedy proposed, and Bro. M. Connel seconded,—That Dr Cole be appointed Medical Attendant.—Carried unanimously.

Bro. Fred. J. Bunny's resolution regarding a Juvenile Contingent

in connection with the Branch, was seconded by Bro. J. J. Connor, and carried unanimously. Messrs. F. McGrath and Gallagher were duly initiated Benefit members. Fees received: £7 11s 6d.

The meeting closed in the usual manner with prayer.

THE OTAGO EDUCATION BOARD.

At a late meeting of this body, among the matters that came up were the following:—

RELIGIOUS INSTRUCTION IN SCHOOLS IN OTAGO.

A lot of correspondence and evidence on this subject, and understood to embrace the evidence taken at the late enquiry regarding the giving of religious instruction in the Tokomairiro Grammar School, came up.

His Honor: The question is, should this be printed?

Mr Bastings: I think it should.

Mr Gillies: I think it should be printed.

His Honor: With the evidence?

Mr Gillies: Yes, with the evidence—not for the value of it, but for satisfaction.

It was agreed that the correspondence and evidence be printed.

INFORMING PARENTS, &c WITHDRAWING CHILDREN.

Mr Gillies, during discussion of a matter, made a suggestion that the clause of the Act bearing upon withdrawing children from religious instruction should be printed on the school fee accounts to ensure that parents saw it.

His Honor (to Mr Gillies): Do you wish to make a formal motion on what you were suggesting? (To Mr Hislop.) I would like to hear your opinion.

Mr Hislop: Would it not be sufficient when a child entered a school that a letter should be sent to the parents?

Mr Gillies: The difficulty, as in the case of Father Coleman, is to find whether the child conveyed the message to the parent. If the matter was printed on the fee account there would be proof that it had been made known to the parent. In Ross's case, Ross swore he told the boy to tell the father. The boy said he did, and the father that he did not.

His Honor: It is bringing the matter more prominently forward than is expedient.

Mr Gillies: It is the reverse in my opinion. I am of opinion we have given it too much prominence by instructing committees and teachers.

Mr Turnbull: There is a very strong impression out of doors, in which I share to an extent, that the tone of these regulations is favoring to those who wish the Bible banished from the school or anywhere else.

His Honor: It is in that light that I make the remark.

Mr Gillies: Our instructions I think have placed the matter in that light. If the parents are informed, the schoolmaster is relieved of the responsibility—if the parents don't withdraw their children it is their own fault. The difficulty in the case of Father Coleman was to prove that the parent got the notice. You can't expect to go round to each parent and mention the matter personally.

Mr Bastings: I think, too, it is giving the matter too much prominence. I think there is hardly a person in the Province who has children who is not fully aware of the effect of the regulations.

Mr Gillies: I think so. I think the prominence has been given by the special instructions. I think it a pity the Board went out of its way to give instructions.

Mr Hislop explained. The instructions issued by the Board were based on resolutions of the Provincial Council, and were almost in the very words of the Council. The Board was almost instructed by the Council.

Mr Gillies said he was not blaming the Board.

Mr Turnbull: Well, I am almost inclined to agree with Mr Gillies's suggestion. Parents without such an arrangement might shelter themselves under the plea that they had no knowledge.

His Honor: I am inclined to agree with Mr Bastings, and let it stand as it is in the meantime.

The discussion then dropped.

THE CANTERBURY CATHOLICS AND THE CANTERBURY EDUCATION TAX.

A MEETING was held at Christchurch on Sunday, 4th inst., of the "Education Rate Committee" appointed by the Catholics. The meeting took place after Vespers. There were present—Mr Sheath, sen., Mr Corr, Mr Loughnan, sen., Mr Bowerman, Mr Lee, Mr Bonnington, Mr Ridley (also Father Ewyer, but not on committee). A resolution was passed that the circular read to-day at the meeting in the schoolroom [at which meeting the action of the committee was approved of, and it was recommended that the circular be submitted to the Bishop and afterwards published] be forwarded to His Lordship Bishop Moran with a request that His Lordship would be kind enough to hand it to the TABLET for publication. The circular is as follows:—

To the Catholics of Province of Canterbury:

You are no doubt aware by this time that the Education Rate is due, and is now being collected in the various parts of the province. The injustice of this tax has been a subject of general discussion among Catholics both privately and publicly; and this circular is to inform you that at a meeting held in the Catholic schoolroom, Christchurch, on the 4th inst., a resolution to the following effect was carried unanimously:—"That payment of the Education Rate be resisted by all moral and legal means; and that a committee be formed for the purpose of considering the best measures to adopt in resisting the payment of the rate." The committee appointed at that meeting have considered the matter, and have arrived at the following conclusions:—First. The committee, so far as they can at present judge, are of opinion that the tax is legal, and one which the Government will probably have no difficulty in enforcing by legal process, should any of you refuse to pay otherwise. Secondly. The committee are of opinion that, although the tax may be a legal one, it is so pointedly