

plant was to be despatched during February, including three locomotives and six carriages.

HIS EXCELLENCY the Governor of Queensland, at the opening of the Colonial Parliament, stated the construction of the telegraph cable from a part of New South Wales to a part of New Zealand has been ratified by the Government of the latter Colony. Queensland now only awaits the action to be taken by the New South Wales Parliament.

MR VOGEL was entertained at a banquet by the citizens of Gramhamstown on Tuesday evening. To judge by the following, the wind-up of the telegram to the papers, there was great flow of sentiment on the occasion. Mr Vogel said:—It was a memorable day to him. It happened to be his birthday—(applause, and glasses filled. Cries of "Many happy, happy returns of the day")—and he was happy to spend it with them.

We are not quite sure that the following appointment is to be found in the 'New Zealand Government Gazette':—"Mr Henry Clayfield, of Tuapeka, has been appointed tinmith to His Excellency Sir James Fergusson."

THE RIVERTON Star indignantly enquires:—"Will it be believed that the people of Riverton are asked to pay the horse hire of the Governor? We confess we could not credit the statement when we heard it made, but subsequent enquiry proved it to be correct. We wonder what manner of men His Excellency imagines reside in this district? He first treats us with contempt, snubs us, rejects our proffered hospitality, 'sits upon' our well-meant demonstration of loyalty, and then coolly asks us to pay £5 5s for the four horses that carried him away! What next?"

SULLIVAN remains in Auckland. He was sent to Onehunga to embark on the Phoebe, when he declined going, consequently the warder remained with him. The Auckland authorities are said not to know what to do with Sullivan.

THERE is said to be a great influx of people from Auckland to Canterbury, to settle in the latter Province. Numbers are also coming from Auckland to seek their fortunes in Otago.

THE Auckland correspondent of the 'Daily Times' writes:—The Superintendent and his Executive are at Tauranga, and their East Coast tour is likely to occupy some time. Wherever he goes, Mr Williamson is received with warmth—almost with enthusiasm. He has much of what the Yankees call the "magnetic" about him, but in addition there is the most perfect reliance on his ability to steer Auckland through the difficulties threatening her, and on his disinterestedness in doing so.

A MEETING called by the liquidators of the Pioneer Steel Company has been held at New Plymouth for the purpose of shareholders passing a resolution that, to avoid litigation, the liquidators be authorised to make a call of 15s upon the holders of unpaid shares, the proceeds with other assets to be divided amongst the other shareholders in proportion to the amount paid up. The meeting got noisy, and was adjourned for a fortnight. The paid-up shareholders are the original promoters, who hold three-fourth of the shares. Others have paid half the value of the shares; and as the company is in liquidation, they object to pay more, as in a division of proceeds the promoters will receive the greater part of the funds.

We take the following from the 'New Zealand Herald':—The members of the police force stationed in Auckland have subscribed the sum of £13 9s 6d towards the proposed monument to the late Commissioner, Mr St. John Branigan—a very creditable sum, indeed, considering the miserable pay which is doled out to them."

At Auckland a deputation has waited on Mr Vogel, urging the necessity for legislation in allowing the use of dams to drive timber down the creeks. Mr Vogel regretted that the legislation of last session was influenced by personal disputes.

MR B. SMITH has resigned his appointment as Provincial Auditor of Wellington. A great deal of inconvenience is felt amongst the tradesmen in Wellington in consequence of the duties of the office not being performed.

THE foremost hands of the steamer Albion struck work as the steamer was leaving Wellington a few evenings ago. The vessel had to be taken on by the cooks, stewards, and firemen.

At a meeting of iron workers at Auckland, it was resolved to give one day's pay weekly towards the support of their fellow craftsmen in Sydney, now locked out.

THE City Council of Auckland have passed a resolution approving of the Western Springs, as recommended by Mr Moriarty, the Sydney Government Engineer, as the source of the water supply.

A PROPOSAL is being mooted at Wellington to form a company to purchase land upon which to erect working men's cottages.

THE Catholic Church at Naseby has to be removed on account of a party of miners taking up as an area for a claim the site on which it is situated. A contract has been entered into for the sum of £220 for its removal and rebuilding.

THE Catholic Church at Arrow will be opened by the Right Rev. Dr Moran on Sunday, 15th March.

At Clyde, on the 20th inst. over 1000 acres were applied for at the District Land Court in the Roxburgh block.

THE simple manner in which a man may be dragged into an awkward position by mistaking the identity of an article of wearing apparel was commented on by Mr Strode at the Resident Magistrate's Court a few mornings ago, when dismissing a charge of stealing a coat. A rather ludicrous confirmation of the opinion expressed by the magistrate took place immediately afterward, the prosecutor in the coat-stealing case laying his hands summarily on the hat of a representative of the Press and walking quietly off with it, to the entire amusement of those present in the Court.

THE street improvements in York Place, Dunedin, which were interrupted through the death of the contractor, are now being continued. The contract has been re-let to Mr Crawshaw for £5020.

THE Dunedin Athenæum is now open every Sunday from two to four o'clock.

A MEETING of Dr Sorley's friends was held at the Dunedin Athenæum a few nights ago to take into consideration the circumstances of the case Hunt v. Sorley. There were about a dozen

gentlemen present. A letter was read from Dr Cole, in which he stated that as a professional brother he sympathised with Dr Sorley. A committee was appointed to collect subscriptions for the purpose of presenting a testimonial to Dr Sorley as a mark of their sympathy and confidence in him, after the hearing of the case that had lately been before the Court.

At a meeting of Dunedin dairymen it was unanimously resolved that the price of milk should be raised to 5d per quart for the six months commencing 1st March next.

A LARGE number of bakers were in attendance at the Resident Magistrate's Court, Dunedin, a few days ago, to hear a charge laid against one of their number named Walls to the effect that contrary to the law he had sold some bread known as household bread without having first stamped it with "a large Roman H." A miller stated in evidence that all flour—the finest made here—had bran in it. He never saw any flour in New Zealand with no bran in it. The millers cleaned the flour as well as their machinery would allow. There could not be flour made in this country without any admixture of the bran and hull. Household bread was made from wheaten flour. The flour for this purpose was not differently prepared. Household bread was not made from "seconds" flour. The presiding magistrate, Mr Watt, said that he was of opinion that the case had not been proved. A reasonable construction must be placed upon the law, even if it had been proved that the flour of which the bread was made had a certain quantity of bran retained in it. There was nothing before the Court to prove that the flour used was not of the first quality, and the information would be dismissed.

In a case at the Dunedin Resident Magistrate's Court the other day, in which the defendant was charged with having sold a bottle of ale that had not been capsuled according to the Act. Mr Watt said that this tinfoil (which it appeared was ordinarily used) was not, according to his interpretation, a capsule. Being the first case of the kind only a small fine was inflicted.

A CARPENTER named George Dutch met with a serious and painful accident, on Friday last week, whilst at work on the new brewery being erected in Cumberland street for Mr James Copeland. Dutch was walking on a plank nearly as high up as the roof, in the highest part of the unfinished building, when the plank broke at a part where there was a knot in the wood. The unfortunate man fell down nine feet on the beams of an unfinished floor, fell through these down ten feet, his head striking on the edge of a floor-beam. He got a terrible cut which extended all round the left side of the forehead, and to the left temple. He was brought to the Hospital in an insensible state, and attended to by Dr Yates. The cut being a clean one, required comparatively few stitches. The wound, though serious, does not appear to be a dangerous one. Bad as the accident is, it is fortunate for Dutch that he did not fall through the beams on which his head struck, there being about another 20 feet and another row of beams between him and the ground.

THE fire-bell rang out at about ten minutes to five on Sunday morning, and soon large numbers of citizens were seen hurrying through the streets and gathering round the shop of Mr Walter Wright, baker, Rattray street, in the rear of which the fire was. The fire was soon put out, and those who left their houses at the alarm of the fire-bell trudged home again without the satisfaction of seeing a blaze. The fire was discovered by Sergeant Deane, and with a plentiful supply of water was soon extinguished by the Police and others. It originated in the bakehouse at the back of the shop, at the top of the oven, and spread to the shingle roof over the oven, where its progress was checked. It appears that a baker in the employ of Mr Wright left the bakehouse at about ten o'clock on Saturday night after taking some small boards out of the oven and throwing them on the top; and it is conjectured some fire may have been among them. Mr Wright, who lives on the premises, looked into the bakehouse about 12 o'clock, immediately before retiring to bed, and everything appeared to be then all right. The premises were insured in the Victoria Insurance Company for £200, and the stock was not insured. Mr Wright estimates his loss at about £5.

OUR Auckland correspondent reports:—February 24th.—Custom Duties received to-day were as follows:—Ad valorem, £164 6s; tea, £33 12s; tobacco, £130 5s; sugar, £51 12s 11d; cigars, £38 6s 3d; brandy, £174 3s 6d; whiskey, £39 0s 8d; wine, £20 4s; rum, £45 3s 7d; geneva, £54 5s; beer, £14 5s 11d; gin, £5 5s; sundries, £1 19s 9d—total, £769 7s 8d. February 25th.—National Bank, 65s; South British Insurance, 45s; National Insurance, 23s 6d; Albionia (new issue) 5s 6d, 5s 9d; City of London, 20s 6d; Golden Calf (new issue) 10s; Golden Calf (double issue), 22s, 24s; Old Whau, £3 17s 6d; Central Italy, double, 10s.

THE IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT ELECTIONS.

LONDON cablegrams of the 9th instant, are as follows:—

Gladstone's resignation has not been confirmed, but it is inevitable. Five hundred elections have been completed. The Conservatives gained 75, and the Liberals 27 seats.

Numerous home rulers have been elected in Ireland. Out of 536 elections, the Conservatives gained 80 seats, the Liberals 23. Jenkins, author of Giux's Baby, has been elected.

AUSTRALIAN NEWS.

On the morning of the 9th, a small box, containing an explosive compound, was sent to Mr Maxwell Reynolds, Melbourne. In the act of opening it in the presence of his old partner, Mr English, it exploded. Mr Reynolds was killed, and Mr English injured. The police are endeavoring to trace the mystery. An inquest has been opened, but adjourned.

Sir Gavan Duffy has declined a demonstration in Sydney. He goes home in April.