

NEW ZEALAND: GENERAL.

THE three plague patients in hospital at Christchurch have recovered, and will be released when their condition justifies such a course.

A NEW geyser has broken out in the Spa Grounds at Taupo, a spring having suddenly become active, throwing up water 10ft high, and going off with a loud report.

A PARTY of 180 Australian troops and the New Zealand Contingent visited Windsor last week at the King's invitation, and lunched at the Castle.

THE Union Steam Ship Company have received a cablegram advising that their new intercolonial steamer Moeraki was launched at Dumbarton last week, in the presence of the Right Hon. Mr Seddon (Premier of New Zealand) and his daughter.

MR. SEDDON was absent from the Empire Coronation banquet at the Guildhall last week owing to the serious illness of his wife. A later message states that Mrs. Seddon is weak, and her condition still occasions anxiety, though slightly better.

MR. FRANCOIS LELIEVRE, the last survivor of the band of Frenchmen who settled at Akaroa before the British took possession of the peninsula, died on Saturday, at the ripe age of ninety-three years.

THE London Lancastrians banqueted Mr. Seddon at the Hotel Cecil on Saturday. Earl Derby presided. Mr. Seddon said that the proposal that the colonies should definitely contribute an Imperial levy was a great error. It would be sufficient if help were given in an emergency. In the Empire's extremity the colonies would not consider the matter of cost.

AT Hororata, Canterbury, early last week, a young horse attached to a dairy cart, while left for a few minutes unattended, bolted and got out of sight of the owner. Search was made without success, till two days afterwards, when the horse and cart were found four miles away, on the Selwyn riverbed. Strange to say, not the slightest damage had (says the *Press*) been done, and nothing was lost out of the cart. Even on the rough riverbed a capsize had evidently been avoided.

'It only wants a large population in New Zealand to make landlordism as bad here as it has been in Ireland,' said a delegate during the debate on land tenure at the Farmers' Union Conference in Wellington on Saturday. He went on to say that if the resolution before the meeting—urging the giving to Crown lessees the right to acquire the freehold—was carried, the Union should alter its name from the Farmers' Union to the Landlords' Union.

SAYS the Montreal *True Witness* of a recent date: Rev. H. W. Cleary, the scholarly patriotic Editor of the New Zealand TABLET, of Dunedin, and a journal which has rendered yeoman service to the cause of Catholicity in that progressive country, called at the composing rooms of the *True Witness* a few days ago. Father Cleary is in the prime of vigorous manhood, and is both enthusiastic and practical. He expressed convictions regarding the possibilities of Catholic journalism which we believe will be realised ere long.

THE Sydney *Daily Telegraph*, commenting on the New Zealand Budget, says that it discloses a very enviable position. Not only is it satisfactory in respect to the Government and its finance, but the Colony undoubtedly continues to enjoy the prosperity which set in ten years ago, and still gives signs of progressive improvement. The paper refers to the shrewdness of its commercial representatives abroad in obtaining such a large share of the South African trade, and commends the Government scheme of small settlement, which is a notable achievement, and, like the surplus, an enviable one.

SIR J. G. Ward (says the *Tuapeka Times*) has already succeeded in impressing not only the House but the country with his valuable business qualities which have received striking illustration since the opening of the session. His urbane and conciliatory manner is in pleasing contrast to the demonstrative and less considerate manner of the Premier. He has the instinctive habit of moving along the line of least resistance without forfeiting a single advantage, straining the loyalty of his supporters or arousing the hostility of his opponents. All this, among other valuable results, makes for economy of time, which is an object of importance not only to members of the House but to the country. It leads to sound legislation, but it conserves the physical strength and mental freshness of members, and saves the country the cost and the disgrace of those barren and frequent wrangles that might have been avoided by a greater exercise of tact and conciliation.

'THE quality of mercy is not strained . . . it is twice blessed; it blesseth him that gives and him that takes,' so wrote the immortal Shakespeare. We make use of the foregoing quotation in view of the fact that a movement is on foot to ask the Government, in connection with the forthcoming coronation festivities and as a recognition of the thankfulness of the people for his Majesty's restoration to health, to remit the remainder of sentences on prisoners now undergoing imprisonment for first offences. Many of these were, up to the time of their lapse from rectitude, good citizens, and there is every reason to believe that if the clemency of the Crown were extended to them on this auspicious occasion they would again become useful members of society. Their discharge would relieve the State of their maintenance, and the ends of justice would be served by the lesson which they have already received. Should the Government adopt this course, discrimination will be necessary, as only first offenders whose record had been previously good should be set at liberty. We believe that neither the State nor society would suffer by such an act of clemency.

Opening of a New Convent at Paeroa.

SUNDAY, July 6, was a red-letter-day for the Catholics of Paeroa (says a local paper), the occasion being the opening of the handsome convent which has just been completed. Fortunately, the weather was fine, and a large number were present to witness the opening ceremony after the 11 o'clock Mass. The Right Rev. Dr. Lenihan was present, and performed the ceremony, assisted by the Very Rev. Dean Hackett.

At the gate at the entrance to the church grounds was displayed a sign with the word 'Welcome' on it, and a large red ensign waved about the sign. In front of the convent was another sign bearing the inscription 'God Bless Our Bishop.' Visitors were present in large numbers from Waikato, Karangahake, and other up-country places, special conveyances running for the occasion.

His Lordship, in the course of his address, congratulated the Catholics of Paeroa on having erected such a splendid, commodious, and up-to-date convent, which was a credit to the place and to those who had worked towards its completion. He referred to the fact that the church grounds had been secured many years ago by the forethought and generosity of Mgr. O'Reilly, who at one time paid periodical visits to Paeroa. He also made reference to the good work that had been done by the Very Rev. Dean Hackett, who had so materially assisted in having the convent erected. The Bishop also stated that the contractor for the convent, Mr Douglas, had carried out his work in a highly satisfactory manner, and one that was a credit to Paeroa. Mr Mahoney, the architect, was particularly pleased with the way in which Mr Douglas had carried out his instructions.

The Very Rev. Dean Hackett read out a list of donations received towards the cost of the convent, the total being £240. There were several substantial sums on the list—one of £20, several of £10, and a large number of £5. The amount collected by the Sisters was £52, including their own donation of £10.

The convent is a two-storey building and has a fine imposing appearance with a verandah and balcony in the front. It was originally intended to have a balcony on either side but owing to the extra cost this was omitted. No doubt, however, with additions that will have to be made in later years, this will be done. All those who took advantage of looking through the building were unanimous in their praise of the excellent manner in which the work was finished off. The ground floor occupies a space of about 2300 square feet. A flight of steps leads on to the verandah which is 8ft above the level of the ground. On entering is the hall which is 28ft x 8ft with walls 12ft high. To the right of the hall is the reception room 18ft x 14ft. Opposite to this is the community room which is 16ft by 14ft. Proceeding down the hall we come to the music room which is 14ft x 10ft. On the ground floor are also a refectory 14ft x 14ft, store room 9ft x 7ft, pupils' dining room 22ft x 14ft, kitchen 14ft square, pantry and scullery. From the balcony of the second storey a very fine view of the district can be obtained. The apartments here are an oratory 18ft x 15ft, nuns' dormitory 16ft x 18ft, children's dormitory 22ft x 14ft, infirmary, bathrooms, etc. The building is supplied with water from the county service, and is to be lighted with gas. There are in addition outbuildings such as wash-house, etc. The work was begun in February last, the contract price being £1139, and it is one of the largest buildings of its kind erected in the district.

The Catholics of Paeroa and district have now accomplished a work which does them great credit, and they have every reason to be proud of the new convent.

At this season everybody is liable to Coughs and Colds. Avoid all danger by taking TUSSICURA.—*.*

Messrs Louis Gille and Co., of Sydney and Melbourne, have a list of new books in our advertising columns...

Tenders are invited for the purchase of the well-known Grid-iron Hotel, Dunedin. This hotel has been lately renovated and re-furnished, and having a well established country connection, a capable business man would have the opportunity of making it one of the best-paying houses in the city...

Messrs. Duthie Bros., George street, Dunedin, have now on display in their show rooms an unrivalled stock of millinery, dress fabrics, jackets, waterproofs, hats, etc., all of which are in the latest shades and styles. This firm is noted for keeping only the best lines of goods, and also for its moderate prices. Our lady readers in Otago should pay the establishment a visit and see the beautiful things that are now shown....

Farmers who wish to keep up-to-date should pay a visit to the establishments of Messrs P. and D. Duncan at Christchurch and Ashburton where they will have the opportunity of seeing a splendid collection of the most modern farm implements, which includes the new Eclipse drill, cultivators for every description of farm cultivation; disc harrows, specially designed for local requirements; stubble ploughs, suitable alike for stiff and friable land, rollers, wool presses, etc. All of these are of the best material and in that finished style of workmanship for which this old-established firm has always been noted...

At this season of the year when people are very subject to coughs and colds it is important to know where to go for a safe and sure remedy. Messrs Wallace and Co., Chemists, the Triangle, Christchurch, direct attention to their Elixir of Horehound and Aniseed which has proved invaluable in all such cases. This excellent and popular medicine, which was discovered many years, still maintains its supremacy as a special and specific remedy in the treatment and cure of asthma, bronchitis, etc., and has chemical and curative properties peculiar to it, and not possessed by many of the cough mixtures competing for public favor...