

# PERSONAL ITEMS.

A Melbourne cable states that Rear-Admiral Clarkson is retiring to-day from the Commonwealth Naval Board. No successor will be appointed, consequent on the naval retrenchment.

A London cable states that Lord Hardinge (Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs) is reported to be retiring into private life at the end of the year. Sir George Graham is mentioned as his successor.

The engagement is announced of Zona, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs C. F. Vallance, of "Kahurangi," Masterton, to Mr James Wardell, eldest son of Mrs Wardell and the late Mr W. Wardell, of Te Whiti, Masterton.

A Press Association message from Christchurch states that when interviewed Sir Joseph Ward said he had no statement to make on the question of politics. Sir Joseph Ward will leave Christchurch to-day for Invercargill.

Mr R. R. Wright, second clerk on the Palmerston North Magistrate's Court staff, has been transferred to the Wanganui office. He will be succeeded by Mr J. Kennedy, of the Wanganui Magistrate's Court staff, and formerly of Masterton.

At the Victoria College term examinations, the following were among the results of local interest:—Mental and moral philosophy, advanced (first year), pass, first class, Grace Ashton Warner; mathematics, pass, first class, Lionel A. C. Warner; chemistry, advanced, second year, pass, class I., L. A. C. Warner.

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The death occurred at Wellington yesterday of Mrs Blow, wife of Mr H. J. H. Blow, formerly Under-Secretary for Public Works, and mother of Mrs L. Clarke, of Essex street, Masterton. Mrs Blow, who had a wide circle of friends in Wellington, was a daughter of the late Mr G. R. Russell, of Wellington. She visited Masterton only a week ago.

A pleasant surprise awaited Mr L. A. Abraham at the conclusion of the mixed foursomes played at Hokowhitu on Saturday afternoon (says the Palmerston North Times), when members of the Manawatu Golf Club gathered to express their appreciation of Mr Abraham's service to the club during his twenty-eight years of office as honorary secretary, and to record their feelings. Club members, through their president, Mr P. A. McHardy, presented Mr Abraham with a solid silver liqueur salver.

A quiet wedding was celebrated at the Church of the Epiphany, Kuripuni, when Mr Louis George Butcher, eldest son of Mr and Mrs W. G. Butcher, of Masterton, was married to Elizabeth, youngest daughter of Mr T. Pearson, of Westport. The Rev. G. E. Moir was the officiating clergyman. Miss Lettie Daniell was bridesmaid and Mr H. Butcher was best man. At the wedding breakfast the usual toasts were honoured, and a social was held in the schoolroom in the evening, about 100 guests being present. The young couple left for Auckland for the honeymoon.

The death took place at her residence, Hessey street, last night, of Mrs Joseph Reardon. Born in Bendigo 66 years ago, she went with her parents to Dublin, and thence came to New Zealand at the age of 18. She had resided here ever since. Mrs Reardon's husband predeceased her eighteen months ago. There are three sons—Messrs D. J. Reardon (Wanganui), P. W. Reardon (Taumarunui), and R. Reardon (Wellington), and four daughters—Mrs L. H. Lewis (Masterton), Mrs C. D. Laurenson (Auckland), Mrs F. McGregor (Masterton), and Miss V. Reardon (Masterton). There are 12 grandchildren. The funeral will leave the residence, Hessey street, for the Masterton cemetery on Wednesday.

The death occurred at Feilding on Saturday afternoon of one of the best-known fat stock buyers and judges in the Dominion, in the person of Mr Alexander (Sandy) McKenzie. Deceased, who was 66 years of age, only took ill on Monday last, and on Saturday morning appeared to be improving, but in the afternoon he collapsed and passed away peacefully. He was a well-known figure among farmers in the Wellington province for the past forty years. For over thirty years Mr McKenzie resided in Featherston, where he represented first the Gear and afterwards the Wellington Meat Export Company. Seven years ago he removed to Feilding, where he resided till the time of his death. In his younger days he was a well-known racehorse owner and a steward of the Wairarapa Racing Club. He was a keen sportsman and took a great interest in all kinds of outdoor recreation. Of a genial disposition, the late Mr McKenzie made many friends in business and sporting circles, by whom he will be greatly missed. He is survived by his widow and two daughters (Miss McKenzie, of Feilding, and Mrs R. L. McLaren, of Masterton). The only son is Mr Kenneth McKenzie, who is in business in Featherston. There are nine grandchildren. Deceased's brothers are Messrs W. and T. W. McKenzie, of Masterton. The funeral took place at Palmerston North yesterday.