

PROSERPINE NOTES.

(For the "N. Q. Register.")

PROSERPINE, August 23.

Rain has been threatening here for the past week, but save for a few light showers very little has fallen. At Preston and Cannon Valley heavy rain interfered with the cutting of cane, and in consequence the mill has been pushed for cane during the latter end of the week. A mild temperature exists at present, with the result that the cane has been lengthening past the time at which growth usually ceases. The young cane is also looking remarkably well. The analysis of the cane generally shows so far promise of a good sugar content in the crop this year.

Crushing operations are proceeding satisfactorily at the mill, and cane cutting throughout the district is being carried out without a hitch. The men generally appear to be a fine stamp and are earning, on the whole, good wages.

Some magnificent cane has been put through the mill rollers since the commencement of the season. Many trucks of Malabar, some of it measuring from 12ft. to 14ft., have been sent from Cannon Valley and Preston. The majority of the cane is of the variety known as Goru, or as some farmers term it, "Farmers' Glory." That superb cane Badilla, is also showing good length and weight, while Lucia is also perfect both in weight and density. One cannot help noticing that the Goru this year does not bear the marks of rats as much as in previous years. Last year this rodent created serious havoc with the above cane.

In my last notes I drew attention to the number of unemployed seeking work in this district. I regret to state that many of them, to use a well known phrase, "are looking for work and praying to the Lord that they will not find it." As in former seasons a type of men whom I might well term "wasters" have drifted to this district. Work has been offered them

district. Work has been offered them by several farmers, but they have avoided the offer with a ready excuse that the wages were not high enough or that the farms were too far from town. They might have added that the toll was too far from the pubs. Several, who started cutting at the commencement of the season, as soon as they had made a week's wages, drew their time and have loitered around the hotels ever since. Most of those really requiring work have been satisfied during the past week, many having accepted offers to cut on the hills at £2 per week and found.

On Saturday evening last the lady members of the Presbyterian Church held a very successful social meeting in the Oddfellow's Hall. The hall contained a large crowd and there was much enthusiasm over the programme. Afternoon tea was ready at 6 p.m. The table groaned under the weight of its burden, being well laden with dainties of every description, presenting a very inviting appearance; the decorations adding to their attractiveness. A goodly number of ladies and gentlemen sat down to and partook of tea, and judging from appearances all were thoroughly satisfied. The concert was about the best yet held in connection with the church. Messrs Perkins, Blythe and Mrs. Scott opened the programme with an instrumental overture, which received much well merited applause. Miss Scott, Miss Hindmarsh, and Messrs Skinner and Rodway then sang "How Excellent," and this item was much appreciated. Miss Moore's recitation, "The Angel's Story," was a distinct success, and she left the stage to the accompaniment of loud applause. Mr. Leishman received an encore for his solo, "Fly Away Birdie to Heaven." The duet, "Little Mary," was nicely rendered by Mrs. Jansen and Miss Williams. Mr. F. Ferguson was heard to advantage in the solo, "The Star of Bethlehem," and Mrs. Devine's recitation was also the signal for much applause. Mrs. Scott's solo, "The Life Boat," was rendered in splendid voice, as was also the solo, "Abiding in Him," given by Miss Williams. The instrumental duet, rendered by Messrs

Instrumental duet, rendered by Messrs Blyth and Perkins, was one of the gems of the programme. Mr. Rodway's voice was in good form in the solo "Big Ben." A duet entitled "Shining River," was nicely sung by Mrs. Scott and Miss Hindmarsh. The solo "Auntie," rendered by Mrs. Harrison, was one of the most pleasing items on the programme and richly deserved the applause it received. Mr. Ferruson's second item entitled "To the Front" was also presented in fine form, and Mr. Jennings' song, "Anchored," was well received. Mr. Skinner gave as the next item the solo, "The Anchor's Weighed," and Mr. Scott, in the old favourite, "The Lost Chord," brought the house down. A lengthy programme concluded with a recitation, "Young Lochinvar," by

Miss Moore, and the manner in which this young lady presented Sir Walter Scott's beautiful poem proves that she is the possessor of rare elocutionary talent. After partaking of refreshments the audience wended their way to their respective homes, thoroughly satisfied that they had received excellent value for their money.

While walking around the wood heap at the mill last Saturday afternoon, Mr. P. J. Cullen was bitten on the left hand by a brown snake. Mr. Emmerson immediately attended to the sufferer and treated the affected part in the usual way. Dr. Anderson, who afterwards attended to Mr. Cullen, gave Mr. Emmerson much praise for his treatment of Mr. Cullen. The latter is now recovering as well as may be expected.