

'I SEE the bankrupt kept a racehorse,' said Judge Kettle in the Bankruptcy Court at Masterton the other morning. 'But he made no losses on it,' remarked counsel. 'Oh, no,' said his Honor, 'men never lose money on racehorses or the totalisator!' The Judge went on to say that honest men always tried to pay their debts, whether they were discharged from bankruptcy or not. It was always pleasant for them to be able to walk the street, look every man in the face, and, in the words of the song, say, 'I owe not any man.'

THE season when the thrifty husbandman lays his giant turnip and mammoth pumpkin at the feet of the worthy editor of the county newspaper is evidently at hand. A local grower of rhubarb has informed the *Tuapeka Times* that he can put into the shade that phenomenal leaf said to have been raised at Dannevirke. The Tuapeka grower had a leaf 5ft across, while the stalk was 23in in length, and 9in in circumference. This, he said, was not exceptional as the bulk of his rhubarb of this variety would average about the same.

AMONG the successful candidates at the recent Civil Service examinations were two Reefton boys, Masters Walter King and Robert Crowley. The latter also passed the Matriculation examination. King was formerly a pupil of the State school and Crowley of the Catholic school. Both had, however, during the past year been taught by the Sisters of Mercy, who, together with the successful candidates (says the *Inangahua Herald*), are to be congratulated upon the success that has attended their efforts.

SPEAKING at Hawera the other day the Premier said that combines and monopolies were against the best interests of the Commonwealth. Someone had to tackle the question, and he did not know anyone better able to do it than himself. When the time came it would be tackled. These things were growing, and the result might be even civil war. His own opinion was that Parliament was the proper body to deal with these matters, and make such monopolies next to impossible. Even drawing attention to what was going on, said Mr. Seddon in conclusion, might have a beneficial effect.

It is with sincere regret (says the *Orepuki Advocate*) that we have to chronicle the closing-down of the Orepuki Shale Works. All the men employed at the works, excepting about 30, were discharged on Saturday last. Some of those whose services are retained for the present will be engaged in hewing coal for the purpose of keeping the furnaces going. The remainder will be employed refining the wax and oils. The company has about 100,000 gallons of oil to refine and 95 tons of wax. These will be placed on the market directly the refining process is completed. We are informed that the works are indefinitely closed.

THE members of the Victorian Labor Commission, on being interviewed at Christchurch by a representative of the *Press*, expressed themselves as delighted with what they had so far seen of New Zealand. It was a magnificent country, full of all sorts of possibilities, said the chairman. The Hon. R. Reid was enthusiastic over the Lakes district, and has an idea that the lakes could be utilised for tramways and street lighting. At the Roslyn Woollen Mills the Commissioners were delighted at the excellence and finish of the manufactures. 'What we admired as a Commission,' Mr. Reid said in conclusion, 'was the complexion of health and vigor upon the faces of the girls and boys, and we realise that the generations to come in this country will be a race of vigorous, strong people, that will always find a splendid opening on the Continent of Australia.'

THE teachers' Court of Appeal sat at Wanganni on Thursday' Friday, and Saturday last, hearing the appeal of R. P. Clarkson, late head teacher of the Normanby School, against the action of the Wanganni Education Board in dismissing him. The Board's contention was that the inspector's reports on the Normanby School examination were not favorable. Clarkson held that he had not been guilty of neglect, and that faults which might have been found in his work had been due to circumstances over which he had no control. In extenuation of this Clarkson stated that the children attending the school were rendered unfit for active mental work by the fact that they had to milk a number of cows before coming to school, and that the dairying industry was inimical to good results being obtained by any teacher. The Court upheld the appeal and ordered the reinstatement of Clarkson.

ON Thursday night Mr. and Mrs. Seddon were presented on behalf of the old age pensioners of Auckland with addresses. Mrs. Seddon was also presented with a diamond ring. The Hon. A. J. Cadman introduced the deputation, and as an old colleague testified to the arduous toil in the interest of old age pensioners, notably in sticking to the committee table of the House of Representatives for seven days and seven nights, and wearing down opposition to the Bill. Mr. Seddon, in replying, said the thanks of the community in regard to old age pensions legislation were due not to him alone, but to all who had supported the Bill. With reference to the demand for a universal pension, he said that anyone who advocated that course was an enemy to old age pensions, for such extension would make the scheme too burdensome, and it would break down.

THE unseasonable weather that has prevailed of late is having a serious effect on harvesting operations in Otago and Canterbury. The *Clutha Leader* states that the continued damp weather has had a very detrimental effect on the grain crops throughout the district, the bulk of which is still in the stock. In many instances the grain is sprouting. On Inchelutha there is still some cutting to be done, and very little is in the stack. In the Upper Hillend district there is some to cut, while there is a great area still in the stock, leading-in being just barely commenced. In the Te Houka, Warepa, Waitepeka, and neighboring districts the work is more advanced, and in a few cases threshing has commenced. A Christ-

church paper says that reports locally received from the south state, that at least one-half of the wheat crop between Orari and Oamaru will, on account of the damage done by the recent floods and the wet weather, be quite unfit for milling.

SPEAKING at the opening of the Hukanni-Hamua bridge, near Pahiatua, last week, the Right Hon. the Premier said the customs revenue for the year ended March 31 was £2,201,218, being £91,218 in excess of the estimate. This was an increase over last year of £20,419. Where now, he asked, were those who said that last year's estimates of the revenue would not be realised? The bear duty last year showed an increase of £4452 on the previous year. He looked forward to having another prosperous year, as the wool market seemed to be improving. Last year there was an abnormal expenditure from the consolidated fund of nearly £200,000. This would not be required this year, consequently there would be a surplus in that fund that would enable remissions of taxation to be made. Amongst remissions would be some that would enable settlers and producers to have their goods sent for shipment at the lowest possible rate. Ministers were pledged to give back from the railway rates all over 3 per cent., and during the current year he thought there would be £70,000 or £80,000 they would thus be able to give back. Remissions of customs duties would also be made, in the shape of goods manufactured in the Mother Country. Money would be found to give an increased vote in aid of the Australasian squadron. It is evident the Government must carry out a moderate but progressive borrowing policy. There would be a surplus in the consolidated fund of £200,000 to transfer to the public works account, making, with the loan money not yet raised, and the credit balance, a sum of £850,000 available for the current year.

WEDDING BELLS.

DOOLAN—COWAN.

ON Easter Monday (writes an occasional correspondent) a pretty wedding took place in the Catholic Church, Waitahuna, the contracting parties being Mr Patrick Doolan, of Dunedin, and Miss Bridget Cowan, second daughter of Mr John Cowan, one of the most respected settlers in the Waitahuna district. The church was quite filled with the friends of the bride, whose amiability has made her a general favorite. The ceremony was performed by the Very Rev. Mgr. O'Leary. The bride, who was given away by her father, was attended by her sister, Miss Julia Cowan, as bridesmaid. Mr E. Casey, of Dunedin, was best man. The bride wore a costume of white embroidered silk, the bodice being trimmed with chiffon, and the customary wreath and veil. After the ceremony the wedding party drove to the residence of the bride's parents, where the breakfast was laid. Several toasts were proposed and duly responded to. The afternoon was devoted to a pleasant drive to Mount Stuart. In the evening a large number of guests were entertained by Mr and Mrs Cowan. Among the various items which contributed to the enjoyment of the guests were songs in Gaelic by the host and hostess, who are fluent speakers of that language. Needless to say that the items were highly appreciated, especially by the younger people, to whom they were a pleasing novelty. On Tuesday Mr and Mrs Doolan took their departure for the Lakes, where the honeymoon is to be spent. Their future home is to be Dunedin, where they will carry with them the best wishes of a large circle of friends.

LEVY—JOHNSTON.

ON Easter Monday (writes our Nelson correspondent) a quiet wedding took place at the residence of Mrs. Warren, Weka street, when Mr. M. Levy, second son of Mr. Peter Levy (and a member of a very old Catholic family of this town), was united in the bonds of Matrimony to Miss Maud Johnston, second daughter of Captain J. Johnston, and adopted daughter of Mrs. H. Warren. The Rev. Father Clancy performed the ceremony. The happy couple received a great many valuable and useful presents from a large circle of friends. Mr. and Mrs. Levy left for Wellington the same night where they will spend their honeymoon.

Obituary.

MR PATRICK G. MOORE, BRUNNERTON.

AN old and respected resident, Mr P. G. Moore, died at his residence, the Empire Hotel, Wallsend, on March 27. Deceased, who had been ailing a long time (writes a correspondent), passed away surrounded by his family and friends, and fortified by the rites of the Church. His funeral, one of the largest ever seen in the district, took place on Easter Saturday, the remains being interred in Greymouth. The Rev. E. E. Kimbell officiated in St. Joseph's Church and at the graveside. The deceased was a native of Tralee, County Kerry, Ireland, and 68 years of age. He was a fervent Catholic, genuine Irishman, and a staunch supporter of the *TABLET*. He leaves a widow and a family of grown-up sons and daughters to mourn the loss of a good husband and kind father.—*R.I.P.*

MRS. MARGARET HIGGINS, DUNEDIN.

A highly-respected resident of the Dunedin district in the person of Mrs. Margaret Higgins, relict of the late Mr. Daniel Higgins, of Saddle Hill, passed away at her residence, Castle street, Dunedin, on April 4. The deceased lady, who had reached the venerable age of 84 years, died fortified by the rites of the Catholic Church of which she was a fervent member.—*R.I.P.*