



The Arapuni Mishap PRIZE POEM COMPETITION

THE suspension, everyone hopes temporary, of the Arapuni power station is a matter on which discussion in detail must be deferred. In the meantime the Government one feels is doing the only right thing in deciding on a full inquiry and the consultation of the best brains within the Empire.

At Hamilton, the suggestion was put forward that the whole scheme, as being too onerous for the Public Works Department, should be placed under the supervision of electricity commissioners. Critics there are many. It is always easy to be wise after an event. At the moment, patience should be exercised and lay criticism avoided.

The most regrettable aspects from the Government's point of view appear to be the loss of valuable customers for electrical supply in Auckland and the surrounding districts and the inevitable increase in unemployment.



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THIS week a large number of entries of high literary quality were received, and in the final analysis two poems were selected for first prize. There were "Coal Hulks of Wellington," by F.M.Y., whose robust and picturesque verses bring the tang of the waterways and the call of far countries; and "Reproach," by A.N.I.C., whose contribution is a lovely little poem instinct with love of our own land. To each of these, therefore, is awarded a prize of half a guinea, their work being deemed to be equal in skill of construction and phraseology, though widely different in subject and treatment. Owing to pressure on space, publication of the poem "Reproach" will be deferred until next week.

"Pan": We like your gay little "gooseberry" song. Space will be found for it some time.

"Toad" sends a poetic fragment in serious vein, which is not as good as was his stirring Parody.

"The Cloudlet" appears an unfledged effort. This contributor has imagination and a sense of the sky's changing beauty, but her expression of it lacks the sure touch.

The little "water-colour" of Akaroa is true and lovely, bringing nostalgia for that small lovely town embraced by blue waters.

"John Storm" breaks new ground with "Lovers." His work is always true to form, and often of great charm and appeal.

Coal Hulks of Wellington

COAL hulks of Wellington riding on the tide;
Coal hulks of Wellington anchored side by side;
Gone are the olden days you used to ride the swell,
Stored are your memories with tales you could tell.

Cargoes you have carried, countries you have seen;
Conversations held with brig and barquentine;
Lazy tropic languor, and frozen Northern seas,
Bustling Continental ports—all leave their memories.

Coal hulks of Wellington, the long trick's done!
Kissed by the soft winds and warmed by the sun;
Sheltered by the harbour's arms—so tender and so strong—
Coal hulks of Wellington, may your rest last long!

—F.M.Y.

"The Best Laid Plans"

A Scientist's Endeavours

THE endeavour of a French scientist, Professor Georges Claude, to harness the Gulf Stream for electrical energy, has suffered a serious setback. A message from Cuba states that part of the plant, consisting of a giant steel tube, collapsed and fell into the ocean, when the supporting steel cables snapped like threads. The result of infinite pains and three months' arduous labour was undone in a few seconds. American capital to the extent of some 150 million dollars was invested in the project.

The scheme, however, is not likely to be abandoned. Its object is to utilise solar energy in the tropics by turning to account the difference between the temperature of sea-water at the surface and that at a considerable depth. When developed, it is stated, the process will change the whole character of equatorial regions and communities, now lying dormant. Further, it will be capable of taking from the sea the energy of ten Niagaras, and the ocean will be harnessed in a manner undreamed of before. An experimental plant that has been tried out in Belgium proves that the idea is a practical one.

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