

of the most costly and elegant buildings in the city. There are forty-two hotels and restaurants; two Masonic and three Odd Fellows' lodges; there is a Garrick club, debating society, chess club, jockey club, mechanics' institution, a building and land society, a chamber of commerce, three daily and three weekly newspapers. The gas is laid on in all the principal streets of the city, which are now kerbed and paved, or laid down with asphalt, which, in Otago, appears to be almost as durable as stone. The streets have all been made and metalled under the superintendence of Mr. Henry Miller, an engineer of great ability and experience, for several years engaged in Victoria on works of magnitude. There are four new jetties, in addition to the old one; there are two leading at acute angles from Jetty-street; the new Customs wharf and jetty; the Stewart-street jetty, in the vicinity of the gaol; and a very long one at Pelichet Bay, at the north-west extremity of the city.

Very shortly, one hundred and thirty-seven acres will be reclaimed from the bay, in the heart of the city, by the cutting away of Bell Hill, and filling in with the debris. The estimated cost of this work is £355,305; but it is calculated that the building sites will pay the whole cost and leave a handsome surplus to be devoted to the public works in the city. Dunedin possesses a large hospital, capable of receiving about one hundred and sixty patients. It has also a benevolent asylum. The inhabitants are justly proud of their edifices devoted to public worship. The erection of a large and elegant Church of England in Stewart-street, near the junction of the Octagon, has lately been completed. There is a very handsome Roman Catholic church on the east side of Princes-street, built of stone. In the vicinity of this is the Wesleyan chapel, built in the Gothic style of architecture. Besides these, are two Presbyterian churches—one fronting the beach at the centre of Princes-street, and the other (Knox's Church) in Great King-street. There is a small synagogue for the members of the Hebrew persuasion in George-street; but another, more central, will shortly be erected in Princes-street, at a large cost. There are also places of worship—unpretending, certainly—used by the Baptists and Independents. Shortly, a second Church of England will be built at the south end of the city; and the Roman Catholics have also instituted a movement for the same object.

In January, the first anniversary of the Caledonian Society was celebrated by a "gathering," which lasted three whole days, and was attended by over ten thousand people.

The completion of the electric telegraph, and its usefulness being so greatly felt, has determined the Government to establish a line of telegraphic communication through the whole of the Province.

According to the official statement of the population of the gold fields, compiled from the weekly returns of the Wardens, there were, on the 1st of January, 8,050 miners in the Province. During the fortnight ending January 9th, the gold sent down by the escort was 23,000 ozs., or nearly three ounces a man. Eighty vessels arrived in the port of Dunedin during the month, many of them ships of considerable tonnage. During the first six weeks of the year, no less than 7,710 passengers arrived, while the departures were about 700. During the same period the newly discovered gold fields in the Lake district were developed, the first escort from Lake Wakatipu bringing down 8,300 ozs.; the second escort, 13,072 ozs.; and the third, 22,835 ozs.

The first Champion Race Meeting in Otago took place on the 5th, 6th, 7th, and 8th of March. Nine horses were entered, but of these only five started—among them Mormon, the winner of the last Champion Race in Victoria. The prize, amounting to 1,000 sovereigns, with a sweepstakes of 100 sovereigns each added, was won by a New Zealand mare, Lady Bird, owned by Mr. Redwood, of Nelson.

On the 8th of April, Mr. John Hyde Harris was elected Superintendent by a majority of 128 votes over Major Richardson.

A subject of much interest during the month had been the return of Dr. Hector from a trip to the West Coast.

In April, there was a rush to the Dart-River, and a payable prospect was obtained at Lake Wanaka.

Owing to the scarcity of cattle in the Province, and the prohibition of the General Government against the importation of cattle from the adjacent colonies, the cost of butchers' meat was extraordinarily high, the prices ruling from 1s. 4d. to 1s. 6d. per lb.

On the 18th April, an expedition, fitted out by the Provincial Government, for the exploration of the West Coast, started under the charge of Dr. Hector. A small schooner was engaged for the purpose.

The Dunedin gas works were completed in May, being the first works intended for public purposes erected in New Zealand. Mains were laid about six miles in length. The price charged for gas was 25s. per thousand cubic feet. The company paid £3 15s. per ton for Newcastle, N.W.S. coal, delivered.

Cases of great good luck in the Lake district, especially on the Shotover, were reported during the month. One party of miners had netted £20,000 out of a beach claim on the river referred to.

On the 8th, a detachment of the 70th Regiment, consisting of 95 rank and file, under the command of Major Ryan, left Dunedin for the North, consequent upon the Maori disturbances.

On the evening of the 4th July, the most melancholy accident that has ever taken place in the Province occurred. On the evening of Friday, the 3rd, the ship Matoaka, arrived at Port Chalmers, having on board a number of passengers, and among them the Rev. T. H. Campbell, Principal of the Dunedin High School, his wife, his five children (one only a month old), and his two servants. On Saturday morning Mr. and Mrs. Campbell visited Dunedin to select a place of temporary residence. This they did, and returned to the ship, to bring up the children and luggage. In the evening they went on board the steamer Pride of the Yarrow, which was on her way up from the port, with the powerful boat Favorite, and sank within two minutes. Twelve persons went down with her, not having had time to escape from the cabin. Seven of those were Mr. and Mrs. Campbell and their five children.

Heavy rains and floods prevailed throughout the interior during the month, causing, in some instances, a great amount of injury to mining property, also occasioning loss of life, and generally preventing the working of river and beach claims. On the 3rd, information was brought to the Dunstan township of some very good diggings having been opened on the Hogburn, Mount Ida, sixty miles from the Dunstan, in the direction of Waikouaiti. A large population was attracted to the spot.

The Provincial Council met on the 12th of August, and unanimously elected Major Richardson, the late Superintendent, as Speaker.

Accounts were received this month of further disasters from floods and landslips, especially on the Arrow and Shotover rivers. A great many lives were lost by drowning, and some through imprudence in venturing into the outlying diggings, which were cut off by snow.

In September, the Cargill Ministry resigned. Mr. Gillies constructed a Ministry, of which Mr. Dick was Provincial Secretary; Mr. Cargill, Treasurer; Mr. Duncan, Secretary of Public Works; and Captain Baldwin and Mr. Moss, members without office.

#### GOLD STATISTICS.

The quantity of gold exported from the Province of Otago during the current year to this date is 450,805 ozs.