

Mr Barton, in his address for the defence, objected to the practice of making general and broad statements in informations. He knew it was done in the Supreme Court—but it was done there by only one practitioner, "and none of the remainder of us have either the option or choice of doing so." He hoped that such would not be the case in this Court.

THE Superintendent of Westland made a financial statement on the night of the 4th inst., and also tabled the estimates; and estimated the expenditure for the year at £88,000, and the receipts £86,000.

THE 'Timaru Herald,' in noticing the candidates in the field for Mr Bathgate's vacant seat in the House of Representatives, regards Mr Fish as hardly the stamp of man that is wanted just now.

THE passengers per Scimitar number in all 273 statute adults and 77 children, equal to 350½ statute adults. Of these, 180 males and 151 females are English; 5 males and 3 females, Scotch; 22 males and 7 females, Irish; 43 males and 30 females, from foreign countries. Of those by the Carnatic, the following are the Nationalities—England, 129; Irish, 101; Scotch, 11; Channel Island, 8; Canada, 6—total, 255 souls, equal to 210½ statute adults. A large proportion of the Irish are females.

THE 'Buller News' says:—"An extensive mineral deposit containing a large per centage of quicksilver has been discovered lately in the province. We are not at liberty at present to state the precise locality; but we believe the discovery will lead to most important results."

At a meeting, held at New Plymouth, of unpaid up shareholders in the Pioneer Steel Company, it was unanimously agreed to resist a call made by the liquidating shareholders in writing. They bound themselves to defend any legal proceedings brought against any one of their number. Two of the three liquidators, Messrs Chilman and J. C. Richmond, signed the document. It is now left for the paid up shareholders to take the initiative in the matter.

THERE was a terrific gale at Wellington on the night of the 6th inst. Two colliers were lost—the ship Wellington and the barque Cyrus—between Lyell's Bay and Sinclair's Head. Seven lives were lost, two from the ship Wellington, being Johnston, the cook, and Rushton, a seaman. The five lost from the Cyrus were, Mrs Wrigglesworth, the wife of a well-known photographer, and her two children; Robert Smith, the second officer; and a seaman called George. Captain Hill, of the Wellington, and eight seamen, pulled into the harbour, after escaping from the ship in a most miraculous manner. The first mate was saved by clinging to a life-buoy, and the second mate managed to swim ashore. The people on shore assisted the Cyrus crew and officers ashore with ropes, but all much cut and bruised: Both vessels are smashed into numberless pieces, and went ashore within a few yards of each other. They left port on Friday, bound for Newcastle. The aggregate loss of the Wellington and Cyrus is £8000.

THE customs receipts on Friday, 8th inst., at Auckland, amounted to £2154, and on Saturday to £2993, the largest amounts ever collected in port. The week's return was £7626.

THE Banks have raised the price of gold from £3 15s to £3 15s 6d. This step, it is said, is due to the threatened exportation of gold to the Victorian mint.

THE Westland Provincial Council has increased the police pay sixpence per day. The pay is now 9s 6d.

DR. ARCHERSON has reported to the Greymouth Borough Council that typhoid fever of a dangerous type is existing in Greymouth. The Council are about to take active steps to remove the nuisance.

IN the Otago Provincial Government 'Gazette,' the Superintendent proclaims the months of April, May, June, and July as the season for 1874, during which native game can be shot.

THE English Opera Company are performing in Dunedin.

A RECENT visitor to the Nevis goldfield informs the 'Lake Wakatipu Mail' that the miners there are, as a rule, doing exceedingly well. He mentioned one claim in particular (McDonald and party), where the result of 17 days' work was the handsome amount of 172 ozs. They are now stripping another paddock, from a fourth part of which they have already obtained 62 ozs. Of course this is an exceptional case. The Chinese also are reported as doing well on this field.

As an instance of the advance in the value of property in Dunedin, it might be mentioned that Mr Couzens has sold the piece of ground, which has a frontage of 26ft 4in on Jetty street, on which the Cafe de Paris Hotel is situated, with the wooden building upon it, for the sum of £2000, being £75 12s 7d per foot, or £8 6s per inch. The same property was sold by Government, five years ago, at £25 per foot. The building is to be used as a warehouse.

ST PATRICK'S DAY is to be celebrated in Christchurch by a grand dinner at the Forester's Hall, and Mr C. C. Bowen, Resident Magistrate, has promised to preside on the occasion.

Two men had a narrow escape from suffocation in the Caledonian mine on Saturday morning, through a sudden influx of foul gas. The Inspector of Mines is holding an enquiry.

THE post of Provincial Solicitor, resigned by Mr Turton a few days ago, has not yet been filled. But it is expected that Mr Haggitt will receive the appointment.

It is rumoured that there will soon be another resignation in the Otago Executive Council, and that the vacant seat is to be filled by Mr Fish.

THE barque Anazi which was run ashore has been towed off, and brought into Auckland harbor.

THE Union Beach claim at Coromandel has come across a leader, said to be of almost solid gold.

THE Customs receipts at Nelson on the 9th inst., amounted to £2453, the largest sum ever taken in one day.

MICHAEL J. M'GUIRE, a man of seventy-five years of age (a Waterloo veteran), was charged at the R. M. Court, Invercargill, the other day, with having attempted to commit suicide. He had asked for prussic acid at a chemist's shop, for the purpose of killing rats, but was refused; and upon being pressed as to what he wanted with it, he confessed it was to destroy himself. When apprehended, prussic acid was found on his person, but there was no evidence that he had

attempted to carry his intention into effect. He admitted having been drinking prior to his being apprehended, but denied having any intention of making an attempt upon his life. He was discharged.

THE schooner Mary Van Every, has become a total wreck on the Molyneux bar.

MESSRS M'LANDRESS, HEPBURN AND CO. have sold, on account of Mr James Watson, the freehold and good-will of the Royal Hotel, Walker Street, Dunedin, for the sum of £1500; the stock-in-trade and furniture to be taken at a valuation.

THE Annual Moveable Meeting of the H.A.C.B.S. was held in Melbourne last week. Delegates from every Branch were present. The meeting lasted three days. Business of paramount importance to the welfare of the Society was transacted.

FORTY sashes for St. Joseph's Branch, No. 73, H.A.C.B.S., arrived from Melbourne last Saturday per s.s. Omeo.

THE members of the Hibernian Australasian Catholic Benefit Society, Christchurch, have resolved to commemorate St. Patrick's Day with a Dinner.

FROM Oamaru we learn that the local branch of the Hibernian Australasian Catholic Benefit Society intend to celebrate St. Patrick's Day by a supper at the White Hart Hotel.

THE members of the Oamaru branch of the H.A.C.B.S. have resolved to receive the Holy Communion in a body on Easter Sunday.

IT is with regret that we announce the death of Mr Flynn, publican, Kakanui. Mr Flynn, who had been ailing for some time past, breathed his last on Thursday week. His death cast quite a gloom over the little township of Kakanui. Mr Flynn was one of the first to join the Oamaru branch of the H.A.C.B.S., and on Sunday last the members of that lodge rode over to Kakanui, a distance of seven miles from Oamaru, to attend the funeral of their deceased brother. From thence the cortege proceeded to Oamaru; the march was very solemn and impressive, the officers wearing their regalia and the members their sashes. At Oamaru the funeral was met by the Rev. Mr Donovan, the chaplain to the branch, who read the last obsequies for the dead over the grave of the deceased member. The solemn ceremony reminded the members of the stern fact that "in the midst of life we are in death."

OUR Auckland correspondent telegraphs on Wednesday evening:—Business done—Bright Smile, 52s 6d; Bank New Zealand, L16 2s 6d; National Insurance, 24s 6d and 25s; Central Italy (second issue) 5s; Caledonian, L10; Moanatairi, 35s; Golden Oalf (new issue), 9s 3d and 9s 6d; Queen of May, 6s 6d; Union Beach, 18s 6d.

CABLE TELEGRAMS.

LONDON, February 21st.—The new Ministry has been officially constituted, as follows:—First Lord of the Treasury, the Right Hon. B. Disraeli; Lord Chancellor, Lord Cairns; President of the Council, Duke of Richmond; Lord Privy Seal, Earl Malmesbury; Foreign Secretary, Earl Derby; Secretary for India, the Marquis of Salisbury; Secretary for the Colonies, Earl Carnarvon; Secretary for War, Mr Gathorne Hardy; Home Secretary, Mr R. A. Cross; Chancellor of the Exchequer, Sir Stafford Northcote; Postmaster-General, Lord John Manners; First Lord of the Admiralty, Mr Geo. Ward Hunt, Marquis of Normandy, and Sir Alfred Stephen.

Sir James M'Culloch and the Hon. John O'Shannassy have been appointed Knight Commanders of the Order of St. Michael and St. George.

The opening competition at the wool sales was well maintained, and prices were well sustained.

Sir Henry Barkly has been created a Knight of the Order of the Grand Cross of the Bath.

February 24th.—The German Emperor has written to Earl Russell, acknowledging the receipt of the resolution passed at St James's Hall, sympathising with him in "his conflict with the Ultramontanism."

February 25th.—The following additional appointments have been made:—First Commissioner of Works, Lord Henry George Gordon-Lennox; Attorney-General, Sir J. B. Karslake; Solicitor-General, Sir Richard Baggallay, Q.C.; Chief Secretary for Ireland, Sir Michael Edward Hicks-Beach; Joint Secretaries of the Treasury, Mr Abel Smith and Mr William Hart Dyke; Lord Chamberlain, the Marquis of Bath.

The Marquis of Westminster has been raised to a Dukedom.

An official report has reached the Admiralty stating that a battle took place on the 31st of January at Acromboo lasting 12 hours. The Ashantee loss was heavy, the British loss was also severe. Several officers were wounded. General Wolsley was 100 miles from Oomassie, waiting for reinforcements.

February 26th.—The following additional appointments to Ministerial offices have been made:—Duke of Abercorn, Viceroy for Ireland; Right Hon. J. T. Ball, Attorney-General of Ireland; Mr E. S. Gordon, Lord Advocate of Scotland; Colonel Taylor, Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster; Selator Booth, President of the Local Board; Mr Cave, Judge Advocate-General; Hon. Algernon Fulke Egerton, Secretary to the Admiralty; Sir Massy Lopes, Civil Lord of the Admiralty; Mr James Lowther, Colonial Under-Secretary; Lord George Hamilton, Indian Under-Secretary.

A despatch has been received from General Wolsley, dated Oomassie, February 5, stating that he had reached there on the previous day, after five days' hard fighting, during which the troops behaved admirably. The casualties of the British were under 300 killed and wounded.

King Koffee Kalcilli left the town, but is located close by. He promised to visit Oomassie that day and sign the treaty of peace. General Wolsley hoped to commence his return march to the coast on the 6th.

The 'Times' says that in spite of the short time they had to make their canvas, the Home Rule candidates were returned from Ireland.

LONDON, February 23.—The Duke and Duchess of Edinburgh will make their public entry into London on the 12th March, accompanied by the Queen.