

NEW ZEALAND: GENERAL.

It is stated that the Representative Commissioners will recommend that the single electorates should be reverted to in the four cities.

THE Government have acquired, under the Land for Settlements Act, the Mead estate, of 6000 acres, belonging to R. N. Bealey, three miles and a-half from Rakaia.

THE Rev. Fathers Thomas Lane, A. C. Langerwerf, and H. J. Wientjes have been gazetted officiating ministers under 'The Marriage Act, 1880.'

AN outbreak of anthrax has occurred near Te Awamutu, and several cattle are dead. The men who handled the animals caught the disease, and are in the Waikato Hospital. One is not expected to live. The other two are less seriously affected.

THE Nelson *Colonist* reports that on Tuesday of last week the Rev. George Mahony received a cable message from London from the Very Rev. Dean Mahoney announcing his arrival in London, and also that he was in excellent health.

MR SEDDON is to visit Wales and Ireland. In referring to Sir M. Hicks-Beach's speech on the third reading of the Finance Bill, Mr Seddon declared that his attitude in regard to preferential trade had destroyed the main interest in the Imperial Conference, supposing he represents the views of his Government.

THE Coronation honors for New Zealand are: Captain W. Russell, M.H.R., of Hawke's Bay, and Dr. John Logan Campbell of Auckland, to be knights; Major Banchop, Companion of the Order of St Michael and St. George; Colonel Porter, Companion of the Bath.

TE WHITI, the Maori prophet, whose prognostications have for a considerable time been as reliable as the ordinary weather forecast, has evidently 'struck ill' this time, as he told the natives some days ago that the King's Coronation would not take place. As a result his *mana* has once more been placed on a solid basis, and the Maoris are greatly excited over the matter.

AN Auckland message states that in St. Patrick's Cathedral on Sunday his Lordship Bishop Lenihan said that the Catholics heartily grieved and sympathised with the rest of the Empire over the King's illness. They recognised the King as a friend, though the King was forced by a Protestant nation to call Roman Catholics idolaters, and to say that the Holy Sacrifice the congregation were now engaged in was blasphemy. The congregation offered prayers for the restoration of the King's health.

Now and again we hear of a man asking the court for a prohibition order to apply to himself, but beyond this the case of an individual setting the law in motion against himself is very rare indeed. There is a constable in Waitara, who, if the report be true, has a very correct idea of how the law should be administered. He found his own horse wandering about the public thoroughfare the other day, and forthwith the offending owner was prosecuted and fined 1s and costs by the local justices.

THE Rev. Father Foran, military chaplain, who it will be remembered was here with the Imperial troops last year, has published a small pamphlet entitled 'The Church under the Southern Cross,' in which he writes as follows of the Maori Missions:—'To me personally the most interesting work of the diocese (Auckland) was that of the Maori Missions—that is, of missions carried on amongst the aboriginal natives. This great work has been entrusted to the Fathers of St. Joseph's Missionary Society of the Sacred Heart—a society founded by the present Cardinal-Archbishop of Westminster, and whose headquarters are at Mill Hill. There are 21 churches for the Maoris, many of which I was able to visit. I was filled with admiration for the heroic missionaries, many of whom are foreigners, who first of all had to learn English, and then when appointed to the Maori Missions had to acquire the language of the people. Their life among these poor natives is indeed a hard and trying one. They come to their work and devote not a part of that life, but the whole of it to the service of their people; there is to be no turning back, no lifting the hand from the plough; as they live among their people, so they die. A career worthy of all honor. The change which has been worked amongst the natives is marvellous. Less than a century ago they were cannibals. Indeed as late as 1809 a well-known case of cannibalism occurred amongst them, and it is said that between 1820 and 1840 30,000 Maoris were slain and eaten during their tribal wars. Christianity has changed all that, and a more loyal and order-loving people is not to be found at the present day. The Maoris, who have been in New Zealand for some five hundred years, are intellectually and morally far above any of the other Australasian aborigines. I noted in the benches in a Maori church several prayer-books in the native tongue, which proved that these poor people were by no means illiterate, and I brought away with me from New Zealand a very high appreciation of the natives, and a deep veneration for the noble, self-sacrificing pastors who minister to their spiritual needs.'

The 'Excelsior' plough is 'Champion of the World.' On hill-side, lea, swamp, tussock, or stubble it is equally at home.—Morrow, Bassett and Co., sole agents in New Zealand.—***

WEDDING BELLS.

ARMOUR—MCCONACHIE.

On Wednesday, April 23 (writes a Paeroa correspondent), Mr James Armour, son of Mr Alexander Armour, of Banerane, County Donegal, Ireland, was united in the holy bonds of Matrimony to Miss Jane McConachie, second daughter of Mr William McConachie, of Owharoa, by the Very Rev. Dean Hackett. The marriage ceremony was performed in the Sacred Heart Church, Karangahake, in the presence of numerous friends who assembled from all parts of the goldfields. Misses Mannix and Cullen were the bridesmaids, and Mr W. McConachie, jun., acted as best man. After the ceremony Dean Hackett congratulated the newly married couple and expressed the hope that they would continue through wedded life to give the same good example of practical Catholic life as they did since he first knew them. Theirs, he said, was a marriage which would have the blessing of God upon it, because it was entered upon with due preparation by the reception of the Holy Sacraments, and performed in accordance with the laws of the Church. The wedding party drove to the bride's home in the afternoon, when they were most hospitably entertained by her parents. The presents on the occasion were numerous. The health of the newly married couple was proposed by Dean Hackett. Mr and Mrs Armour spent their honeymoon at Te Aroha.

Obituary.

MR F. H. SPOULE, WESTPORT.

In referring to the death of the late Mr Sproule, a Westport exchange says:—'The late Mr F. H. Sproule was the third son of the Rev. James William Sproule, late Vicar of St. Mark's, Lincombe, Bath. Mr Sproule settled in Nelson in 1877, where he practised his profession as dentist for about six years and where he also married. In 1882 he removed to Westport, and during his long residence in this town had taken a keen and intelligent interest in matters of a public nature. With the establishment of the Westport High School his memory will always be particularly connected on account of his consistent advocacy for what has since proved a boon to this district and a credit generally. On the occasion of his funeral the remains were followed by a large concourse of citizens, as well as by the children of the public schools which had closed out of respect. The deceased leaves a wife and six young children, five daughters and a son, who have the sympathy of all classes in their bereavement.'

MRS. PETER GILFEDDER, ONE TREE POINT.

Our readers in Otago and Southland will hear with sincere regret of the death of one of the pioneers of Southland in the person of Mrs. Gifledder, wife of Mr Peter Gifledder, J.P., One Tree Point, who passed away on Friday morning. The deceased lady, who arrived in the Colony in the early sixties, settled with her husband in the One Tree Point district and displayed those qualities of industry, hospitality, and perseverance so characteristic of early colonists. By her amiable disposition and kindly acts, Mrs Gifledder earned the esteem of a large circle of friends, who now mourn her death. The deceased leaves a family of five sons and one daughter, the eldest son being Mr M. Gifledder, M.H.R. for Wai-lace. Mr Gifledder, senr., and family have the sympathy of a wide circle of friends in the great loss they have sustained.—R.I.P.

The King's Illness.

ABOUT ten o'clock on Wednesday morning of last week came the startling news that the King was ill, and that the Coronation, which was to take place on Thursday had been postponed. For a time many people were inclined to believe that the news was unreliable, but later on confirmatory messages came to hand, so that when the public had thoroughly realised the true position of affairs the keenest sympathy was felt for the Royal sufferer. The first messages received were somewhat contradictory, one stating that an operation had taken place, and another that an operation had been decided upon. It appears, however, that the operation, which was for an internal growth, was successfully performed on Tuesday.

It is needless to say that all celebrations at Home and abroad had to be postponed indefinitely.

Nearly all the European notabilities left in the early part of the week for their respective countries.

A message received on Friday morning stated that his Majesty had slept well during the previous night, and that he was making satisfactory progress.

The Colonial troops are to leave for home on July 11.

A bulletin issued on Friday morning stated that the King had passed a good night, and that his condition was attended by less anxiety.

On Sunday morning it was officially announced that his Majesty was out of danger. The wound still needs constant attention, and under the most favourable conditions will require some time to heal.

The following cable was received on Monday night:—The King's progress is uninterrupted. The doctors this evening decided that a bulletin was unnecessary until 10 to-day. Thereafter one will be issued at 7 in the evening.

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