

humiliation of calling myself Smith. I beg to suggest to those at the head of the Cyclists' Touring Club that they should issue with their maps photos and descriptions of the inspectors in the different places. Either that, or adorn the aforesaid gents with those 'Dangerous-to-cyclists' placards that frighten horses at the tops of hills. The best remedy, however, is for all cyclists to form themselves into a club—a heavy club, with which to hit every inspector on the head.

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While on cycling matters, I should like to give lovers of the wheel two little pieces of wholesome advice: Do not act like those people who have made 'cyclometer' and 'fishing yarns' synonymous. The unprincipled beings, with a view to adding a few miles to the distance they have ridden, turn their bikes upside down and turn away at the wheel connected with the cyclometer. Never do that. It is much more handy to get a boy to do it for you.

The other piece of advice is this: Never coast down a steep hill—or up it either. If your chain breaks going down a steep hill, the greatest consolation your widow can have, after she has collected the insurance, is to know that you died with your feet on the pedals.

Combines.

Mr. Pierpoint Morgan's shipping combine is making the Governments of the two worlds feel about as comfortable as a 'moonshiner' in a revenue officer's kitchen. He has bought up all the shipping companies of any note. It was through an oversight that he did not include the Timaru dredge and the fleet that conveys the Maoris to the mutton-bird islands.

This is the age of combines. A number of enterprising 'Amurrikians' combined some time ago to offer their services to the South American Republics to conduct the revolutions which seem to be the staple product of those parts. They offered to do the business on the most lavish scale—hot and cold water laid on, and all modern improvements, etc., for the ridiculously small sum of what they should find in the Treasury of the deposed Government. Another United States syndicate, whose existence has been necessitated by the number of noblemen and millionaires, who, a short time ago were selling tea and soap, and who, consequently have no dead ancestors to make their homes eerie and aristocratic, advertises that it can supply spooks of any sex and any century to haunt respectable families at one dollar per haunt.

Among Juveniles.

And up near Christchurch some time ago, some young hopefuls whose commercial education hadn't got any further than 'oughts and crosses' formed themselves into a most successful syndicate. A county council offered a rather big money prize to any boy who would bring in a certain number of birds' eggs. Our young friends 'combined,' collected the required number, appointed one boy to take them in, and, as they themselves said, 'raked in the shekels and declared a dividend.'

The young idea of the present day possesses a wonderful eye for a deal. A short time ago a travelling circus visited an up-country town. Just before the show began the manager took a walk around and caught a youngster slipping in under the tent.

'Here, Johnny,' he said, dragging the little fellow out again by his fourth dimension, 'do you know what I do with boys I catch sneaking into my circus? I feed them to the lions.' And calling an attendant, he said, 'Put some salt on this boy and throw him into Romeo.'

The youngster looked up at the big manager and replied: 'Hey, mister, I'm on'y a little feller. I wouldn't be much of a feed for a lion, would I? I'll tell you what. You let me into your circus for nothin' an' I'll get all the fat boys in the town to come an' crawl under your tent.' Pierpoint Morgan isn't the only being in existence with a long head.

Quips

The efficacy of TUSSICURA in all lung and throat complaints is undeniable. It 'touches the spot' every time—*.*

For absolute strength, extreme simplicity, freedom from weak or undesirable points, and abundance of excellent working features throughout, Excelsior ploughs are unrivalled. They will do perfectly the work that can be expected of any plough, and are guaranteed to give satisfaction in any soil where a plough can work at all, no matter how tough and difficult the work. They have extra length of land beam, specially made mould boards, and steering gear of the most complete and approved kind. Revolving swivel steel circular coulters. Double furrow, £11 10s; three furrows, £16 10s.—Morrow, Bassett, and Co., sole agents in New Zealand for Cockshutt farm implements.—*.*

NEW ZEALAND: GENERAL.

IT is expected that the work of fitting the Westinghouse brake to the carriages of the North express will be completed early next month. When this is done the time-table of the the express will be cut down by half an hour.

THE Wellington correspondent of the *Southland News* writes: Sir J. G. Ward, Acting-Premier, scores a record in departmental administration, having ten portfolios under his control, constantly employing six or seven lady typewriters and shorthand writers. Sir Joseph contrives, by clever systemisation and admirable assiduity, to keep all work up to date.

THE *Catholic Magazine*, the organ of the Wellington Marist Brothers' Schools' Old Boys' Association is now in its second year, the first number of the second volume being just to hand. The contents are varied, and cover a wide field, the principal subjects dealt with being 'Our Schools,' 'Mental Culture,' 'The Young New Zealander,' 'Christ—the Ideal.' Among the contributors are 'Pedagogue,' Rev. Father Ainsworth, and 'Bluegrass,' who write on subjects of considerable interest. As a whole the present issue maintains the high standard which has been a conspicuous feature of the magazine since it was started.

THE combination of millers and bakers that was formed some months ago in Christchurch to regulate the price of bread, and by whose means it had reached as high as 7d the 4lb loaf, delivered, appears to have come to a sudden termination. The *Press* states that as the result of one baker breaking away from the agreement bread was to be seen on Friday ticketed in the windows at 4d per the 4lb loaf. It is said that the bakers who deliver bread will endeavor to keep up the price, but in the face of the cutting now going on in the shops this will probably be a matter of some difficulty.

IN the course of a letter to a Nelson paper, in which he apparently refers to a speech made by the Anglican Bishop of Nelson at a public meeting, the Very Rev. Dean Mahoney says: 'I defy bishop or layman to substantiate the charge, and to prove that I, directly or indirectly, covertly or openly, by letter or word, brought any influence whatsoever to bear upon the disarming, the removal, or the dismissal of any member or members of the Nelson police force. Should such a charge be proven, as an earnest of my good faith, I pledge my word to refund £125 presented to me by my beloved people, to be distributed to non-Catholic public charitable institutions in Nelson.'

MR. P. HALLY is to be congratulated on his election as the representative of Bell Bay in the Dunedin City Council. He had as an opponent a strong man, who had evidently a good deal of influential support at his back, and consequently Mr. Hally's success is a striking evidence of the high esteem in which he is held by a large number of his fellow citizens. The contest was conducted, as it should be, with the best of feeling on both sides, and the successful candidate on the declaration of the poll took occasion to emphasise his appreciation of the honorable and straightforward manner in which Mr. Burnett acted throughout. The latter also reciprocated Mr. Hally's compliments.

A lecture on the life and labors of St. Patrick by Very Rev. Dean Grogan, S.M. of Napier, New Zealand, in St. Teresa's Church on Sunday evening, March 16 (says the *Philadelphia Catholic Standard*) attracted an audience that filled the edifice. In a scholarly and eloquent discourse the speaker outlined the history of the Emerald Isle and its people and reviewed the great work accomplished there by St. Patrick. He exhorted his hearers to be true to their faith, to one another, and to the land that bore them, that faithful Isle beyond the seas, which is a credit and a light to the Christian world.

SPEAKING at the reunion of the Carpenters' Society in Wellington the other day, Sir J. G. Ward said that while the conservation of timber was desirable it was also necessary that land be cleared to make it adequately productive to maintain settlers on small holdings. He referred to the gigantic combine of the mercantile marine of America, and declared that we would have an Imperial Zollverein—a combination that would enable us to compete successfully with anyone who would wrest our supremacy from us. He believed in the end there would be three great countries in the world—Great Britain, America, and Russia. The Acting-Premier made passing reference to the Anglo-Japanese Treaty, and said there must be some powerful menace in the world's future prospects to impel Great Britain to enter into an arrangement whereby she is obliged to go unreservedly to war with any country which went to war with Japan.

MR. JAMES SCANLON, who was re-elected Mayor of the Borough of Westport for a third term, says the *Westport News*, May 2, is a native of Charleston, but has spent the most of his life in Westport, where he is at present engaged as a contracting builder. His entry into public life dates back some nine years ago when he was first elected a member of the Borough Council. In January 1899, upon Mr. Colvin's resignation of the Mayorship, Mr. Scanlon contested the election with Captain Riley and was returned at the head of the poll. In 1901 Mr. Scanlon was re-elected unopposed, and on Wednesday he was returned to the seat for a third term in succession. During his occupancy of the office Mr. Scanlon has had many important duties to discharge, notably in connection with the sending away and receiving of contingents, in the undertaking of a water works scheme for the Borough, and in the taking of initiatory steps for providing public abattoirs. He has also, as a member of the Harbor Board, and in other local capacities assisted in furthering the interests of the district. We congratulate him on his re-appointment and trust that the year upon which he is entering may be for the Borough and himself successful and progressive.