

Burke of Greymouth. Nuptial Mass was celebrated by Rev. Father Goggan. The bride, who was given away by her father, looked charming in a costume of white tulle, with yoke and sleeves of tucked net, and white silk picture hat trimmed with chiffon and ostrich feathers. The bridesmaids were Miss Cecily Flannery (sister of the bride), and Miss Jean Burke (sister of the bridegroom). The bridegroom was attended by Messrs. P. S. Foley and T. P. Walshe. As the bride and bridegroom were leaving the church, Miss Scott, organist played Mendelssohn's Wedding March. The presents received, were numerous and useful. After the ceremony, the guests were entertained at the residence of the bride's parents, Clyde-road. The Rev. Father Goggan, who proposed the toast of the bride and bridegroom, referred to the exemplary character of the young couple, and their practical Catholicity, and wished them every happiness in the future. Mr. and Mrs. Burke left during the afternoon amidst the good wishes of their many friends, en route to Auckland and Rotorua, where the honeymoon is to be spent.

Interprovincial

Mr. Joseph Petrie, Mayor of Greymouth, died at Wellington on Sunday night.

Several Auckland orchards have returned £100 per acre for the past season, there being a phenomenal crop and high prices.

The North Island contains 28,459,520 acres, of which 14,62,758 acres are occupied. The South Island comprises 37,456,000 acres, and has 22,755,577 acres in occupation. Stewart Island has an area of 423,000 acres, 24,138 acres of which are occupied.

'I have only been in this country about a fortnight,' said Colonel Denny at Wellington the other day, to the marine engineers and their friends. 'Of course that's quite long enough to write a book about it—but not long enough to acquire any great knowledge of the country.'

'I wouldn't go on a farm with my wife, as a married couple, at all,' said a witness before the Conciliation Board at Christchurch. 'If a woman has to work, that is an indication of weakness on the part of her husband. If he can't keep her without her having to help by doing work, he had no right to take her.'

Details of the last Christmas railway traffic, covering the period from December 18 to January 2 inclusive, on all Government lines in the Dominion, show that 294,741 excursionists were carried, in addition to 274,731 ordinary passengers. These figures show an increase of 35,593 over the total for the corresponding period of the previous year.

It is understood, (says a Press Association telegram from Wellington) that the Government will shortly introduce a system of placing in the homes of the people money-boxes, in which pennies and other coins may be saved. When full, the boxes may be taken to the nearest savings bank, and the contents placed to the credit of the owners.

We have received from Mr. W. P. Linehan, Little Collins street, Melbourne, a patriotic Irish song, 'Do you remember?' by the Rev. M. Lane, which is set to music by a Presentation Sister. There is a patriotic ring about the words which will recommend it to lovers of Irish minstrelsy, whilst the music is tuneful and simple, and not beyond the capacity of most performers on the pianoforte.

The Wellington correspondent of the 'Press' telegraphs: A conference of representatives of the different fire and marine insurance companies doing business in the Colony has been sitting here during the past few days, and has now concluded its sittings. The proceedings, of course, were private. I understand, however, that the prediction recently made in certain quarters that fire rates were to be raised has not been fulfilled.

A candidate, who was nominated for the Kaiapoi School Committee, asked to be allowed to withdraw his nomination when later on his wife was proposed as a candidate, his reason for retiring being that one of them must stay at home to mind the children. The householders refused to hear of his withdrawal, and at the poll he was returned, while his wife was not, the voters thus showing that they thought that the husband should attend to the school affairs and the wife stay at home.

An interesting illustration of the unabated power of old-time superstition upon the mind of the present-day Maori is afforded in the death of a young Maori at Whakahi, in the Auckland province. He was a strapping stalwart young fellow, on a visit to Gisborne, having just finished a bush-felling contract. He unwittingly trespassed on a waihi tapu, or sacred ground, which means death to the trespasser. It is stated that in a fortnight, influenced by his own fatalism, and the unconscious hypnotism of his friends, he died, and a tangi was held over him.

The other evening an Oamaru resident, whose poultry prefer the shelter afforded by his macrocarpa trees for roosting purposes to that contained in their properly-constructed habitation, was (says the 'Mail') startled at a late hour by the distressful cries of one of the birds, and on looking into the trees with a lantern to ascertain the cause discovered on one of the topmost branches a weasel on the back of a fowl leisurely sucking the blood from a wound inflicted at the back of the head. The weasel was subsequently caught in a trap.

Questioned in Auckland as to the Government's intentions regarding immigration, the Hon. Jas. M'Gowan said: 'We are going to continue our present policy. Those who object to our policy evidently are not aware of the kind of people that are coming to New Zealand under our present scheme. It can hardly be called immigration; it might rather be called a scheme for enabling residents of the Dominion to bring out their friends from Home at a little cheaper rate than that which would otherwise have to be paid. These new arrivals are adding to the capital of the country, and the amounts which some of them bring with them are very considerable.'

Attention was drawn by Mr. Mackay at the meeting of the Auckland Hospital and Charitable Aid Board the other day, to the fact, that no less than six nurses are down with typhoid fever, while another had recently died with it. There must, he submitted, surely be something wrong, otherwise such a state of affairs would not exist, and he urged that they should take some steps with a view to getting at the root of the evil and remedying it. There was no doubt that there would be outbreaks of typhoid in Auckland until a proper drainage system was brought into operation, but he thought that if they could prevent the staff at the Hospital from being affected, it would be a step in the right direction.

The number of solicitors practising in the Dominion on March 20 was 840, as against 801 last year. Of this number, states the annual report of the Wellington District Law Society, 524 were resident in the North Island, and 316 in the South Island. To be more minute, they were distributed as follows: Auckland, 180; Canterbury, 119; Gisborne, 20; Hawke's Bay, 41; Marlborough, 10; Nelson, 15; Otago, 123; Southland, 29; Taranaki, 45; Wellington, 235; and Westland, 20. It is estimated that on the date in question there was one solicitor to every 1163 of the population, compared with one to every 1194 last year. In 1904-5, 51 notices for admission were received, and the profession increased by 49; in 1905-6 the figures were 61 and 46; in 1906-7, 68, and 45; whilst in 1907-8 they were 62 (including 9 by solicitors already practising for admission as barristers) and 39.

Mr. W. H. Field, M.P. for Otaki, has been putting in a good word for the tangi. Speaking at one of these ceremonies the other day, he said a tangi was a time-honored custom of the Maori people, and there was little or no harm about it if it was conducted in a proper way on strict lines of sobriety and with due regard to the health of the children, and was carried out without impoverishing either the hosts or the visitors. He also held that tangi gatherings were productive of good, inasmuch as they afforded opportunities of commune between various tribes, and had a cementing influence. At such gatherings the young generation had an opportunity of listening to their elders, and their beautiful language and interesting customs, chants, and traditions, which every lover of the race desired to see preserved, were thus afforded some hope of perpetuation.

A list of new books that can be procured from Messrs. Louis Gille and Co., Sydney and Melbourne, appears in this issue....

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