

The Gippsland Times.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 31, 1883.

THE year 1883 closes upon Eastern Victoria as it does upon the whole colony, full of bright hope, and promise for the future. Our harvest prospects are exceptionally good, notwithstanding damage to some of the wheat crops by the late heavy showers, while in oats, barley, and hay there will probably be a heavy yield throughout the province. Of hops and maize, we hear of rich and abundant crops at Bairnsdale, Lindenow Flat, and the Lakes district; while the tobacco crop, on the banks of the Mitchell at least, is expected to be up to the average and much improved in quality. In the neighbourhood of Sale, and of localities near at hand, where hop cultivation as yet has only been started as an experiment, it is perhaps too early to indulge in estimates or expectations as to yield, but so far as we can form an opinion from observation and information the venture looks sufficiently encouraging, even at this early stage, to satisfy those who have entered upon it that it is well worth further care and attention as promising to become a most lucrative enterprise. Our trade is in a flourishing condition, and though of late not quite so brisk as could be desired, yet we have the satisfaction of knowing that it is sound and increasing, with every prospect of a considerable spurt when the harvest returns come in.

With regard to mining it may be questioned if our prospects were ever better, or even so good as they are at present, not forgetting the days when substantial nuggets were found in the surface wash at Walhalla and the Happy-go-Lucky, and when the Crooked River was a perfect hive of human industry. Mining pursuits in Gippsland, it is true do not attract so many of our population as in former years, yet it cannot be said, we think, that allowing for the claims in active operation, there is any perceptible diminution in the yield of the precious metal. But even the prospect of "worked-out goldfields" in Gippsland, need not alarm the most desponding—supposing there are any who expect to live to witness such an event—for that we have the invaluable black diamond at hand to take the place of gold if need be, or better still to aid its development, is no longer a matter of speculation. The claims already opened in the coal-bearing country in the neighbourhoods of the Moe and the Morwell, will now no longer lack

efficient supervision or enterprising management, with two of the members representing Gippsland, on the directory of the companies. The energy and public spirit, and the untiring zeal displayed by the member for South Gippsland, Mr F. C. MASON, in relation to our Gippsland coal prospects are beyond

all praise, and besides the unanimous and heartily accorded approval of his constituents we hope, as we believe that he will reap a rich reward in witnessing, at no distant date, the complete opening up of our coal-bearing strata, right from the Moe to the coast line at Cape Patterson.

Perhaps, however, the most hopeful circumstance, as regards Gippsland's future, is the commencement, during the year which expires to-day, of the works recommended by Sir JOHN COODE, to complete the entrance from the lakes to the sea. This important undertaking is designed to open up to this province the great highway of the ocean, and so to bring us into direct trading relations with the neighbouring colonies, besides giving to the north-eastern portion of the district an additional hundred miles of water carriage, permeating some of the richest land within our boundaries. The contractors for the work, MESSRS GAINSBOROUGH and SMITH, of Portland, have to complete the instalment of the contract they have taken within one year, for £13,228. The work comprises three portions—(a), lengthening the present piers, the eastern one 120 feet, and the western 180 feet; (b), strengthening the present structure where required; and (c), removing the sand between the present piers at low watermark. As this is considerably less than one-sixth of the amount estimated by Sir JOHN COODE (£85,500) to complete the Entrance, it is presumed that within the next four years the remaining five-sixths will be available in additional tenders. It will be the special duty of the parliamentary representatives of the district, and, let us hope, of the whole press of Gippsland, to keep before the Public Works department Sir JOHN COODE'S caution against doing the work piecemeal. He lays it down emphatically that the plan he recommends should be proceeded with in its entirety, or not at all, being of opinion that works of a lighter or less extensive character than those recommended by him "would not hold the heavy seas to which this coast is

the heavy seas to which this part of the coast is exposed, and would fail to accomplish the object in view." The Gippsland railway, in the language of SIR GAVAN DUFFY, has added a new province to Victoria. A seaport in the eastern coast, at a point little more than midway between this colony and New South Wales, could not fail to vastly increase its trade, even were that trade only represented by the five hundred square miles of country, much of it rich and prolific soil, that would be opened up by the connection of our extensive lakes and rivers with the Southern Ocean.

In order to allow our employees to participate in the New Year's Day holiday, there will be no publication of this journal on Wednesday next.

Our Supplement with to-day's issue contains articles on the French in Tonquin, and the Catholic Reformatory at Oakleigh.

Our batch of European Telegrams which came to hand last night will be found more than usually interesting, the gist being given of the report of the committee appointed to enquire into the state of affairs in the Western Pacific. Details are to hand of serious riots in Newfoundland between the Orangemen and the Roman Catholics, several lives being lost.

Watch night services will be held in St. Paul's Church of England and the Primitive Methodist Church this evening, commencing at 11 o'clock.

In our report of the prize distribution in connexion with St. Mary's School, the name of Mr Cullinan was inadvertently omitted as one of the donors of prizes.

The annual meeting of the Longford Racing Club will be held to-morrow, on their pretty little racecourse at Coolungoolun, situate about six miles from Sale. Hitherto these meetings have always proved highly popular, the committee being unsparring in their efforts to render them as attractive as possible, and should the weather prove favourable there is no doubt that the attendance will be very large; some very good fields are entered for the principal events, there being seven acceptors each for the cup and steeplechase and six for the hurdle race, and as many of these are of very good quality, there should be some very exciting contests. Mr Alex. Smith's horses in charge of Mr Rust, arrived in Sale yesterday, and took up their quarters in Cobb and Co's stable. Ample arrangements have been made by Mr Clues for running a line of coaches to and from the course. Creature comforts will be dispensed by Mr Malone of the Swan Hotel, and the fruiter's booth will be in charge of Mr J. C. Smith.

The annual public picnic at Stratford is announced to be held to-morrow, hitherto these have always proved highly attractive, the rendezvous chosen being a very pretty and romantic spot. The committee announce that they will provide for children,

and romantic spot. The committee announce that they will provide for children, and supply tea and hot water to all comers.

The folks of Upper Maffra intend celebrating "The old year out and the new year in" by holding an entertainment in the local Mechanics' Institute for the purpose of raising funds to liquidate the debt on the piano recently purchased for that institution. A first-class programme has been provided, and we have no doubt there will be a large attendance present, when "the hour is upon the brink of twelve," to wish each other "A Happy New Year."

The collection recently made at the Evangelistic services in the Victoria Hall, in aid of the Gippsland Hospital and Ladies Benevolent Society, it will be remembered amounted to £14 5s 9d, the expenses amounted to £3 17s, leaving a balance of £10 8s 9d, this amount has been apportioned as follows:—Two-thirds for the hospital, and one-third for the Ladies Benevolent Society, and cheques for the amount were on Saturday last handed over to the above institutions by Mr Drew, the treasurer to the movement.

E. A. McDonald, late post and telegraph master at Omeo, was arrested under warrant on Thursday last, by Senior Constable Mullane, and lodged in the lock-up. On Friday morning, before Messrs Easton and Rodgers, J.S.P., he was charged with having, about November last, feloniously stolen and taken away an amount of £64, the property of the Postmaster-General of Victoria. Detective Lennox asked for a remand until Friday, but did not oppose bail, which was allowed, prisoner in one surety of £100, and two others of £75 each. Bail was not forthcoming (says the *Advertiser*) at the rising of the court.

A little consternation was caused at Dandenong on Boxing Day, on the arrival of the early morning train from Melbourne to Sale. A delay occurred there and it soon became known that they were waiting for a special train containing two gentlemen from Melbourne. All sorts of conjectures were afloat as to who it could

be, and the interest and curiosity of the passengers was further awakened when the special arrived, and out stepped two distinguished looking colored gentlemen. Some ventured to say that one was a prince, and others gave them various offices in foreign countries, and were treated with every mark of respect. Judge of the horror, of the passengers, however, on arriving at Sale to find that the sable jokers were the two musicians of the Marion Willis' Dramatic Company, who had missed the first train, and in order not to break their engagement had chartered a special. They missed the last train on Christmas Day, and in order not to miss the first one on Boxing Day they sat up all night, while away the time with a little light amusement, but being unfortunate enough to get into a cab with a lame horse and sleepy driver, in spite of their showering imprecations on cobby's head and

sleepy driver, in spite of some warning imprecations on caddy's head and pulling at the horse they arrived on the station in time to see the back of the grand's van in the distance.

The attention of persons interested, is directed to a revised list of the winning numbers in the Friendly Societies late at night. So far, we are informed, no diamond has been found for the first prize, a suite of furniture, and according to the rules of the sports committee, unless it is claimed within one month, it will revert to the committee, who will utilise it as a prize for their distribution next year. The second prize which consisted of a ton of flour was won by Mr. Carter, a resident of Sale.

Accounts are at the Receipt and Pay-office for W. Dyer, H. Luke, and T. Lloyd.

Mr. Finlay, the late manager of the Bank of Australasia at Rosedale, has been succeeded by Mr. A. Campbell, from Featherston, North Island, New Zealand.

The Strathbogie races, which were held on Boxing Day, were very successful, all the events being well contested. The only drawback to the thorough enjoyment of the day was a serious accident that happened in the Hurdle Race. Six of the horses fell in a heap, two of the riders—Vasey and P. Emmett—sustaining concussion of the brain, Cann had a fractured collar-bone, and the others were more or less shaken and bruised.

The Minister of Lands has received notifications from a large number of the present lessees of mallee land, that they intend exercising all their rights of pre-emption under the new act. They are interested in securing about seven million acres out of the ten millions acres comprised in the territory divided into blocks and when their claims have been settled (states the Argus), it will only be necessary that the Government should offer three million acres at auction. The first auction sale of leases will take place about the middle of February.

An adjourned meeting of the licensing bench was held at the courthouse on Saturday last, before Mr. A. W. Hewitt, P.M., and Messrs Carroll and Jenson, J.P. A renewal of a publican's license was granted to Lizzy Halstead, of the Hunt Club Hotel, Warrak. This application was adjourned from the last court, in order if possible to take advantage of a proclamation to be issued by the Government, and applied for by the Rosedale Shire Council, declaring Warrak an area, within which £10 licenses may be granted, as this has not yet been made, the application for a £25 license was made and granted, irrespective of the proclamation in question. On the application of Mr. Bencaft, a renewal of the license of the Longford Hotel was granted to John Gaffey. A packet license was also granted to Captain Neilson for the steamer Dargo. A renewal of the license of the steamer Burnside was granted to Captain Neilson, and then transferred to Captain Todd, the present master of the vessel. A renewal of the license of the steamer Tanjil was also granted to Captain Larsen. In the absence of Mr. Bushe, the last three

Tanjil was also granted to Captain Larsen. In the absence of Mr. Bushe, the last three applications were supported by Mr. Bencaft.

Amongst the items for works authorised under the Railway Loan Application Act, passed during last session, and which the commissioner has authorised to be at once proceeded with, the following item appears, South Yarra to Sale, £3,427.

Hotelkeepers and others who have become custodians of letters, telegrams, etc., are reminded that any occupier or manager of any hotel, or place licensed under the Licensing Act 1876, or any Act amending it, who does not return to the nearest post-office immediately after to-morrow, all undelivered telegrams, letters, packets or newspapers, sent to any person at such hotel, etc., that have been received more than two months before the above date; or any occupier or manager, as mentioned, who in future keeps such telegrams, letters, etc., longer than two months (unless instructed by the addressee to retain them), is liable, under section 46 of the Post-office Act 1883, to a fine of £2.

What might have been a serious accident was prevented by the prompt and courageous action of Dr. Macdonald, on Saturday last. It appears that a somewhat restive horse, driven by a young man in close proximity to the cricket ground, became unmanageable in consequence of a portion of the harness giving way. Dr. Macdonald, who happened to be an onlooker at the cricket match, hearing calls for assistance, immediately jumped the fence and secured the animal by the head, and thus prevented any further damage.

The 3.50 p.m. train on Wednesday next, will take from Traralgon, 3 trucks of cattle for Messrs R. Gibson and Co., 2 trucks from Rosedale for Messrs A. McLean and Co., 2 for Mr E. A. Patterson, 2 for Mr J. G. Dougherty, 3 for Messrs Peck and Co., and 3 for Messrs Dal Campbell and Co. The 6 p.m. train will take from Sale, 1 truck for Messrs Peck and Co., 4 for Messrs King and Co., 3 for Messrs A. McLean and Co., and 6 for Messrs Dal Campbell and Co. The 7.30 p.m. train will take 2 trucks for Messrs Peck and Co., 3 for Messrs Ryan and Hammond, and 5 for Mr E. A. Patterson. The total number of trucks of cattle loaded on all lines for Thursday's market, is 106.

A conclave of Knights of the Red Cross of Rome and Constantine will shortly be opened in Melbourne. By this week's house mail (say the Argus) Brother W. F. Lamonty, a P.S. of the order, received authority from the Grand Imperial Council in London, empowering him to instal a sufficient number of Sir Knights as a nucleus for a conclave. Hitherto this Masonic degree has been unknown in Australia, although there are several conclaves working in New Zealand. It is one of the most interesting degrees outside of the craft, and was very popular during the last century. At the union of 1813, with the Duke of Sussex as its last grand, it died out. About 13 years ago,

chief, it died out. About 13 years ago, however, the Earl of Bective revived the Order, and it has since progressed in England and in the colonies, as well as in the United States, in the latter under a separate organisation.

Members of the North Gippsland Coursing Club are again reminded that the annual general meeting will be held at the Royal Exchange Hotel at 4 o'clock this afternoon.

A call of sixpence per share is announced on the unpaid shares in the Hudson Treasure G. G. M. Co., payable on the 9th prox.