FROM THE DAILY COLONIST, April 11.

PUBLIC SCHOOL BOARD.

The Payment of Substitutes and the Model School System Discussed.

Upright Writing the Favorite Penmanship of the Present Day.

The amount of compensation to be paid to temporary assistants on the teaching staff, and the desirability of introducing the model school system in the Victoria schools, were the two important subjects which occupied the attention of the board of school trustees at the monthly meeting of that body held last evening. Chairman Hayward presided, and all members of the board were present.

The first item of business came in the form of a complaint from Mr. J. A. Cohen, that Mr. Sallaway, teacher of the third division of the Central school, had administered unnecessarily severe punishment to his son—that in fact the bruises received at the teacher's hands remained for months. In justice to both complainant and teacher, Trustees Marchant and Lewis were named as a special committee to investigate and report. The special committee in re. the Walls Mrs. Caldwell grievance reported that an amicable decision had been reached.

The Victoria Electric Tramway Co. by letter refused the application of the board for passes, but offered to allow a discount of five per cent. on a purchase of $100 worth of tickets. The letter was filed.

City Treasurer Charles Kent transmitted to the board $5 65, the balance of the Pemberton gymnasium bequest; this amount was ordered placed to the credit of the gymnasium fund. Miss Lucretia Horton tendered her resignation as a member of the teaching staff, which was accepted with an expression of regret; and various applications for supplies went to the standing committee. Applications for engagement of the teaching staff were filed for future consideration. The reports of the several teachers as to the state of the school furniture in their charge were received and filed, and on motion a new desk was ordered for Mr. E. Russell's room.

COLLEGIATE INSTITUTE.

Principal E B. Paul of the Collegiate Institute in his quarterly report, after referring to the changes necessitated by the death of assistant master Neil Heath, presented the following information:

"Considering the large number of pupils under preparation for the coming teachers' examination, and seeing that these pupils require constant drill in subjects that are not necessary for other pupils who have other aims in life, I have formed a Normal class in the High school where pupils are not only prepared for these examinations, but where they also receive practical instruction in the art of teaching. With the view of rendering this part of their education still more practical, it is my intention, provided the board of school trustees do not object, to apply to the Superintendent of education for permission to use the public schools of this city as model schools, so that the pupils of the model school normal class might have the opportunity of testing the theoretical knowledge already in their possession, by actual work in the school room. I would suggest that Friday forenoons should be devoted to this purpose. Mr. Russell is in charge of the normal class, which comprises all candidates for the next teachers' examinations with the exception of a few aspirants for First B certificates who remain under my tuition.

"The formation of a normal class necessarily changed the composition of my own class which now consists of pupils of the first and second divisions. I still have these pupils classified as two distinct divisions, but in some cases it is convenient to teach both together. This I do as far as I can without detriment to the more advanced pupils. The separation of the normal class has been a distinct advantage to pupils who do not need to keep up all the subjects required by teachers inasmuch as they are now enabled to devote more time to subjects that will be of practical value to them in after life. In this connection I should observe that although I am at all times glad to hear from pupils their intentions as to their future careers, and although in some instances I know exactly what certain pupils require, yet I should be glad if parents having children in any division of this school would call on me and discuss their boys' or their daughters' futures with me so that I may be enabled to direct their studies to the best advantage. My work for the High school does not terminate with school hours, or I should try to see parents at their own homes. But considering the number of pupils in the High school, and the limited time at my disposal, that is impossible."

NORMAL SCHOOL TRAINING.

In the same connection, later in the evening, Trustee Marchant introduced the resolution notice of which had been given, and which as passed after a long discussion read as follows:

"Whereas it is in the best interest of education in this city that the services of only trained teachers should be retained; and whereas the government has been unable through lack of funds to establish a normal school in this province, although in full sympathy with such aid to teachers training; and whereas a large number of persons are obtaining teachers' certificates each year who have obtained no normal school training than can be employed in the schools of the province;

"The board of school trustees therefore resolves: That on and after this date it will engage the services of teachers (a) who shall have obtained a Normal school certificate from any recognized school in the Dominion; (b) or have previously taught for one year in the province and are granted letters of recommendation as to teaching ability; (c) or who have taught for six months under probationary appointment of the board as pupil teachers in one of the graded schools of the city and who are fully recommended by the principals of the schools in which the said pupil teachers have taught; and it is further resolved that this board shall immediately after the publication of the lists of successful candidates for teachers certificates at the July examination of this year proceed to appoint one pupil teacher without salary to each of the four public schools of the city, viz: Central Boys and Girls schools, North Ward and South Park schools.

"The board further directs that such pupil teachers shall have prior right of engagement at the remuneration authorized by the board in case of illness or absence of any member of the teaching staff, and without pledging itself in any way or manner, or assuming any responsibility whatsoever; the board hereby declares its intention to give any position that may be created, or as vacancies may arise upon the permanent staff of teachers, to such pupil teachers if otherwise duly qualified."

TEACHERS' SUBSTITUTES.

The principals of the Girls' and Boys' Central schools, the North Ward and South Park schools reported the work in their charge as advancing steadily and satisfactorily, the teachers being thoroughly alive to the importance of their work.

In connection with these reports a delegation of teachers presented themselves with the object of addressing the board on the subject of the resolution adopted by the board on the 18th of September last, and which read as follows:

"Moved by Trustee Glover, seconded by Trustee Lewis and carried, that in all cases of leave of absence hereafter granted, the name of the proposed substitute shall be first submitted to the board for their approval and the salary paid the substitute shall in all cases not be less than the amount appertaining to the position which the substitute is called upon to fill."

Mr. S B Netherby, as chairman of the teachers' delegation, thought that a percentage of the salary, say sixty per cent., should be paid by a teacher, who through illness might require the services of a substitute. As no substitute could do as efficient work as the regular teacher, and as the latter was really responsible for the conduct of affairs during the incumbency of the substitute, it was unfair that the entire salary should be paid. The teachers were agreed upon the fairness of this proposition in cases of illness; they were also agreed that when a teacher desired to take a pleasure vacation, the full salary should go to the substitute.

Mr. A. B. McNeill, Miss A. D. Cameron and others of the delegation spoke briefly to the same effect.

TRUSTEE LEWIS could see no possible reason why teachers should receive more consideration than other mortals—if they were ill and unable to discharge their duties it was their misfortune and the board should not pay salaries for services not performed. If a substitute was engaged in any of the city schools that substitute was supposed to be competent and should receive the usual salary. If a teacher was absent from illness or any other cause it was the scholar and the school that suffered—not the teacher.

TRUSTEE GLOVER explained that in moving the original resolution he had been prompted by the fact that several of the teachers had found it convenient and at the same time profitable to leave substitutes in charge of their departments, paying them only a proportion of their salaries. He took the point that as his resolution applied only in cases where leave of absence was sought and granted, it did not touch cases of illness, and consequently the views of the teachers were already fully met. The resolution applied only in cases of special pleasure vacations.

CHAIRMAN HAYWARD coincided in this view of the case.

TRUSTEE SAUNDERS thought that certainly some consideration should be shown teachers incapacitated by illness from discharging their duties. The illness of teachers was frequently due to their close confinement to the school room.

TRUSTEE LOVELL shared this opinion—pleasure trips could not be placed on the same footing as absence necessitated by illness.

TRUSTEE MARCHANT held that the responsibility continued with the teacher even during the substitute's engagement, and moved that in cases of protracted illness 60 per cent. of the salary should go to the substitute employed—casual days of indisposition could of course be provided for by the teacher without reference to the board.

This resolution was debated at some length and an amendment offered by Trustees Glover and Lewis that the percentage be 75, met defeat, only the mover and seconder voting for it. The original resolution prevailed.

ATTENDANCE.

The attendance for the past month was reported as follows, the report taking the usual course: Average daily, 1,835 94; average actual, 1,821.39; actual attendance, 2,104; and average per teacher, 42 93. This is a decrease of about two per cent. on the previous month, owing to a prevalence of cold and measles.

The bills for the month were referred to the finance committee for payment if correct, and the board decided to supplement the city council's offer of a reward for the conviction of persons guilty of destroying school property. The board will give $20 for the conviction of anyone defacing or destroying school belongings.

PENMANSHIP.

Penmanship in the school was the subject of reports from the several principals, the Spencerian system being taught in the majority of the divisions, and the modern "upright hand" being the model at the Boys' Central and Spring Ridge schools—the latter being the favorite system, and it being proposed to make it general. The standard of writing in the schools, the board agreed, was execrable, and it was finally decided that the Chairman be a committee of one to interview the Superintendent of Education in the matter, and obtain his advice as to the steps necessary to be taken for the improvement of the school standard of penmanship.

MISCELLANEOUS.

The salaries of the North Ward and South Park janitors were made uniform at $50 per month all the year round; Trustees Marchant, Lovell and Lewis were named as a committee to ascertain the feasibility and cost of establishing a night school in the city; and the supply committee was given power to act in the matter of purchasing one or more copies of the new Harris dictionary.

The correspondence and report from Trustee Saunders in regard to the teaching of music in the schools, as well as the appointment of new teachers required, went over to a special meeting on the 22nd inst., to which date the board adjourned at 11 o'clock.

The Victoria Lacrosse Club held a meeting in the Y. M. C. A. parlors last evening, at which there was a fair attendance of members. The matter of the club's course for the coming season was thoroughly discussed and it was finally resolved that the club would be pleased to receive any proposal from the Association which would remove the objection now held against re-entering that body. A committee of three were appointed to attend the meeting on Saturday evening in the Hotel Victoria to discuss the question with the Association and to report. The question of grounds was also discussed but action was deferred until next week. A vote of thanks to the Y. M. C. A. for the free use of their parlors was also passed.

The meeting to have been held at Vancouver last night was postponed to await the result of the Victoria club's deliberations.

Catarrh Relieved in 10 to 60 Minutes.—One short puff of the breath through the blower supplied with each bottle of Dr. Agnew's Catarrhal Powder, diffuses this Powder over the surface of the nasal passages. Painless and delightful to use, it relieves instantly, and permanently cures Catarrh, Hay Fever, Colds, Headache, Sorethroat, Tonsilitis and deafness. 60 cents. At Langley & Co.'s.

SHIPS AND SHIPPING.

The "Warrimoo" Arrives From Australia and Fiji—A Vessel From the North.

U.S.S. "Mohican"—H.M.S. "Nymphe" Making for Victoria—General Shipping Notes.

The R. M. S. Warrimoo, Charles E. Bird, R.N.R., commander, reached port yesterday morning from Australia and Hawaii, the record of the trip being thus given by Mr. C. H. Humphries, the purser: "Left Sydney at 2 p.m. on Monday, March 18; arrived at Suva, Fiji, 8 a.m. on the 24th, and left for Honolulu at 9 p.m. the same day; arrived at Honolulu at 5 a.m. April 2, left again at 2 p.m.; rounded Cape Flattery 11 p.m. April 9, arriving at Victoria 3 a.m. April 10. From Sydney to Suva strong head winds were encountered with squally, rainy weather and high head seas. On this account progress was somewhat delayed. From Suva to Honolulu the Warrimoo had the usual trade winds, which were strong and squally, with rough sea. Strong head sea and N.E. winds prevailed between Honolulu and Victoria."

As first class passengers the Warrimoo brought Mrs. and Miss Seabrook, Mr. Reddington and Dr. Corsan; Miss Scott, Miss McGregor, Miss Diebrich, Miss Dundas, Miss Hewitt, Miss Loyeux; Mrs. Dietrich, Mrs. Loveridge, Mrs. Walter, Mrs. Smith and two sons; Messrs. Scott, McGregor, Dietrich, Reid, Larkson, Bishop of Salisbury, Messrs. Loveridge, Barlow, Walter, Hewitt and Smith. Of these the first six, besides nine second cabin passengers, landed at Victoria, and the remainder, with 24 second cabin passengers, went on to Vancouver. Of the Victoria passengers Mrs. and Miss Seabrook are returning from a visit to Honolulu, and Dr. Corsan, who took the round trip to Australia for his health as surgeon of the vessel, returned much improved by his voyage across the Pacific. Mrs. Burrows, the wife of Lt.-Col. Burrows, R.M., of H.M.S. Royal Arthur, is returning from spending the winter in Honolulu.

Messrs. Scott, McGregor and Dietrich represent manufacturing concerns in Galt, Ont.; they are returning from looking into the prospects of selling machinery, saws and other Canadian manufactures in Australia. Right Rev. John Wordsworth, Bishop of Salisbury, England, is making a tour of the world. He is a grand nephew of the poet Wordsworth. Mr. Gemmell Smith is manager of the Colonial Sugar Company, the greatest in Australia, with headquarters at Sydney and branches in Fiji and elsewhere.

Among the second cabin passengers were several Canadians returning home after trying their luck in Australia. They have come to the conclusion that they can do better in the Dominion, and have returned wiser in experience.

The Warrimoo left for Vancouver at 10 o'clock yesterday morning, having landed 76 tons of freight for this port. She had altogether about 200 tons of freight, including bananas, pineapples, apples, 887 ingots tin and general cargo.

NEWS FROM THE NORTH.

The steamship Danube, Captain Meyer, returned from Northern British Columbia ports yesterday afternoon after a very stormy trip. She encountered many snow and rain storms on the Northern coast, and reports as a result of one of these last week the wreck of the cannery steamer Nell in Metlakatla harbor. The vessel dragged anchor in a gale and went ashore, but how seriously she is damaged is not yet known. Preparations are being made to launch the Hudson's Bay Company steamer Caledonia on the Skeena river. Her intended captain and engineer went up on the Danube from here to take charge of the vessel which is expected to make her first season's voyage up the river within the next few weeks. There is a lot of freight awaiting shipment on the steamer. At Skidegate considerable excitement prevails over the prospective development of the new coal mines there. The black mineral is said to exist in large quantities, and it is thought that by next year its production will be considerable. Cannery work is now very active in the North, preparatory to the opening of the fishing season. The Danube brought back a very small cargo, consisting chiefly of oolachans and furs. Her passengers down were few in number, including Mr. Todd and wife, of Metlakatla; Miss Hides and George Cunningham.

THE U. S. S. "MOHICAN."

The Mohican is now at Port Townsend, whose local paper says she "has a new chief engineer in Mr. J. K. Barton who was transferred from the U. S. S. Columbia. The Mohican will leave here on Thursday to complete the test of the Fairhaven coal. She will return to Seattle on Friday to take on thirty tons of Black Diamond coal for testing. From all reports it looks as if the Mohican would remain on the Sound all summer. After she finishes the tests of the coals of the state she will remain a week at a time at the different ports. In case a man-of-war is needed in Behring sea or at Honolulu the Mohican will be ready to sail as directed."

THE "VELOS" COMPASS.

George Bingham, arrested on Tuesday on a charge of stealing the compass of the wrecked Velos, was acquitted after a summary trial in the provincial police court yesterday before Magistrate Macrae. Mr. G. H. Barnard appeared for the defence.

The information of John McHardy accused Bingham of stealing a compass valued at $10 from the wrecked Velos, the property of Alexander Ewen. The defendant pleaded not guilty, and Mr. McHardy was called as the first witness. He stated that he was employed by Robert Ward & Co., Ltd., to save what it was possible to from the Velos wreck. He had missed the compass from Trial island on Thursday and had called once at Bingham's house to see him about it, but Bingham happened to be out. He had also sent a message to Bingham, but the messanger had not told the defendant that it was about the compass. After the stoppage of the sale on Tuesday of the salvage from the Velos wreck, by the sheriff on account of Bingham's claim for salvage, witness had told Mr. W. A. Ward that the sale was stopped, and a charge was laid against Bingham for stealing the compass.

A. A. Aaronson was called to show that the value of the compass was $3, and that if he bought it he would only have paid from a dollar to a dollar and a half for it.

George Bingham said that he had the day after the wreck picked up the compass and box from where they had been washed ashore, and had put them in a place of safety. Afterwards the box disappeared, and as the compass had lain around loose on the island for a week and he considered it of no value, he picked it up and took it home as a memento of the disaster, without any effort to conceal his action.

The Magistrate was satisfied that Bingham had no felonious intent and dismissed the case.

THE CITY.

A. T. BARHAM, secretary of the B. C. Pottery & Terra Cotta Company, was yesterday appointed by Mr. Justice Walkem to act as provisional liquidator of the company.

J. W. BEDE, convicted at Plumper Pass of using abusive and threatening language to Postmaster W. T. Collinson, has been brought down to serve his month's sentence in the provincial jail here.

THE Law Relief fund now amounts to $951 15, yesterday's additions to the fund being: Edith Wood, South Park school, .25; Spring Ridge school, division No. 3, add .10; and friend, 1 00.

BY consent an order was made in chambers yesterday by Mr. Justice Drake to examine Mayor Teague before the registrar in the case of the Victoria & Sidney Railway v. the City.

MESSRS. Nelson and McGregor of Victoria, Kirby of Vernon, and Cleveland of Vancouver have passed their final examinations and are now qualified to practice as provincial land surveyors.

IN chambers yesterday before Judge Drake application was granted in Tulloch v. Adams to add Mrs. Adams as defendant, as executrix of F. Adams. Mr. S. Perry Mills for plaintiff; Messrs. Drake, Jackson & Helmcken for defendant.

THE dates fixed for the second annual convention of the Christian Endeavor societies of the province to be held here are May 14, 15 and 16. Special arrangements for the event have been made with nearly all transportation companies in the province, so that a large attendance may be expected.

A BULLETIN has been issued by the Department of Agriculture of British Columbia containing an interesting report of the Northwest Fruit Growers' Association, held in Portland, Oregon, in February; and also of a visit to the Cornwallis agricultural college and experimental station by Mr. J. R. Anderson, of that depprtment.

WITH the spring-time the flower thief has as usual put in an appearance, and complaints of depredated gardens are made by indignant householders. Among others Mr. S. Perry Mills' garden was robbed yesterday of some remarkably choice hyacinths and he feels so annoyed over his loss that he would willingly pay $25 to get information that would convict the culprit.

THE annual election of officers of the Sons of Erin took place last evening, and resulted as follows: President, A. St. George Flint (re-elected); first vice president, T. H. Prosser; second vice president, T. H. Long; secretary, F. H. Lang, and treasurer, M. McTiernan (re-elected). The executive committee appointed is composed of Messrs. W. H. Groves, D. Murphy, T. H. Prossor, C. J. Quinman and W. O'Connor.

THE following are the marks of those pupils of the Cedar Hill school who made an average of 50 per cent. or upwards during the month of March: Fifth class—Maggie Glendinning, 85 1; John Leeming, 69.7; Harry Gartley, 66.3; Julia Glendinning, 66 3; Archie McRae, 61 0; John Grieve, 61 0; Henry Todd, 58 0; Irene Pickard, 52 8. Fourth class—Mabel Miller, 64 6; Harold Russell, 57.1. Average attendance for the month, 39 05.

TEMPERANCE hall was filled to the doors at the meeting of the Single Tax club last night and the evening was very enjoyably spent listening to music and addresses. Mr. B. H. West spoke eloquently on compensation and was followed by Ald. Macmillan. Mr. Bissell, the chairman, Mr. W. Berridge and J. A. Cohen among others made short addresses, and questions put by the audience were answered by Mr. Howell and other members of the club. During the evening Mrs. Johnson gave a piano solo and also sang.

NO. 1 COMPANY Association B.C.B.G.A. will hold their adjourned annual meeting in the drill hall on Tuesday evening next. As several matters of importance to each individual member of the company, particularly the disposition of the funds, will be brought forward for discussion, besides the election of office bearers for the ensuing year, the committee expect to see a large turnout on that evening. Refreshments will be served during the evening and it is intended to have a social half hour after the business is concluded.

CAPTAIN GRANT'S pretty residence at Point Ellice bridge was the scene last evening of a pleasant social gathering or "At Home." The place seemed entirely in possession of young people, of whom there were a large number. Piano music was supplied by Miss Smith, vocal solos by Frank Richardson, Miss Wolff, Miss Strachan and Miss Dunnington, and an address was given by Mrs. Spofford. These, with games, etc., formed the evening's programme, refreshments being an additional "number," which, of course, was a pleasing variation.

AMONG the effective means by which this city is being advertised abroad is the "Souvenir of Victoria, B. C.," issued by Mr. Stephen Jones, of the Dominion hotel. It contains a variety of information of use to the travelling public; and is not only distributed to passengers leaving by steamers for this port, but is also circulated among those who reach San Francisco from Australia and Honolulu. The agent who is entrusted with this task is an energetic man, who, while advancing the interests of his employer, at the same time does service to the city and province.

MRS. H. G. LEWIS has just received news of the death of her father, E. E. Langford, aged 86, who came to this province (then colony) on the Hudson's Bay Co.'s chartered vessel Tory. He leaves an only son, George Richard, and four daughters; the former was born in Governor Blanchard's house, where the Adelphi block now stands. Mr. Langford came to Vancouver island and established a farm at Colwood, now called Langford plains; he was magistrate here for a number of years and returned to England in 1861 on the winding up of the Puget Sound Co.'s affairs.

A TELEGRAM has been received by Hon. Mr. Eberts, Attorney General, from Nelson, stating that Captain Fitzstubbs had started at once for the scene of the trouble at the Kootenay reclamation works—as soon as the news had been reported to him. It was not anticipated that there would be much difficulty in straightening out the matter. From Ottawa, Sir C. H. Tupper, minister of justice, has wired to Hon. Mr. Eberts in reply to his telegram, that, if required, Northwest mounted police are at the disposal of the province, should there be any need of their services. This is simply a precautionary measure, for it is not anticipated that the mounted police will be necessary.

THE AUSTRALIAN MAIL.

Antipodean Incidents of Recent Date Briefly Told in Advices By "Warrimoo."

A Disorderly Legislature—Death of a Governor—Volcanic Eruption—New Zealand's Upper House.

One of the picturesque rows that seem to crop up with considerable regularity in the New South Wales legislative assembly, made things very lively during an all night sitting on March 6, the discussion being on the land and income tax bill. The Sydney Daily Telegraph describes the scene as follows:

"An all night sitting of the assembly is always provocative of disorder. The feeling over the land tax proposals of the government has, all through, been very marked, and they reached a climax early yesterday morning. The rejection of Mr. Wise's amendment in clause 12 of the bill had the effect of inducing certain members to express their views in extremely forcible language. There was a very full house, and the repeated divisions created an amount of confusion which all the shouts of 'Order' from hon. members, and from the Chair, could not allay, but seemed rather to increase.

"Mr. Sleath referred disparagingly to the repeated divisions as a frivolous waste of time. Mr. J. Morgan, who was responsible for one of the divisions, called out to Mr. Sleath, 'Sit down, you tried to blow up a family at Broken-hill. You're a scoundrel.'

"Livid with rage, Mr. Sleath appealed to the Chair for protection, but, as there was much noise at the time, which Mr. M'Court seemed to be unable to put down, he explained to the injured member that he did not hear the expression. However, he requested Mr. Morgan to apologise for the remarks if he had used them. Mr. Morgan having complied with the request, Mr. Sleath continued his speech, but he soon asked for protection from Mr. Morgan, who had, he said, stated that he was not an honest man. The chairman again failed to hear the words, and Mr. Morgan denied using them.

"'Then I say he's a liar,' shouted Mr. Sleath at the top of his voice, which, under ordinary circumstances, is a loud one. Mr. Sleath, upon being requested to apologize, did so, adding that he remained of the same opinion still. Mr. Miller then came upon the scene and was soon in conflict with the Chair. He called Mr. Sleath 'a dishonorable member,' and then withdrew the remark, but soon afterwards referred to certain persons as 'bogus' people. On Mr. Hughes rising to protest he was met with the interjection, 'Sit down, you Jack-in-the box.' Mr. Hughes then called Mr. Miller 'a thing,' and the Chairman failing to hear the remark, Mr. Miller proceeded to adversely criticize the Chairman. He was ordered to discontinue his remarks, but, on attempting to speak, Mr. McCourt, whose patience appeared to have become exhausted, ordered the Sergeant-at-arms to remove Mr. Miller, which order was at once obeyed. This prompt action had its effect, and comparative peace soon afterwards prevailed."

SIR ROBERT DUFF'S DEATH.

The Sydney papers of March 16 devote a great deal of space to the death of Sir Robert Duff, governor of the colony of New South Wales, which occurred the previous day. In the beginning of February, while in Hobart, Tasmania, Sir Robert caught a chill which developed into congestion of the liver, accentuated by jaundice. Towards the end of the month he improved so much that danger was considered over, but in March his disease took a turn for the worse and at his own wish he was removed to Sydney, where he arrived on Thursday, March 14, at midnight. After a consultation of physicians an operation was performed a few hours later for abscess of the liver, but the patient sank rapidly and died on Friday evening. General regret at Sir Robert Duff's death is expressed by the Australian press, and from all parts of Australia messages of sympathy and condolence were sent to his family. On the Sunday following he was buried with state honors.

A NEW ZEALAND VOLCANO.

On March 11 the volcano Ruapehu in New Zealand broke in eruption without the slightest warning. A tremendous column of steam was ejected thousands of feet into the air and afterwards the steam ceased, and was replaced by smoke and ashes, which continued to be belched forth. It is believed that the Crater lake on the summit is being turned into a solfatara or volcanic vent, emitting sulphurous, muriatic and acid vapors and gases.

AGAINST THE UPPER HOUSE.

Speaking at Wellington on March 5, the New Zealand Minister for Labor said that the abolition of the Upper House must take place before very long, and the adoption of the referendum would then be necessary.

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