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## General News.

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**NOTICE TO SUBSCRIBERS.**—The annual balance of *The Southern Cross* Printing and Publishing Company, Limited, takes place at the end of next month. As there are unfortunately, a number of subscribers much in arrear, we are issuing their accounts earlier than usual in order that they may be enabled to settle up before the balance. Should we receive no response to the sending of these accounts, we shall reluctantly be compelled to take the only course possible under the circumstances. Full notice of the intention of the directors to enforce their legal right will, however, be given. For the edification of those who are in arrear, we supplement this notice with the words of His Grace the Archbishop of Adelaide: "He were a selfish churl, who, being a Catholic, and in a position to take *The Southern Cross* omitted to do so. He is a downright dishonest Christian, who, taking the paper neglects to pay its cost."

**FEAST OF THE ASCENSION.**—The ascent of Christ, from Mount Olivet, in the presence of his disciples, is the event celebrated by the Church on Thursday next. As Our Lord ascended into heaven forty days after His resurrection, it is clear that the ascension must have occurred on a Thursday. After Thursday, the paschal candle, which is lit during Mass, and which was established throughout the Franciscan Order by a decree dated 1263, is discontinued. The candle is extinguished after the Gospel, and symbolises Christ's departure from the Apostles.

**CLERICAL CHANGES.**—The Rev. J. B. Collier has been appointed to assist the Rev. T. F. O'Neill, at Goodwood, and

unanimously decided in favor of St. Patrick's Society. Votes of thanks were passed to the Judges and the Chairman, and were suitably responded to.

**WHAT MAY HAPPEN TO A RUSSIAN PRIEST.**—There are few clergymen in Australia whose return to their native country would result in such a terrible fate as that of the Rev. P. E. Zundovich, who is at present stationed at Wentworth, in the district of Armidale. The rev. gentleman is a native of Russia, but his parents deemed it prudent to send him abroad to be educated for the priestly state. In doing so, however, they were acting contrary to Russian law, which prescribes that the penalty for such offence be banishment to Siberia. Should Father Zundovich therefore feel tempted to revisit his native land, he would be haunted by the melancholy thought that he would thereby render himself liable to arrest and to the frightful punishment of transportation to the Siberian mines. It is somewhat peculiar to note that in Ireland during the penal days students for the priesthood were compelled to go to France and elsewhere for their education, while in Russia to-day exactly the opposite rule prevails.

**IRISH RENTS.**—The British Government, who were recently waited upon by a deputation of Irish landowners with a complaint that their interests had greatly suffered for some time by the undue favor shown by the land boards to the cultivators, have now appointed a Commission to enquire into the methods adopted in fixing judicial rents. Mr. Gerald Balfour, Chief Secretary for Ireland (says a cablegram), informed the House of Commons that serious charges had been made against the competence and honesty of the sub-commissioners.