

THE SOUTH AUSTRALIAN REGISTER, THURSDAY



THE RENMARK IRRIGATION COLONY.—We take the following from the annual report of the Commissioner of Public Works, which was laid before Parliament on Wednesday:—"The Renmark Irrigation Trust Act is giving satisfaction to all concerned, and the settlement is making steady progress. The success of the settlement is a matter of great importance to this colony, especially in view of the fact that a number of village settlements are situated at no great distance, and if Renmark succeeds there is no reason why the settlements should not do the same with proper care and attention. The quantity of land under cultivation at Renmark increased during the year by 310 acres, and as the quantity of land under cereals and lucerne during that period decreased by 319 acres the quantity devoted to fruit cultivation actually increased by 629 acres, indicating apparently that fruit is more profitable than wheatgrowing on the Murray. Now, as to the question of profit, which is all-important, the greater quantity of the fruit is at present dried and sent to the Adelaide market. Last year the Renmark Fruitpacking Company sent down raisins, 104 tons; apricots, 15 tons; peaches, half-ton; currants, half-ton; the retail prices being in Adelaide -- Raisins, 5d. to 6d.; muscats, 10d.; peaches, 10d.; apricots, 10d.; currants, 4½d. With prices like this it is probable that fruit cultivation could be carried on profitably, but it must not be forgotten that the market in this colony will very soon be glutted, and the question must then be faced: Can the produce be sent elsewhere at a profit?" "The Commissioner thinks that the erection of cool chambers at Port Adelaide and the establishment of a depot in London will materially assist in answering the problem, and that "we may confidently look for a large increase of exports in the near future." Among the notes by the Conservator of Water we find the following:—"The official examination of the books and vouchers to June 30, 1895, made by the Chief Accountant, Mr. John Gardiner, shows an expenditure by the Messrs. Chaffey, in substantial and permanent improvements, of £77,807 1s. 4d.; and by the the settlers, for improvements, buildings, planting and growing fruit, &c., £96,896 0s. 3d.; making a total of £174,703 1s. 7d. The Chaffey Brothers Irrigation Works Act, 1887, and the agreement therein provide for an expenditure on substantial and permanent improvements of £175,000 by February 14, 1897. The Agricultural College has not yet been commenced; but on the whole the Messrs. Chaffey are fairly carrying out the terms of their agreement with the Government, and their enterprise, which has given such an impetus to fruitraising under irrigation on the Murray, is well worthy of special commendation."

"It is interesting to note that while on June 30, 1894, there were 176 ratepayers' names on the assessment, and the aggregate of the rates for the half-year was £1,043, on June 30, 1895,



the number of ratepayers had increased to 228, and the aggregate half-yearly rates to £1,508. The aggregate of the Crown grants under the Act of 1887 to the Messrs. Chaffey is now 12,309 acres. The population has increased to about 900. The aggregate area of green crops and orchards has increased from 2,554 acres to 2,864 acres, and, what is worthy of special note, the area under orchards, orangeries, &c., has increased during the year from 1,535 acres to 2,164 acres, equal to an increase of about 40 per cent. The details of the plantations at present are as follow:— Under cereals and lucerne, 700 acres; under vines (chiefly for raisins and currants), 687 acres; under apricots, peaches, figs, &c. (chiefly apricots), 1,067 acres; under oranges and lemons, 332 acres; under olives, 28 acres; under nurseries, 30 acres; under gardens, &c., 20 acres; totals, 2,864 acres. The earlier planted orchards and vineyards are now in satisfactory bearing, and last year's fruit crop comprised:—Grapes, 400 tons; lemons, 600 cases; oranges, 400 cases; apricots, 100 tons; peaches, 13 tons; figs, 10 tons; olives, 8 tons; currants, 10 tons."

THE NEW ZEALAND OFFICIAL YEAR-BOOK FOR 1895. — We have received from the Registrar-General of New Zealand a copy of the Year-book of that colony for 1895. It is a bulky volume of some 550 pages, and the reading matter and statistics are copiously illustrated and explained by coloured maps and charts and reproductions of photographs. Some of the illustrations are unusually ingenious. For instance, the growing wealth of the colony in live stock is shown by pictures of cattle, horses, and sheep, varying in bulk according to the nature of the statistics. In 1861 there were 193,285 cattle in the colony—here small picture of a cow; while in 1895 there were 1,007,396 cattle, which are represented by a cow about six times as big as the first one. A great effort is evidently being made through the book to attract immigrants of means to the colony.

ST. JOHN AMBULANCE ASSOCIATION.— This Association, like other educational institutions, is clearing up for the year. Another of its re-examinations was held at Towers Court on Tuesday evening. Sixteen ladies attended, and all but one satisfied the examiner, Dr. A. A. Hamilton, who reported to Mr. J. P. Roberts, the Secretary of the Adelaide Centre, that "the general answering was very fair." Mrs. H. Lamb, Miss C. Mullaney, and Miss M. Mitchell earned special commendation. Mesdames Hack and Wisdom, Misses D. Churchward, M. J. Dennison, E. Liston, W. Mullaney, M. Stodart, F. R. Westover, M. Worsnop, — Eimer, G. Higgin, and K. J. Phillips also passed.

CARGO BY THE S.S. BRECONSHIRE.— We are advised by Messrs. Harrold Brothers, agents for the s.s. Breconshire, that she sailed for London, Dunkirk, and Hamburg on December



17 with the following cargo:—For Dunkirk,  
1,533 bales wool; for Hamburg, 996 bales wool,  
and 12,238 bags sulphide ore; and for London,  
1,460 bales wool and sundry bales skins.



A JINGOIST DISPLAY BY PRESIDENT CLEVELAND.—Our cable despatches this morning contain a sensational message to Congress from President Cleveland in reference to the dispute between Great Britain and Venezuela. In this communication Mr. Cleveland expands the Monroe doctrine to an extent probably explained only by the fact that jingo sentiments are popular just now in the States, and that he may shortly be a candidate for re-election to the White House. The message has caused great astonishment in London, and subsequent developments in the interchange of dispatches between Washington and Downing-street will be awaited with eager curiosity throughout the civilized world. It may be interesting to add that the Monroe doctrine is popularly characterized as "the opinion held by Mr. Monroe, President of the United States in 1817-24, against permitting European Powers to interfere in questions of liberty in North or South America." Its principle was set forth in a message to Congress on December 2, 1823. Its author declared the American policy to be "neither entangling ourselves in the broils of Europe, nor suffering the Powers of the Old World to interfere with the affairs of the new," and he added that "any attempt to extend their system to any portion of this hemisphere would be dangerous to our peace and safety."

THE NEW GOLDFIELD IN THE NORTHERN TERRITORY.—The Minister controlling the Northern Territory, Hon. F. W. Holder, has received the following telegram from the Government Resident at Palmerston:—"The Chief Warden reports having visited the new field just opened up, situated on the main branch of the River Ferguson, and about thirty miles due east from Pine Creek. He states that about twenty men are now on the ground, and all doing well. One party informed him that he and his mate were making from £4 to £5 each per week by cradling surface stuff, and with a plentiful supply of water they expected to do better. No alluvial has yet been discovered. At present they are simply surfacing, but the show is very rich, and the Chief Warden is of opinion that if alluvial gold is found it will be at a depth of from 40 to 50 ft."

POSTAL NOTES.—"J.J.K.," Adelaide, writes:—"Last week I had occasion to send a postal note to Melbourne. I purchased one at the General Post-Office, Adelaide, and I placed a 3d. stamp on for exchange, which I was told by the officer would entitle the person to whom I was sending the money to the full amount of the note. When the note was presented in Melbourne the Postmaster told my friend that the stamp was 'utterly useless,' and charged her 3d. exchange. Now, Sir, I wish to know what the law relating to exchange is. If that stamp was 'utterly useless' the officer in Adelaide should have said so, and not allowed me to be victimized. If



you would kindly answer the following questions in your next issue I should feel obliged:—What is the law relating to exchange? Is a stamp placed on a postal note in South Australia 'utterly useless' in Melbourne? If so, why are the officers allowed to sell exchange stamps that are 'utterly useless?' We are assured by the postal authorities here that the information given by the post-office clerk in Adelaide was correct. See Postal Guide, page 88. You had better communicate with the Postmaster-General on the subject, so as to get the matter cleared up.

**CITY FINANCES.**—The City Fathers were buried in figures yesterday afternoon, and discussed the municipal finances in a free and easy fashion at the call of the Mayor, who, since he has been in office, has been anxious to reduce the Corporation overdraft. Mr. Tucker called his Council together to discuss the situation, and put it plainly before them that although the view was not absolutely gloomy it was certainly hazy. The police moiety demanded by the determined Premier was a terrible tax, and if enforced would compel the Council to come out £1,600 to the bad. They had to consider whether they should stop all new works, reduce wages, or borrow. That was the triangular problem. The City Treasurer furnished an approximate report of the state of the money chest, and expressed the opinion, as the Mayor had done, that if the police moiety were insisted upon a twopence-halfpenny rate would have to be imposed if the Council intended to carry out the new works and improvements for the year. Some of the members took an optimistic view, while others looked the question squarely in the face, and after some interchanges of opinion a motion by Councillor Packer was carried—"That if the Government insist upon the payment of £4,106 police moiety this Council will be compelled to declare a further rate of twopence halfpenny in the pound, and further reduce expenditure by diminishing the number of their employes, neither of which alternatives this Council consider they should be compelled to adopt by the unfair action of the Government." It was also decided to call the citizens together at an early date to consider the financial position, and a committee was appointed to make the necessary arrangements.

**LIABILITY FOR TONNAGE RATES.**—A case of considerable interest to shipowners was called on yesterday in the No. 1 Jury Court (says the *S.M. Herald* of December 14), and by consent adjourned till next sittings. It is an action brought by the Attorney-General, as nominal plaintiff, against the Orient Steam Navigation Company, Limited, to recover the sum of £353, amount of tonnage rates due on the defendant Company's steamers berthing at Circular Quay. The claim is laid under the Wharfage and Tonnage Rates Act of 1880, and the defence set up is that the Company did not become liable in respect of any of their vessels until



the expiration of certain "free lay" days, exclusive of Sundays and public holidays, prescribed by the Act, as the vessels did not occupy berths at the wharf after the expiration of the "free lay" days to which each was entitled. An attempt was made to have the matter brought formally before a Jury, when certain law points could have been raised for reference to the Full Court, but the negotiations were abortive, and as the matters to be decided involve several knotty complications which could not be disposed of in a day the action had perforce to go over to the March-April sittings. It will no doubt eventually come before the Appellate Jurisdiction.

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**CHRISTMAS CHEER AT THE PORT.**—In order to provide Christmas cheer for persons in indigent circumstances at the Port, the Mayor of Port Adelaide, Mr. C. R. Morris, has issued 100 *5s.* tickets, which will be duly distributed. In accordance with his usual custom Mr. D. Bower has given an order to Mr. W. Marston, of Port Adelaide, to supply all those in receipt of Government rations in Port Adelaide and surrounding districts with sufficient to provide them with a Christmas dinner.

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### TO-DAY'S ENGAGEMENTS

(As announced in this day's issue).

Exchange Buildings, Pirie-street, at noon.—  
Meeting of the Broken Hill Junction S.M.  
Comptroller



# THE OBSERVER.

## THE CHRISTMAS NUMBER.

There always is a great deal of character in the *Adelaide Observer*; it is a complete budget of news, notes, history, fiction, entertainment and instruction. From title page to imprint it always teems with material for the mind, and the Christmas Number for 1895 surpasses its predecessors, inasmuch as it includes a special Supplement, recording in good set terms and in admirable illustrations the rise and progress of fair Adelaide from reed hut to stone mansion. One might, indeed, say from pisé cabin to marble palace, for our Parliament House is built of the latter costly material, and the first Governor's residence was of humble wattle and dab. It was a happy thought of the proprietors of the *Register*—a paper co-existent with the colony—to bring out this particular Supplement in their weekly journal, the *Observer*, because hardy and long-lived as the best of our pioneer colonists have proved themselves to be, they cannot, in the ordinary course of nature, remain at their post many more years, and it must be a peculiar pleasure to them to see the reproductions of some of the scenes of their early struggles, more than half a century ago, set side by side with the grand results of their labours in the development of the beautiful metropolis of the colony they helped to found. Not only to them, but to their descendants will the *Observer* of December 21, 1895, have a great fascination—it will be something to study and stow away for preservation. It is a pity that in the infancy of South Australia more care was not taken of relics which now would be of the deepest historical interest; but men and women were too busy in those days of toil to devote much time to sentiment. It is unnecessary to enumerate the various points of interest in the supplement under review, but some of the salient points may be mentioned. It is led by an excellent portrait of Sir John Hindmarsh, the first Governor of South Australia—a typical naval officer. Equally appropriate appears on the front page a group of the viceregal family in 1895. The other pages contain sketches of the first official settlement in 1836—a humble reed hut—flanked by Glenelg in 1895, showing a marvellous stride. The views of the first settlement in Adelaide, and Adelaide from the Torrens in the forties, are equally full of suggestion and provocative of comparison. Indeed the arrangement of the views is so good that the eye can rove from simplicity to grandeur, from unkempt nature to cultivated landscape—as, for instance, the river as the aboriginals had it, and the Torrens Lake as the Adelaideans made it, spanned by bridges, its sloping banks adorned by ornamental shrubs, and its waters covered with boats and water-



fowl, including the black and white swans. Turning to pages 4 and 5, the reader finds charming titbits of city views, architecture, street scenes, and the plantations which add so much to the unique beauty of Adelaide. To complete the expression of progress from dense scrub to populous open city, is introduced the handsome mansion of one of our most successful colonists, "Torrens Park," the residence of Mr. Barr Smith. All these attractive pictures, some of them very valuable on account of their rarity and early date, are set in letterpress of no less value as an historical record, concise, readable sketches of the birth and progress of the city, old time memories and word pictures of the past and present—truly a clever combination. Of little less importance, and certainly of equal attractiveness to subscribers, is the ample Christmas Supplement of the *Observer*, which contains mental pabulum of rich and dainty matter, exciting, soothing, practical, sentimental, prose, and poetry, narrative and argument, fact and fiction, in short a capital *olla podrida* which every person can relish, from the old grandparent, whose memory is in the past, to the youngster who is commonly designated in the home circle as "that boy," and the little miss who reads fairy tales to her doll. It is all there—matter which will make the Christmas *Observer* welcome in the city house, the bush hut, at the camp fire, on shore or at sea; a solace for the weary, and a comforter in the lonely wilderness. There is more in a good newspaper than the careless are apt to think—it speaks of distant home and far-off friends, and is ever welcome, even if it be a back number. The *Observer* is more often reposted than any newspaper in the colonies. It is read and passed on from friend to friend in out of the way places. In an amusing article, quaintly embellished with curious cuts, a writer propounds the question, "Is Christmas Out of Date?" and takes four columns to settle it. "Dr. Jim," a Story by "P." "The Hypnotist" by Secca Lewin Somerville, and "Jennie" by Eugah, are stories of a satisfying nature. Larry King has based a sketch on "All is not Gold that Glitters," which is very appropriate now in the middle of the mining mania. The well-known writer, Lindsay Duncan, expands strongly in a tale, "A Queer Convention," and Florence Marryatt contributes a pleasing seasonable story under the title of "A Christmas Sacrifice," while Ella Hepworth Dixon in a racy fashion tells of "The Luck of Jane Armour." Young and old will be vastly amused with the letterpress and the comical drawings of "Christmas with Celebrities," by Carruthers Gould, and absorbed by G. R. Sims's "The Other Guest." One of the longest tales is "Steadforth's Night Out," by Oswald Crow, and there is more than one whole page devoted exclusively to the small fry. Printed in new type, and with its striking cover of pale blue, the *Observer* has surpassed itself this year.



CHRISTMAS MARINE EXCURSIONS.—The public are being well catered for by the Steamship Companies, who are arranging numerous marine excursions for the Christmas holidays. Mr. E. V. Little is running the s.s. James Comrie to Kangaroo Island on Saturday, the vessel returning on Monday; special fares are offered for the trip. Messrs. A. & E. Le Messurier have arranged marine excursions by the Ceres to Stansbury and Port Vincent, the trips beginning on Saturday next and continuing every few days. Excursion tickets are being issued and they are available for return up to January 15. For Christmas Day Messrs. F. G. Culley have the Ceres engaged on an excursion to Normanville from Glenelg. A call will be made at Port Willunga. The same steamer will also run to Port Willunga on New Year's Day, leaving the Semaphore on the arrival of the first train and making a departure from Glenelg an hour later. The tickets to Willunga on Christmas Day are also available for return on New Year's Day. The steamer James Comrie has also been pressed into the service on New Year's Day, when she will make a trip to Port Willunga, where the Foresters' picnic will take place. A Sheffield Handicap will be run, and other races and aquatic sports will be held during the day.

STOCK FROM THE SOUTH-EAST.—The *South-Eastern Star* for December 17 says:—By the ordinary train on Monday morning 669 sheep and 19 horses were sent to Adelaide. Mr. A. J. Plate sent one truck of 130 sheep, Mr. L. De Garis four trucks of 409 sheep, and R. Hetherington two trucks of 19 horses and one truck of 130 sheep. A special train with 14 vans of sheep, including 1,000 sheep from Mr. L. De Garis, will leave for Adelaide this morning. On Monday next Mr. De Garis will forward from Mount Gambier by rail 1,200 fat sheep, and on the following Tuesday the same number will also be consigned for the Adelaide market.

CHRISTMAS GIFTS.—Mr. W. C. Rigby, 74, King William-street, announces elsewhere that his establishment is open every evening until 9 o'clock for the benefit of those who are unable to shop earlier in the day, and on Saturday next, Christmas Eve, and December 28, he will not close till a later hour.

“WAY COLLEGE BOOMERANG.”—This publication maintains the pace of the flourishing College which issues it. The number for December contains a lot of interesting reading matter, and bears on the cover the arms of the College in black, gold, and red—a very neat and striking production.

CHRISTMAS CHEER FOR COTTAGE HOMES.—The inmates of the North Adelaide Cottage Homes have received gifts of money from Mrs. and Misses Brown, of Medindie, who with others assisted in raising a fund for charitable objects.

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS CHEER.—J. M. Richman, £2 2s.

CHRISTMAS CHEER AT THE DESTITUTE ASYLUM.—J. M. Richman, £2 2s.

ANY ONE requiring something really beautiful at a very moderate cost in Boots and Shoes should visit HEALY'S ESTABLISHMENT, No. 3, RUNDLE-STREET. Their Summer Shipments of American-made Glacie Kid Ladies' Shoes in particular are of the finest description and well worth seeing. They are fully one-third cheaper than Continental makes. Another line well worth your attention are our Swiss-made Tan Shoes. In Button and Oxfords they certainly are the Prettiest Ladies' Shoes ever imported to South Australia. To be had only at HEALY'S, No. 3, RUNDLE-STREET.