

**Latest War News.**—There is no news of a serious engagement as yet, but matters in several directions are approaching the striking point. So far the advantages have all been on the side of the Boers. They hold possession of the northern part of Natal, have occupied several towns there, and are now threatening Glencoe and Dundee, which are defended by 4000 British troops. The vanguard of the Boers by latest reports was nearly in sight of Glencoe. At Kimberley on the other side of the scene of war, the position is very serious. The Boers have possession of the railway line both north and south, so that Kimberley is quite isolated. Heavy firing is going on in the locality, and the gravity of the situation may be gathered from the fact that the British military authorities at the Cape have called on the Cape volunteers for active service. Incidents of the situation are that Major Marchand, the French officer, who was rescued by General Kitchener at Fashoda, ungratefully desires to offer his services to the Boers. The French War Minister says he cannot join the Boers without surrendering his rank in the army. Boer leaders are accusing the Afrikaner Bond of Cape Colony of breach of faith in not actively participating as they promised in the war against England. Just as we go to press a message is to hand that Dundee has been abandoned to the Boers and the civil population for safety removed to Ladysmith. Kimberley does not appear to be in any immediate or very serious danger, as there are 4000 British troops in the town.

**To-day's Events.**—St. Peter's Picnic to Bridgewater, 8.40 and 11.50; Marong Jockey Club's Spring Meeting—Train 12.20; Girls' Friendly Societies' Festival and Tea Rooms Opened, 4 p.m.; Anniversary Tea and Public Meeting, Golden Square Wesleyan Sunday-school; Tea, Long Gully Wesleyan Sunday-school, 7.30; Presbyterian Tea, Ma-

Sunday-school, 7.30; Presbyterian Tea, Marong; Deutscher Verein Smoke Night, European Hotel, 8; Druids' Sunflower Minstrels, A.N.A. Hall, 8; "His Natural Life," Theatre, 8; Eaglehawk Hospital Sunday Committee, 8.

Parliament.—In the Council last night some progress was made with the Meat Inspection Bill. The Assembly was occupied for a while discussing the cyanide patents and their alleged effects on the mining industry. After this the House went into committee on the Water Bill, and the evening was spent by members for the trust districts endeavoring to have more of their liabilities written off as bad debts, and the Government refusing to make any further reductions than another £60,000.

Electoral Registrars.—Mr. Gairin the Assembly this evening, will ask the Chief Secretary what decision has been arrived at as to compensating electoral registrars for the extra work they had to perform in connection with the federal election.

The Weather.—Yesterday was a clear, beautiful day and warm, and the forecast is beautiful weather for the remainder of the week. The readings at Mr. J. B. Edwards', Pall Mall, yesterday, were:—Thermometer—9 a.m.: 47deg. 12: 60deg. 3 p.m.: 63deg. 6 p.m.: 56deg. Maximum, 65deg.; minimum, 37deg. Barometer—9 a.m.: 29.99in. 12: 29.80in. 3 p.m.: 29.76in. 6 p.m.: 29.76in.

Indisposed.—Amongst the many sufferers by influenza is Mr. W. Beobe, J.P., the well-known architect. His many friends, however, will be glad to hear that yesterday he was rather better.

Judge Hodges and the Volunteer Ranger.—There was an incident in the Assize Court yesterday which infused a little sentiment into the routine of the proceedings. A witness in the divorce case Gulliver v. Gulliver was anxious to get away to Melbourne, and his anxiety can be more easily understood when it is explained that he was Mr. Henry Joseph Kearns, a sergeant in the E Company of Victorian Rangers at Echuca, and who is en route for the Transvaal. He was in uniform, and Mr. Justice Hodges, as he was leaving the witness box, offered the soldier a parting good-bye. "You are going to the Transvaal, I believe," said his Honor, admiring the manly

"You are going to the Transvaal, I believe," said his Honor, admiring the manly physique of the young fellow. "Yes, your Honor," came the unassuming reply, as an involuntary blush of pride suffused the countenance of the volunteer. "Are you going to give a good account of yourself?" "I hope so, your Honor," came the fervent reply. "You are going on a patriotic and glorious mission," said his Honor, "and may you return home to your friends with the crown and joys of victory thick upon you. Good-bye." "Good-bye, your Honor, and thank you, for your good wishes," said Sergeant Kerans as he stepped from the box.

**War Before Love.**—Castlemaine has provided a melodramatic lover. One of the members of the 4th Battalion, who volunteered for service in the Transvaal, and was accepted on Thursday, was on Saturday married to a young woman who has been employed at the local hospital. The bride (Miss Sampson, now Mrs. Duggan), is the sister of another volunteer. If nurses are wanted for the Transvaal (remarks a Castlemaine correspondent) she may also offer her services, and the honeymoon be continued in South Africa. It is also stated that one of the volunteers of the Eaglehawk Rangers' F Company is a bridegroom of only a month. At Ballarat, his friends and relatives had great trouble to prevent a militiaman with a wife and children leaving for the Transvaal. Their arguments, however, caused him to think that his duty near home was more pressing than his duty further off.

**Death of a Fossicker.**—An old man named Thomas Woor, over 70 years of age, and who has been living some miles out on the Strathfieldsaye road, a short distance from the Durham Ox Hotel, died in his hut some time during Monday night. He was a fossicker, and had lived in this part of the district for about 14 years, being well known in the neighborhood. He was in bad health for the last two years, and about six months ago was discharged from the Bendigo Hospital as incurable. Since then he has been extremely weak, and for some time past had been receiving outdoor aid from the Benevolent Asylum. Another old man named Patrick Hassett has been a mate of the deceased for a good while, and lived with him. This man on Monday night, being somewhat concerned about the bad

being somewhat concerned about the bad turn Woar had taken, waited on him before turning in to see if his companion required any attention, but he was then in a comfortable sleep. On Tuesday morning, however, he was found to be dead. Hassett reported the matter to Senior-constable Hayes at Quarry Hill. Mr. Webb, J.P., is to conduct an inquiry at the Durham Ox Hotel at 11 a.m. to-day, after Dr. Hinchcliffe has made a post-mortem examination.

**Absent Jurors.**—When the jurors were called on at the Assize Court yesterday, a good number were absent, and as usual they, or their representatives, were required to explain the circumstances why they should be excused from attending. Influenza or bronchitis were the principal causes in the majority of cases. In one case the juror was Mr. Samuel Gray, an enginedriver, who attended personally and asked to be excused on the ground that he was the only driver on the mine, and the men were then at work below. His honor naturally expressed surprise at this circumstance, and pictured to the applicant for exemption the predicament they would be in should an accident occur. The Act however, did not allow him (his honor) to grant this request, and he was not going to presume to take such a step without the necessary authority. The only way out of the difficulty was the infliction of a nominal fine, and the juror was fined 1s, and allowed to go back to the mine.

**Who Was Punished?**—Dr. Maloney is this evening in the Legislative Assembly to ask the Minister of Railways—1. Is it a fact that Mr. Learmouth, J.P., travelled upon an expired railway ticket? 2. Did he excuse himself by blaming the ticket-collectors for not insisting that he should take the ticket out of the ticket case. 3. Were the porters punished and if so on what grounds. 4. Was the J.P. prosecuted?

**A Narrow Escape.**—A young son of Mrs. I. A. Hill, butcher of Mitchell street, had a narrow escape from serious accident yesterday. He was driving in a delivery cart, when the off wheel collapsed in King street. He was thrown out, though fortunately beyond a rough shaking, was not otherwise hurt. He was about again during the day, none the worse for his little misadventure.

**Proceedings.**—Samuel Bull, who was

misadventure.

Progressing. — Samuel Bull, who sustained such painful injuries in the St. Mungo mine about three weeks ago by falling 40ft down the shaft into a well, is making splendid headway in the hospital. His spine does not give him much trouble, and he is now able to sit up in bed.

An Old Colonist.—The remains of the late Mrs. Button, relict of the late Mr. Edward Button, van proprietor, of Long Gully, were interred in the Bendigo Cemetery yesterday afternoon, in the presence of a large number of friends. The deceased lady was 77 years of age, and was a very old colonist. She leaves one son, Mr. C. Button, of Hargreaves street, and five daughters, four of whom were married. Mr. Oakley was the undertaker.

Sad Accident to One of Mr. Lansell's Sons.—A very serious and most unfortunate accident happened yesterday about midday at St. Andrew's College, Myers street, when Master Leonard Lansell, third son of Mr. Geo. Lansell, received an injury which threatens to destroy the sight of one of his eyes. With other boys, and during the luncheon hour, he was playing "tip-cat," and one of the lads accidentally sent the "cat"—a small pointed piece of wood—into Master Lansell's eye, inflicting a dangerous injury to the ball. Dr. Atkinson made a careful examination of the injured eye, but as the case is a serious one, Mr. Lansell intends to have the boy examined by a Melbourne specialist.

A Kerang Artist.—The Times says that Mr. Myles O'Brien, of Kerang, can truly claim to be a versatile genius. In his odd moments during the past week that he could spare from his legal duties he has been devoting his exceptional talents to scene-painting at the Mechanics' Institute. He has achieved a wonderful success in this labor of love, and the result reflects great credit on his artistic skill. The public will have an opportunity on Thursday night next of admiring his work.

A New Minstrel Club.—The Druids' Sunflower Minstrels will make their bow to the public to-night at the A.N.A. Hall in a minstrel and variety entertainment (in aid of their wardrobe fund). A first-class programme is provided, including the usual circle, with the latest songs, followed by



circle, with the latest songs, followed by ventriloquism, contortionists, quartettes, etc., and concluding with a side-splitting farce.

**Bendigo Hospital.**—Mr. W. Hunter attended yesterday afternoon. Thirteen applicants were granted outdoor relief. The resident-surgeon (Dr. W. Long) reported that during the last week eight patients had died, 37 had been discharged cured, and 113 remained under treatment.

**Benevolent Asylum and Lying-in Hospital.**—The committee met yesterday afternoon. Present—The president (Mr. D. B. Lazarus) in the chair, Messrs. W. Davis, J. D. Crofts, G. G. P. Claridge and Major Kirby. Apologies were received from Messrs. A. Harkness, E. Birch and J. R. Goodisson. Five applicants were awarded aid by orders on stores, 40 in kind from the institution; aid in 1 case was discontinued, and 1 man and 1 woman were admitted. A pair of pants and a flannel were granted to a needy person outdoor. Reports were received from medical officer (Dr. J. D. Boyd) and superintendent (Mr. J. S. McIlroy). Two hundred and fifty-three distributions were made outdoor during the week to families, consisting of 267 adults and 115 children, and there are in the institution 208 males, 49 females, 1 lying-in patient; total, 258.

**H. A. C. B. S.**—The fortnightly meeting of St. Kilian's branch was held on Monday evening, the president (Bro. W. Jeffrey) in the chair. There was a very fair attendance. Owing to the prevalence of influenza there was a large increase of members on the sick fund. Five new members were initiated and four nominations received. The balance-sheet for the last quarter was presented, showing the branch to be in a sound financial position, there being a substantial increase in the various funds. The president reported on the picnic, and stated that all arrangements were nearly completed. Accounts amounting to £20 were passed for payment.

**Eaglehawk Presbyterian Minister.**—At the meeting of the Presbytery of Melbourne South yesterday afternoon a call from Eaglehawk in favor of the Rev. D. Telfer, of Yarraville, was received. The call was sustained, and the Rev. D. Telfer will be directed to place himself in the hands of the Presbytery of Bendigo. The stipend,

of the Presbytery of Bendigo. The stipend, it was stated, would be £250 a year, with manse.

**Fifth Battalion.**—Last evening the usual weekly parade was held, when there was a good muster of men. The officers present were: Captain Thomson (commanding), Captain Adjutant Irving, and Lieutenants McDonald, Putnam, Davis, Bayne, T. R. Henderson, Mitchell and Roberts. The half-yearly inspection by the commandant will be held next Wednesday.

**The Whale Bath Cure.**—Several persons suffering from rheumatism have arrived at the Kiah whaling station, in the Eden district (N.S.W.), for the purpose of undergoing the whale bath cure. The treatment consists of the patient, divested of his clothing, repeatedly remaining for a long time in the blubber of a dead whale. Some remarkable cures are said to have been effected by the treatment. The oil gets into the joints of the rheumatic patient, and this gives relief. Standing up or sitting in a barrel of whale oil would serve the same purpose.

**A Father Shoots His Two Children.**—A fearful tragedy has taken place at Petone, a suburb of Wellington, N.Z. A young man named Arthur Wolf, a carpenter, murdered his two children, one a boy aged 5 years, and the other a girl aged 3, and then attempted to commit suicide. In the absence of his wife he took the children home, stood them up alongside each other, and shot them with a revolver. He next fired four shots at himself without effect, and then cut his throat with a razor, but he is expected to recover. He had been drinking, and had also experienced financial worries, being disappointed at not receiving a remittance from England. He was very fond of his children, but said that his wife would be better off without them and him. The tragedy was first discovered by the wife.

**The Zelman Quartett.**—The programme arranged for this chamber concert is in every respect an excellent one. The famous Zelman Quartett, which is acknowledged by eminent musicians to be the finest combination of stringed instrumentalists in the Australasian colonies, will render some of the choicest gems of the old masters, whilst the gifted soprano (Signorina Coy), and the popular contralto (Miss Kitty Grindlay) will add several well-known and interesting vocal items. As an unusual amount of interest

items. As an unusual amount of interest is being evinced in musical circles, it will be advisable for all those who intend to be present to secure their seats or tickets at Suttons' without delay, as the supply is limited, and it is estimated that the seating accommodation of the Masonic Hall will be taxed to its utmost on Tuesday evening next. The box plan is now open.

At Rochester, on Thursday, Messrs. A. E. Wallis and Co. will offer for sale 100 well-bred cattle from 15 months to two years old.

At the Llanecorie stock yards, to-day, Messrs. A. E. Wallis and Co. will conduct their usual monthly stock sale.

Messrs. R. O'Neill and Co. will conduct a clearing sale of furniture to-day at eleven o'clock on account of Mr. C. Knight, livery stables, Forest street.