

ready sale. Baconers brought 32s to 48s, equal to 3½d; porkers, 20s to 28s, equal to 4d; stores, 12s 6d to 20s; suckers and weaners, to 10s.

WOOL, SKINS, TALLOW, ETC.

London, December 7.—Bradford wool is advancing. Common sixties, 18d; supers, 19d.

Napier, December 5.—The first wool sale of the season took place to-day. Only fair catalogues were submitted, growers preferring to ship direct to London. Competition was fairly brisk. Prices for fellmongery lots were well maintained. In comparison with last season's prices Lincoln coarse and fine crossbred show a depreciation of from 30 to 40 per cent; coarse and fine dingy wool a drop of about 25 per cent.

Wellington, December 7.—At to-day's wool sales 1209 bales were offered, of which 769 were sold. As anticipated, there was a marked fall in prices as compared with last December. There was no material difference between to-day's prices and recent London quotations. The fall was in some instances as much as 5d on half-breds, merinos, and super crossbreds, and 2d to 3d on medium and coarse wools. The following prices ruled: Halfbred, 6d to 6½d; merino, 5½d to 6d; super crossbred, 6d to 6½d; medium do and Romneys, 5d to 5½d; coarse do and Lincoln, 4½d to 5½d; log-stained and inferior, 3d to 4d; pieces and bellies, 3d to 4d; locks, 1d to 2d.

Messrs. Stronach Bros. and Morris report as follows:—

RABBITSKINS—No sales this week. During the summer months sales will only be held fortnightly.

SHEEPSKINS—In good demand at late quotations.

HIDES—Market firm. Prime heavy ox, 4d to 4½d; medium, 3½d to 3¾d; cow hides, 3d to 3½d per lb.

TALLOW—Market unchanged. Best rendered mutton, 16s to 17s 6d; medium, 14s to 15s 6d; rough fat, 12s to 13s per cwt.

PUNCTUATION.

THE art of punctuation was developed gradually from very ancient times. Greek scribes before the Christian era used a wedge-shaped sign to mark a new paragraph. Later a pause in the sense was indicated by a blank space, a point, and sometimes by a slight oblique stroke or an apostrophe. In Latin manuscripts the full point appears first, and is variously placed on a level with the top, middle, or bottom of the letters. The invention of the modern system of punctuation has been attributed to Aristophanes, a grammarian of Alexandria. Jerome used signs (commata and cola) in his translation of the Scriptures; while in early English and Irish manuscripts the comma is used, and the final stop is marked by one and sometimes two or more full points. With the advent of printing, punctuation was greatly improved and systematically adopted about the close of the fifteenth century, mainly owing to the Venetian printer Manutius. It is said that all the stops we now use appear in the 'Arcadia' (1587) of Sir Philip Sydney.

DRAMATIC ENTERTAINMENT AT ST. PATRICK'S COLLEGE.

(From an occasional correspondent.)

ON Tuesday, evening December 4, at St. Patrick's College, a drama entitled 'The Two Orphans,' was played by a number of the students before a large and appreciative audience, which included his Grace Archbishop Redwood and several of the clergy. A sketch of the plot appeared in a recent issue of the TABLET. The play throughout was followed with the keenest interest by the audience, and many of the scenes were very touching. Hugh O'Neill made a great success of the character of the villain, Alberghini, displaying considerable dramatic talent. He was especially good in the temptation scene where he endeavors to pervert the children, and later on when he ends his career of crime by taking poison. On both those occasions his rare dramatic ability was shown to considerable advantage. D. Twobill gave a finished presentation of Jago, the Moor, entering into the spirit of the part with great zest. As the two orphans, Eugene McArdle and Lynch Dignan scored a great success and their acting showed the result of careful training. Their parts were well sustained throughout, and too much praise cannot be given them. Thomas Segrief, as the Christian soldier Arnalda, performed his part in a very creditable manner. Thomas McCarthy as chief of the fishermen and Leo Whittaker as Geronimo displayed a thorough conception of their parts. The minor parts were all well filled, and taken all round the piece did great credit to those concerned in its production. The scenery was very appropriate and the dresses were very fine, the whole reflecting great credit on the Rev. Father Herbert, whose cultured and experienced taste was responsible for them. To him also too much praise cannot be given for the manner in which he had educated the students for their different parts. His energetic and skilful training was well repaid by the successful issue of the play. Suitable music was supplied by the College orchestra under the able direction of Mr. Thomas Trowell.

The Very Rev. Rector, Father Bower, S.M., B.A., must be congratulated on the fact that under his rule the students are capable of staging and playing a drama in a manner that professionals might be proud of. To him and the Rev. Father Herbert all owe a great deal of thanks for their kindly interest and the care which they gave to the production of the play.

Wanted, about 50 clerks to help read testimonials re Tassicura. Sole manufacturer, S. J. Evans, 2s 6d.—*.*

INTERCOLONIAL.

At the swearing-in of the Governor-General of Australia national airs will be rendered by a choir of 10,000 school children, with an adult chorus of 1000, and massed bands.

A fire broke out in the Greta colliery last week, with the result that five men, named Buck, Fuller, Hislop, John Crowell, and Fred Crowell, were entombed. The rescuers were driven back by the heat and smoke. All hope of saving them had to be abandoned.

The oldest priest in the archdiocese of Sydney is the Right Rev. Monsignor Rigney, of Prospect, whose term of service has extended over more than 60 years. Next in seniority is Archpriest Sheehy, of Ryde, who was ordained in Sydney 50 years ago.

The Victorian old-age pension scheme, as drafted by Sir G. Turner, provides for an appropriation of £50,000 from the consolidated revenue for the latter half of the present financial year. This gives 7s weekly to persons over 65 and to permanently disabled applicants, who must have resided 20 years in the colony.

The Right Rev. Dr. Reville, Coadjutor Bishop of Sandhurst, who had been in Sir T. N. Fitzgerald's private hospital, Melbourne, for the purpose of undergoing a surgical operation, has returned to Bendigo. His Lordship looked very weak and ill after the operation.

At the Ballarat National Show held recently the Convent of Mercy, Ballarat East, almost exhausted the prizes in the needlework division, winning 14 firsts, 12 seconds, and 6 thirds. From the same convent 23 pupils passed the examination of the Royal College of music.

The father of the Australian Bar is Mr. Townsend McDermott, of Ballarat (Victoria), who was 'called' in Dublin in November 1840, and in Victoria in '54. Mr. McDermott was in his day an able criminal advocate, and gave much attention to mining cases. A Bar committee has been formed to present him with a memento of his diamond jubilee.

The new St. Vincent's Hospital, Melbourne, is to be commenced next year. The Convent and St. Patrick's High School will be removed to make room for it, and they will be re-erected on a larger scale on the Chalmers' Church site, originally intended for the hospital. The Congregational Church, at the corner of Victoria Parade and Fitzroy street, has been recently purchased and will be used as a hospital at an early date.

There will be special ceremonies at St. Mary's Cathedral, Sydney, on January 1. Midnight Mass will be celebrated and the music and ceremonies will be on a scale equal to those connected with the Dedication festival. The Catholic children will not take part in the procession in connection with the inauguration celebrations of the Australian Commonwealth, but will muster at the swearing-in ceremony of Lord Hopetoun, the Governor-General, in the Centennial Park, and will sing an anthem.

The death took place recently at Ballarat of Mr. W. E. Ballhausen, whose benefactions to charitable and other movements in the town and district were on a very generous scale. The funeral cortege was, notwithstanding heavy rain, over half a mile in length, and included representatives of all bodies and classes, including the city and town councils. Amongst the legacies left by Mr. Ballhausen, who was a non-Catholic, were the following:—Sisters of Nazareth House, Ballarat, £250; Sisters of Mercy, Ballarat East, £100; Catholic Bishop of Ballarat, £100.

At a large and representative meeting of the Catholics of Sale, presided over by the Rev. Father Synnott, it was resolved to present his Lordship the Most Rev. Dr. Corbett with an address and testimonial on his return to his diocese from his first decennial visit to the Holy Father. The advice of the administrator of the diocese (the Very Rev. Father Colman, V.G.) having been obtained, it was decided that the testimonial to his Lordship should take the form of presenting to the Bishop his Cathedral free from debt. A sum of nearly £100 was subscribed at the meeting, and the project is being warmly taken up in all the other districts of the diocese.

The McCormick Harvesting Machine Company built and sold 213,629 machines in the season of 1899. This is the greatest sale of harvesting machines ever made by one company.—*.*

The latest idea of the Dunlop Company in advertising for a name for their second quality tyre—for which they offer a £20 (twenty pounds) reward—has caught on. The Christchurch house is receiving tons of suggested names and would advise that the competition is only open to the 31st inst.—*.*

Particulars of excursion fares on the Government Railways in connection with the Canterbury Jubilee Celebrations and the Christmas and New Year holidays will be found in our advertising columns. Excursion tickets from Clinton and all stations north thereof to Christchurch will be issued on December 14 and 15, and from any station to any station from December 18 to January 2. These tickets will be available for return up to and including February 19.—*.*

Visitors to Dunedin who intend to invest in footgear should not fail to visit Messrs. Loft and Company's establishment in the Royal Arcade, where they will find a stock of boots and shoes unsurpassed in New Zealand. The firm keep only the best of goods, and these they sell at moderate prices. Not only do they keep footgear of all descriptions but they also keep their customers, for as these are well served and get good value for their money they return again to the establishment. It will interest our readers to know that Messrs. Loft and Company are at present giving their customers a very fine picture of Lord Roberts which has been specially imported by them.—*.*

Ashburton Residents

and the public generally are reminded that T. H. UNDRILL & CO., Tancored Street, Furnishing Warehousemen and UNDERTAKERS, deserve your patronage.