

MR. HENRY DRIVER (on behalf of the New Zealand Land and Mercantile Agency Company) reports for the week ending September 12th:—

**Fat Cattle.**—153 head were yarded to-day, and although this number may be considered only a moderate supply, prices did not improve on our last quotations—in fact, nothing but first-class quality could be sold at above store rates, and about 40 head were turned out unsold. Best pens of bullocks brought from £10 to £14 5s; do. cows, £6 15s to £10 10s—or equal to 27s 6d per 100lbs. for good to prime beef.

**Fat Calves.**—Only a few penned, which sold from 15s to 45s each.

**Fat Sheep.**—The market was somewhat overstocked with 2,500, and of this number from 700 to 800 had to be turned out unsold. Prices did not show any improvement on last week's quotations. Best pens of cross-breeds brought from 11s 6d to 14s 6d; merinos, from 7s 6d to 10s 6d—or equal to 3d per lb. for prime mutton.

**Store Cattle and Sheep.**—There is nothing to report of importance.

**Freeholds.**—On behalf of Mr. Alexander Peat, of Waiwera, we sold his Mount Pleasant Farm, consisting of 360 acres, to Mr. George Wilson, of Dunedin; price withheld. We would beg to draw attention to an important sale of wheat lands at Waiho, to be held at Oamaru on Friday, September 28, by us, on account of Messrs. Rich and Buckland.

**Sheepskins.**—We held our usual weekly sale on Monday, when prices were fairly maintained. Green cross-breeds were quitted up to 5s 6d; merinos, small, 2s 7d and 3s 6d; and large heavy skins up to 4s 1d.

**Hides.**—The demand was not brisk, although prices show no material decline on last quotations. We obtained for calfskins up to 3s; yearlings, up to 8s 3d; and good-conditioned hides, 17s to 24s, according to weight.

**Tallow.**—There were few lots forward, and prices quite up to late quotations—say, for good mutton, £33 to £33 10s per ton; other quantities in proportion; rough fat, to 22s.

**Grain.**—The market has been for the past week in an exceptionally dull state, and sales, except for immediate requirements, are almost impossible. The following quotations are merely nominal:—Wheat: For prime milling, 7s to 7s 4d; fowls' wheat, 3s 3d to 3s 6d. Oats: Feed up to 3s 3d; milling, 3s 4d to 3s 6d. Barley: for malting a really good sample would fetch 4s 6d. But the market is bare, although inferior sorts are plentiful, 3s 4d to 3s 6d.

**Potatoes.**—For good samples from £2 10s to £2 15s can be obtained.

MR. A MERCER reports as follows for the week ending September 12th:—Retail prices only.—Fresh butter, 1s. to 1s. 2d. per lb; extra brands, 1s. 4d.; powdered and salt butter (new), 1s.; fresh butter, in lumps, 11d. to 1s. Fresh butter is very plentiful, and until some of the dairies turn to cheese-making, butter will be very low. No demand for salt butter; market is completely glutted. Cheese, best quality, 10d. to 1s; side and rolled bacon, 9d.; Colonial hams, 1s.; English hams, 1s. 2d. Eggs in good demand at 1s. per dozen.

MR. J. FLEMING reports (wholesale prices) for the week ending Sept. 12th, 1877, as follows:—Oats (feed), per bushel, 3s 3d to 3s 6d. Wheat (chicks), 4s 3d to 4s 6d. Barley, malting, 4s to 4s 6d; feed, 3s to 3s 6d. Pollard, scarce. Bran, £4 5s, bags included. Flour, large bags, £18; small, £18 to £18 10s. Oatmeal, £19. Potatoes, £3 per ton. Hay, 45 per ton. Chaff, £5 per ton. Straw, £2 per ton.

MR. J. VEZEY reports for the week ending Sept. 12th, 1877, retail:—Roasting beef, 5d to 8d per lb; boiling do, 3d to 5d per lb; stewing do, 4d to 6d per lb; steak, 6d to 8d per lb; mutton, 2d to 5d per lb; veal, 4d to 8d per lb; pork, 6d to 8d per lb.

## THE EDUCATION BILL AND ITS FRAMER.

(From a Correspondent.)

Rangiora, September 3rd, 1877.

YESTERDAY, after Mass, we had a meeting to express our indignation against the proposed Bill of Education. The resolutions of the Wellington Catholics were unanimously and spiritedly adopted. It was our intention to hold a public meeting at Rangiora, and to invite all lovers of religious freedom. We have reason to believe that this meeting would have been very numerously attended, and that most of our fellow-citizens would have supported our claim for justice, because the people of this locality, which forms the constituency of the Hon. C. C. Bowen, are getting highly dissatisfied with him, and seem to be fairly disposed towards us; but when we heard that the debate for the second reading of the Bill had begun, we had to give up our purpose and hold our meeting at once.

The conduct of the Hon. C. C. Bowen is more keenly felt by the Catholics of Rangiora than by any other section of their co-religionists in New Zealand, because it is well known that it was the collective vote of our Catholics which gave Mr. Bowen the victory over his opponent, Mr. Beswick of Kaiapoi. The Catholics voted for Mr. Bowen because he had promised before two of the most respectable settlers of the constituency (one a Catholic, the other a Protestant) that, if returned, "he would help to do away with the grievances inflicted on the Catholics in the educational administration." Both of these gentlemen affirm that they remember well these words given by the present Minister of Justice. Catholics feel indignant now at seeing that they have been betrayed in their most sacred interests.

I am told by several reliable persons that a Catholic child was flogged some time ago in one of our outlying schools for not reading the Bible. Further, at Kaiapoi, the head master of the Government school, in explaining history about the time of Henry VIII.,

made a wholesale charge as to the uselessness of priests, confession, indulgence, &c. A Catholic parent sent a complaint against the teacher to the School Board. This is the Chairman's reply:—"After considering carefully the matter, the Committee arrived at the conclusion that Mr. Rayner's (the teacher's) answer was satisfactory, but that in future the same will not occur again."

## CATHOLIC MEETINGS.

A NUMEROUSLY attended meeting of the Catholics of Reefton was held at the Catholic Church on Sunday, 26th August, for the purpose of discussing the Education Bill which the Government have introduced. The Rev. Father Carew was voted to the chair. The Chairman gave a résumé of the Bill as it stands at present, reviewing it in all its various aspects, and after explaining how objectionable it was to the feelings of the Catholic body in general, said the best way to mark their opinion of the Bill would be in the form of resolutions. The following resolutions were unanimously adopted:—1st. "That, in the opinion of this meeting, the Education Bill which the Government have brought forward interferes with the rights of conscience, and on that account is unjust; it prohibits Catholic teachers from accepting office under the Board (see section 85, sub-section 3); it provides religious instructions in which Catholic children can take no part, and is humiliating to the Catholic body generally." 2nd. "That the Catholics should have the management of their own schools (subject of course to Government inspection), receiving from the State their fair proportion of the Education fund to which in common with others they contribute; that they should have the selection of their own school books, and the appointment of their own teachers, who shall have first received a certificate of competency as 'provided by the Act.'" 3rd. "That copies of the foregoing resolutions be forwarded to Messrs Woolcock and Kennedy, the members for the district, requesting them to use their influence to carry out the spirit of them; and that the proprietors of both the local papers be asked to publish the same."

At a meeting of the Catholics of Nelson Creek on Sunday, August 26th, the following resolutions were unanimously carried—Mr. M. Roche in the chair. Proposed by Mr. M. Drennan, and carried:—"That the Education Bill introduced by the Hon. Mr. Bowen is a flagrant injustice to the Catholics of New Zealand, and an insult to all lovers of civil and religious liberty." Proposed by Mr. J. O'CONNOR, and carried:—"That we protest against the passing of this Bill as being antagonistic to our religious convictions, depriving us of our just and equitable rights as colonists, virtually abolishing Catholic teachers and forcing Catholic children to attend State schools against the wish and desire of their parents." Proposed by Mr. J. MACINTYRE, and carried:—"That in the opinion of this meeting the honorable member who introduced this Bill cannot imagine that we will quietly submit to such a degradation, therefore we wish it to be distinctly understood that if this iniquitous Bill becomes law in its present form we are determined to oppose its enforcement at all hazards, even at the risk of our lives if necessary." Proposed by Mr. R. DRENNAN, and carried:—"That if the Government pass the Education Bill without removing the obnoxious clauses, it will be an act of petty tyranny, which would be a lasting disgrace to the Legislature of New Zealand, and tend to foster and create disunion and sectarian animosity amongst those who have hitherto lived together as peaceable and well disposed colonists, and that copies of the resolutions passed at this meeting be forwarded to his Lordship Dr. Redwood, and to Mr. Kennedy, member for the Grey Valley, for presentation."

## WATTS AND STRAYS.

The people of Spain, so justly called the "Catholic Kingdom," put over the door or on the front of their houses a tablet with the words "Mary's Privilege of the Immaculate Conception" written on it; and when they meet they greet each other with an expression in honour of the same dear mystery. It was a Spanish nun, Mary of Jesus, Abbess of the Convent of the Immaculate Conception of Agreda, who wrote the wonderful work, "The Mystic City of God," which inspired Murillo with his famous *Immaculate Conception*, the masterpiece of the Spanish School.

But in the Chiaja itself how beautiful everything is! The gardens are full of purple and red judas trees, like masses of "crimson snow;" pale lilac wisteria hangs in grape-like clusters over the white walls of the casini; starry flowers of yellow jessamine and white bunches of spiræa give the relief of light to what would else be too intense a mass of colour. The acacia trees also, with their delicate-scented blossoms, break the monotony of purple and crimson; and great yellow irises repeat and redouble the value of the jessamine. And over all arches the deep blue sky of Italy, reflected in even greater intensity in the waters of the sea; while gusty breaths from the orange blossoms, just beginning to open, make one for the moment unconscious of the sickly smells which invade the whole of the shore, creeping up on the mists of the morning and the noontide brightness of the day, in the splendour of the evening sunsets and the starry stillness of the night alike, and seeming to wrap everything in Naples in one clammy garment of disease and horror. But the orange blossom is stronger than even that nameless sickening horror; and perhaps we are never so grateful for the charm of sweet odours as when we are standing on the Chiaja, and the wind brings the breath of roses and orange blossoms, acacias and lilies of the valley, against the steaming exhalations from the sea, to render that sense a source of delight which until this moment was a source of torture.