

## TOWN NEWS.

It is proposed to shortly rescind the regulation which was adopted during the war preparations a few months ago, prohibiting the passage of vessels through the south channel of Port Phillip without the guidance of a special pilot during the day, and absolutely closing the channel at night. It will be remembered, that this order was passed owing to the channel being partially blocked with torpedoes and mines, and the necessity of exercising special care in the navigation of the passage. The work of removing the mines and torpedoes with a view to their overhaul has been proceeding for some weeks past, and such progress has been made as to admit of the reopening of the channel for unrestricted navigation. The whole of the mines forming the outer field have been taken up, and the mines in the inner field will also be removed in a week or two. Arrangements are being made by which it will be possible to relay the whole of the mines and completely block the

channel at very short notice should any necessity for such a course arise.

Sir Saul Samuel has been fortunate enough (remarks our London correspondent) to secure for the New South Wales Government two interesting relics of the great navigator who in 1770 discovered and took possession of Australia for the British Empire. One of these relics is believed to be the ship's compass with which the Endeavour was navigated on her eventful voyage, and the other a grog kettle designed by Captain Cook, and which he took with him when he circumnavigated the world.

Messrs. Walter Macgibbon and James Blair Donaldson, two Victorian medical students who went home by the Chimborazo in March last to prosecute their studies in Edinburgh, have both been successful in passing their final examination in medicine and surgery. This examination is called the triplet, and entitles the above candidates to the degrees of L.R.C.P. et L.R.C.S. Edinburgh, et L.F.P.S. Glasgow.

It is the intention of the Government to introduce during the present session a bill to provide for the construction of a canal to con-

nect the Thomson River with Sale, in accordance with the plans furnished by Sir John Coode about four years ago. It is proposed to improve the channel of the Thomson River for a distance of one mile one furlong above the swing-bridge, near the junction of the Thomson and Latrobe Rivers, to form a swinging basin at the first sharp bend one mile five furlongs from Sale, and to construct a canal one mile and a quarter in length from the swinging basin to about 500 yards southward of the junction of Foster and Raymond streets, Sale. It is further proposed to extend the canal for another 1,230ft., widened out from 200ft. to 300ft., so as to partake of the character of a floating basin, and so enable the shipping to be taken within a very short distance of the town. The total cost of the works mentioned has been estimated at about £45,000. A variety of questions connected with the conditions under which the work shall be carried out, and the arrangements which can be made with property-holders whose land may be rendered liable to flooding by the construction of the canal, have to be considered by the Government before the bill can be framed. With a view of making themselves fully acquainted with the proposals and their surroundings, Mr. Kerferd and Mr. Langridge propose to go to Sale on Thursday next. The present intention of the Government is to form a local harbour trust, with power to borrow the money necessary to construct the canal, to afford facilities for shipping, and deal with the Crown lands adjoining the canal and basin.

The Railway Commissioners have decided upon making certain concessions in the rates and regulations for the carriage of tanning materials, in response to the request of a deputation of country tanners which waited upon them last week. Valonia, myrabolama, sumach, glucose, and extract of bark, sent in consignments of not less than two tons, and for tanning purposes, will be carried at the "miscellaneous class" rates, as will also leather in consignments of not less than one ton, instead of two tons as formerly. Hides will be charged for at the "special class B" rates, which will permit of a considerable reduction. The commissioners are not prepared to carry bark at lower rates, the present classification being in their opinion fair and reasonable. Nor do they see their way to reduce the rates for the carriage of oil, as large

duce the rates for the carriage of oil, as large quantities are used for other than tanning purposes, and a reduction would have to apply to the rates for oil generally.

A report upon the Cadet Corps, which are under the control of Major Snee, has been received by the Minister of Defence. Major Snee states that the whole of the corps established are in a satisfactory condition, and that the boys behave admirably and pay the fullest attention to their drill. The whole movement has been heartily entered into, and the most successful results are predicted. There are now 57 corps in the various schools, with 2,300 cadets.

Mr. F. G. Smith, manager of the National Bank of Australasia, has written a letter to Mr. Chomley, the chief commissioner of police, in which he expresses his thanks to the detectives who were engaged in bringing to justice the men who stuck up the Simpson's-road branch of the National Bank on June 3. Mr. Smith also expresses his appreciation of the expeditious manner in which the robbers were traced and arrested. At Mr. Smith's request Mr. Chomley will nominate a number of gentlemen to hear claims for and distribute the reward which was offered by the bank directors for the conviction of the robbers and recovery of the stolen money. In the event of the recovery of all the money which was taken from the bank £550 was to be distributed, but as £700 of the £1,125 stolen remains undiscovered, the reward will be somewhat under £500.

Last week's *Government Gazette* contains two additional regulations for the government of rifle clubs, providing that "members of rifle clubs who take and subscribe the oath prescribed by the Discipline Act, to serve for a period of three years, or until sooner legally discharged, may be allowed to resign 14 days after having given notice in writing to their captain, and that boys may be engaged for the purpose of being trained as buglers to mounted rifles. Not more than two per company will be allowed—age, 14 to 18 years."

The departure of Sir Peter Scratchley, the High Commissioner for New Guinea, on his way to that island, has been delayed by illness. Sir Peter Scratchley has been confined to his house for the last few days suffering from a severe attack of influenza, and, although he has now partially recovered, his

although he has now partially recovered, his medical attendant, fearing a relapse, has advised that he should not start upon his journey to New Guinea before the end of this week.

It has been decided to transfer Super-

intendent Ryall, of Ballarat, to Sandhurst, in the place of Superintendent Palmer, who has been appointed to take charge of the Ballarat police district.

A deputation of residents from the Springs, introduced to the Railway Commissioners on Tuesday by Mr. Uren, M.L.A., asked that a permanent survey should be made of the line from the Dowling Forest Racecourse, at Ballarat, to the Springs, via Learmonth, a distance of 13 miles. The commissioners promised to inspect the route shortly.

Mr. Charles Stewart, the inspector of mines at Ballarat, has reported to the Minister of Mines that on July 29 he made a satisfactory trial of the sulphate of iron spray for dispersing the fumes of nitro-glycerine compounds at the Band and Barton Company's mine. The spray was used after the explosion of four charges of dynamite at the bottom of the shaft, 953ft. from the surface. No one felt the least effects from the fumes, and the miners were so pleased with the results that they at once adopted the use of the spray, and will not now work without it.

The 65th half-yearly general meeting of the Bank of Victoria was held on Tuesday; Mr. H. Miller in the chair. There was a large attendance of shareholders. The chairman moved the adoption of the report, which recommended a dividend at 10 per cent. per annum. Dr. Lloyd seconded the motion, which was agreed to. Messrs. J. C. Tyler and W. H. Hull were re-elected auditors. The retiring directors were Messrs. J. K. Freyer, E. Miller, and Germain Nicholson. The two former offered themselves for re-election, and Messrs. F. Lloyd and P. Nettleton were also candidates. A poll was taken, resulting in the return of Messrs. Freyer, Miller, and Nettleton. Votes of thanks were passed to the directors and office-bearers.

It is announced that a number of open scholarships and exhibitions, presented by a member of the council of Trinity College, will be offered for competition at the college early in March, 1886. The scholarships will cover the cost of college fees for residence

cover the cost of college fees for residence and commons during the academic year, while the exhibitions carry with them free tuition in all subjects upon which lectures are delivered. The competition is unfettered by any restrictions as to age, religion, or future profession. Lady students are eligible for all non-resident exhibitions. Certain of the exhibitions and scholarships are intended for medical students, for whose benefit a special department is about to be established at the college, to supply greater facilities for the practical teaching of various branches of science. Further particulars as to subjects of examination, &c., are to be obtained by making application to the college authorities.

The entries for the annual show of the Australian Sheep Breeders' Association close on Monday next.

A correspondent of *The Australasian* recently suggested that facilities should be provided at the public offices for the registration of letters, as has been done at the Law Courts, where the post-office has proved a great convenience. Mr. Campbell called for a report on the subject, and after consideration of it has decided to open a post-office at the present telegraph office, off the main entrance to the Public offices, where letters may be registered and money orders obtained. After the necessary arrangements have been made, the date of opening will be duly announced.

Mr. E. V. Browne, clerk in the clerical division of the Post-office, whose case was recently brought before the Legislative Assembly, has been called upon, by the Public Service Board, to resign his appointment, on the ground that his services are no longer required, owing to a re-arrangement of the duties of the office. Mr. Browne entered the service in May, 1866, and he will receive compensation at the rate of one month's salary for each year of service. His remuneration has latterly been £250 per annum.

The position of affairs with regard to the strike of omnibus drivers was on Wednesday very much the same as on Tuesday. The Tramway and Omnibus Company are endeavouring to obtain non-union men from the country or elsewhere to drive their vehicles, while the pickets of the union are not unsuccessful in inducing some of the newly engaged men to leave their employment.

A crowded audience was present in the Town-hall on Wednesday afternoon to hear

Town-hall on Wednesday afternoon to hear the Bishop of Melbourne's second lecture on "The Galatian Lapse." As evidencing the deep interest taken in the present course, it may be mentioned that there were people waiting for the doors to open an hour before the lecture was announced to commence. In yesterday's deliverance the bishop pronounced an eloquent eulogium on St. Paul. Had it not been, he said, for the miraculous capture of the apostle of the Gentiles, it really seemed for the moment as if the mighty enthusiasm of Pentecost might have sunk into respectable legalism, and Christianity been strangled in its cradle by the iron hand of the law; or it might have sunk into an obscure Jewish sect, and disappeared in the national ruin, instead of breaking its fetters, spreading its mighty spiritual pinions, and claiming the universal heaven as its home. From the hour of his conversion St. Paul regarded Jesus Christ, not as the mere Jewish master who had taught and lived by the lake and on the hills of Galilee, but as the Divine Man from heaven, the risen Conqueror, who had arrested him in his career of persecution. Had it not been for this one man, there could be but little doubt that the Christian Church would have been converted into a Jewish sect, with the risen Jesus for its Messiah. But Paul was not the man to stand silently by and see the truth of God put in danger, the hope of the world darkened, and humanity robbed of its best treasure. With the heart of a woman when his dear children forgot him or treated him unkindly, he had the courage of an archangel when the truth of God was endangered. St. Paul was, in fine, one of those great and finely-tempered



souls, very rarely fashioned in our human clay, by which God executed the purposes of eternity. In his third lecture, next Wednesday afternoon, the bishop intends to unfold the lessons for the present day embodied in St. Paul's epistle to the Galatians. Mr. David Lee played, on the Town-hall organ, a prelude to the lecture.

The fourteenth half-yearly meeting of the Coffee Taverns Company Limited was held on Monday, at the Melbourne Coffee Palace, Bourke-street. Mr. W. M'Lean, chairman of directors, presided, and about 30 shareholders were present. The chairman, in moving the adoption of the half-yearly report, said that the business for the half-year had closed with a credit balance of £1,473 6s. 4d., after writing off £522 11s. 6d. from the furniture account, and adding £250 to the reserve fund. The freehold of the Bourke-street property was purchased in March last at a cost of £30,300. Various improvements were being carried out in the building itself, and the directors were able to declare a dividend for the half-year at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum. The report and balance-sheets were adopted.

The result of the polling by shareholders of the Household Co-operative Company Limited, in accordance with the announcement made at the meeting held on Thursday last, has resulted as follows:—In favour of the action of the directors and against the winding up of the company and the appointing of liquidators, 1,213; in favour of winding up the company, 965; majority for the directors, 248. The directors, we are informed, will join with the creditors of the company in an appeal to the court to have it wound up. A protest against some of the proxies used in the voting was lodged by Messrs. Barclay and Liddell.

When the strike in the bootmaking trade was at its height six months ago, several persons advocated the establishment of a co-operative factory to relieve the distress which then prevailed amongst the operatives. The suggestion was taken up with warmth, but when the dispute terminated, it was, for a time, almost lost sight of. The promoters, however, being sanguine as to the ultimate success of the venture, took the necessary steps to put it into a practical shape, by forming a company on the co-operative principle, which was called the Melbourne Bootmakers' Co-operative Society, and have so far succeeded that it is intended to

bootmakers Co-operative Society, and have so far succeeded that it is intended to open a factory in either Fitzroy or Collingwood in the course of the next few days. At a meeting of the society held at the Trades-hall on Tuesday, it was reported that 939 shares had been taken up, and about £400 paid on them. The number of shares is unlimited, but a shareholder can hold no more than 10 shares, this restriction being made with the view of preventing the shares falling into the hands of a coterie of capitalists. The company recently advertised for a manager, and two applicants, members of the trade, have been chosen as being suitable to fill the position, and the final selection will be shortly made. As soon as the factory is started a shop will be opened, probably in Fitzroy, and ultimately others will be established in all the suburbs. The venture being confined almost exclusively to working men, it is intended to manufacture goods which will be expected to meet with ready sale to the labouring classes.

At a conference of the various branches of the Bible in State Schools League which was held on Tuesday afternoon, it was resolved to prepare a petition for presentation to Parliament, praying that the recommendations of the Royal commission on education with regard to religious instruction in the state schools should be carried out. The report of the commission recommends the adoption of the Scripture lessons contained in the Irish National series of school books. A strong desire was expressed at the conference to urge the introduction of the Bible itself into the schools, and it was ultimately decided to word the petition so that the alternative would be submitted. The work of preparing the petition was referred to a sub-committee, and the Bishop of Melbourne, Mr. Andrew Harper, and others are to be asked to lecture on the subject. About 20 clergymen and others were present at the conference, and many parts of the colony were represented.

The Post Office and Telegraph department has received an intimation from the Adelaide telegraph office that "communication on the Port Darwin-Java duplicate cable was restored on Wednesday and that both cables are now perfect."

When Mr. Deakin was in San Francisco in January last, he spent a day inspecting the water supply of the city, under the guidance

water supply of the city, under the guidance of Mr. A. Schenssler, chief engineer of the system. Our special correspondent accompanying the hon. gentlemen on his tour described the works, and drew attention to the success resulting from the use of wrought-iron instead of cast-iron pipes. The mains were principally made of rolled boiler plate, No. 9 Birmingham iron, weighing  $6\frac{1}{2}$  lb. to the square inch, and some of them were 44 in. in diameter. A pressure of 150 lb. to the square inch has been sustained, and some pipes have been carrying water for 21 years without a burst. Mr. Schenssler informed Mr. Deakin that the mains laid in the ground cost about 4½d. per lb., or half the expense for cast iron. The information gained on this inspection was fully appreciated by Mr. Deakin, who was sorry that one of his last administrative acts in Victoria was to accept a contract for a supply of cast-iron pipes, which involved a bonus to a local firm of £25,000. On his return to Melbourne, however, he placed the facts he had gathered at the disposal of Mr. W. Davidson, superintending engineer of the Yan Yean system. This officer wrote to Mr. Schenssler to obtain the fullest particulars available, and he has just received a detailed statement in reply. He has been able to analyse the information, with a view to introducing wrought-iron

into the works connected with the diversion of the Watts River to augment the water supply of Melbourne. The cost of tapping this stream will be about £500,000, and Mr. Davidson estimates that by using these pipes he will be able to save nearly £50,000 on the work.

The tender of Mr. Robert Thornton was accepted on Thursday for carrying out additional extensive works at the Gipps Land Lakes Entrance. The contract for carrying out the greater part of Sir John Coode's scheme for the improvement of the Lakes Entrance has just been completed, and now the works are to be extended at the seaward end of the entrance, at a cost of £21,795.

The three 4-ton breech-loading guns recently imported from England have been placed in position on board the Nelson for instruction purposes. The length of the guns is 14 ft. 7 in., the preponderance being 45 lb.; their extreme elevation is 20 deg., and the ex-

is 14ft. 7in., the preponderance being 1000; their extreme elevation is 20deg., and the extreme depression 7deg. Each gun is mounted on a central pivot, Vavasour shield, and carriage. The shields are constructed of ½in. steel. The guns are fitted with De Bange obturators, and are axially vented. The recoil presses are on Captain Vavasour's principle. The elevating gear is so fitted that the weapons can be fired while being elevated. The projectiles are shell, chilled shot, shrapnel, and case shot. Forty-two pounds of prismatic powder is the charge for the extreme range, 7,400 yards, 30lb. pebble powder being used for the 6,000 yards range.

The results of the examinations of candidates for employment in the Railway department have been furnished to the commissioners. Some 200 situations were open, and 1,780 applications received. The number was reduced by ballot to three times the number required. Of those 312 have passed, and 180 failed in the examinations. The rest did not present themselves. The causes of failure are various, 57 being in arithmetic, 41 in reading and writing, and 27 in literary work, while 25 persons were rejected as being under age. Of the 14 applicants for 18 vacancies as students of engineering, only two passed the examination, most of the others being "plucked" in algebra. There were 45 junior clerks wanted, and only 48 passed. The successful candidates are now submitting themselves, as called upon, for medical examination.

Major Rhodes, R.E., who has the command of the Royal Engineers and Torpedo Corps, is devoting a considerable amount of time to the preparation of the plans for the new fort which it is proposed to construct on a shoal about 7,000 yards nearer the Heads than the South Channel fort. The new fort, which is to be mounted with two 9-inch and two 6-inch breech-loading guns, is intended to act in support of the South Channel and Point Franklin forts for the defence of the South Channel. The work is expected to cost about £110,000, and the Government hope that all the preliminary arrangements will be completed in time to allow of the construction of the fort being pushed on with vigour during the coming summer months. Major Rhodes is also drawing the plans for the emplacements of the new breech-loading guns which are to be mounted at the South Channel, Point Franklin, Point Nepean, and

Channel, Point Franklin, Point Nepean, and Queenscliff forts.

A complaint was recently made to the Solicitor-General that Mr. A. Wyatt, P.M. for the Seymour district, was improperly absent from the police court at Nathalia on the 29th ult. The matter was referred to Mr. Wyatt, who has furnished what is regarded as a satisfactory explanation of his absence from the Court. Mr. Wyatt has lately been sharing, with Mr. G. D. McCormick, P.M., the duties of Mr. W. H. Foster P.M. of the Beechworth district, who is absent on sick leave. To allow of his performing the extra work, and devoting his time as far as possible to the most important matters requiring attention, Mr. Wyatt arranged with the clerks of the courts in his district to notify him as to when special business necessitating his attendance was likely to arise at their courts. The officer acting as clerk of the court at Nathalia only recently took the position, and being unaware of the arrangement made by Mr. Wyatt with the former clerk, did not send any notice to Mr. Wyatt, and hence the ground for the complaint.

Last night's *Government Gazette* announces that the following officers have been appointed honorary aides-de-camp to His Excellency the Governor:—Colonel T. Bruce Hutton, Captain R. Fullarton, Lieut.-Colonel J. Montgomery Templeton, Lieut.-Colonel G. Napier Turner, Major R. L. J. Ellery.

Prahran was *en fete* yesterday on the occasion of the formal dedication to the public of the three reserves bought by the city council for the recreation of the inhabitants. His Excellency the Governor and Lady Loch took part in the day's proceedings, her ladyship making the formal declaration of dedication in the Victoria Gardens in High-street. Eight hundred senior school children sang the National Anthem when the Governor's party and a large number of invited guests entered the grounds, and the council presented the usual addresses. The mayor of Prahran, Mr. G. W. Taylor, subsequently entertained a numerous company at luncheon at the town-hall. Between five and six thousand school children were treated by his worship during the day to a *fete* held in a paddock adjoining the mayor's grounds at Wynnstay, and the mayor and mayoress also held a lawn party, which was largely attended. Last night

which was largely attended. Last night there was a firemen's torchlight procession in Prahran in honour of the event.

The postal authorities notify that from Monday, August 10, mail communication between Melbourne and Woorak, will be daily instead of thrice a week as at present. Mails for Woorak will close at the General Post-office at 8.45 a.m., and mails from Woorak will be due in Melbourne at 10.55 p.m.