

A NUMBER of new chums are finding their way into the interior, and the stations have had to turn several parties away who offered to work for their "tucker." The reason alleged for this state of matters is that the men are unable to undertake the usual run of out-door labor. Under the heading of "Shearing Intelligence," the 'Tuapeka Times' tells us the clip on most of the neighboring runs will be as large, if not larger, than on previous years; most of the runholders having cleared their runs of cattle since the rise in the price of wool took place. Some of the country butchers are at their wits' end to procure a supply of beef. Prices rule high, and there is every probability of further increase during the coming year, unless, indeed, a large supply of imported horned stock should be brought into the market.

RAILWAY traffic in Canterbury is increasing at a rapid rate. A comparative return of the traffic and receipts for September of this and the past two years gives the following results:—Merchandise, 14,694 tons in 1874 against 29,383 tons in 1875; passengers, 29,983 in 1874 against 43,052 in 1875; receipts, £7,577 in 1874 against £15,159 in 1875. The Canterbury railways are now earning over £150,000 a year.

THE Manuka Creek Tunnel is to be bricked for a distance of a quarter of a chain at each end. It is expected that the tunnel will be completed by March.

PREPARATIONS are being made by the contractor for the Mosgiel, North Taieri, and Outram branch railway line to commence its construction on Monday next. Numbers of Chinamen are congregating in the vicinity with the prospect of securing employment on the line.

A SPECIAL meeting of the City Council was held on Tuesday afternoon, to consider the question as to compensation of the Manse tenants, through the widening of Princes-street.—After a good deal of preliminary business had been gone through, and the reading of correspondence from the respective legal advisers of the Council and Manse-street tenants—Councillor Grant moved that the offer agreeing to £20,000 be accepted. He stated that he had at first and all along been against the widening of the street, but seeing that the matter had gone so far, he thought that it should now be settled.—A long discussion took place, after which Councillor Leary stated that he wished to have the matter settled, but thought that could not be done simply by the resolution which had been submitted. He would therefore move as an amendment, "That the correspondence be referred to the Finance Committee, with power to arrange with the Manse Reserve tenants for widening Princes-street, provided that the total amount of compensation payable by the Corporation, inclusive of all costs and charges, shall not exceed the cost of £20,000." He considered that, under all the circumstances, the time had arrived when the matter should be compromised, and more especially as that course had been advised by the Citizens' Committee in recommending the payment referred to.—Councillor Chapman seconded the amendment, and, in doing so, stated that it might even be adopted by the mover of the resolution. In supporting the payment of such a large amount as that proposed, he would explain that he had always been opposed from the very first to it, and he still thought it altogether excessive. But there were various other matters to be considered in connection with the subject, and one of these was as to what position they might be placed in in the event of the pending litigation taking a turn disadvantageous to the Council, in which case there was the possibility of their being landed into an enormous expenditure, including the whole costs besides. He had given the question every consideration, and although it was with great reluctance, he thought the Council had better come to a decisive settlement, and with that view he supported the amendment, leaving it in the hands of the Finance Committee. Besides, after the recommendation of the Citizens' Committee, they could not well go behind the proposal.—Councillor Campbell stated that he was only prepared to support £18,000 being offered, and he thought that quite enough. When he looked over the list of claims for buildings, he could not but feel surprised. There was, for instance, a sum of £4,000 asked for a little bit of a building put up with splits, and in a half-tumble down condition, and there were others about the same. A large number of the citizens in the South were opposed to the expenditure; but with the view of getting it settled, he would not oppose it, although he felt bound to enter his disapproval of it.—After some remarks from the Mayor, the question was put, when the amendment was carried.

THE Choral Society's second concert of the season was given in the University Hall on Monday evening. The crowded state of the hall is the best proof of the high estimation in which these concerts are held by the public; and, although every inch of available room was occupied, we understand that large numbers had to be refused admission. There were about 60 performers in all, and we are glad to be able to say that the concert was more successful than the last one.

WE have been requested to call attention to the postponement of the usual meeting of the H.A.C.B. Society. The next meeting will be held on Nov. 22, when it is probable that important matters will be brought up for discussion.

THE remains of the late Mr. James Copeland were borne to their final resting place, at the South Dunedin Cemetery, on Tuesday afternoon, the deceased gentleman being buried in a family vault in the Church of England portion of the cemetery. The body was buried with military honors, and the strength of the various companies represented was:—North Dunedin Rifles, under Lieutenant Pell, 40; City Guards, under Captain Wales, 11; ditto cadets, 24; ditto band, 7; Naval Brigade, under Captain Staveley, 5; Artillery, under Captain Jack, 12; firemen, under Captain Johnston, 20; Artillery Band, &c. There were also present Major Atkinson (Tokomairiro), Captain Andrew (West Taieri), Captain Goldie (P.C.N.B.), and several members of country corps.

A MEETING of the residents of St. Kilda and Musselburgh was held in the Forbury School-house on Monday night. Mr. Paton was voted to the chair, and stated that at a meeting held on September 6, it was resolved that a committee should be formed to carry out

arrangements for the formation of a second municipality, and in connection with that they had carried out the work to the best of their ability. The municipality would be gazetted to-day or to-morrow. The Caversham Road Board, however, had a claim upon them for £195 15s 4d, which the Board wanted to be guaranteed, and when this fact was made known to him (the Chairman), he had thought it was his duty to call this meeting. He concluded by saying that the municipality would have been gazetted last week, had it not been for this d. bt. Considerable discussion ensued, and ultimately the following motion was carried:—"That we, the ratepayers of St. Kilda and Musselburgh, are willing to pay to the Caversham Road Board all just demands."

THE drawing of prizes in connection with the art union in aid of the Catholic Church and School, St. Bathans, came off on Monday, 1st inst., under the supervision of several members of the School and Art Union Committees. There were ninety-three prizes, and although—as in all cases of this nature—several of those were of trifling worth, there was a large proportion of really good prizes among them. At the close of the proceedings, Mr. Bunny, Secretary to the School Committee, returned thanks for the very liberal patronage extended to the affair by the residents of St. Bathans of every denomination, both in bestowing prizes and the purchase of tickets, and great aid, he said, had also been given by many ladies and gentlemen living far away from the district of Mount Ida. Mr. Bunny concluded by saying that the art union was a greater financial success than the School Committee had hoped for. We are glad to learn that three valuable prizes fell to the lot of patrons in Dunedin. The picture to be selected by his Lordship the Bishop going to Mrs. Court, Mrs. Fagan and Mrs. C. Carroll were the other fortunate winners.

THE Try Again Company had a cleaning up (says the 'Cromwell Argus') from their last crushing on Thursday, which resulted in a return of 136ozs 13dwts. from 67 tons of stone. The stuff was taken from a shaft 60 feet below the level of the present tunnel, and the fortunate holders have, we hear, hit on a splendid run of stone showing two feet in width at that depth. They expect a continuation of a body of quartz which will yield a return equal at all events to that crushed last week.

MR. J. J. EAGHERTY has been elected Mayor of Green Island for 1875-6. He polled 45 votes against 20 by Mr. Pollock and 14 by Mr. Runciman.

At the Harbour Board's meeting held on Tuesday, it was decided to order from England a contractor's locomotive at the cost of between £750 and £1,000 and a hundred tons of rails and fastenings; and a resolution was carried to request the City Council to authorise Mr. Mirams to consult with the Board's engineer with a view to providing in connection with the proposed scheme of harbor improvement the necessary outlets for sewage. On the motion of Mr. Tewsley, it was resolved that, in calling for tenders for the wharf extension in timber, tenders should be invited for the construction of so many feet of concrete sea wall (tenderers to provide their own plans, &c.), and to guarantee their work standing for three years.

THE 'Waikato Times' says:—We are glad to learn that the rapidly increased facilities for travelling in Waikato, the natural beauty and interest of the scenery, and other circumstances, are attracting tourists to the hot springs by this route, in preference to that via Taunanga and the East Coast. Amongst the recent travellers by the Waikato route was no less a personage than Lord Lyttelton and party, lately arrived from Great Britain, and there are general indications that this route is rapidly gaining the ascendancy over all others in public estimation. The healing qualities of the hot springs are highly esteemed in Australia, and their fame has extended to Europe. During the summer there will doubtless be a large influx of invalids from all parts of New Zealand, from the neighbouring colonies, and elsewhere, to undergo a course of treatment at these famous springs, and some steps should be immediately taken to make the superiority of the Waikato route generally known.

THE Auckland 'Echo,' an evening paper, has ceased to exist. In the notice announcing its demise, it says that it has expended £3,000 in twelve months, and spared no expense or enterprise, but has come to the conclusion that Auckland cannot support another evening paper, and that it is useless to struggle against a journal so widely circulated and popular as the 'Star.'

FACILITIES are now offered by the railway department for making the through journey to Invercargill (on Saturdays) in one day. Passengers by the seven morning train reach Mataura bridge at about 5 p.m., and are conveyed into Invercargill by special train.

A NEW theatre is about to be built in Auckland. According to the plans, it is to hold over 1,000 persons, and the contract price is £7,300. There will be an additional contract for internal fittings. The general style and decoration of the building is to be Italian, and it is to be finished in seven months. This doesn't look like bad times.

The total quantity of gold exported from Melbourne since the beginning of the year to the end of September has been 586,581 oz., of which 56,61 oz., were transhipped from New Zealand. The total exports during the corresponding period of last year amounted to 803,182 oz., of which 1107,98 oz. were the produce of New Zealand. A large amount of gold is now being sent direct to England, which may to a certain extent account for the decrease in our present exports of the precious metal to Melbourne.

The following advertisement appeared in the 'Greymouth Star'—"The person who, by mistake, removed a white hat and plaid scarf from the Volunteer Hall last night, is requested to keep the same, as the owner, through having to walk home hatless and scarfless in the cold morning air, is now in a galloping consumption and does not expect to have further use for them. Gentle appropriator—Please attend the funeral of your victim."