

## Obituary.

MR. JAMES KIRK, HOKITIKA.

It is again my sad duty (writes our Hokitika correspondent) to record the death of an old, well-known, and respected resident of our little town. On Sunday morning (13th) Mr James Kirk, for the past 20 years borough inspector, breathed his last. Mr Kirk was one of the earliest pioneers of the West Coast, arriving here in the early sixties from Canada, where he was born. He carried on the occupation of mining for many years at Kanieri, until forced by an accident to retire from such onerous work, when he received the appointment of borough inspector. Mr Kirk had been ailing for the last two years or more, and finally succumbed to his ailment on Sunday last, fortified and strengthened by all the rites of the Church. His funeral took place on Tuesday, and the number of persons from all parts of the district who followed the remains showed the esteem in which he was held.—R.I.P.

## NEW ZEALAND: GENERAL.

THE movement to erect a memorial on the first landing-place of Captain Cook in New Zealand is meeting with good support.

THE cost to the Wellington Corporation of the Coronation Day preparations amounted to £362 odd, including £217 for the children's fete.

MR SEDDON was entertained by the Vagabonds' Club, London, on Thursday. He said that if Canada and Australia were to become respectively the granary and butchery of the Empire, New Zealand would provide her with butter and cheese.

THE Mercedes, which left Westport on Saturday for Hongkong had the largest cargo ever taken across the Buller bar—viz., 3860 tons of cargo coal and 500 tons in the original bunkers.

AN old Auckland boy, Dr. Lambert Hepenstal Ormsby, has just been elected to the high position of President of the Royal College of Surgeons of Ireland.

It is stated that Mr Seddon will return to New Zealand by way of Canada should Mrs Seddon be sufficiently recovered from her illness to undertake the trip.

IN a letter to the Patea Harbor Board Mr E. M. Smith stated that it is a certainty blast furnaces will be erected at Patea for utilisation of the ironsand.

AT the instance of Mr W. P. Reeves, the New Zealand Agent-General, a butcher was fined £5 and costs at Sheffield, England, for selling River Plate for New Zealand mutton.

THE Right Hon A. J. Balfour, the new Prime Minister of England, is (says an exchange) the owner of a large estate near Pahiatus, which he took up many years ago, and which has been very much improved.

MR SEDDON, in conference with the Austrian Ambassador, in London, assured him that Austrians were not treated differently from other aliens arriving in New Zealand.

THE Wellington Harbor Board have reversed their attitude on the dock question, and now propose to ask for parliamentary authority to borrow £250,000 for the construction of a dock and appliances.

WITH the view of avoiding the clashing of show dates, the Manawatu Association have decided to postpone their show till November 19, 20, 21, provided Wanganui, Hawera, and New Plymouth consent to put their shows off till a week later than the dates fixed. It was stated that there was no prospect of Canterbury giving way in the matter of race or show dates.

THE following cablegram (says a Napier paper) has been sent from here to Mr Seddon:—'The Irishmen of Napier would be glad if you could do something during your visit to the Motherland in the direction of promoting autonomy for Ireland, thus ensuring grasped hands across the channel.'

AT the Sydney Town Hall on June 18 the Hon. John Hughes M.L.C., on behalf of the Sydney Liedertafel, presented Mr Alfred Hill, the conductor, with a gold lyre, on the occasion of his departure for New Zealand. Mr Hill, who had been conductor of the society for five years, was very popular in musical circles, but is compelled to return to New Zealand on account of his health.

THE experiment of providing lectures for farmers, instituted by the Canterbury Agricultural and Pastoral Association, had an initial trial on Saturday afternoon, when Professor Lowrie, director of Lincoln College, delivered an address on 'Technical Education and Its Relation to Farming.' About 70, mostly large farmers, were present. The next lecture will be given by Mr Gilruth, Government Veterinarian.

AN Auckland message states that the Waimangu geyser is extraordinarily active. On Tuesday morning Warder Scanlan, who has charge of the tree-planting operations in the vicinity, reported that the geyser was violently active for extended periods between 8 o'clock and 10.30 in the morning, a huge jet of water being thrown up to heights estimated by spectators to be between 800 and 900 feet.

THE July number of *The Catholic Magazine*, the organ of the Marist Brothers' Schools Old Boys' Association, Wellington, has come to hand. It is an excellent number, and highly creditable to the Association. Its pages are full of local and general news, which is presented in a crisp and compact form. A very artistic process-block photograph of the president of the Literary and Debating Society, the Rev. Father Herbert, is given as a supplement.

FOR some months past (writes a Taranaki correspondent to the *Waitara Daily Times*) we have at long intervals heard a prolonged rumbling noise, commencing loud and gradually decreasing in volume until it dies away. It has a muffled sound, and suggests a subterranean explosion. Very little notice was taken of the occurrence until last Friday, when it was exceedingly loud, much more so than on previous occasions, and was sufficiently startling to give rise to wonderment. We are anxious to know whether Egmont is preparing to treat us to a second edition of the Martinique disaster.

MISS MARY WOODS, A.T.C.L., associate pianiste (says the *Tuapeka Times*), scored a signal success at the presentation of prizes and musical certificates in connection with the Trinity College (London) musical examination, which took place at the Agricultural Hall, Dunedin, where all the performers were certificated musicians. The feature of the concert was Miss Woods' magnificent rendering of the first movement of Beethoven's *Waldemheim Sonata*, one of the most difficult compositions the great composer has written. Miss Woods' playing surprised and delighted the musical and critical audience present and at once established the performer's reputation as an artistic musician of a high order. Although unusual to single out particular performers at high-class concerts of this character, the *Otago Daily Times* says: 'Miss Woods was exceptionally successful in her playing of the first movement of Beethoven's "Sonata in C" (op. 33) and well deserved the recognition her fine performance received.' The *Evening Star*, while admitting it is contrary to rule to critically notice such a programme, claims pardon for recording the fact that 'Miss Woods surprised all present by the taste and finish of her pianoforte work', and added, 'This young lady is a musician and high possibilities are before her.'

ONE of the many and most enjoyable gatherings in connection with the Ashburton Catholic Literary Society was held on Thursday evening. It took the form of an 'At home,' and there was a good attendance of members and friends. The school was beautifully decorated with flags and evergreens, and reflected credit on the committee, and everyone, young and old, took part in the many games that had been provided. Mr Soal (president) in an appropriate speech welcomed the guests at the opening of the proceedings. A splendid programme was arranged, and was gone through to the delight of all present. The following ladies and gentlemen took part:—Instrumental selection, piano and violins, Miss Bournique, Mr John and Master Joe Moison; piano solo, Misses Devane and Brankiu; songs were given by Mesdames W. P. Daly, and J. Moison, and the Misses M. Madden and Bournique, and Messrs T. Nolan, F. Hanrahan, J. Moison, C. Healy, A. J. Muller and M. J. Burgess; recitations by Messrs F. Cooper, L. Hanrahan and J. Moriarty. During the evening the fair sex were kept very busy handing round the good things that were provided by the Society, the only thing wrong being that the time passed away too soon and left in the mind of all a wish for a repetition at a near date. The proceedings closed by the singing of 'God save the King.'

A cable message from London states that Sir Montagu Nelson on behalf of a number of Anglo-New Zealanders, presented the Right Hon. Mr Seddon with a massive silver centrepiece and Mrs Seddon with a diamond ornament, together worth £500, in recognition of Mr Seddon's patriotism in promoting the solidarity of the Empire. The subscribers included opponents of Mr Seddon's domestic policy, though all were admirers of his Imperial services. Mrs Seddon was present. Mr Seddon replied that the war had proved the virility, energy, and determination of New Zealanders. He claimed that New Zealanders recognised the dangerous character of the South African difficulty before the Motherland. He referred to the overwhelming character of British hospitality. He was confident the future would show that the ties of Empire would become closer and closer. He believed good results would follow from the Imperial Conference and become apparent much quicker than many suspected. New Zealand desired to see Great Britain a self-contained nation, less dependent on foreigners, who must allow the British the same liberty of action that they claimed and exercised. He considered the gigantic American trusts a great danger to Great Britain. If Great Britain were once aroused she would be able to avert the evil consequences. New Zealand was willing to concede preferential relations to the Motherland without exacting a reward, though the Motherland was able by means of subsidies to steamers and bounties in other ways to help the colonies.

## The Horse-chestnut.

THE horse-chestnut was taken to Europe from Asia. There it was had been used as food for horses, as they still are in Turkey. On this account, and because they look like the sweet brown chestnuts, they are called 'horse-chestnuts.' In Southern Europe they are fed to sheep, cattle and poultry. In Ireland they are used in the bleaching of linen. In America they are sometimes used by foolish people as a charm.

Chestnut-trees have been known to live to an age of several hundred years. One on Mount Etna, in Italy, is a hundred and ninety feet around. It is called the 'Tree of a Hundred Horses,' for it once sheltered a queen with her followers. It is a Spanish or Italian chestnut. Other very old ones are found in England.

At this season everybody is liable to Coughs and Colds. Avoid all danger by taking TUS-SICURA.—\*.\*

If Cyclists or Footballers meet with accidents, they will find that Evan's WITCH'S OIL is infallible.—\*.\*

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