

£30 to £40; aged do, £15 to £25; well-matched carriage pairs, £75 to £100; strong spring-van horses £25 to £30; milk-cart and butchers' order-cart horses, £18 to £25; light hacks, £10 to £15; extra good hacks and harness horses, £20 to £25; weedy and aged do, £5 to £8.

New Publications

In connection with the silver jubilee of St. Joseph's College, Hunter's Hill, Sydney, the 'old boys' have issued the first number of their annual under the title of 'Cerise and Blue.' The object of the annual is to promote the interests of the college, and foster a spirit of union and good-fellowship among the past students of the institution. We have no doubt but that the objects aimed at will be attained, as the initial effort of the 'old boys' is highly creditable, and gives promise of even better things in the future. The literary contributions of the ex-students of the college to the magazine are of a high order of merit, and may be read with interest and profit by many who are not directly interested in the welfare and progress of the school. To the 'old boys' themselves the most interesting article is, no doubt, that entitled 'Reminiscences of the early days,' by Brother Basil, now of Christchurch, whose connection with the college dates back to a time antecedent to its inauguration at Hunter's Hill. Brother Basil has much of interest to say about the early days of the college, the students, and the pioneer Brothers. Much information regarding the careers of ex-students is given under the heading, 'Personal items.' 'Cerise and Blue' is well printed and illustrated, and is highly creditable to the editors.

We have received from the publisher, Mr. James Hunter, Invercargill, a copy of 'The Colonial Horse Doctor,' by Mr. A. M. Paterson, M.R.C.V.S., which we think ought to be in the hands of every farmer, and every person who has to do with horses, in the Colony. The chief object of the book is to assist the farmer in maintaining his horses in a state of health and usefulness, and to give him practical guidance in cases of emergency. There have been many more pretentious works dealing with horses published, but the majority are of too technical a character and too diffuse to be of much use to the man who is not an expert. In the work under notice there is nothing which cannot be easily understood by the merest tyro. In the first place there is an index of symptoms, and then follow clear and definite instructions, devoid of technical phraseology and scientific terms, as to the necessary remedies. Other features worthy of notice are the instructions for taking the pulse and temperature of the horse, for measuring fluids, and the explanation of the qualities and effects of the various drugs recommended. The work should prove most useful to farmers, especially those in remote districts where the services of a veterinary surgeon are not easily procured, and when horses are taken suddenly and seriously ill, and prompt measures are necessary.

In nearly every centre in the Colony there are Railway Leagues whose object is to press upon the Government the necessity of constructing lines in their respective districts. No doubt some of the lines advocated are requisite to cope with the advance of settlement and for the opening up of unsettled country, whilst others have little to recommend them save political pressure and provincial jealousy. The Government should long ago have resolutely declined to spend money on branch railways until such time as the main trunk lines were finished. The North Island Main Trunk Railway League, of Wellington, have issued a pamphlet, a copy of which has been forwarded to us by Mr. J. Hott, giving a history of that undertaking since its inception in 1884. The League in their remarks, are pretty severe on successive Governments for their dilatoriness in this matter, and contend, taking the progress made since 1884, as a guide, that it will take nine years to link up Wellington and Auckland. Considering the strategic and economic nature of the work it is to be hoped that the League are unduly pessimistic, and that a work of such prime importance to the whole Colony, and more especially to the North Island, will be carried on with a little more vigor in the future than in the past, and that the end of 1909 will see the hopes of the League realised—Auckland and Wellington connected by railway.

Messrs. Duthie Brothers, Drapers, Dunedin, are now showing all the latest attractions for spring and summer wear, direct from the Home market. These include mantles, trimmed millinery, dress goods, fancy neckwear, etc....

The Romance of the Violet

There is one flower which all humanity loves—the violet. And yet this same dainty violet is the emblem of the Bonapartes. It was the favorite flower of the great Corsican who flooded the whole of Europe in blood, and crushed rebellious France, that he might rise to highest power, and make his adopted country the mightiest of nations.

The violet brought to Napoleon the first news of his coming greatness. It was the only flower that ever bloomed, at St. Helena, over his lonely grave, when the sun of Austerlitz had sunk for ever in the clouds of battle smoke which hung heavy over the fields of Waterloo.

This is the story of how the purple flower conveyed to the great Napoleon the first tidings of that promotion which opened to him a pathway to imperial honors.

It was a woman, beautiful, well-born, and patriotic, who suggested to Barras, the people's champion, the leader of the Convention, that the young officer, Napoleon Bonaparte, was the one man who might yet save France.

By Barras the Corsican was summoned and taken into the great hall of the Convention.

'So France has come to this,' whispered one grey-beard to another, 'that her life and faith lie in the hands of a youth of twenty-five (and, indeed, he looked younger), only five feet two inches in stature, with hair combed low on his brow like a woman. Alas!'

'I am perfectly aware of the difficulties in my path, but I am accustomed to succeed,' said the young Corsican, speaking in a loud, clear voice. 'But one thing I must insist upon—it is I am not to be embarrassed by orders; I must have supreme command.'

And bowing low to the people's representatives, the little pale man, but five feet two inches in height, with mild, brown eyes, left the hall, and the Convention, with closed doors, discussed his proposition.

Barras followed him for a last word, and while they spoke a little girl came up to them with a basket filled with fragrant violets. The little man's eyes softened.

'They always remind me somehow of home,' he murmured, apologetically, as he gave the seller a sou and took a tiny bunch.

A thought struck Barras. He bought a bouquet for the woman he loved. Then, turning to Napoleon, he said:—

'Go to the house of Madame —, and remain there until ten. If I succeed for you, as she says I shall, she will send you a violet.'

It was six o'clock when the young officer was admitted to the house, and as he paced the great empty salon he heard the clock strike seven, then half-past, then eight. At last the timepiece in the hall struck nine, and as its chimes ceased, a servant entered the room with a perfumed envelope. Napoleon opened it, and lo! it contained only a violet. A flower which changed the map of Europe!

And this is why those of every land and clime whose hearts are thrilled by the romance of war and the story of the youth who, unaided, reached the zenith of earthly power, love the flower he loved best—the purple violet of Corsica.

It is customary for many Japanese workmen to wear on their caps and backs inscriptions stating their business and the names of their employers.

'The Stockman' is a special damp resisting boot, with a heavy runner sole, and other points which tend to the comfort of the wearer. It is particularly suitable for farmers and others who are engaged in working in damp ground, as it keeps the feet perfectly dry....

The publication of an advertisement in a Catholic paper shows that the advertiser not only desires the patronage of Catholics, but pays them the compliment of seeking it through the medium of their own religious journal. So says an esteemed and wide-awake American contemporary. A word to the wise is sufficient.

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