

NEW ZEALAND: GENERAL.

'A CLIENT of St. Anthony,' Charing Cross, has sent us 5s for the Very Rev. Father Lighthouse's Maori mission.

MR JOHN JOYCE, late member for Lyttelton, and again a candidate for the seat, died suddenly on Friday night.

THE Mayor of Napier, Mr. G. H. Swan, who has been re-elected, has occupied the civic chair of that town for fifteen years in succession—a record for the colonies.

It was asserted at a political meeting in Wellington last week that three Chinese dealers in that city each imported on an average £400 worth of opium into Wellington weekly.

THE Premier stated in Auckland last week that for the first seven months of the present financial year the Government had a surplus of £218,000, although £100,000 was paid in old-age pensions.

OUR Timaru correspondent writes:—A meeting was held in St. John's Hall on Tuesday last to make arrangements for the forming of a dramatic club in the parish.—Mr J. M. Hickson is the returning officer for the electoral district of Timaru.

In the Supreme Court, Wellington, on Tuesday, in the case of W. R. Linley v. Dr. Mackin, a claim of £1000 damages for alleged negligent treatment for an affection of the eye, the jury, after a few minutes' retirement, returned a verdict for defendant, with costs.

In consequence of Wednesday being a statutory holiday we have been obliged to go to press before the arrival of the morning mails on that day. Our correspondents whose communications reached this office on that morning will therefore understand why they have not received attention in this issue.

THE Auckland Typographical Association has made a presentation of a purse of sovereigns to the Hon W. Jennings, M.L.C., in recognition of his services to the association. In responding, Mr Jennings acknowledged the compliment, and alluded to his twenty-seven years' connection with the art of printing in Auckland and Dunedin.

THE Old-Age Pensions scheme has been the means of saving £300 a year for the South Canterbury Aid Board, 26 cases having been taken off the hands of the Board during the financial year that ended not long ago. During the year the ordinary expenditure of the Board was about £400 a month. The previous year it was £500 a month.

SERGEANT-MAJOR Thomas M'Millan, of Wanganui, has received from the Imperial Government the silver medal for meritorious service. Sergeant-Major M'Millan saw a great deal of service in New Zealand during the native disturbances, during which time he was a member of the 18th Royal Irish, in which he held the position of colour-sergeant for some time.

THE East Coast mail coach, which runs between Masterton and Castlepoint, owned and driven by Sam Foreman, collided with a wool waggon on the road near Blairlogie last week. The whole concern was precipitated into a deep gully. The coach was smashed to atoms and one of the horses killed. Foreman miraculously escaped with a broken wrist. There were no passengers aboard.

At a large meeting of Waikato and Ngatimaniapoto Maori chiefs held at Te Kuiti lately it was resolved that the tax for the subsidy or salary of King Mahuta for the ensuing term of years be one shilling per annum, payable by all native adults in the Maori kingdom; and also that a fund to provide for 'urgent public necessities' be established, the annual contribution to be one shilling, payable by all over 12 years of age.

HEAVY floods on the West Coast on Saturday and Sunday did considerable damage. Portion of the Otira Gorge road has been carried away, and the traffic with Christchurch is interrupted. The repairs will take some time. The county works are also damaged. Portion of one road has been carried away, stopping traffic, while bridges and culverts are also damaged. It is feared that there will be considerable damage done south, the rainfall having been very heavy.

MR. L. HANRAHAN presided at the last meeting of the Ashburton Catholic Literary Society, when there was a good attendance. The programme for the evening consisted of a debate, 'Prohibition v. Moderation.' Mr. M. J. Burgess led off the debate for the prohibitionists, and delivered a lengthy speech in which he dwelt on the many advantages to be gained through prohibition, also pointing out the evils of drink. Mr. R. J. Henry followed Mr. Burgess, and delivered a stirring appeal to members to beware of the results of prohibition. Several members contributed speeches in favour of the respective sides, and on a vote being taken the prohibitionists gained the verdict by a majority of one vote.

At the fortnightly meeting of St. Patrick's Branch of the Hibernian Society (says our Christchurch correspondent) it was decided to advocate the appointment of a paid organiser for the society for a term of six months; to prepare an address to Bishop Grimes, to be signed by all the branches in Canterbury, asking him to use his influence with the clergy, by asking them to advocate the objects and aims of the society. The action of the D.E. in veiling the meeting to be held in Dunedin next year, without first giving notice to the branches, was adversely criticised. It was decided to ask the branches to send a delegate to Auckland to attend the A.M. in 1900. The resignation of Bro. C. Courteney as treasurer was accepted with regret, and a hearty vote of thanks accorded him for past services. Twenty pounds were handed to the trustees for investment. It was stated that only £10 of the £35 due to the sick fund at the beginning of the year were now owing, and that amount would be paid off at the end of this quarter. Several candidates were proposed for membership, and two members were initiated into the Order.

WHEN interviewing the returning officer regarding his nomination paper for the Invercargill seat, Mr. Hanan (says the *Southland News*) discovered that the nomination paper lodged by Mr. Kelly, officially filed by the returning officer, was informal. Now, Mr. Hanan, instead of keeping his own counsel regarding the matter, at once informed Mr. Kelly of the defect. Needless to say, Mr. Kelly expressed his gratitude for the chivalrous action, and rectified the error. Had Mr. Hanan not informed Mr. Kelly of the mistake in his nomination, then, as Mr. Hanan's nomination paper would have been the only valid one lodged, he (Mr. Hanan) would have had to be declared duly elected member for Invercargill, without a contest. Mr. Hanan's action in this matter will receive the commendation of all honourable men and women.

THE tramway about to be constructed in Wellington, with which it is intended to connect the city with what was formerly known as the Upland Farm, will be worked on a method which is new to this Colony. The work will be done by balanced cars attached to each end of an iron cable travelling upon rollers at the surface of the prepared way, and extending round a pulley at the hill station. All possibility of accident will be eliminated by a system of automatic brakes. The cars will travel by gravitation on what is known as the water counter-balance system. There will be two reservoirs, one at the Lambton Quay terminus and another located at the hill station. In order to draw the car up the plane from Lambton Quay the tank in the car at the hill station will be filled with water from the upper reservoir, while the tank in the car at Lambton Quay will be emptied into the Lambton Quay reservoir. This process will be continued until the upper car is heavy enough (some five tons weight) to overcome the lower car, which the weight of the descending car will then cause to ascend.

INTERCOLONIAL.

THE Rev. Father P. J. Walsh, of St. Francis's Church, Haymarket, Sydney, has obtained leave of absence on account of ill-health, and will shortly take a trip to the Home countries. His parishioners intend to make him a presentation before his departure.

On Sunday, November 19, Mdlle Trebelli, the distinguished vocalist, sang at St. Patrick's Church, Sydney. M. Wiegand and the choir gave an effective rendering of Guilman's 'Mass,' and Mdlle Trebelli sang Gounod's 'O Divine Redeemer.' Mdlle Trebelli left for the United States on Wednesday, November 22.

THE Good Samaritan Order in New South Wales consists of 19 convents and 182 Sisters, and also the Industrial Orphan Reformatory (Manly) with 136 inmates, St. Magdalen's Retreat (Tempe) with 100 inmates, and a Receiving House, Pitt street, with 60 inmates. The Sisters are practically supporting and training and reforming 300 women and children.

A few Sundays ago the Archbishop of Adelaide completed his 53rd year, and was the recipient of many good wishes. His Grace has made a great and continuous success of his long career of service in the cause of the Church, and wherever he has been, his name is held in esteem approaching to reverence. Dr. O'Reilly did excellent work in West Australia, and he was a model prelate at Port Augusta, but his greatest triumphs have been won in his present archdiocese. Dr. O'Reilly is an all-round man (says the *Southern Cross*). He is a deeply-versed theologian, a thorough scholar, a most expert musician, and a greatly skilled financier. Indeed, it is hard to say where the limits of his knowledge and culture end.

A Grand Commonwealth Fair was opened in the Town Hall, Sydney, on November 18, in aid of the institutions of charity conducted by the Good Samaritan Sisters. As a picturesque spectacle nothing finer had ever been seen in Sydney. The opening ceremony was performed by his Eminence the Cardinal-Archbishop in the presence of a distinguished gathering of citizens of all denominations. In the course of his address his Eminence said that some few years ago one might count on one's fingers the few Sisters who were engaged in foreign lands diffusing those blessings of religion. At the close of the last century there were not more than 100 so engaged, but at the present day throughout the length and breadth of Christendom there were no fewer than 40,000 nuns engaged in missions of benevolence. At the meeting of a British Association held only a few weeks ago the statement was made that so late as last year about 500 persons died of starvation in Great Britain, which was a terrible announcement to find made by an association in their own day. One would think that the progress of civilisation would render that impossible, but whilst the happiness and wealth of many might be increased, undoubtedly miseries and sufferings would also have their progress. There was another feature in the work of these ministering angels to which he might refer. Men were engaged in the struggle of war in South Africa, and our own brave fellow-citizens had gone there, and he was sure they would reap the brightest laurels for their bravery and heroism. But they must experience the hardships, reverses, and wounds of war. In the three hospitals of South Africa the nuns are ministering to the wounded, and even in the beleaguered township of Mafeking the wounded soldiers are under the care of our devoted nuns, and if needs be that any of our devoted Sisters are wanted to minister I say there are hundreds of our Australian Sisters ready to show the same heroism, the same heroic devotedness in ministering to their suffering brothers, aye, even rivalling those men's own honour and heroism on the battlefield. This matter of ministering to soldiers on the battlefield was a new thing in the history of the world. The very first to engage in such work was Miss Florence Nightingale, who, he was happy to say, still continues in her career of benevolence, looking after the sufferings of those in the hospitals in her native land. One of her first duties