SHIPPING.

NORTHERN STEAMSHIP COMPANY (LIMITED).

TIME TABLE—JANUARY
Weather and other circumstances permitting

Leaves Thames

Friday 26...Wakatere, 2 afternoon
Saturday 27...Wakatere, 3 afternoon
Sunday 28...Tararanora, 3 afternoon
Tuesday 30...Tararanora, 6 morning
Wednesday 31...Wakatere, 6.30 morning
Thursday 1...Tararanora, 8 night
Friday 2...Wakatere, 7.30 morning
Saturday 3...Wakatere, 8 morning
Saturday 3...Tararanora, 8 night

Leaves Auckland.

Friday 26...Wakatere, 9 morning
Friday 26...Tararanora, 8.30 night
Saturday 27...Wakatere, 10 morning
Monday 29...Tararanora, midnight
Tuesday 30...Wakatere, 2 afternoon
Wednesday 31...Wakatere, 2.30 afternoon
Thursday 1...Tararanora, 1 afternoon
Friday 2...Wakatere, 4 afternoon
Friday 2...Tararanora, midnight
Saturday 3...Wakatere 4.30 afternoon

STEAM COMMUNICATION WITH PAEROA AND TE AROHA.

For Paeroa, Kopu, Turua, &c. (landing Thames passengers at Kopu
Waimarie...Friday 26th, 7.30 night
Taniwha...Sunday 28th, 10.30 night
Waimarie...Monday 29th, 11 night
Taniwha...Tuesday 30th, midnight
Waimarie...Wednesday 31st, midnight
Taniwha...Thursday 1st, midnight
Waimarie...Friday 2nd, 2 afternoon
Taniwha...Sunday 4th, 3.30 afternoon
Waimarie...Monday 5th, 4 afternoon

LEAVES PAEROA (calling at Kopu 2½ hours later).

Taniwha...Friday 26th, 2.30 afternoon
Waimarie...Saturday 27th, 3.30 afternoon
Taniwha...Monday 29th, 6 night
Waimarie...Tuesday 30th, 6.30 evening
Taniwha...Wednesday 31st, 7.30 night
Waimarie...Thursday 1st, 8.30 night
Taniwha...Friday 2nd, 9.30 night
Waimarie...Saturday 3rd, 10 morning
Taniwha...Monday 5th, 11 morning

THAMES, COROMANDEL AND PAEROA SERVICES.

SUMMER FARES.

From December 1st, and until March 31st, the fares in the above services will be as follows:—

Thames and Coromandel—Saloon return 10s, Steerage return 7s 6d. No change in single fares.

Paeroa—Saloon single 7s 6d, saloon return 10s.

H. C. GILLESPIE, Agent.

FROM THAMES ONLY:

P. S. PATIKI.

Thames for Paeroa
Sunday, 28th, 2 afternoon
Wednesday 31st, 5 morning
From Paeroa to Thames.
Tuesday 30th 8 morning
Thursday 1st, 10 morning

S.S. MATUKU.

From Thames to Te Aroha
Monday, Wednesday and Friday on the arrival of the steamer from Auckland.
From Te Aroha to Thames.
Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday at 7 a.m
All freights must be prepaid.

H. C. GILLESPIE, Agent.

MAIL NOTICE.

For Auckland this day at 7 p.m. (C. PO and to-morrow at 2.20 p.m., and 7 p.m. (C.P.O.)
For Paeroa and Te Aroha daily at 8.15 a.m and 5.30 p.m and Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 7 p.m
For Kopu daily at 8.15 a.m.
For Waitekauri daily at 8.15 a.m and Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 7 p.m
For Karangahake, Waihi, etc daily at 8.15 a.m and Monday Wednesday and Friday at 7 p.m
For Kopu, Puriri, Ohinemuri and Hikutaia daily at 8.15 a.m
For Morrinsville, Rotorua, Hamilton, and Waikato offices daily at 8.15 a.m
For Tauranga and Bay of Plenty offices on Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 7 p.m
For Longwood, Athenree, and Katikati on Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 7 p.m
For Whangamata on Tuesday and Saturday at 8.15 a.m
For Tapu & Waiomo Tuesday, Thursdays and Saturday at 8.15 a.m
For Taranaki, Nelson, Picton, Wellington & Southern Ports on Saturday at 7 p.m (CPO)
For Australian Colonies (per Mararoa on Monday at 3.10 p.m
For Ceylon, India, China, Japan Straits Settlements, Aden Suez, Mediterranean ports and Continent of Europe on Monday at 3.10 p.m.
For Turua Netherton and Cryer's Landing to-morrow at 4.20 p.m

J. E. COXEN Chief Postmaster.

MRS RAYNER,

Grocer & Fruiterer,

POLLEN STREET, THAMES.

ABSOLUTELY PURE CHUTNEY. The finest relish with hot or cold meats, soups, etc. Large bottles 1s.
Absolutely Pure BAKING POWDER, 1s 4d per pound, in tins. Making every kind of bread, cakes and pastry light and digestible.
Absolutely Pure CUSTARD POWDER, 1s 4d per pound, in tins.
Absolutely Pure EGG POWDER, 1s 4d per pound, in tins.
Absolutely Pure SELF-RAISING FLOUR, for puddings, pie-crusts, and all kinds of cakes and pastry. Unrivalled for invalids and children. In 2lb and 4lb packets.

MRS RAYNER,
GROCER AND FRUITERER.
Pollen street, Thames.

John H. Hooton,

Brown Street, Thames.

House, Land, & Commission Agent.

MONIES TO LEND ON GOOD SECURITIES.

Agent for "The National Mutual Life Association of Australasia, Ltd." Funds fast approaching £3,000,000. Annual income, £450,000.

Agent for the London and Lancashire Fire Insurance Company. Perfect security at lowest risks. Capital £2,127,500.

Resident agent for Richardson's Pianos and Organs.

Sole agent for Dewsbury's Centaur Embrocation.

JOHN H. HOOTON,
House, Land, and Commission Agent

Ladies requiring drapery of any kind should first see what the Thames Drapery and Clothing Company can do. Fresh, up-to-date goods at the lowest cash prices.

Spring and Summer Goods

AT

F. H. CLAXTONS,

Tailor. and Mercer,

22, ALBERT STREET,

A Splendid Range of WORSTED SUITINGS in the newest colorings.

The Best Selection of TENNIS TROUSERINGS and SUMMER VESTINGS on the Thames.

CALL AND INSPECT THE STOCK. THE MERCERY DEPARTMENT Has been considerably enlarged.

Our Hats are up-to-date.
Our Ties are the pick of the market.
Our Collars are the latest.
Our Shirts cannot be beaten.

Special!

Continuation of

G. Martin's

Extraordinary Sale

OF

Drapery

AND

Clothing.

Great Reductions will be made for the Next Few Weeks.

Dresses,

Prints,

Muslins, &c.

AT REDUCED PRICES.

NEW AND STYLISH

Millinery.

MEN'S, BOYS' AND YOUTHS'

Clothing, Hats, Shirts, Ties, etc, to be cleared at Special Sale Prices.

INSPECTION INVITED.

ONLY ADDRESS:

GEORGE

MARTIN,

Draper & Clothier,

Corner of Pollen and Cochrane Streets.

JOHN FRATER.] [ROBERT FRATER

FRATER BROS.,

Sharebrokers, Land Agents and Valuers, Thames,

AN INSURANCE BUILDINGS, AUCKLAND

MORTGAGES NEGOTIATED.

TO LET—

Karaka Road.—Clean 5-roomed Cottage, 6s
Pollen street—Large FAMILY RESIDENCE, lately in the occupation of Mr J E Banks
GOOD OFFICES in Queen street Chambers and in Brown's Buildings. Rents low to permanent tenants.

FOR SALE—

BAILLIE STREET, SHORTLAND—FIVE ROOMED COTTAGE, and LARGE ALLOTMENT Stocked with Fruit Trees—Price £200
PARTIALLY IMPROVED FARM at Te Aroha, containing 120 Acres. Fronting Waihou river—£300
UNIMPROVED LAND, from Medium to First Class Quality, at Matatoke, close to Railway Station. Price, from 17s 6d to 110s per acre
A Number of Good FREEHOLD ALLOTMENTS in Mackay, Baillie and Rolleston streets, Shortland.
A Number of Fine ALLOTMENTS in the Rising Township of Puriri.
BEACH ROAD, Grahamstown Comfortable Five-roomed Cottage.
TE AROHA—Large Dwelling with an acre of ground, suitable for boardinghouse Near railway station.
Several first-class DWELLING HOUSES, full particulars of which, with cards to view, can be obtained on application at our office.
Eight-roomed FAMILY RESIDENCE, with all necessary outbuildings. Large allotment. Good view. Building nearly new. Timber and workmanship first-class. Owner leaving the district
PIRAURAHI.—About 520 acres of rich level Land, with extensive frontage to the Thames River, close to Paeroa. Terms very easy.

FOR LEASE—

At Hikutaia—300 ACRE FARM. Partially improved, with 7 roomed house, cowsheds, barn, chaffing engine, etc. Very good land, and near a creamery. Rent moderate.

FRATER BROS.,

Alfred Court the cash draper gives best value in white shirts, charley's aunts and summer hats in endless varieties at the Beehive.—Advt

Sunshades latest fashions, just imported pretty and cheap at the Beehive to-day—Advt

H GILLESPIE

Accountant, Sharebroker,

—AND—

HOUSE, LAND, AND GENERAL AGENT.

TO LET—

PARAWAI—Dwelling of Six Rooms, Outhouses etc., pleasantly situated—Rent 10s
KIRKWOOD STREET—Dwelling of Six Rooms, Outhouses, etc—Rent 7s
BEACH ROAD—PAH STORE and large attached dwelling of 12 rooms, also washhouse with copper, stables, etc. Rent 12s 6d
GREY STREET—SHOP and DWELLING with Outhouses, Garden, etc—Rent 7s
POLLEN STREET—To be leased for a long term, BUILDING ALLOTMENT first class Business Site; centrally situated
PARAWAI RACECOURSE—Dwelling of 9 Rooms Outhouses, etc Rent 9s
BROWN STREET.—Shop and Brick Strong Room
POLLEN STREET.—SHOP in good position, with dwelling rooms attached.
POLLEN STREET—SHOP, having frontage of 30ft, and attached dwelling of seven rooms, with orchard and grounds.

FOR SALE—

£300.—DWELLING OF Seven Rooms Bathroom and Outhouses. ½-acre garden. Pleasantly situated, Parawai
£650—New Well Built DWELLING HOUSE of 8 Rooms and Outhouses with Grass Paddock of 7 acres, Tararu
£100 — SIX-ROOMED DWELLING (kauri timber), with detached washhouse and outbuildings, and 1 acre of land. Residence site. Close to Grahamstown.
£150.—Two good building allotments, and 2-roomed cottage; opposite Post Office, Grahamstown.
£325—Newly built two-storeyed DWELLING of eight rooms and outhouses, Sandes street. Capital view.

FIRE INSURANCE effected at lowest current rates in the Imperial Fire Office.

Cheaper Still.

Just Landed.

25 TONS of General Grocery, Produce and Mason's Preserving Jars, with still further reductions for Cash. New Best Cure Hams 7½d, New Dairy Cheese (Not Factory) 6d.

GROCERIES AND PRODUCE.

New Potatoes 20lb for 1s, New fruit in season at low st rates.
This Week—Large Choice Bananas 7lbs 1s
SUGAR—retail from 2d per lb—cheaper by the bag, Salmon 8d, American canned fruit in syrup 9d, Treacle 2lb tin 6d, Essence Lemon, large size, 4d N.Z. Condensed Milk 6d, Swiss Milk 6½d, Pasteurised Milk 6d, Matches 4d, Soap 6 bars 1s, Sperm Candles 5d, Sardines 3d, 4d, 5d, Tomato Sauce large size 5d and 7d, Worcester do. 4d, Cornflour, 3d lb; Baking Soda 3lbs for 6d. Extract of Coffee 1s, Corned beef 10d 11d. Section Honey 4d, Morton' Seidlitz Powders 8d tin, Sand Soap 2½d Clothes Pegs 4d a doz., Scented Soap 1d, Hudson's Extract Soap 10 for 1s.

GOOD CHEAP PACKET TEAS

Billy Tea, 2lb for 3s
2s Packet Teas selling at 1s 5d or in tins 1s 5d per lb, mixed 1s 4d, plain 1s, gold dust 1s 2d. Coffee 1s 6d.

CROCKERY AND GLASS—Prices cut very low.

Direct English Importations constantly arriving. Very heavy stock to select from. 1000 dozen Cups and Saucers at 3s 6d per dozen. Large consignment now to hand. Upwards of £1000 worth of Crockery and Glass to select from.

YATES' CELEBRATED New Garden Seeds—large consignments—also Cabbage, Cauliflower, and other Plants in season.

PLEASE NOTE

For Cash or Prompt Settlement in full we are selling best goods retail at about wholesale prices. No extra charge for booking provided accounts are promptly paid. Long credit cannot possibly be allowed at these rates. Satisfactory reference or a remittance will be required from unknown correspondence. Prompt delivery to all parts of the town and suburbs. SATISFACTION GUARANTEED. Limited space will allow of only a few of our prices being given; all goods equally cheap.

WE GIVE TRADING STAMPS.

W. WOOD,

POLLEN STREET.

Direct Importer of English and Colonial Merchandise, Glass, China &c.
Thames Agent for Arthur Yates and Co's Seed Merchants; and D. Hay and Son, Nurserymen of Auckland

HUGHES RAYWARD & BALDWIN

Late "HENRY HUGHES")
CHARTERD PATENT AGENTS,
Established 1888)

TRADE MARKS

Registered and PATENTS Obtained in all Countries throughout the World.

FOREIGN OFFICES:

London, Paris, Berlin, St. Petersburg, Brussels Vienna. Yokohama, New York, Ottawa Calcutta, Capetown, Melbourne, Sydney, Brisbane, Adelaide, etc

NEW ZEALAND OFFICES:
Head Office, Lambton Quay, Wellington
Branches: Christchurch, Dunedin, Napier and 103 QUEEN ST., AUCLAND.

Thames Representative
MR W. S. STYAK.

The Sharemarket,

AUCKLAND, January 22

The following quotations were issued at noon:—

SALES—
Waihi Extended—1s 2d
Talisman—12s 9d

BUYERS—
Kuranui—1d
New Waihi—3d
Konstas Reefs 1s 9d
Talisman—11s 9d
Ohinemuri 3d
Waihi Extended—1s 3d
Waihi Grand Junction—30s
Silverton—7s 6d
Waihi South—8½d
Waitekauri—39s
Woodstock—2s
Bunker's Hill—9½d

Just opened up at the Beehive a splendid range of white piques stripes, organdie muslins, and blouse silks. Alfred Court direct Importer—Advt

There are many Bandites (says the African Review) who will regret to hear that Mr Melt Marais, of Pretoria, was killed at the battle of Elands Laagte. He was one of the best Transvaal burghers, a true patriot, who has denounced for years the corrupt gang which has surrounded President Kruger. That such a man should fall in defence of the system he condemned is not the least of the tragedies of this miserable war.

Funerals

FUNERAL NOTICE.

THE FUNERAL of Eliza Tilsley will leave the Kauaeranga Bridge TO-MORROW (Saturday), 27th inst., at 3 p.m. Friends please accept this intimation.
ROBERT TWENTYMAN,
Undertaker.

DEATH.

TILSLEY—On January 25th, at her late residence, Puriri, Eliza Tilsley, aged 31 years.

The Thames Star.

Resurrexit

FRIDAY, JANUARY 26, 1900.

The companies forming No. 2 battalion are holding a memorial service at Paeroa on Sunday next, at which a large muster of No. 1 Ohinemuri, Waihi, Te Aroha, and Hauraki Rifles have promised to attend. A special train has been arranged to leave Thames at 9 o'clock on Sunday morning, with tickets at 4s return first class and 2s second class. An open air concert is to be held in the afternoon, for which a good programme has been arranged. The return train leaves Paeroa at 4 p.m., arriving at Thames at 5.5.

We have to thank Mr Coad for a copy of the current issue of the Auckland Weekly News. The supplement is of special interest, as it contains numerous illustrations of important incidents in connection with the camping of the New Zealand contingent at Naauwpoort, and also photographs of the late Mr T. L. Murray and Trooper Connell.

The half-yearly meeting of the Thames Miners' Union will be held in the Hall at 8 o'clock to-night.

A special meeting of the Thames Fire Brigade will be held in the Shortland Shed this evening at 7.30 o'clock.

At the meeting of the Borough Council held last night, three tenders were received for the removal of 1000 loads of gravel from the Karaka Creek—P. Maxwell, 1s 4½d per load; C. Short, 1s 6d; J. Hawkes, 1s 5d.—Mr Hawkes', tender, being the lowest, was accepted.

The gift sale will be continued for a few days by W. S. Wylie, who is now making great reductions in the balance of millinery and dress fabrics. He has just opened a grand stock of sheetings, towels, quilts table covers, lace curtains, and other household goods bought before the advance in prices; extraordinary good value—Advt

An inquest was held at Shaw's hotel Paeroa yesterday, before Mr Wm Forrest (Coroner) and a jury of six, of which Mr J. J. Martin was chosen foreman, into the circumstances attending the death of James Henry Dickey. After hearing the evidence, a verdict was returned that deceased met his death at Paeroa on January 25th, from injuries accidentally received whilst riding the racehorse Swiftfoot on the Paeroa racecourse on the preceding day.

We understand that the absence of Mrs Moss Davis at last night's concert was owing to a misunderstanding as to the date of the concert. Mrs Davies had made all preparations to come, but understood that the concert was for Friday night.

Post Office officials are sometimes blamed when a letter fails to arrive at its destination within a reasonable time, but if all the addresses are as difficult to decipher as the following, which recently puzzled the Thames Post Office clerks, it is no wonder that the Dead Letter office should continue to prove a useful branch of the department. The letter in question bore the following mystic inscription.—"Kaite Rahui-te Waruta Kei te puho, Post in the Manu." Whether the writer meant "Ohinemutu" is a problem only known to himself.

Now landing, will be sold at almost cost price, a large line of Mason's fruit jars, lightning and jelly jars, jam tumblers and moulds. Also preserving pans, various sizes, for sale or on hire by the day. In glass, china and common crockery we are continually landing large consignments, Cheaper than ever, with discount in trading stamps.—W. Wood.—Advt.

The Mayor concluded his address at the concert last night with the following lines:

Then take the muzzle off the lion
And let him have a go!
Is Boer or Briton going to rule?
That's what we want to know!
Whisper to him "Majuba Hill,"
Then at his chain he'll pull;
There's only room for one out there—
And that's John Bull!"

On Saturday afternoon last a fire occurred at Karangahake by which a small shanty occupied by Mr T. Collins was destroyed. Mr Collins was absent at the time, so that everything, except what he was wearing, was destroyed, and he estimates his loss at £7.

At a special meeting of the Borough Council held last evening, in accordance with the provisions of the Shop and Shop Assistants' Act, it was decided, on the motion of the Mayor, seconded by Cr Davey, that Thursday should be the day for closing for the weekly half-holiday.

Southern News.

(Per Press Association.)

WELLINGTON, Jan. 26.

During the year 1899, 18,506 persons arrived in the colony, while 16,619 departed. Last month the arrivals were 2200, and the departures 1236.

The postal and telegraph revenue for the quarter ended December was £115,904, as against £109,757 for the corresponding quarter of 1898.

The Savings Bank transactions for the last quarter show that the deposits exceeded the withdrawals by £37,082. In the corresponding quarter of 1898 the withdrawals exceeded the deposits by £31,606.

Dr. France, an old identity here, died to-day from an affection of the heart, aetat 75. The deceased medico arrived here in 1854.

GAZETTE NOTICES.

The resignation of Hon. Thos. Thompson, as Minister of Defence and Justice, is gazetted, and the appointment of the Hon. R. J. Seddon, as Minister of Defence, and of Mr. James McGowan, as Minister of Mines and Justice, is also published.

Captain Blackburn is gazetted as a member of the Central Board of Health.

Dr. Darby succeeds the late Dr. Philson as surgeon of the Auckland prison.

Dr. Gillon has been appointed surgeon captain of the New Zealand volunteer medical staff.

Revised regulations for the entry of engineer students in naval construction are gazetted.

Captain Tilley, of the American transport Abarenda, saw a good deal of service in the recent American-Spanish war. He was in command of one of the new U.S.A cruisers on the Cuba coast, and succeeded in capturing eleven Spanish prizes, some of them very valuable. Some of the vessels were captured right under the Spanish guns.

THE WAR.

Capture of Spionkop

SUCCESSFULLY STORMED ON TUESDAY.

HEAVY BOER LOSSES.

BRITISH CASUALTIES NUMEROUS.

GENERAL WOODGATE SERIOUSLY WOUNDED.

(Press Association—Copyright.)

DURBAN, Jan. 25.

A kopje near Spionkop was stormed on Tuesday after a heavy howitzer and infantry fire.

The Boers, while retreating across the ravine, suffered severely from shrapnel and lyddite shells.

LONDON, Jan. 25.

The newspapers blame the censors and the War Office for publishing General Buller's hazardous plan of driving the Boers from their position and relieving Ladysmith. They state it will cause cruel suspense.

General Buller cables that General Warren surprised and captured Spionkop on Tuesday night.

The Boers' artillery fire was severe all day Wednesday.

The British had many casualties, including General Woodgate, who was seriously wounded.

General Warren considers the enemy's position is untenable.

THE BOERS SURPRISED.

BRITISH HEAVILY ATTACKED.

THE WHITE FLAG.

ENEMY CHARGED WITH TREACHERY, DECEIT AND CONSPIRACY.

LONDON, Jan. 25.

News has been received that the small night garrison which was holding Spionkop fled when surprised.

The Boers heavily attacked the British on Wednesday.

General Buller states the soldiers are in splendid spirits.

The position is now occupied.

The Boers are in great strength.

The public were intensely relieved by the news of the capture of Spionkop.

General Buller has directed that the white flag is to be disregarded unless the enemy halt, lay down their weapons and throw up their arms. He accused the Boers of treachery, deceit and conspiracy.

A SUCCESSFUL RUSE.

LONDON, Jan. 25.

News is anxiously awaited from Spionkop. Many considered that General Buller's announcement of the intentions promised well. The Boers declared it was a ruse to enable the British to circumvent them.

Commandant Botha commands the Boer forces at Spionkop.

General Buller holds troops in readiness to follow General Warren's successes.

THE BRITISH CANNONADING.

LONDON, Jan. 25.

The Boers admit that Generals Warren's and Clery's cannonading was the fiercest they have yet encountered.

SUNDAY'S BATTLE.

LONDON, Jan. 25.

A hundred of the British troops who were wounded at the battle of Colenso have recovered, and participated in Sunday's fighting.

French and Gatacre

LONDON, Jan. 25.

Generals French and Gatacre are moving forward.

Generals French's and Gatacre's troops show much eagerness to advance.

Methuen's Army

LONDON, Jan. 25.

Lord Methuen keeps the enemy alert in the trenches.

RECONNAISSANCE FROM MODDER RIVER.

A VICTORIAN TROOPER WOUNDED.

CAPETOWN, Jan. 25.

A joint reconnaissance has been made in the direction of Rooipan by a detachment of the British forces from the Modden and Orange Rivers.

Trooper Falla, of the Victorian mounted rifles, was wounded at Rooipan.

NEWS FROM MAGERSFONTEIN.

BOERS DESPONDENT.

CAPETOWN, Jan. 25.

Deserters declare that the insanitary condition of the Boer camp at Magersfontein and scarcity of food, excepting meat, is causing much illness and despondency in the ranks of the enemy.

ARTILLERY DUEL AT KIMBERLEY.

CAPETOWN, Jan. 25.

A brisk artillery duel is proceeding at Kimberley.

Cecil Rhodes fired the new gun, the "Long Cecil," with excellent result.

Six thousand men, who were previously employed at the De Beers mines, are acting as soldiers, receiving the same pay as they received in the mines, besides food.

A STEAMER RELEASED.

CAPETOWN, Jan. 25.

The steamer Hans Wagner, which was seized at Delagoa, has been released.

Commandeered Englishmen.

REFUSE TO FIGHT FOR THE BOERS.

SHOT AT HARRISMITH.

CAPETOWN, Jan. 25.

The Englishmen possessing passes, who remained in the Free State, were shot at Harrismith for refusing to fight.

A TRAITOR RECEIVES HIS DESERTS.

CAPETOWN, Jan. 25.

Sergeant-Major Greener, who deserted from the Engineers at Alder shot, was captured at the battle of Magersfontein fighting for the Boers, and has been court-martialled and shot at Capetown.

He taught the Boers trench work.

ARRIVAL OF REINFORCEMENTS.

CAPETOWN, Jan. 25.

The troopship Kildonan Castle has arrived at Durban with two thousand troops.

LEE-ENFIELD RIFLES.

LONDON, Jan. 25.

The War Office authorities are constructing new sights for the Lee-Enfield rifles, in correction of a serious error. They have already altered a quarter of a million.

THE PREMIERS' CONFERENCE.

LONDON, Jan. 25.

The leading British newspapers applaud the objects of the conference of Premiers at Sydney, and declare the war has made a binding influence bringing the colonies into closer kinship with each other and the Motherland.

THE NEW SOUTH WALES CONTINGENT.

SYDNEY, Jan. 25.

The cost of the colony's contingents sent to the Transvaal, allowing for six months' pay, is £125,000.

THE SECOND CONTINGENT.

WELLINGTON, Jan. 26.

On this trip the Waiwera will call first at Durban, from which it is inferred that the second contingent may be attached to General Buller's army.

A SUCCESSFUL GARDEN FETE.

CHRISTCHURCH, Jan. 26.

At Mrs. Studholme's garden fete 2000 were present, and over £200 was raised for the war fund.

THE THIRD CONTINGENT.

CHRISTCHURCH, Jan. 26.

Tents have been erected on the show grounds for the camp, and the first body of men go under canvass to-day.

CABLE FROM THE AGENT-GENERAL.

WELLINGTON, Jan. 26.

The Agent-General cables: "Warren took Spionkop, the highest point of the southwest angle of the Boers' line, holding it all Wednesday under a heavy fire."

The Patriotic Fund.

Previously acknowledged...	144	9	2
Waterloo Baby (W.S.).....	0	2	6
Mr. W. McCullough (second contribution).....	1	1	0
Employees Menzies & Co., Thames Branch.....	3	3	0
Proceeds of Concert.....	33	2	10

THE PATRIOTIC CONCERT.

Statement of receipts and expenditure of funds of patriotic concert on January 25:

Receipts: Cash at door, £31 5s; proceeds of song "Absent-minded Beggar," £6 6s 10d; total, £37 11s 10d.

Expenditure: Printing and advertising, £3 17s 6d; tuning piano, 7s 6d; cartage of chairs, 4s.

Balance handed to treasurer of the patriotic fund, £33 2s 10d.

SYDNEY, Jan. 26.

The Cricket Association is arranging a match Australian Eleven v. Rest of Australia, to be played on February 2nd, in aid of the patriotic and bushmen's funds. The players will give their services free.

Auckland News.

(By Telegraph—Own Correspondent.)

AUCKLAND, Jan. 26.

THE LATE HON. W. E. GLADSTONE.

The bust of the late Right Hon. W. E. Gladstone, which was subscribed for by residents of Auckland and the surrounding district, has arrived, and will shortly be unveiled in the Free Library.

THAMES DRAINAGE BOARD.

The Drainage Board meeting was postponed till 2 o'clock this afternoon.

Drainage Board.

DRAINAGE BOARD ASSESSMENTS.

(By Telegraph—Own Correspondent.)

AUCKLAND, Jan. 26.

The adjourned meeting of the Drainage Board was held this afternoon.

Present—Messrs. Gordon (chairman), Park, Dunlop, Kissling, Hesketh, Gray, Clark and Greenslade.

A lengthy report by the assessors upon the mode of drainage for the field was read. It was estimated that the expenditure for the purpose of assessment should be fixed at £4500.

The following assessments were fixed upon: Kuranui, £90; Kuranui-Caledonian, £427 10s; Moanataiari, £607 10s; Waiotahi, £495; Victoria, £495; May Queen, £1485; Thames-Hauraki, £900.

CABLEGRAMS.

(Press Association—Copyright.)

SPEECH BY MR. MORLEY.

LONDON, Jan. 25.

The Hon. John Morley, speaking at Forfar, said Liberal Imperialism was simply "Chamberlain wine with a Rosebery label." He disliked the name of "Empire," and preferred a great confederacy of states, whereof Britain would be the centre. He declared that this war must be prosecuted to the bitter end.

ILLEGAL SOCIETIES IN FRANCE.

DISGRACEFUL SCENES IN THE CHAMBER.

PARIS, Jan. 25.

The Assumptionist Fathers, who were arrested here, were nominally fined. The confraternity was declared illegal, and has been dissolved.

Disgraceful scenes took place in the Chamber of Deputies, arising out of the trial of the Assumptionists.

The Nationalist Deputies grossly insulted the other members.

WHITE PHOSPHERUS.

LONDON, Jan. 25.

Messrs. Bryant and May have abolished the use of white phosphorus in the making of matches owing to its deleterious effect upon the workers.

DEATH OF THE KAISERIN'S MOTHER.

BERLIN, Jan. 25.

The Duchess of Schlesweig-Holstein (mother of the German Empress), is dead.

COMMERCIAL.

LONDON, Jan. 25.

The bank rate is 4 per cent.

The American visible wheat supply is 89,638,000 bushels.

Wool is quiet and prices unchanged. Akitio clip sold at 8¾d, and Kapunone at 10¾d.

THE AIRLIE WRECK.

THURSDAY ISLAND, Jan. 26.

A passing steamer reports that the Airlie remains on an even keel, high out of the water, and there is very little hope of saving her.

LORD BEAUCHAMP.

SYDNEY, Jan. 26.

It is rumored that Lord Beauchamp returns to England early in June.

A FATAL QUARREL.

SYDNEY, Jan. 25.

A man named Schnavel quarrelled with his wife near Parkes and shot her dead.

LABOR CONFERENCE.

SYDNEY, Jan. 25.

The intercolonial labor conference has adopted a fighting platform for the federal elections. It includes one adult one vote, old age pensions, exclusion of colored races, national referendum for settlement of deadlocks.

THE NEW HEBRIDES.

SYDNEY, Jan. 26.

The Premiers' Conference discussed the cable, that the French press are urging a settlement of the fate of the New Hebrides. The statement that Australia is less hostile towards the French, and desire to annex the group was ridiculed, and a resolution adopted intimating to the Imperial Government that the opposition to French annexation had in no way diminished, and expressing an earnest hope that no steps would be taken to give France greater control unless the Australian Governments were first consulted.

The conference has adjourned until Saturday.

THE PREMIERS' CONFERENCE.

SYDNEY, Jan. 25.

The Premiers' conference resolved that each colony should have its own representative on the federal delegation proceeding to England, and that the conference statisticians should decide the population of the various colonies in connection with the initiation of federation. The conference resolved upon joint precautionary action against the introduction of the plague. With reference to the New Guinea Land Syndicate's claim for compensation, the Victorian Premier declined to recognise the claim. Mr. Lyne announced he would do nothing in the matter without consulting his Parliament. The Cape cable discussion was postponed till Saturday.

THE CAPE CABLE.

MELBOURNE, Jan. 26.

Replying to the Chamber of Commerce deputation, which protested against granting certain concessions to the Cape cable, asked by the Eastern Extension Company, and supporting a strict adherence to the Pacific scheme, the Postmaster-General said the Government was anxious to secure concerted action of the colonies, and to keep to the partnership already entered into regarding the Pacific. At the same time the Government desired to encourage the construction of both lines, with a view to giving the public the benefit of fair and healthy competition.

A case of considerable interest to factory owners was decided in the Magistrate's Court at Feilding last week, when a charge was brought against Elijah Mondin for having worked in the Kimbolton creamery on a Sunday in view of a public place. The case (says the Manawatu Daily Times) was virtually against the Cheltenham Dairy Company, the proprietors, and was for the purpose of testing their right to work their factory on Sundays. When the evidence was taken it was proved that the factory had to be kept open on Sundays, as otherwise the milk would not keep until Monday. Mr. Greenfield, S.M., who presided, took a practical view of the case, and recognising that the work was necessary on Sundays, he dismissed the information.

Cheap Lamps for the winter under cost price at Hansen's. Also several Bicycles cheap.—Advt.

The Plague.

(Press Association—Copyright.)

SYDNEY, Jan. 26.

Payne is progressing satisfactorily. One explanation of the mildness of the attack is that it is an initial case, the peculiarity of the disease being that as it passes from body to body the virulence increases.

The health authorities believe it was introduced by rats, and a war is raging against them, especially in the suspected district.

A rumor is current that a girl with similar symptoms to Payne's was removed to the Sydney Hospital, where she died, but the health authorities deny any knowledge of the matter.

ADELAIDE, Jan. 26.

The restrictions placed on the Adelaide Hospital in consequence of the plague have been relaxed by the authorities, as the danger of spreading has passed.

WELLINGTON, Jan. 26.

The Premier has received a cable from the Sydney Board of Health stating that a case which is isolated in Sydney is undoubtedly bubonic plague, though in a mild form. There is visible evidence that the man was innoculated by the bite of a flea. It is hoped no one else has been infected. The greatest precautions are being taken. Members of the patient's household have been isolated and his house closed.

The fact that numbers of dead rats have been found in the plague-infested parts of the town of Noumea (says the Australian Star), and also on board the infected steamer St. Pierre, bear out the theory of the medical men engaged in plague work during the recent awful visitation in the Bombay Presidency, viz., that rats themselves are subject to the bubonic plague, and are, therefore, frequently the medium by which the disease is conveyed from one point to another. Dr. Ashburton Thompson appears to be fully alive to this danger, as, speaking to a representative of the Star, he remarked: "I would advise everybody to begin killing rats." The advice is good as far as it goes, but would hardly be practicable in the case of rats brought to this port by an infected ship. It is well known that rats have an instinct which leads them to quit a vessel upon anything unpleasant to themselves is transpiring. They cannot vacate their quarters in mid-ocean, but immediately the anchor is down they will, as all sailors know, swarm down the cable, take to the water and boldly make for the shore. Then, if any of the rodents chance to be infected, the mischief is done.

COAL MINERS' STRIKE.

(Per Press Association.)

WESTPORT, Jan. 26.

The truckers at the Denniston mines struck for an increase of 1s a day. It is asserted that the miners' committee have committed a breach of the industrial agreement; also that the union disapproves of the action. Great inconvenience is caused to the shipping, as several large steamers have been delayed.

Great Britain's Duty Call.

The following verses have been widely published in Canada:

Workshops formerly unchallenged,
Shipyards once without a peer,
Now acknowledge giant rivals
Forging forward year by year.

Hostile powers, fearful, grasping,
Eager to devour the weak,
Stand allied with bated hate,
And mighty Britain's downfall seek.

Freedom, Christian faith and justice
Follow where her flag's unfurled;
E'en her foes allow her title,
Coloniser of the world!

Richer grows the Empire daily,
Endlessly its breath extends;
Yet, unaided, every haven,
Every hamlet she defends.

Let her shielding strength be shattered,
Let victorious foes advance,
We may groan beneath the Russias—
Feel the clutch of frenzied France.

Colonies! behold your danger!
Grapple! for it grows apace;
Your duty is to guard the Empire,
Weld, uplift the British race.

Freely take of what she offers,
Amply give her of your best,
Bear your share of Britain's burden—
Patriotism's truer test.

Drill your regiments of rifles,
Lines of battle craft maintain
Make and man your own defences,
Striving for the common gain.

Chain your capitals with cable,
World-encircling, land to land;
Let Governments co-operate,
Your chieftains working hand in hand.

Hold your statesmen true to Britain,
Prove that, what your sires have been,
You are still, and ever will be,
Subjects loyal to your Queen.

Amongst the very few Britishers remaining in Johannesburg is Miss Holmes-Orr, lady principal of St. Mary's College, Jeppestown, who is rendering good service in assisting to alleviate the distress. She has under her personal care fifty or sixty destitute women and children, the cost of whose maintenance she is generously paying out of her own pocket.

It may be safely stated (says a Natal paper) that the looters of Pomeroy, and those doing ditto in Zululand, are disorganised bands of Boers from the Pondoland district and Swaziland. Here congregate the black sheep of Beerdom, the bushrangers, outcasts and highwaymen of the Transvaal, and they are taking advantage of the opportunity offered to indulge in their propensity for lifting cattle and looting.