

to the Waste Lands Board, and did the very thing the Council unanimously called upon him not to do. Mr Tolmie may be a good member of the Waste Lands Board, but he is most certainly unfit to be the head of the Provincial Executive. He richly deserves, in the words of Mr Stout's resolution, the gravest censure.

Mr Tolmie's defence rests on a myth. He says there was a contract between the Government and Mr Campbell which made it imperative on the Waste Lands Board to sell this land to Mr Campbell, and that this contract was entered into between Mr Reid and Mr Campbell some time last year. But Mr Tolmie is unable to put his hand on the document showing this, or to give the date of the bargain. On the other hand, Mr Reid affirms no such contract existed, and gives an explanation which is borne out by the documents referred to as calculated to sustain the contract. Mr Reid's words, as reported in the 'Times,' are—"A bargain that Mr Campbell, under any circumstances, should become the purchaser of this block of land was not entered into between himself and Mr Campbell. . . . It was clearly understood that no other person would be allowed to take up the leasehold and purchase the land, but it did not follow from that, that under any circumstances, Mr Campbell should be allowed to purchase. On the contrary, the resolution passed by the Waste Lands Board showed that he (Mr Reid) and the other members carefully guarded themselves against such an understanding between the Board and Mr Campbell, who clearly understood that in the event of this land being found to be auriferous, the Government would be empowered to refuse to sell."

Mr Reid's account is a precise and most accurate statement of the case. He is borne out to the letter by the documents laid before the Council. The Waste Lands Board was not obliged to sell, and need not have permitted itself to be scared out of its wits by Mr Tolmie's awful picture of litigation in all the law courts of the Colony, and before the Privy Council in Westminster. But whatever may be said as to the Board, no defence is possible for Mr Tolmie. The interests of the people have been sacrificed by their own servants, whether through stupidity or a desire to enrich the runholder matters little. In either case the censure is most richly deserved.

WEEKLY EPITOME.

THE writs for the Waikouaiti and Bay of Islands elections have been issued. The former is returnable on the 31st, and the latter on the 20th inst.

THE Auckland 'Herald' referring to the Ministry, and the coming Parliament, makes the following pertinent comment:—"But the weak point of the Government will be the Agent-General's department. On that department a great deal of debate will doubtless take place, and we confess we cannot see how Ministers can defend their position. The Agent-General's department, in every particular, has been a costly failure."

IN noticing the successful floating of the New Zealand Shipping Co. at Christchurch, the New Zealand Herald declares that "Lyttelton will become the great importing depot of New Zealand, as Wellington has become the centre of steamship undertakings."

THE Provincial Council of Canterbury has passed a resolution containing the sensible suggestion that the system of free passages ought to extend not only to emigrants selected by the home agents, but also to those nominated by persons already settled in the provinces.

THE United States Government, being desirous of establishing a station in the southern hemisphere for observing the transit of Venus, asked of Tasmania if it might do so, and the Tasmanian Government promptly replied in the affirmative. A similar permission has been asked of New Zealand.

THE New South Wales Rifle Association have accepted the challenge from Victoria in reference to the proposed inter-colonial match with the Snider rifle.

WANGANUI had the smallest rainfall for the month of March of any portion of New Zealand, being one and a half inch. Nelson had the greatest, being five and three-quarter inches; Auckland, for the same month, had two and three-quarter inches.

MR BASTINGS has stated in the Otago Provincial Council that the Superintendent had told him that he (the Superintendent) would never again send a resolution of the Council to the Waste Lands Board, as he had been insulted and snubbed by that Board when he had done so.

THE 'Thames Advertiser' does not know whether Mr Brogden aspires to become a New Zealand 'Reuter,' but it learns that he is really the proprietor of the 'Anglo-Australian Press Agency,' and that he has recently bought off its rival, the Press Association.

AN Auckland journal declares that that city is "evidently fairly in for another epidemic in the old familiar form of a mining swindling mania."

Though the 21st ult. was one of the brightest of the season in Sydney a star was visible at noon. The phenomenon excited great interest.

A HINT to those who are agitating for the establishment of a bottle factory in Dunedin, comes from Auckland. Referring to Mr Olson, of tomato sauce fame, the Southern Cross says:—"The extent of Mr Olson's trade may be understood when it is related that an order

has been sent to England for £1000 worth of bottles for his sauce! What a pity Auckland cannot successfully supply such bottles."

THE directors of the New Zealand Shipping Company have received (says the 'Lyttelton Times'), through their London agent by cable, an offer from Messrs Shaw, Saville, and Co. for the transfer of their business and ships. The offer has been absolutely declined by the directors, who intend to maintain an independent position.

PEOPLE at Alexandra cannot be greatly discomforted. The 'Waikato Times' advertises a grand ball, under the auspices of the Alexandra Oddfellows' Lodge, at which ladies and gentlemen can attend in couples for seven-and-sixpence.

A SPRING has been discovered at Waitaka, Okarito district, which discharges water too hot to permit a person's hand being held in it.

A PUBLICAN at Ross has been fined £5 for refusing to open the door of his hotel when admission was demanded by the police.

HOUSE-BUILDING, it appears, continues to progress steadily in Greymouth, many persons providing themselves with comfortable cottages, or adding to the dimensions of their business premises.

IN regard to the Otago immigrants per J. N. Fleming, all the female servants were readily engaged at wages averaging £30 per annum. The demand for good farm servants was also brisk at from £52 to £55 per annum. The immigrants are a very superior class, and very suitable for the requirements of the Colony.

THE number of assisted immigrants that arrived in Otago from the 1st April to the 30th June was as follows: adults—males, 148; females, 71. Children—males, 16; females, 26.

MR WILLIAM L. SHAW, a solicitor of the High Court of Chancery in England, and attorney in the Court of Queen's Bench at Westminster, has been admitted as a barrister and solicitor of the Supreme Court of New Zealand, by Mr Justice Chapman.

CASES of diphtheria at Westport have resulted fatally, and the schools—to prevent the spread of the disease—have been closed.

MISS Florence Colville, Mr W. Hosking, Mr J. B. Steele, and Mr Booth, are to have a season at the Queen's Theatre.

WHILE the Lizzie Guy was lying in the Westport roadstead, nearly all the hands on board were poisoned by eating pancakes, in which arsenic had been accidentally mixed. All the men who partook of the poisoned food, recovered from the effects of the dose.

IN concluding his annual report, the Governor of the Dunedin gaol repeats the warning he has so frequently given, that it is highly impolitic to have a badly-paid staff of officials, and observes that "to prevent the officers leaving as they do at present, whenever opportunity serves, there ought to be a graduated increase of pay, and something held out to them like a moderate provision for their old age, when they should have devoted a certain number of years to their arduous service."

THE suspension bridge over the Kaurau, three miles above Cromwell, was opened with considerable ceremony last week. The carrying capacity of the bridge is equal to 1,400 tons. The cost is said to be from £5,000 to £6,000, and the contracts for the approaches, which were constructed at Government expense, amounted to something near £2,500.

THE Auckland market was opened with great *déclat* on the 20th ult. An exhibition on a small scale was held in the building, a number of prizes being given, and in the evening the Carandinis gave a promenade concert. Some 5000 persons visited the building during the day. The market is a timber erection, and its total cost, including £3,900 for filling in and draining the site, is £10,181 13s 2d. It is expected that the revenue derived from the market during the first year will reach £1000, and stalls, whose revenue will bring in £800, were already leased at the time of the opening of the market. The building is lighted with gas.

ONE of the Dunedin priests will officiate in Port Chalmers next Sunday. Mass will be at 11 a.m.

THE Rev Father Cauchy from Napier has been appointed to the charge of the Hutt Mission.

ANOTHER lie about the Pope has as usual gone the rounds of the Press. This time His Holiness is dead, and it is added that the Cardinals are keeping his death concealed till they shall have elected a successor. What next?

THE PAROUL CONVENT SCHOOLS.—The scholars of St Joseph's and Select School passed their annual examinations, in their several studies, on the 24th ult., after which the usual distribution of prizes took place. His Lordship Bishop Croke presided. Fathers McDonald, Joseph, O'Hara, Paul, Boibieux, Norris, Dilworth, and about 40 ladies were also present. The result of the examination was very creditable to both tutors and pupils. The scholars of the first class were examined in history, geography, grammar, and arithmetic, and those of the second class in reading, spelling and tables. The several specimens of the writing and composition were unexceptionably creditable. The Berlin work by the nimble fingers of the young lady pupils, was most artistically done. The piece first in merit was a beautifully executed picture representing Joseph presenting his Father to Pharaoh, by Miss McGarry. This piece received a first prize in the late show at the opening of the market house. The other presentations of needlework for commendation were remarkably fine samples of skilled industry, and were very little inferior to the first. There was also a fairly-executed crayon drawing by Miss Kilfoyle, of the "Virgin and Child." Great taste was displayed in the manufacture of some bead baskets, and a pair of slipper tops worked with wool. An address to His Lordship the Bishop was read by Miss McGarry. Several duets were sung, and other pieces of music performed by the scholars. A dramatic poem, in which five characters appeared, was moderately well represented. His Lordship the Bishop presented the prizes. The pupils of St. Joseph's School were also examined in an adjoining building, and a number of them received prizes. The children in this school passed their examination very successfully. —This information we chiefly take from an Auckland journal. Seventy-six children attend the schools.

FROM the 'Lyttelton Times' of the 3rd inst. we learn that the second entertainment of the Christchurch St. Patrick's Dramatic Society, in aid of the building fund of the Catholic church, took place