

the houses on the Modder River.' And did not 'Banjo' PATTERSON record in terms of misplaced admiration the marvellous skill acquired by some regiments in the work of plunder, and the sham 'receipts' given by colonial officers or men for goods which were seized under the pretence of a legal requisition?

War, even at its best, was properly described by the First NAPOLEON as 'a trade of barbarians.' Occasions arise which necessitate and justify the infliction of serious loss—even of the loss of life—to non-combatants. The destruction of farm-houses is occasionally a measure of military necessity or military justice. But no circumstances that have thus far arisen in South Africa, or that are likely to arise, could justify the wanton and wholesale destruction of farmsteads and their effects and the plunder of stock that are now being carried out on a vast scale over great areas of the Transvaal and the Orange River Colony. We can find no such record of wholesale burning and cattle-lifting in the story of any war between civilised States in the present century. We are glad to notice that some, at least, of our Colonial troops deprecate this 'warfare against women and children'—as one of them terms it in a recent letter. It is no wonder that to the American mind the fire-stick campaign is regarded as in great part an act of vengeance by officers who had not the skill to deal with the enemy with rifle or Maxim. Curiously enough, this wholesale burning and looting of farm-houses were among the chief means by which the population of Wexford, Wicklow, Carlow, and Kildare were goaded into insurrection by the infamous Orange yeomanry in 1798. After the ill-fated rising had been suppressed in blood and flame, the same means were adopted by the rabid ascendancy party in their endeavor to re-kindle the fires of rebellion. It is quite in the nature of things that such measures create or aggravate racial hate. A cable-message published a few days ago gives the following as one of the results of this unfortunate capitalistic war: 'The Cape papers declare that the political and the racial condition of the Colony was never worse since the war began. The loyalists are clamoring for the application of martial law throughout the whole Colony.' History is merely repeating itself. The hot contagion of racial hate has gone from the fighting man to the 'loyalist' civilian in South Africa, as it did in Ireland over a century ago. This is about the worst and most enduring form of racial bitterness. It acts and re-acts even when the soldier has gone away. And it is the saddest and most dangerous legacy left by a miserable war which ought never to have begun.

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.

In consequence of the Christmas holidays it will be necessary for us to go to press on Monday, December 21, instead of December 26, and therefore correspondents' letters should reach this office on the previous Saturday, or at latest on Monday morning. The same course will have to be adopted with regard to the issue of the following week, and our correspondents will do well to make their arrangements to suit these alterations.

DIOCESE OF DUNEDIN.

The Rev. Father O'Reilly, who is on his way to the diocese of Dunedin, left London on November 12, and is expected to arrive in New Zealand early in January.

A contract has been let to Mr. John Cameron, Hampden, for the erection of a Catholic church at Middlemarch. The material is on the ground and a start with the work will be made in a very short time.

The popular Irish play, 'The Shaughraun,' was produced at the Princess Theatre last night on behalf of the funds of the St. Vincent de Paul Orphanage, South Dunedin. There was a large and appreciative audience. A full report will appear in our next issue.

An entertainment, entitled 'A night in fairyland,' will be given by the pupils of the Dominican Nuns in the Agricultural Hall on Friday evening, December 14. A fine programme, consisting of items of vocal and instrumental music and recitations, has been prepared, and it may be confidently predicted that an excellent evening's entertainment will be the result. Nothing else can be expected considering the high reputation which the Dominican Nuns have got as teachers of music and the well known ability of the pupils who are to perform on the occasion.

The following is the result of the practical examination in music held at St. Dominick's Priory by the representative of the Associated Boards of the Royal Academy of Music and the Royal College of Music, London:—Higher grade (pianoforte).—W. Baker, 85; M. Shain, 85; M. Jackman, 84; M. Carey, 84; E. Wood, 81;

J. Griffin, 79; E. Kirkcaldy, 78; G. O'Connell, 74. Local Centre.—Senior (singing), M. Ewing, 104. Trinity College musical examinations.—Interim results.—Senior honors (pianoforte), M. Paton, E. Ward. Senior pass, K. Hannon. Intermediate honors, N. Joyce. Junior pass.—F. Clarke, C. McLeod. Preparatory grade.—Pass—M. Morrison. All the pupils presented at both examinations were successful.

SOUTHLAND NEWS NOTES.

(From our own correspondent.)

The Rev. Father Coffey of Dunedin visited Gore last week, and on Sunday last officiated at St. Patrick's Church.

I am informed that Dr. De Latour, the well known Tapanui medico, has disposed of his practice and contemplates leaving the district at no distant date.

Trooper James Fahey, of the first contingent, who has been invalided home, and who met with a great reception on arrival, has accepted a position on the staff of the Massey-Harris company, Southland branch.

The Hon. J. G. Ward, Postmaster-General, informs me that he hopes to open the new post and telegraph offices at Gore in June next, before the opening of the Parliamentary session.

Fishing without a license has evidently become of common occurrence despite the heavy fines inflicted on conviction. During the past week several offenders were before the court in various parts of Southland, but were mulcted only in nominal sums.

A new courthouse is to be erected at Gore in the course of a few months. The site to be built upon is the Government reserve at the corner of Main and Medway streets and is the place originally intended for all the public buildings, railway premises, of course, excepted.

The Mataura Valley section of the Southland Volunteers will be represented at the Commonwealth celebrations by Trooper Con. Maloney of Gore. It speaks volumes for 'Con's' popularity that he should be selected from the large number of eligible men for such an auspicious occasion.

The first prize for an essay on 'The effects of the colonies' action in the South African war,' which was given in connection with the exhibition in Christchurch, has come to Southland, the winner being Mr. J. C. Thomson, editor of the *Western Star*, Riverton.

A trial of the Southland Implement Company's new disc ridger was given on Friday on Mrs. M. J. Cook's property at Dunalister, near Wyndham. Great interest was taken therein by agriculturists who were present from all parts of Southland. The work done was pronounced to be of first class quality despite many drawbacks.

GREYMOUTH.

(From an occasional correspondent.)

As was anticipated, the practical examination held at the local convent by the representative of the Associated Boards of the Royal Academy of Music and the Royal College of Music, London, was highly successful. The pupils were highly commended, special mention being made of Miss McDonnell, a clever young lady of only 15 years of age. The good nuns also scored another success. Mr. Fetch, the Education Board Inspector, having recently examined the convent schools, 100 per cent. was gained by the pupils. Year after year the good Sisters prove their worth by their pupils obtaining these splendid results after most searching examinations. Knowing this, it is to be hoped that all will assist the nuns in their praiseworthy efforts to pay for the school now nearly completed. This splendid brick school will cost over £1000. All the nuns ask in return for their valuable labors is a suitable building in which their work can be carried on with efficiency and with some degree of comfort to themselves and their pupils.

The Marist Brothers have also been very successful. Mr. Fetch, the inspector, reporting very highly on their school. Since Brother Canice arrived here three years ago this is looked forward to as a matter of course. Brother Canice and his able assistants, Brothers Aloysius and Cornelius, deserve the thanks of the congregation for the high state of efficiency to which they have brought the school.

With a laudable desire to beautify God's house, Fathers Malone and Kimbell have effected many improvements, which add much to the beauty of our fine church. Incandescent lights have been fitted up throughout the church, special reflectors being placed on the side columns at the altar. These are very effective, the altar when decorated and lighted up presenting a very pretty appearance.

Messrs. Samson and Co. have been favored with instructions from Mr. Hugh Crossan to sell by auction, on the premises, main road from Lawrence to Roxburgh, Clifton Farm and stock. The farm consists of 280 acres freehold, is in good heart, half sown down in English grass, one quarter in oats and the balance in native grass. The stock includes sheep, cattle, and farm horses. The sale takes place on December 20.—*

The Dunlop Tyre Co. announces a novel competition that will interest all cyclists. The company has decided to place a second grade Dunlop tyre on the market, to meet the existing demand for a good wearing tyre at a low figure. They invite cyclists and others interested to send in what they consider the most appropriate name for the new tyre, and offer a prize of £20 (twenty pounds) to the sender of the best name. The competition is open to all, and will close on December 31. Letters to be addressed to 'A,' care of the Dunlop Pneumatic Tyre Co. of Australasia, Limited, 128 Lichfield street, Christchurch, Melbourne, Sydney, Adelaide, Perth, Brisbane.—*