

with as soon as possible. The session was brought to a close on the 29th September, having extended over a period of two months and a-half.

MEMORABILIA.

October, 1862.—A bonded store was opened on the 13th, at Kaiapoi.

22nd.—A pastoral and agricultural show was held in Christchurch, with great success. The show was numerously attended, and the exhibition of horses and cattle was highly creditable to so young a community. The season of the year, and the difficulty of transit, operated unfavourably as regards the display of sheep, in which class it might have been supposed the exhibition would have been well represented. The excellency of the cart horses shown was very remarkable; some of the animals were good enough to have taken prizes in the agricultural districts of England.

15th.—Inauguration of the Northport Steam Navigation Company.

29th.—The skeleton of a moa, found by workmen employed in excavating for the approaches of the new bridge over the Heathcote. The skeleton was found about fifteen feet below the surface of the ground, and appeared to have undergone a process of petrification.

November 12th.—H.M. s.s. Harrier arrived in Lyttelton. The result of this visit was the purchase, by the General Government, of the p.s. Avon, for £1,725. She is intended to navigate the Waikato river, near to Auckland.

16th.—The house belonging to Messrs. Lance and Walker, at Mount Four-peaks Station, burnt to the ground.

22nd.—Heavy slip of earth in the Moorhouse Tunnel; no loss of life.

December 1st.—A session of the Supreme Court, opened before the newly appointed Judge, Mr. Christopher Wm. Richmond, in the absence of the resident Judge Gresson. The calendar was unusually heavy, fourteen bills being brought up to the grand jury. Among the charges was one of rape, two of attempt to commit that offence, one of stabbing, and three of perjury.

10th.—A fire-engine, for the use of Lyttelton, received.

16th.—Being the anniversary of the settlement, a few feeble attempts, in the face of a wet day, were made to keep general holiday. The steamer Gothenburg took down a party of ladies and gentlemen to the Heads, and the Gazelle another party to the Bays. At Christchurch, a cricket match was got up for the occasion.

20th.—A terrific hail-storm from south-west, at Kaiapoi, lasting for upwards of half-an-hour; the hailstones were as large as marbles. The fruit trees were stripped, and some small plots of wheat and barley were literally thrashed; the potatoes suffered to the same extent. Fortunately the hail extended for no considerable distance; at Felton's Ferry there was none, and it did not extend so far north as the Maori Bush, otherwise the damage would have been really serious.

26th.—First exhibition of the Christchurch Horticultural Society; it was held in the public garden, Cathedral-square.

January 1st, 1863.—New Year's Day was celebrated in Lyttelton by the annual regatta meeting. On this occasion the weather was all that could be desired, and a large concourse of people attended to enjoy the sport. The prizes, which were very liberal in amount, were in most cases keenly contended for, more especially the rowing matches.

27th.—Schooner Sarah wrecked on the Heathcote bar; no lives lost.

February 16th.—Messrs. Hall, Ritchie, & Co.'s warehouse, Lyttelton, burnt to the ground and all the contents destroyed; being a detached building close to the sea, and the wind fortunately carrying the flames away from the town, no further damage ensued.

23rd.—A slight shock of an earthquake felt throughout the Province.

27th.—Second Exhibition of the Christchurch Horticultural Society.

March 2nd.—Dangerous bush fire at Papanui.

7th.—Mr. Moorhouse having resigned the superintendency, gave a farewell address to his constituents at the Town Hall; the meeting was numerously attended, and great enthusiasm prevailed.

Mr. Bealey was nominated the same day for the vacant office.

9th.—Quarterly session of the Supreme Court before Mr. Justice Gresson; the calendar being very light, all the criminal cases were disposed of in one day.

16th.—Heavy gale from S.W. Several vessels dragged their anchors at Lyttelton; in Christchurch, two unfinished houses were blown down.

23rd.—First meeting of the Christchurch City Council under the new Ordinance, the Hon. John Hall was re-elected Chairman.

Comparative statement of the amount of Crown land sold for the quarter ending 31st March, 1862 and 31st March, 1863:

1862.				1863.			
	No.	Size.	Acres.		No.	Size.	Acres.
January	116	200.9	23,291	January	88	61.7	5,830
February	90	68.2	6,137	February	70	56.1	3,925
March	94	126.5	11,887	March	137	64.8	8,876
			<u>41,315</u>				<u>18,631</u>

April 10th.—The Benmore Station, 200,000 acres, with 14,000 sheep, was sold for £36,000.

26th.—Volunteer shooting match at Lyttelton, for Government prizes: Mr. Leggett carried off the prize.

May 6th.—The first locomotive brought to Canterbury; landed at Ferrymead.

The last English mail received consisted of 37 boxes, containing 5317 letters, and 13,000 newspapers.

8th.—The schooner Crest of the Wave, sailed from Lyttelton for the West Coast; she took out a quantity of stores and building materials for the erection of a Government depôt on the Teremakau, under the superintendence of Mr. Charles Townsend.

About the 12th, an alarming accident occurred at the Heathcote Ferry. A covered passenger cart, plying between Port Hills and Christchurch, was proceeding towards the punt, when the horses took fright and rushed into the river; no serious consequences ensued to any of the ten or eleven passengers, excepting three females, who were inside; they were extricated with some difficulty after being under water some minutes. All recovered; one of the horses was drowned.

25th and 26th were appointed public holidays to commemorate the birth-day of Her Majesty and the marriage of the Prince of Wales; the affair however, was so unsuccessful that another later day was fixed for the celebration of the latter event.