

# The Otago Witness

Dunedin, New Zealand; Wednesday, 6th March, 1909 – No. 2895

## In The Brief

### No Room for School Children

On the 9<sup>th</sup> of February, students were being turned away from the new Normal School on Union St.

A large number of pupils from other schools around Dunedin came forward with the request of being enrolled. But these people soon found out that all classes were filled to the maximum quantity and that infant rooms would only take new pupils if they had family within the school at the present time.

### Cruise Leaves For Overseas Trip

On the 17<sup>th</sup> of February, the warship Cambrian departed from Auckland for a nine-month voyage around the world.

Her first stop will be on the Rarotonga Island in the Cook Islands to control some troublesome natives. Following that, The Cambrian will go to Fanning Island, Central Pacific and then on to Honolulu, Hawaii; Brazil South America; Fiji, Pacific Islands and finally onto England, United Kingdom before returning home on the 18<sup>th</sup> of October.

### Folding Bed Leaves Man Dead

Charles Murray, 39, was killed on March 4 when his folding bed closed suddenly and crushed him. His wife, injured in the same manner, is recovering in hospital and said to make a full recovery. Their daughter heard groans and discovered the lower part of her parents bodies elevated towards the ceiling, their heads unable to be seen. Charles was reported dead by the time assistance arrived.

### Cook Strait Ferry Runs Aground

On the 14<sup>th</sup> February, the S.S Penguin Cook Strait Ferry ran aground at a bay near McMenamin's Terawhiti Homestead.

It was feared that there had been a big loss of life in this un-expected disaster.

The Union Company sent horsemen to gather news and then motor-cars to provide blankets and provisions.

Captain Naylor of the Ferry reached town around midday to give definite news.

The First Information that was provided stated only thirteen people had survived.

All of the remaining passengers were put into boats that were taken to shore.

Out of the boats, three were found upturned on the shore, one was tossing about broken in the water and one was missing. If this missing boat is still not found, there will be no survivors of this fatal incident. Later into the afternoon, twenty six bodies had washed up on shore or were in the surf of the little bay.

The whole two miles of beach was strewn with wreckage. Pieces of cabins, seats, cushions and upholstery were floating around the bay or dispersed on the sand.

No remains have been found of the actual boat, so it is impossible to determine where exactly she sank. This tragic sight is not to be forgotten.

May we remember those who perished in this unfortunate occurrence.

### John McCurdy Makes History in Silver Dart

On the 23<sup>rd</sup> of February, John McCurdy piloted the first controlled flight in Canada and the British Empire, flying the Silver Dart.

McCurdy triumphantly succeeded at flying the plane off ice at Baddeck Bay, a sub-basin of Bras d' Or Lake. He was also one of the designers involved in the making of this airplane along with Baldwin, Glenn, Thomas Selfridge and Alexander Graham Bell.

It is the fourth flying machine from Aerial Experiment Associations and the most successful with the Silver Dart breaking the records of its predecessor, the June Bug. If further success with the Silver Dart continues there has been talk that there may be a passenger flight attempted later on in the year.

So far, the Canadian Army have been unimpressed with the headway made by the group but this spectacular event has hopefully changed their minds.

### Railway Operation Underway

The North Island Main Trunk Railway from Wellington to Auckland started operating on the 13<sup>th</sup> February for the first time.

The first train left from Wellington on the 14<sup>th</sup> of February and arrived the next day at Auckland 19 hours, 15 minutes later.

This is an exciting occasion which was enjoyed by many.

The North Island Main Trunk Railway was officially opened by the Mayor of Wellington A.F Newman after being completed on the 7th of August last year.

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# Regional And Rural News

## Penny for Kill

A Milburn District farmer is consequently bothered with the rabbit pest, that he is willing to offer a penny per tail for every rabbit slaughtered on his acreage.

Eager to defeat this species, he will also supply rifle cartridges to anybody wanting to help on his domain.

## Employees Wasting Work Time

Many railway employees are adamant that there are substantial amounts of 'wasters' working in the industry.

Mostly noticed in workshops and other branches of the railway service, one employee believed that a few innocent workers were accused of being 'wasters', when this was incorrect.

## Telephone Office Being Established

A telephone office is soon to be a luxury establishment in Tirohenga, a small town a few miles from the Nuggets.

Construction will begin soon with locals assuming it will be under way about the 15<sup>th</sup> of February.

It is subject to the granting of a funding provided by the Bruce County Council. This issue is soon to be discussed.

## Southland Farmlands Develop Rapidly

Over the last few years, Southland Farmland has continued to develop rapidly, as swamps that were created by the floods in 1906 have been drained, and rabbits cleared from farmland.

The Waimea plains witnessed the devastating floods in 1906, destroying 30% of the land situated there.

## Market Gardens Proliferate

Garden Markets around Outram and Kakanui are multiplying to meet the demand of main centres.

Some of the country's finest potatoes, green vegetables and berry fruits come from these gardens, but despite outstanding individual successes, vegetable growing has also been fraught with these problems.

## Steamer Breaks Down

On the 12<sup>th</sup> February between Queenstown and Kingston, the Lake Wakatipu steamer Mountaineer broke down. Fortunately, Queenstown received a warning, through the telegraph wire, from linemen situated at the Remarkables, after sighting the vessel stationary for approximately two hours.

The Mountaineer was rescued with an oil launch after being stranded for a significant age. Rail men took punctual measures for passenger's arrival after they were relocated and taken to Kingston in the afternoon.

## Interest High For Upcoming Autumn Festival

Entries for Balclutha's outdoor show are filling in fast for this upcoming occasion.

The carnival will occur next month at the Oldfellows' Hall in Balclutha.

Put on by the Balclutha Horticultural and Industrial Exhibit Society, this occasion is one that's sure to bring in even more of the crowds than initially expected.

Prominent exhibits in the festival include those of: border flowers, potatoes, industrial work, sweet peas and many more.

Because of the season's downturn, it has been arduous for many of the plants owners to try and produce their best; but prize takers, however, are sure to be almost faultless specimens.

As a popular section in recent years, the pot plants will also not be quite their usual standards, but organisers are astounded with how the competition is so intense for this division in the festival.

It is pleasing to note the fact that, vegetable stalls are most likely to be wide-ranging, and quality of soil is sure to make a difference when it comes to judging.

Many youngsters will also be participating in the youth section which will probably consist of events to judge penmanship, needlework, mapping and freehand drawing.

If you wish to enter, please contact Jill Blackly at the Balclutha Church, for an appropriate time regarding an interview. For any other information about your preferences of sections or concerns about this event please write a formal letter to: 3 Hancock Street, Balclutha

## Picnic Postponed – but still enjoyed!

A significant turnout of about six hundred willing participants headed to Evansdale, on the 10<sup>th</sup> February, for the twelfth annual picnic of drapers and bootshop assistants.

The event, later, had to be cancelled.

The morning sports agenda went under way with success, but the heavy showers arrived after the luncheon and sustained throughout the afternoon.

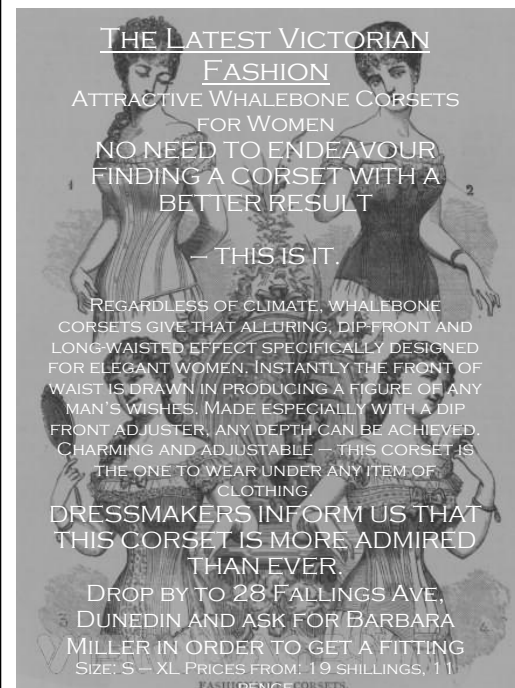
The decision of postponement for the remainder of the picnic was directed by Mr W. Hay, president of the commission.

The foremost event, the cross-country run, had to be moved to Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> February; with other events postponements still needing to be arranged in a further meeting.

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# World News

## The "Unsinkable Ship" Building Planned

The directors of the White Star Line Company announced in Southampton last month that the shipping company is to commence work on the world's largest luxury passenger liner, the H.M.S Titanic.

This vessel has been nicknamed by architects employed on its design as The Unsinkable Ship, due to "sink proofing" methods incorporated in its design.

It is likely that an approximate three thousand men will be employed to build this vessel. Construction, to be undertaken by the firm Harland and Wolff, will commence in Belfast in March. When completed, this ship of dreams will carry Two Thousand and Three Hundred passengers and Eight Hundred and Ninety crew members.

It is estimated that this great vessel will take Three Years to build, and that the maiden voyage will commence from Southampton, United Kingdom and from there journey across the Atlantic Ocean to New York in the United States of America.

## Shackleton Goes far South

Shackleton, South Pole explorer, was knighted today by King Edward for his brave expedition to the South Pole, succeeding in making it the furthest South in history. He was only 180 kilometres from reaching the South Pole.

Shackleton, Wild, Marshall and Adams began the 'Great Southern Journey' on the 19<sup>th</sup> of October, 1908. 82 days later the team arrived at latitude of 88° 23'S, the most Southern point any one has ever reached.

On the way back they were running low on food and had to have half rations for most of the way. "All the money that was ever minted would not have bought that biscuit and the remembrance of that sacrifice will never leave me." They arrived just in time for the ship home.

On the same expedition they also accomplished being the first to climb Mount Erebus and reached the South Magnetic Pole.

## National association for the Advancement of Coloured People Founded

On the 12<sup>th</sup> of February 1909, the National Association of the Advancement of Colored People was founded in the United States of America.

The mission of the association is to ensure the political, educational, social and economical equality rights of everybody and to eliminate racial hatred and racial discrimination.

The headquarters are in Baltimore, Maryland with offices in California, New York, Michigan, Missouri, Georgia and Texas.

A 64 member board runs it with the present chairman being Martin Bradshaw of New York.

"It has been a progress in the making," said chairman, Bradshaw "It has taken a long time to get to where it is today. This has been and still is a very big problem in the United States of America and everyone on the board and evolved hope that coloured people will soon be equal to everyone else and are treated with respect."

## Orphanage in flames

Three young girls were perished by horrendous flames when an orphanage went up in flames in Battle Creek.

There were thirty-seven children in the orphanage at the time. Seven of which jumped from the third level of the institution, one badly injuring her spine.

Mrs. Owen, whose husband was in charge of the institution, battled her way down a crumbling staircase with a six week old baby and two little girls clinging to her.

The flames spread rapidly due to strong winds and the building was left in ruins.

It will be a costly task to repair the damage of the building and is a heartbreaking tragedy for fellow friends and teachers of the three young girls.

## Coal Mining Tragedy

Now known as one of the worst coal mining disasters in British history, a shocking event that happened in Stanley at West Stanley Colliery left a reported 168 people dead. On Tuesday, 16<sup>th</sup> of February 201 men and boys (69 were aged under 20- with three of them being as young as 13) were working hard when a horrendous explosion wrecked the whole mine, causing a mass of flames to rise to the top of the shaft and around fifteen feet up towards the pulleys, scorching some men at work on the bank.

Residents were first alerted to the calamity by the sound of a distant explosion. Terrified screams of the womenfolk echoed through the town, as people feared the worst. This explosion could only mean dreadful news in a coal town. People throughout the area were trying to identify where the explosion had occurred. Around fifty seconds later there was a second explosion, much louder than the first, with flames and smoke spurting into the sky. It was now obvious that it was the Burns Pit.

Instant crowds rushed towards the pit. There was no significant damage to the surface buildings so, to everyone's unmistakable horror, it was clear that the damage had occurred underground.

There were a huge number of volunteers, mostly being officials from local collieries and officials and men belonging to the now terribly wrecked mine.

The anxious crowd waited restlessly for the news and became very tense as the night carried on. Wednesday morning

emerged and still the thousands stood their ground outside the pit and finally the brave men, who had been fighting to save the lives of innocent miners, appeared with heartbreaking news of the lives they were unable to rescue.

It took three trenches at the local cemetery and another in a nearby graveyard to bury the dead bodies.

# Classifieds and Community Notices

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## Notices

The Monthly Dunedin Town Meeting will be held at the Town Hall on the 15<sup>th</sup> March for all interested in attending.

The Otago Swimming Club is holding its annual swimming sports on the 12<sup>th</sup> March. All competitors need to be signed in at the Otago Harbour before 8:00a.m for briefing.

A picnic for families in the Otago region is being held at the Otago region at the Dunedin town gardens.

Everyone is to arrive at 12:30p.m on the 5<sup>th</sup> February. All families invited.

The Otago Motor Club is hosting a show tomorrow. All members are encouraged to attend.

Tomorrow there will be no school for all children at Columba College due to there being a teacher only day.

## Births

DIPPIE - On the 14<sup>th</sup> February, at Timaru, thw wife of M.Dippie - a daughter

PRESLAND - On the 17<sup>th</sup> February, at Oraí Gorge, the wife of George Presland - a daughter.

HARRIS - On the 20<sup>th</sup> February at Waimate. The wife of Edward Harris - a son.

HANNING - On the 20<sup>th</sup> February at Dunedin, the wife of Brodie P. Hanning - a son.

## Deaths

ADAMS - On February 14<sup>th</sup>, at the Dunedin Hospital, Georgina Adams, the beloved wife of Robert Adams; aged 47 years old. Deeply missed.

DODDS - On February 16<sup>th</sup> at her home residence in Dunedin, Olivia Dodds, beloved daughter of Kenneth and Fiona; aged 15 years.

SKEGGS - On February 17<sup>th</sup> at his home residence in Cromwell, Matthew Skeggs, a man who will be most missed, passed away at age 23 years.

NEWTON - On February 18<sup>th</sup>, at Dunedin Hospital, Peter Newton, a great man who will be missed by many; aged 45 years.

## Marriages

WILSON - BARR - On February 15<sup>th</sup> at the residence of J.Barr, by the Reverend Samuel Buchanan, Thomas Wilson, second son of John Wilson, Dunedin, to Harriet, eldest daughter of Joseph Barr, Dunedin.

WOODHAM - HAMILTON - On the 16<sup>th</sup> February at St. Pauls Church, Waimate, by the Reverend D. J. Murray, George Woodham, eldest son of Arthur Woodham, Maheno, to Jane, widow of the late W. Hamilton.

BISHOP - LYNN - On the 18<sup>th</sup> February, At All Saints Church, Dunedin, by Reverend W. A. Diggins, Hugh Bishop, youngest son

## The Latest Fashion

Be amazed with the new fashion that has come out of London over the summer. You will be blown off your feet with the new season's wonderful bright coloured hats on sale at your local boutique store. The stylish new dresses are very beautiful and you will want to be doing your housework in them, since you will not be able to wait to your next town dance. I would definitely recommend the new boutique store at 28 Fallings Ave, Dunedin.

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