

T. J. Hussey; secretary, Mr D. S. Columb; treasurer, Mr J. S. Columb; committee—Messrs A. J. Sullivan, E. Power, J. Hally, J. McKenna, and J. Brown; auditor, Mr T. Deehan.

In recognition of his invaluable services as secretary of the Bazaar Committee, Mr T. J. Hussey was elected an honorary life member of the club.

A hearty vote of thanks to the retiring officers for their services during the past year, and to his Lordship the Bishop for presiding, brought the proceedings to a close.

NEW ZEALAND: GENERAL.

ORDERS for 40 000 fowls have reached the Colony from South Africa.

THE Cabinet has approved of the proposal for the establishment of a model village for Maori lads and young women who have passed through the Native schools and in some cases through Native high schools. The village will probably be founded at Pamoana, on the Wanganui River, if a grant of land there can be secured.

NEGOTIATIONS have been carried on lately by the Agent-General with steamship builders in the old country with a view to obtaining a suitable vessel for Lake Wakatipu. The Cabinet has now decided to authorise the Agent-General to close for a steamer at an estimated cost of £23,000. She will run in connection with the railway service.

SATISFACTORY progress is being made with the erection of the machinery of the Bruce Woollen Mills. The several machines for the various departments are all approaching completion. The period at which the mill will start is variously estimated (says the *Herald*) at from five to six weeks from date, but it will hardly be in a position to do anything in the way of manufacturing before at least two months.

INSPECTOR PENDER has been presented with a purse of sovereigns by the Wellington branch of the Law Society, on his retirement from the force after 56 years' military and police service. The presentation was made by Mr. Martin, president of the society, and the recipient was congratulated on the admirable manner in which he had discharged the duties of his position in the Empire City.

There was a good deal of chaff and laughter at the Timaru Hospital Board meeting the other day (says the *Oamaru Mail*) over two items in the steward's accounts—quarter-dozen razors and one-twelfth gross of ping-pong balls. The resident surgeon said that the razors are used in the operating room, but not ping-pong balls; he knew nothing about them. Inquiry was made, and the information obtained that the ping-pong balls were obtained for the recreation of the nurses.

A LITIGANT at the Supreme Court, Christ church, asked that his case should be adjourned because his lawyer was unable to attend, and he was afraid that it would take him some time to 'educate' another lawyer. As a smile went round the representatives of the legal profession present, his Honor assured the anxious litigant that lawyers could assimilate information much more readily than could be done by laymen. There was no need for him to 'educate' lawyers, as their minds were trained to grasp legal points.

WHEN it was announced that the Government had given notice to terminate the running agreement with the Manawatu Company the Wellington shareholders in the company cabled to Mr. Seddon at Sydney stating what had been done, and inquiring if he approved of it. The Premier's reply is as follows:—'No cause for anxiety. Notice necessary in accordance with the settled policy of the Government, announced to the House last session. Best assured present amicable relationship with the company will be maintained.'

THE *North Otago Times* states: 'We have seen oat sheaves from Ngapara and Awamoa, where it was reported that much damage had been done by the rain. These sheaves had stood out in all the rain, and, while we do not say that they have suffered no injury, we maintain that it is trifling compared with the reports that have been in circulation. The oats will be discolored, it is true, and those on the outside of the sheaves have sprouted to some extent, but the inside grain has suffered no material noticeable damage, if we except the discoloration. If all the grain that has been subject to the weather is properly handled, the opinion of competent men is that the loss will be nothing like what was expected.'

It is said that the Government are about to make some retrenchments in the Civil Service, and there was somewhat of a flutter in the Government Buildings on Monday (says the Wellington correspondent of the *Otago Daily Times*) caused by the issue of a circular stating that all civil servants who have reached the age of 65 and are in receipt of £200 a year or more are to be retired forthwith, and that the date of the retirement of those officials who are 65 or over and whose salaries are under £200 per annum will be left to the discretion of Ministers. At the same time, the Government is going in pretty extensively for the employment of young girls in the service. To-day in one department five girls were taken on.

ON Saturday afternoon the members of the literary and commercial staffs of the *Otago Daily Times* and *Witness* made a presentation to Mr H. L. Griffen, who, a short time ago, resigned his position on the *Times* reporting staff to conduct the *Tairāi Advocate*, recently acquired by him. Mr G. Fenwick, managing director of the company, proposed Mr Griffen's health in a felicitous speech.

He expressed the regret those present felt at losing Mr Griffen, after nearly 11 years' work on the reporting staff, but hoped that, like many others who had left the service of the *Times* in the past, the step he had taken would be to his advantage. Mr Fenwick then presented Mr Griffen with a travelling bag on behalf of the *Times* and *Witness* staffs, and wished him every success in his new sphere of work. Mr Griffen, in reply, thanked Mr Fenwick for his kindly remarks, and all present for the good feeling they had displayed towards him. He heartily appreciated his comrades' kind testimonial to him, and would always retain kindly recollections of the *home* of the staff in general.

THE Drayton Grange, with part of the Tenth New Zealand Contingent and Mr Seddon on board, arrived in Sydney on Saturday afternoon. The Drayton Grange proceeded up the harbor amid a serenade of whistles from the harbor steamers. Mr. O'Sullivan, Minister of Works, boarded the vessel to welcome Mr. Seddon. A brilliant gathering attended a banquet at the Hotel Australia in the evening, under the auspices of the Birt Company and Houlders Company, to welcome Mr. Seddon. Amongst those present were Messrs. Barton (Federal Premier), See (State Premier), Wire, O'Sullivan, Reid, Sir W. Lyne, and Mr. James Mills. Mr. Cox (chairman) and Messrs. Barton, See, Wise, and Sir W. Lyne eulogised the guest. Mrs. Seddon was presented with a bouquet on behalf of the shipping companies who tendered the banquet. It may be mentioned that but for the companies forestalling them the Government of New South Wales had intended to give a reception to Mr. Seddon. Mr. Wise characterised Mr. Seddon as a great Englishman. He not only represented the Imperial interests, but he represented the democracy. He would figure in English history as one who had helped to make the Empire a living reality.

A SERIOUS accident, happily unattended by any fatal results, occurred on the Otago Central railway line, close to Hindon, on Monday night, when the afternoon goods train outward collided with the Ida Valley train. Fortunately both trains were going at a slow rate at the time, otherwise the results would have been much more serious. As it was both engines were derailed and badly smashed, four waggons and one carriage badly damaged, and five waggons derailed. Fireman Ewart of the up-train was thrown out, rolling down the embankment. His hip was dislocated. Martin, the driver of the same train, was severely shaken. The passengers on this train being protected by a number of waggons did not experience more than a rough shaking. The passengers on the down-train fared much worse and those injured were Sergeant-major Cardale, of the local Defence Office; Mrs J. R. id, of Wedderburn; and Mr Taylor, of Middlemarch. The accident occurred on an inward curve, and when the engine of the down-train left the rails it struck the embankment. It must be regarded as little short of providential that it occurred where it did, instead of a little higher up, where the whole train must have gone into the river, and an appalling catastrophe resulted. As it was, two trucks overhung the river, and the strength of the couplings prevented them from going down the embankment.

Dominican Convent, Invercargill.

THE pupils of the Dominican Convent, Invercargill (says the *Southland Times*, April 19), have gained an enviable reputation for the novelty and excellence of their entertainments, and the invitation to spend an evening in the clouds with them was gladly accepted last night, when the theatre was packed in every part. The expectant audience was not disappointed, and the young ladies of the convent, with their patient tutors, are to be congratulated on the most charming concert which they have yet presented. The title was aptly chosen, and no other phrase could convey a better impression of the dainty picture made in the fairy operetta. The little sprites of the air were charmingly robed in gauzy muslins covered with flashing spangles, and with bright wands and waving ribands they flitted to and fro in the changing lights, chanting soft choruses and making a picture of kaleidoscopic beauty. There was an endless variety of picturesque groupings and posings, and when the little revellers vanished on the rays of the rising sun, a delighted audience applauded again and again. The idea was unique, and it was carried out so artistically and so smoothly that it deserves nothing but the highest praise. The grand military march by sixteen pupils of St. Joseph's School was another pretty item. The movements were neatly executed and the martial performers were accorded rounds of applause. Miss Dunsmuir, a mezzo-soprano from St. Dominic's Priory, Dunedin, made her first appearance here and pleased so well that she was encored for each of her songs. She showed a very promising voice of some richness, and her expression and manner were not the least of her qualifications. Miss Jessie McLeod and Miss Lora Godby contributed recitations surprisingly well. Both enunciated clearly and controlled their voices well. Miss Rebe Marshall also recited 'The Pride of Battery B' very prettily indeed for so young a child, and she thoroughly deserved the applause bestowed upon her. Miss N. Ford has also a pleasant voice in the middle register, and her two songs were well rendered and heartily received. A piano duet by Misses Rodie, C. Sheehan, N. Shepherd, and A. Collins was capably played, and the introduced dance by 12 little maids in white was very effective. The whole programme was enjoyable and creditable to all concerned, and Miss May Wilson deserves special mention for her teaching of the march and dances. A capable orchestra under Mr. W. Ferguson lent valuable assistance and contributed largely to the pleasure of the evening.

At the close two oil paintings were drawn for, each person present having a chance of securing a prize. The winning numbers were announced by the Mayor and were: For the painting of Milford Sound, Miss Stone, Gladstone; and for 'By Falling Water,' Mr. Peace, Clifton.