

Sydney is having an epidemic of malpractice cases.

New Plymouth has had a sharp and rather prolonged shock of earthquake.

The importation of pigs from New Zealand into Victoria has been prohibited.

The total mileage of railways opened in New Zealand to date is 1994 miles 75 chains.

The South Australia Legislative Assembly is considering a new treaty with New Zealand.

A New South Wales loan of \$20,000,000 is to be placed on the London market this month.

General Booth of the Salvation Army is to be the guest of Sir Robert Stout during his stay in New Zealand.

The New Zealand Council has passed the second reading of the Alcoholic Liquors Sale Control Act Amendment Bill.

A bouquet of water lilies, frozen in a solid block of ice, was recently sent to Queen Victoria from Sydney.

The Board of Governors of the Dunedin High School have appointed a lady principal for the Girl's High School in spite of strenuous opposition. Her salary is \$2000 a year with free board and residence.

A sensational gold discovery is reported at Niagara in the Perth district. Two prospectors took from an opening only twenty feet long, three feet wide and one foot deep 200 ounces of gold. One piece weighed nine ounces.

Hon. J. Parsons, the accredited commissioner of the South Australian government, has gone to Japan with specimens of Australian produce to test the markets of the Orient with a view to establishing permanent trade relations.

A complete skeleton of a moa bird, which stood over nine feet high, has been found in a cave in New Zealand. The discovery is a valuable one, as whole skeletons of the bird, which has been extinct for over half a century, are very rare.

The New Zealand House of Representatives has been engaged chiefly during the last month in the discussion of the new tariff. The Minister of Finance has appended to his Financial Statement an amended tariff, which is being picked to pieces by his enemies and the press.

In connection with the proposed Antarctic expedition and the question of the Australian Governments contributing to the cost, the Premier of Victoria says he is unfavorable to the expenditure at present, but if the other colonies decide to subscribe Victoria will not stand out.

Great Surgical Operation.

Probably the most extraordinary surgical operation on record is one reported from Paris. Dr. Lannelongue, an eminent specialist in the Children's Hospital, has just succeeded in the effort to give intelligence to a poor little idiot. The child, a little girl 4 years old, had a deformed head, only about one-third the size of an ordinary little one of her age. She never smiled, never took notice of anything, and she could neither walk nor stand. The doctor became convinced that the condition of the little creature was due to the abnormal narrowness of the head, which hindered the natural growth of the brain. About the middle of May last he made a long and narrow incision in the centre of the skull and cut a portion out of the left side of it, without injuring the brain substance. The result of this operation was something astounding. In less than a month the child began to walk. Now she smiles, interests herself in everything around her, and plays with a doll. A tolerably bright little child has taken the place of the idiot.

Mr. W. Laban of Namu'a island at the east end of Upolu is in difficulty in regard to taking possession of his land under his Court Title. It would appear that the chief Tuisila—whose reputation by the way savors of the high hand—has threatened violence to Laban if he returns to Namu'a. This is a case where it will be necessary for the authorities to show firmness and compel Tuisila to explain himself. It is an outrage on the established Government to defy the grants issued by the Supreme Court of Samoa.

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