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Latest Locals.

Church Parade.—The church parade in connection with the Jubilee Lodge, I.O.O.F., Prebbleton, is postponed from tomorrow till a day to be notified.

THE WEATHER.—The heaviest rain since February occurred in the Northern district last night, the downpour lasting for over three hours. This morning, however, the sky was cloudless.

UNION INSURANCE COMPANY.—In an advertisement the Hon E. W. Parker offers himself as a candidate for the vacant seat on the Board of Directors of the Union Insurance Company.

THE ADVENT OF WINTER.—A thick coating of snow covered the tops of the hills on the southern side of Lyttelton Harbour this forenoon, giving ample evidence of the near approach of winter.

Long Service Medals.—A circular from the Defence Office states that long service medals will be issued to Volunteer officers, who have served sixteen years continuously, or have twenty years' efficient service. Formerly these medals were issued only to the men.

Supreme Court.—His Honor Mr Justice Denniston will hold a sitting at nisi prius at 10.30 a.m. on Monday, for the purpose of hearing the case of Andrews v. Fisher. The case of M'Donald v. M'Donald, an application for a rule nisi in divorce will follow. The argument in Banco in the Maori fishing cases will also be taken.

SOUTH-EAST LOCAL CPTION POLL.—The local option poll being taken at St John's Schoolroom to-day, to decide whether there shall be an increase of licenses in

that district or not, is being treated with contempt. At one o'clock there had only been eleven votes recorded. Mr G. Leslie Lee is Returning Officer.

A PHENOMENAL POTATO.—A remarkable specimen of the Bath kidney potato was exhibited at the Corn Exchange to-day. It was grown at Woodend, and weighs 4½lbs, and consists of one large tuber, to which half a dozen smaller ones have attached themselves during growth.

RANGIORA BOROUGH COUNCIL.—At a special meeting of the above Council, held last night, the Mayor presiding, a Committee, consisting of the Mayor and Councillors Ivory, Cone and Jennings, was appointed to meet Mr Lowe, Railway Engineer-in-Chief, at eleven o'clock on Monday morning, to confer respecting the Council's claim for compensation for damage done to Maria Andrews' park by fire on Dec. 24, caused by a spark from a locomotive.

Scottish Rifles.—The weekly parade of the Scottish Rifles yesterday afternoon was very well attended. Notwithstanding the bad weather, only seven men were absent out of a total strength of forty. Two of the absentces are away from Christ-church on leave, and one was sick. After the parade, a meeting of the Finance Committee was held, and it was reported that after providing for all liabilities, there was a sum of £30 in hand.

PRESENTATION AT LYTTELTON. — Yesterday afternoon the employees of Mesers J. W. Smith and Co.'s drapery establishment at Lyttelton, presented Miss Falloon, who has had charge of the dressmaking department for some years, with a token of their respect and esteem for her, on the eve of her leaving to be married. The presentation took the form of a handsome silver teapot, besides several other articles both useful and ornamental.

KAIAPOI BOROUGH SCHOOL.—On Friday afternoon Mr R. Moore, Chairman of the School Committee, presented the Australasian Humane Society's medal to Arthur Hall, the winner of the recent swimming competitions. The presentation was made in the presence of all the scholars. Mr Moore, in his address, said he hoped before very long that a proper swimming bath would be constructed in the Borough.

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MEETING OF CREDITORS.—The first meeting of creditors in the estate of Pierce Joyce, of Ohoka, farmer, which was called for this morning, lapsed through an insufficient number of creditors attending. The bankrupt's statement of assets and liabilities showed: - Liabilities: Unsecured - J. Sunter, Rangiora, £10; Robert Dailey, Swannanoa, £9; B. Wiltram, Ohoke, £8; J. H. Baker, Ohoka, £10; C. Henwood, Kaiapoi, £8; Dr Downes, Rangiora, £2 2s; T. M'Naught, Rangiora, £2; Press Company, £1 18:; Executors late S Total £88, Secured-Bradley, £37. Christchurch Finance Company estimated value of security £123. liabilities, less security in hands of secured Assets-Stock-in-trade creditors. £134. £1 10s, furniture £6; total £7 10s. Defi ciency £126 10s.

"AUSTRALIA."—Despite the heavy rain that fell during the whole of last evening, there was a capital house at the Theatre Royal on the occasion of the second performance by the Christchurch Musical Society of Mr Luscombe Searelle's new cantata, Australia. The performance was an even greater success than that of the soloists, chorus and night, previous orchestra acquitting themselves admirably. The audience was very enthusiastic and encores were numerous. Mr Searelle has every reason for satisfaction with the success that has attended the production of his composition. As on the previous evening, the first portion of the programme, the musical mélange, went exceedingly well. Between the first and second parts Mr Searelle, who received a call before the curtain, took the opportunity of saying a few words in acknowledgment of the manner in which the cantata had been received. He also expressed his thanks to the Musical Society, and especially Mi Wallace, for the way in which worked. Mr Searelle said that he was just on the point of leaving for England and when there he would produce the cantata in an improved form.

DEATH OF AN OLD IDENTITY.—On Friday night, at Lyttelton, there passed away another of the old identities whose ranks are being stripped at a rapid rate. The last victim is John (Sid) Cowan, wh arrived in Lyttelton in the ship Sir George Pollock in 1851. The deceased has, with the exception of about twelve months spent on the Victorian diggings, resided in Lyttelton ever since. He married a fellow passenger by the same ship, and now has several grown up sons in the place. For some considerable time past Cowan has been bedridden, suffering from a cancer in the throat, which terminated his existence.

Duck Shooting. - A Gebbie's Flat correspondent writes : - Duck shooting seems all the talk now. You hear of a few good bags being made since the opening day. The shooting men about this district cannot quite make out why, if the season commenced on April 1, you must not sell a duck before May 1. I wonder if the big men of Christchurch were to go out on the lake, and a good day's shooting was the result, what would become of the ducks before May. One of our rangers thought he had a fine haul the other day. seeing a young man carrying a gun and bag, he asked him to show what the bag contained. To his surprise it held a few of what Paddy called "praties." If he had been half so smart on March 31 he might have caught, almost at his door, more than one with ducks.

SUNDAY SERVICES .- The preachers tomorrow at the Durham street Wesleyan Church will be the Rev W. C. Oliver in the morning and the Rev W. Morley in the At the East belt Church the Rev W. Morley will preach in the morning and the Rev W. C. Oliver in the evening. The service in Hayward's Hall, Sumner, will be conducted by Mr Hiddlestone. At the Oxford terrace Baptist Church anniversary services will be held; the preachers being the Rev Newman Buttle in the morning and Mr W. J. Sayce in the evening. The Rev R. Graham, of Liverpool, will reach in the Chancery Lane Hall in the evening. Mr Worthington will give one of his Bible talks in the Oddfellows' Hall in the morning and will lecture in the same place in the evening. Primitive Methodist Church, the Rev W. S. Potter will preach both in the morning and in the evening.

ANIMAL PAINTING.—The absence of animal paintings from the Christchurch exhibition this season may be accounted

for by the removal of several students of this class of art. Among the notable absentees are Messrs G. F. Fodor and Linneas Partridge, who have always come out well in this direction, but they are both residents of Melbourne at the present By recent accounts from Mr Partridge, he is now engaged on animal subjects from life, his subjects being occupants of the Melbourne zoological collection. Doubtless, a similar collection in this Colony would do much stimulate animal painting here, but in any case it is expected that Mr iPartridge's work will grace the walls of future exhibitions here as they have done n the past.

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