

NEW ZEALAND : GENERAL.

THE Cabinet has decided to introduce the Westinghouse brake on the Government railways, beginning with the North Island lines.

MISS A. FLYNN writes modestly disclaiming the credit given to her in our issue of last week as being the composer of one of four pieces played in public on a recent occasion at Hawera.

TWO scholarships, valued at £40, and tenable for two years, offered by St. Patrick's College to pupils of the Catholic schools in the Colony, have been won by Richard Madden (Timaru) and Duncan McMurich (Wellington).

IT is stated that the Hessian fly has caused so much mischief in some places near Timaru that portions of paddocks of wheat are being ploughed in, to be replaced with turnips, as the wheat would not be worth cutting.

THE Hon. J. G. Ward's constituents in the central portion of the Awarua electorate will entertain him at a banquet on the 31st inst. The Right Hon. R. J. Seddon, the Hon. John McKenzie, and the Hon. W. Hall-Jones will be among the speakers.

MR. B. J. DOLAN, formerly master of the Catholic school, but now of Mr. A. R. Bunney's office, Masterton, has received a preliminary notice from the Registrar of the New Zealand University that he has passed the first half of his law professional examination.

UPWARDS of 10,000 acres of the Ngapaeruru block are to be thrown open for selection in about a month's time (says the *Bush Advocate*). The land is of first-class quality, and the co-operative parties which have been at work there have made good roads through the block.

THE annual retreat of the Catholic clergy of the Archdiocese of Wellington is now being held (says the *N.Z. Times*) at St. Patrick's College. Practical sympathy has been manifested by the Fathers towards the erection of a cathedral in Wellington. At a meeting presided over by the Ven. Archdeacon Devoy, the sum of £2000 was subscribed. This large donation should materially lighten the burden and give zest to the further prosecution by Archbishop Redwood of collecting the necessary amount.

MR. JAMES MCGOWAN, Member for the Thames, has been offered and has accepted the portfolio of Mines. The reconstructed Cabinet now stands as follows:—Premier, Right Hon. R. J. Seddon; Minister of Lands, Hon. John McKenzie; Minister of Public Works, Hon. W. Hall-Jones; Postmaster-General and Minister of Railways, Hon. J. G. Ward; Minister of Mines, Hon. J. McGowan; Minister of Education, Hon. W. C. Walker (with a seat in the Upper House); Minister of Native Affairs, Hon. J. Carroll. The Cabinet now consists of two Englishmen, two Scotchmen, an Irishman, a Victorian, and a New Zealander.

THE barque *Ganymede* (says the *Southland Daily News*) took a cargo of produce to South Africa a short time back, and Mr. Waterston, her owner, has now completed arrangements for her return with a shipment of 10,000 bags of oats from the Bluff. Such shipments are of considerable importance to this district, for not only is the market improved thereby, but a sum of nearly £800 is expended on the crew each voyage. The same shipowner's barque *Alexa* left the Bluff about six weeks ago for South Africa with oats and preserved meat, and he is now negotiating for another to the same country with produce from Southland.

A WEDDING took place on Saturday afternoon in St. Mary of the Angels' Church, Wellington, when Mr. Alexander Marshall, third son of Mr. R. A. Marshall, was married to Miss Eveline McAnerin, eldest daughter of the late Mr. P. McAnerin. The bride, who was attired in a neat muslin dress trimmed with chiffon, was attended by Misses Ada Marshall and Ada McAnerin as bridesmaids, whilst Mr. W. Bush officiated as best man. The Ven. Archdeacon Devoy performed the marriage ceremony, after which the friends of the contracting parties were entertained by the bride's mother. The happy couple were the recipients of many useful presents.

IN a review of the *Dominican Star* the *North Otago Times* says:—'No New Zealand publication, whose object is to instruct, interest, and amuse, can lay claim to the literary excellence of the *Dominican Star* for 1900. From all directions the editor has had the assistance of the ablest litterateurs, who have unitedly made a most successful effort to place before the readers of the *Star* an excellent medium by which to while away the leaden-footed hours. With stories, poetry, correspondence, chats in the library, country trips, etc., the *Dominican Star* is made one of the brightest and most interesting of journals. Ellen E. Woodhill, of Fairfax, supplies an account of 'Miners' Curios in North Otago,' being a short article descriptive of a trip to the Livingstone goldfield. The *Dominican Star* is illustrated with photogravures, excellently printed.'

A VERY enjoyable entertainment was given on Thursday evening in St. Joseph's Schoolroom, Kerrytown (writes an occasional correspondent). There was a large attendance by whom the entertainment was thoroughly appreciated. The programme was opened with a violin solo by Mr. R. Hoare, who was ably accompanied by Miss Annie Hoare. Master Lynch danced a jig, and Master D. Brosnahan sang 'Off to Coolgardie.' The following also contributed.—Mr. C. Foley (recitation), Mr. T. Leonard (song), Mr. E. Counihan (Irish jig), Mr. E. Lavery (song), Mr. Bissel (cornet solo), Mr. R. Hoare (song). This was followed by a drama, 'Two heroes,' in which the principal characters were sustained by Messrs. M. Driscoll junr., F. J. Connell, D. Connell, J. D. Scannell, E. Counihan, Brosnahan, Lynch, and C. O'Keefe. The second part of the entertainment consisted of vocal items by the Rev. Father Galerne, who was enthusiastically encored, Mr. E. Lavery (Indian club drill), Mr. J. Lynch (Irish jig), Mr. D.

Brosnahan (song), Messrs. Counihan and Lynch (hornpipe), Mr. R. Hoare (song). The piano accompaniments were played by Miss Annie Hoare, while the music for the dances was supplied by Messrs. W. and J. Lynch and R. Hoare. After the entertainment the performers were treated to refreshments by the Sisters of St. Joseph. Nearly the whole of the items were encored, and the entertainment on the whole was the best given in Kerrytown for a long time.

INTERCOLONIAL.

MISS M. L. THIRIOUX, a pupil of the Sisters of Mercy, at St. Joseph's School, Perth, has been successful in passing the Senior Adelaide University Examination. It is worthy of note (says the *W.A. Record*), that this young lady is the only one of her sex who passed the Senior Division in this Colony.

THERE was a crowded congregation at St. Brigid's Church, Marrickville, on Sunday night—the closing day of the year 1899. A special sermon was eloquently preached by the Very Rev. Father Patrick, C.P., who in the course of his address alluded to the fact that he had been chosen by the Government (with the consent of his Superiors) to proceed to South Africa as Catholic chaplain to the Australian troops in the Transvaal. It was, he said, a very great honour that had been conferred, not only on himself, but on the Order to which he had the happiness to belong. He asked them all to pray for him that the Almighty might enable him to perform faithfully his duties to those who would be placed under his spiritual care.

THE Paris correspondent of the *Sydney Freeman's Journal*, writing under date December 1, says that the many friends of the gifted young Australian, Miss Amy Castles, will be pleased to learn that she has been heard in musical circles with the highest appreciation. In London she had several most tempting offers, and in Dublin, where she met some of the leading musical authorities both professional and amateur, all pronounced her voice superb. Madame Marchesi met her this week, and is quite taken with her new pupil, in fact she calls her a little treasure. The great teacher has a very warm corner in her heart for Australians, and seems to prefer them to all other nationalities. Melba and Miss Ada Crossley are taking very great interests in the career of Miss Castles. The great contralto and the budding soprano met both in Dublin and London, and nothing could exceed the kindness of Miss Ada Crossley to her young countrywoman, thus giving a fresh proof of those qualities of heart that win her thousands of friends wherever she goes.

MESSRS Moffatt and Co., wine and spirit merchants, and aerated water and cordial manufacturers, Esk street, Invercargill, have a business announcement in another portion of this issue.—*.*

OUR readers in Southland will notice that Mr A. E. Smith, surgeon dentist, Dee street, Invercargill, can be consulted without charge, and that when work is done the terms are moderate. The hours are from 9 to 5 for paying patients.—*.*

FOR Christmas and New Year presents we recommend our readers to go to the D.I.C. The wonderful variety and magnitude of the Company's stock is almost bewildering, from the highest class goods to the most moderate priced. Beautiful leather goods, brushware, basket and rush work, ornaments, jewellery, dolls, puzzles, outdoor and indoor games, all the latest Christmas and New Year cards, etc. A visit to the D.I.C. Fancy Goods Showrooms will well repay you. D.I.C., High and Rattray streets, Dunedin.—*.*

IT is well known that Loasby's 'Koolibah' cures neuralgia and headaches and relieves all kinds of pain. The proprietors have received an unsolicited testimonial from a Dunedin resident as to its efficacy, from which we take the following:—'A few weeks ago I suffered very severely from pains in my back. I tried hot baths and all known remedies for several days. A friend suggested my trying "Koolibah." A bottle was procured, and I was well rubbed with it that night. In the morning I felt very much better.' The writer then goes on to say that after repeated applications during the next twenty-fours the pain had entirely disappeared, and he is confident that 'Koolibah' cured him.—*.*

VISITORS to recent agricultural shows could not fail to be struck with the very fine display of implements shown by the Southland Implement and Engineering Company, of Invercargill and Christchurch. The Company, whilst thanking the public for the support accorded them in the past, hope by keeping their implements and machines up to date in every respect to merit a continuance of that support in the future. They have made it a feature of their business to use nothing but the very best materials to be got in the English and American markets, which, by the aid of good workmanship, enables them to turn out implements and machines of the highest grade. The Company are the holders of the only gold medal ever awarded in New Zealand for a combined grain, turnip, pea, bean, rape and manure drill in an actual field trial. The judges in their award considered that the 'Colonial' sowed the various kinds of seeds and manures with great regularity, and worked very smoothly all through the trial. Besides being makers of various other farm implements which are held in high repute by agriculturalists, they are also agents for the well-known Osborne Binder, which is said to be a marvel of mechanical skill. It would be to the interest of intending purchasers of farm implements to pay a visit to any of the Company's establishments or agencies and inspect the stock, and if this is not convenient to write for an illustrated catalogue, which give prices and other necessary information.—*.*