

lighters, and calling the attention of the Board to certain grievances from which their trade suffers. These being that the railway carries timber and heavy goods at rates considerably below those charged for ordinary goods, that the rate of wharfage dues on goods brought by lighters is double the charge made on goods landed at the Railway Pier, Port Chalmers; that hindrances are thrown in the way of consignees obtaining goods by lighters from ships berthed at the Railway Pier; that there is a want of shed accommodation; that vessels using the Railway Pier are not required to pay berthage dues, and that berthage dues charged lighters at present are not fairly regulated. The letter was referred to the Finance Committee. The report of the Finance Committee drew the attention of the Board to the fact there is now a considerable charge against the revenues of the Board for interest on money borrowed on the security of its endowments and rates. It also recommended that application be made to the General Government for a Crown Grant of that portion of land included in the plans of Harbour improvements, approved by the Governor in Council, and further, that application be made to the General Government, with a view of arriving at some definite understanding as to what is required for railway purposes out of the Board's endowment. A protest signed by Messrs. J. M. Ritchie, Henry Tewsley, and Hugh MacNeil, was made against the resolution adopted by a majority of the Board, at their last meeting, to accept the Crown Grant for the Board's endowment lands, excluding the triangular piece lying between the Port Chalmers Railway line, Castle and St. Andrew streets. The Engineer's recommendation that the tender of £140, for the removal of the shed, be accepted, was unanimously adopted. Mr. D. L. Simpson forwarded the Inspector's monthly report, and commended the remarks therein contained to the favourable consideration of the Board. It was resolved on the motion of Mr. Tewsley:—"That the Board petition the General Assembly to determine who ought to be the Trustees to carry out the purposes of the Trust for which the Wharves and Quays Reserves were set aside, and that the Government be asked to introduce a Bill to give effect to the decision, whatever it may be. That a copy of the foregoing resolution be forwarded to the Colonial Secretary, with a request that he will take the necessary steps to have the objects thereof carried out." The following accounts were passed: Progress payments on account of the new dredge, £2700; do. sheds, £520; wages and sundries, £1691 7s 1d; total, £4911 7s 1d.

At about four o'clock on the morning of the 4th inst., a shanty at the rear of Messrs. Reid and Gray's premises in Prince's street was discovered to be on fire. The high wind of the preceding night is supposed to have blown some sparks from the furnace of the neighboring foundry towards the building in question, and thus to have caused the conflagration, which, however, fortunately was not attended by any serious consequences.

The schooner *Dagmar* foundered under the Nuggets on Thursday last. Her crew were holding on to the vessel's side, having no hope of escape, when their position was observed by Captain Tunbridge, master of the cutter *Jane*, which fortunately for the shipwrecked men came within sight of them at the critical moment. Captain Tunbridge at once hove his vessel to, and proceeded alone in his dingy to the rescue, without delaying for a moment to consider the danger he would incur. He succeeded in saving the lives of the men in question, and proved himself well worthy of admiration, for his courage and kindness of heart.

The Melbourne Central Board of Health has issued the following notice, to which persons who are interested in the health and welfare of children especially, would do well to pay attention:—Recent analyses of the confectionery commonly sold in and about Melbourne having shown that many of the colored articles are in a high degree dangerous to health, the Central Board of Health consider it advisable to draw public attention to the matter, and especially to caution the public against the use of confectionery which is colored yellow, orange, or green, these colors being in many cases produced by means of chromate of lead, arsenite of copper, or other highly poisonous materials. With a view to putting a stop as far as possible to the sale of poisonous confectionery, the local boards of health have received special instructions to enforce the law in regard to this matter; but the Central Board deemed it well, also, to point out to all concerned, that the "Act for the Prevention of Adulteration of Articles of Food or Drink," imposes penalties of fine or imprisonment on any one convicted of selling adulterated articles, and also enables the purchaser of any such article to have the same examined by the Government analytical chemist, with a view to proceedings under that statute, on giving notice to the vendor at the time that the articles will be so examined.

A MAN named Robert Roberts, a native of North Wales, committed suicide on Friday last, by poisoning himself with strychnine, which he had obtained under the pretence of wishing to destroy rats. The unfortunate man had been observed to be in low spirits for some time previous to his death, and the jury qualified their verdict by stating that the act had been performed during temporary insanity.

A DOUBLE LADDER dredge is being built for the Harbour Board by Messrs. Kincaid and McQueen, at a cost of about £20,000. The dimensions are:—110 feet long by 33 feet beam, depth of hold nine feet. It is calculated that the dredge will lift 500 tons per hour, and it will be fitted with a compound engine of about 60-horse power, and two donkey engines for pumping, working the winches and lifting the bucket-ladders.

THE final polling for the election of the Mayor of Dunedin came off on the 3rd inst. The results were as follows:—

	South Ward.	High Ward.	Bell Ward.	Leith Ward.	Total.
Reeves	255	459	277	442	1433
Woodland	245	317	470	297	1329

Majority for Reeves 104

THE Derby Ploughing Match came off on Saturday last in Mr. Muir's paddock, North Taieri. The day though cold was dry and favorable. There were about 300 present. The result of the match was as follows:—Class A. For single-furrow ploughs, nine entries. 1st prize, £10—James Gilbert (Fowler); 2nd do., £6—Thos. Christie

(Ponton); 3rd do., £4—Thos. McTaggart (Ponton). Special prizes:—Best feering and finish (box of tea, gift of Mr. M'Nee, and churn, gift of James Walls)—Thomas Christie. Best in field:—(Pair of backbands, gift of J. Chesney)—J. Gilbert. Class B. For ploughmen who have never won a first or second prize. Five entries. 1st prize, £7—William Haugh (Ponton); 2nd do., £5—George Gordon (Allan); highly commended—James Walters (Reid and Gray). Best feering and finish (pair singletrees, gift of J. Smeaton, and pair leggings, gift of G. Dowse)—Wm. Haugh. Class C. For youths under 14. Two entries. 1st prize, £5—Alex. Miller (Ponton); 2nd do., whip, value 20s. (gift of J. Rennie)—J. Sinclair. Best feering and finish (hat, gift of Mr. Muir, and pair leggings, gift of G. Dowse)—Alex. Miller. Best finish for reaping machines, 20s. gift of Mr. Muir—A. Miller. Class D. For double-furrows. Nine entries. 1st prize, £6—John Houden (Reid and Gray); 2nd do., £5—Charles White, jun. (Fowler); 3rd do., £4—Peter Adamson (Reid and Gray). Best ploughing, silver medal—J. Houden. Straightest: pair leggings, gift of James Collier—Alex. Collier.

THE Theatres continue to be well patronised, notwithstanding the very inclement weather prevailing lately. Amongst the principal attractions are the Lingards at the Princess. "Frou-Frou" was produced on Friday evening last for the benefit of Mrs. Lingard, and was a great success, Mesdames Lingard and Hoskins appeared to great advantage, and at the close of the performance were honored with a call before the curtain. At the Queen's on Tuesday evening, Mr. Talbot made his last appearance in Dunedin. It is to be regretted that he has not been playing under more favorable auspices, as he is a most deserving and painstaking actor. His engagement must have been anything but a profitable one for the lessees. Mr. and Mrs. Darrell make their re-appearance this evening in "As You Like It," when, no doubt, a large audience will assemble to welcome these favorite artistes back to Dunedin.

EVIDENT fruits of the establishment of the Christian Brothers in Dunedin were seen on Sunday morning last, when 42 boys attending the newly-opened schools made their first communion at the 8 o'clock Mass, in St. Joseph's Church. The boys, each wearing a sash of blue ribbon commemorative of the occasion, were under the supervision of their teachers, and the manner in which they approached the altar, together with their whole demeanour, bore the best testimony to the excellence of their preparation, and affords a most happy augury for their future. His Lordship the Bishop administered the Blessed Sacrament, and afterwards delivered an impressive address to the youthful recipients.

On the night of the 2nd inst. the residence of His Lordship the Bishop of Dunedin was entered by a burglar, and several small articles, amounting in all to the value of about £10, were stolen. Information was immediately given to the police, and the result was, that on Tuesday last a man, named Edward James Donolly, was arrested on suspicion of the robbery. It seems that the accused, who has been known by several assumed appellations, is an accomplished thief of no ordinary kind. His appearance is said to be most respectable, and his dress is the height of the fashion; when brought before the Magistrates he even went so far as to wear a pair of white kid gloves. He had passed himself off in Dunedin as a musician and teacher, but on his belongings being searched by the police, he was found to be furnished with a complete set of house-breaking implements, including a pair of pistols ready capped and loaded; and taking this latter circumstance into consideration, it seems extremely fortunate, that his entry into the various houses he is suspected of having robbed was not perceived by their inmates. Besides the residence of His Lordship the Bishop, this interesting gentleman is further accused of having entered those of Mr T. S. Graham and Mrs G. K. Turton, stealing £80 worth of jewellery from the former, and a gold watch and guard from the latter. He was brought before the Magistrates at the Police Court, Dunedin, on Wednesday last, but at the request of Inspector Mallard was remanded for a week.

HIBERNIAN AUSTRALASIAN CATHOLIC BENEFIT SOCIETY.

To the Editor of the NEW ZEALAND TABLET.

SIR,—Although much has been written concerning the late annual meeting of the above Society held in Melbourne last February, it has not been without good results, and I think the resolution passed by the Dunedin branch at its last meeting an expression of opinion that will be seconded by a large majority of the Lodges in this Colony. The illegality of the late A.M. has been very fully discussed through your columns, therefore, I think it would be out of place were I to say much about it at present. It is now proved conclusively that the Executive Directory has not the confidence of the majority of its branches, and, even if it had, I am doubtful if they could be managed as successfully as they have been in the past. It is very remarkable that not one of the pioneers of the Society occupies a seat on the Directory, especially when they proffered their gratuitous services to the Society, and were rejected, not by the Society, but by a portion of it known as the Melbourne district, who, by an unfair advantage in opposition to our laws and the protest of our representatives, carried all their points at the annual meeting. This important fact speaks for itself, and should not be lost sight of.

Our duty now is, to take immediate action for our own protection. With this object in view, I have for months past advocated a board of management for the Otago and Canterbury branches, thereby consolidating their interests, and extending the Society to the several centres of population in the respective Provinces. I notice that your numerous correspondents advocate District Boards for this Colony, but I am afraid in forming their opinions they have overlooked the principal objection, viz., that of expense. District Boards may work well in Victoria where railway communication is established throughout the Colony, and the