

## COMMERCIAL

Messrs. Stronach, Morris, and Co., Ltd., report for week ended Tuesday, June 22, as follows:—Rabbit-skins.—We held our usual fortnightly sale on Monday and offered a fair catalogue to the usual attendance of buyers. Competition was keen and prices were fully up to those ruling at the last sale. Prime winter does, 12d to 16d; early winters, 10d to 12½d; autumns and incoming, 9½d to 11d; racks, 6½d to 7½d; runners and suckers, 3d to 4d; prime winter blacks, 24d to 30d; autumn blacks, 12d to 18d; fawns, to 12d; horsehair, 17d to 21d per lb; catskins, 1d to 6d each. Sheepskins.—Our next sale will be held on Tuesday, 28th inst. Hides.—We held our fortnightly sale of hides on Thursday, and offered a fair catalogue to the usual attendance of buyers. Competition was keen and prices showed an advance of fully ½d to 1d per lb on good conditioned hides. Quotations: Extra stout heavy ox, to 12d; stout heavy, 10½d to 11½d; medium to good, 10d to 10½d; light, 9½d to 10d; cow hides, extra stout, to 10d; medium to good, 9½d to 9¾d; light, 8½d to 9d; yearlings, 8¾d to 8½d; best calfskins, to 10½d; medium, 8¾d to 9½d; inferior, 5d to 7d per lb. Oats.—Shippers are not so keen to operate, and as offerings are light, there is very little business to report. Quotations: Prime milling, 4s 2d to 4s 3d; good to best feed, 4s to 4s 2d; inferior to medium, 3s 9d to 3s 11d per bushel (sacks extra). Wheat.—There is a good inquiry for prime milling samples. Inferior, however, are not so much sought after. Prime milling velvet, 7s to 7s 2d; Tuscan, 6s 10d to 6s 11d per bushel (sacks extra). Chaff.—There is a strong demand both for shipping and local requirements, and prices are firm. Quotations: Best oaten sheaf, £6 15s to £7 5s; medium to good, £6 5s to £6 12s 6d per ton (sacks extra). Potatoes.—There was a very keen demand last week, but owing to the risk of exporting being stopped, shippers are not quite so keen to operate. Late values, however, are fairly well maintained. Best tables, £6 15s to £7; choice, to £7 5s; medium, £6 to £6 10s per ton (sacks in).

## SENDING OFFENSIVE LETTERS

## A WOMAN FINED IN WELLINGTON.

For some months past (says the *Dominion* of Saturday) the Catholic clergy and laity of the city have been in receipt of offensive anonymous letters. In each case the writer signed the letter 'Gordon Andrew Martin, author of *Catholicism and Crime*.' Detective Mason was successful in tracing the writer, and yesterday in the Magistrate's Court, before Mr. D. G. A. Cooper, S.M., a middle-aged woman named Lactitia Jane Hood was charged on three informations with 'posting a postal packet with words of a grossly offensive character thereon.' The informant in the first case was Thomas Devoy, in the second case Alice W. Girling-Butcher, and in the third Thomas O'Shea. Mr. P. J. O'Regan appeared for the informants, while defendant, who was not represented, by counsel, pleaded 'Not guilty.'

Counsel for the prosecution said the charges had been laid under Section 83 of the Post and Telegraph Act, 1908, which made an offender liable to a fine of £20.

Archdeacon Devoy, parish priest of St. Anne's, Wellington South, was the first witness. He said that on May 22 last he received the letter produced, which was signed 'G. A. Martin, author of *Catholicism and Crime*.' The letter was handed to the Magistrate, who perused it.

Archbishop O'Shea, the next witness, said that on February 26 last he received a letter addressed Archbishop O'Shea, R.C., signed G. A. Martin, author, etc.

Alice Winifred Girling-Butcher said her father was secretary of the Catholic Federation. She remembered receiving a letter addressed 'Mr. Popplewell, secretary of the Catholic Federation.' The letter was opened, and as neither witness nor her father knew the handwriting, the letter was handed to the police.

Minnie Dunn, shop assistant (Kirkcaldie and Stains, Ltd.), said she knew accused, who lived at the same boardinghouse with her. Witness left the place at the end of last year because of the insulting remarks accused used to make to her regarding her religion. After leaving the house she received a number of letters signed G. A. Martin, from accused, which reiterated the insulting remarks made to witness while in the house.

Jessie Aitcheson, a married woman, living in Kent terrace, said she knew the accused, who boarded in her house during December last. Accused was then engaged in dressmaking, and was writing a book entitled *Catholicism and Crime*.

Detective Mason said that while making inquiries he received from a Mr. Bailey, of Newtown, a letter, produced. It was headed 232 Willis street, and signed Mrs. Hood. He compared the writing with the writing in the letters now in court, and immediately commenced a search for accused. He finally located accused at 70 Cambridge terrace. He showed her the letter produced, and after reading it accused admitted she was the writer of it. Witness then showed her the offensive letters, subject of the present charge, and after reading the letter she said: 'Yes, I wrote the letters. That is my signature: it is my pen name.' Accused said, 'I am not afraid. I only hoped when I wrote the letters to aggravate them to take action.'

Detective Tricklebank, who assisted Detective Mason in his investigations, gave corroborative evidence.

This concluded the evidence, and the Magistrate asked accused if she had anything to say. Accused quoted the wording of the charge, and said that it said nothing about offensive words in a letter, but only 'a postal packet with offensive words thereon.' In view of this she had no charge to answer.

The Magistrate explained that the letter was a postal packet, and the offensive writing was on it. Her objection must fail.

Accused persisted that she had been charged under the wrong section.

His Worship: But I rule otherwise. You can appeal against my ruling if you like.

Accused: Yes. I intend to appeal.

Mr. O'Regan remarked that the letters accused had written would be the subject of much more serious proceedings. They intended to proceed against accused for criminal libel.

The Magistrate: 'The letters are of a very offensive character indeed. Accused will be convicted.' A fine of £10, with costs £1 12s, was imposed on the first charge, while on the two other charges accused was convicted and discharged. Security for appeal was fixed at £20.

## HIS GRACE ARCHBISHOP REDWOOD

Included in the passengers by the Matai, which arrived at Wellington from San Francisco on Sunday, was his Grace Archbishop Redwood, who had come back from Europe by way of the United States.

## CRUSADE OF RESCUE

We have received the following subscription for Father Bans' Crusade of Rescue, London:—  
Mrs. B. Gilmore, Regent St., Woolston ... £1 0 0

## POLISH RELIEF FUND

|                                    |     |     |          |
|------------------------------------|-----|-----|----------|
| Already acknowledged               | ... | ... | £69 17 0 |
| 'Hard Up'                          | ... | ... | 2 2 0    |
| 'E. D.'                            | ... | ... | 1 0 0    |
| 'A Widow'                          | ... | ... | 1 0 0    |
| 'An Orphan'                        | ... | ... | 1 0 0    |
| 'One Who Feels for the Distressed' | ... | ... | 1 0 0    |
| T. Curran, N.Z.R.                  | ... | ... | 0 10 0   |
| Mrs. H. P. Madden, Ashburton       | ... | ... | 0 10 0   |
| Miss S. Madden, Ashburton          | ... | ... | 0 5 0    |
| Miss A. Madden, Ashburton          | ... | ... | 0 5 0    |
| 'Sympathy'                         | ... | ... | 0 5 0    |
| Mr. James Padden, Waikanae         | ... | ... | 0 5 0    |