

been brought to a sense of their religious duty, and others have taken the pledge. The members have received letters posted at different ports from seamen who were benefited, expressive of sincere gratitude for kindness extended to them while here.

PALMERSTON NORTH

(From our own correspondent.)

August 7.

The many friends of Mr. and Mrs. Moynihan, of the Club Hotel, Shannon, will be sorry to hear of the death of their son, after a few days' illness.—R.I.P.

The parishioners and the numerous Catholics of the district should be pleased to learn that they are about to have a parish monthly magazine. It is, I understand, to consist of a portion of some Catholic home monthly magazine, with four pages of local Catholic news and other notes, and will be known as 'St. Patrick's Fireside.'

At the half-yearly meeting of the local branch of the H.A.C.B. Society, held recently, the following officers were elected:—President, Bro. Alex. McWilliam (re-elected); vice-president, Bro. Thomas O'Reilly; treasurer and secretary, Bros. Thos. Norris and Albert Rickard (re-elected); warden, Bro. Edward Higgins; guardian, Bro. J. Barry. The Society having made arrangements with the Orient Lodge of Oddfellows to share their hall, the branch held its first meeting there on Tuesday, the 25th ult., when the officers were duly installed by the president, after which a pleasant evening was wound up with songs, recitations, and light refreshments.

WEDDING BELLS

SCOTT—TURNER.

A wedding which created a great deal of interest was celebrated at the Catholic church, Lumsden, on July 12, by the Rev. Father Keenan, the contracting parties being Miss Jessie Turner and Mr. John Scott, both being very popular in the district. The bride looked very nice in a dress of white liberty silk, with the usual veil and wreath of orange blossoms, and was attended by Miss Mary O'Brien as bridesmaid, and the bridegroom by Mr. James Moloney as best man. After the ceremony the wedding party sat down to a wedding breakfast, given by Mrs. J. Crosbie, of the Railway Hotel. The toast of the bride and bridegroom was proposed by the Rev. Father Keenan, who referred to the many good qualities of both, and wished them long life and happiness. Mr. and Mrs. Scott left by the express for Christchurch, taking with them the best wishes of their many friends.

OBITUARY

MR. ARTHUR KERR, DACRE.

Mr. Arthur Kerr, of Dacre, Southland (writes a correspondent), passed away after a very brief illness on July 13. The deceased, who was 61 years of age, was born in the County Antrim, and came to New Zealand in 1882. The first years of his experience were spent on the Edendale estate. He then removed to the West Plains district, finally settling on a farm at Dacre, where he spent the past seven years. The surviving members of Mr. Kerr's family in the Colony are his wife and eleven children, and his sister, Mrs. P. Condon, of Wyndham. Mr. Kerr was much esteemed by his neighbors, who showed their sympathy for the family by attending in large numbers at the funeral. The deceased, who was a fervent Catholic, died consoled by the last Sacraments, and was laid to rest in the Eastern Cemetery, Invercargill. In life he left an example of piety, honesty, and sterling Catholic qualities to those coming after him and bearing his name.—R.I.P.

Persons intending to purchase shares in mining and commercial companies would do well to consult Messrs. Sligo Bros., stock and sharebrokers, and mining experts, Dunedin, who will give them reliable advice, and conduct any business entrusted to them with satisfaction to their clients...

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NEW ZEALAND : GENERAL

The net profit on the working railways for the year represents a sum of £716,331, or 3.3 per cent. on something like a capital of £23,000,000.

Among the priests ordained at the Cathedral, Thurles, on the Feast of Corpus Christi, by his Grace the Archbishop of Cashel, was the Rev. Michael M. O'Dwyer, for the Archdiocese of Wellington.

The heaviest rainfall ever experienced in the history of Hastings was that during the May-July quarter, which recorded 22.16 inches. A large number of early lambs have died during the past week, one man losing 250.

The Fielding 'Star' states that a number of local farmers, in order to protect themselves against the potato blight, which made its appearance there last season, are importing their seed potatoes for the forthcoming planting season.

A man who called in at the Christchurch Labor Bureau in search of employment was asked whether he was married. 'No,' he replied. 'Preference is given to married men,' a clerk said. 'I'm not going to get married for work,' ran the applicant's comment.

There were nine old-age pensioners in the Colony over the age of 95 years, of whom one is an unmarried man, five are widows, and three widowers. One of the last-mentioned (at Masterton) is 104 years old, and another (at Ashburton) is 102 years of age. The unmarried male pensioner, who lives at Havelock, is 101 years old.

A gentleman who has been on a tour in Central Otago states (says the Oamaru 'Mail') that the stock throughout the whole district is in excellent condition, and the country is enjoying the best winter it has experienced for 40 years. The land hunger is at present manifested in a pronounced degree—indeed, there are so many applications that the Land Board had determined not to dispose of any more land on the flats until the leases of the runs fall in in 1910.

As showing the durability of manuka in sea water, a piece of wharf pole recently pulled up in Akaroa is a case in point (says the Christchurch 'Press'). This piece of manuka is as sound as the day when it was put down, and it is intended to send it to the Christchurch Exhibition, where it will be shown as a piece of manuka that has been thirty-five years in the sea water. Two smaller pieces of manuka were actually submerged during all that time, and yet they are so sound that they have been privately purchased with the idea of making them into mauls.

The defence of Auckland will shortly be strengthened by the addition of two modern 6in guns, which were landed last week from the steamer 'Maori.' These guns, which were manufactured at Woolwich Arsenal, weigh 7 tons 8cwt each, and measure 23ft in length. They have been taken over by the Defence Department, and are, it is stated, to be sent to Devonport.

In placing the evidence before the jury in a somewhat complicated criminal case in the Supreme Court (says the 'New Zealand Times'), his Honor Mr. Justice Cooper found it necessary to comment upon at least two matters which are of general importance. The first as to the manner in which jurors should regard the demeanour of witnesses when giving their evidence. He pointed out that although witnesses of absolute truth were often found hesitant and apparently uncertain in their statements of what they knew to be facts, on the other hand it was often observed that witnesses to even palpable falsehoods frequently told their lying stories with such semblance of truthfulness that the most wary and incredulous were liable to be deceived. Therefore, in cases where there was a direct conflict of evidence it was well that every jurymen should pay attentive heed to the general attitude of witnesses. In this connection it may be remarked that the late Mr. Justice Windeyer, of New South Wales, time and again expressed his approval of the system which obtains in the Irish Criminal Court, where the witnesses do not stand in a box, but occupy chairs placed on a table in the 'well' of the Court, where their every movement—nervously involuntary or designedly acted—may be observed and noted. The second matter Mr. Justice Cooper referred to had reference to the verdicts which under our laws a jury may return. His Honor seems to hold the opinion that when there is such a sharp conflict of evidence that the jury finds it impossible to decide where the truth lies, it would be well if they were enabled to return the Scottish verdict 'Not proven.'

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