

Telegrams.

Commercial.

MELBOURNE, January 11th.

At a meeting of the Opposition members, it was resolved that should the meeting of Parliament be called for February 5th, expressed disapproval and condemnation of the action of the Government should be shown. Thirty members were present. The political atmosphere is calmer.

LONDON, January 10th.

Acting under the advice of the British Government, the Porte has consented to hold direct negotiations for an armistice with Russia. The Turkish commanders have accordingly been instructed to conclude an armistice with the Russian Commander-in-Chief. The Russian forces have crossed the Balkans at Kiztepe, near the Iron Gate, on the direct road from Osman Bazar. The King of Italy is dead.

King Victor Emmanuel died after three days' fever. The surgeons bled him. He received the last Sacraments, the Pope sending two chamberlains with the Papal benediction. It is stated that, if it were not for his own illness, the Pope would have gone himself. There is a general mourning throughout Italy. Prince Humbert has been proclaimed King. It is believed that he entertains political views very different to those of the late King Victor.

The Russians forced the Trowan Pass, and have 247,000 men south of the Balkans. Mehmet Ali has left for the Russian head-quarters, with power to arrange an armistice. Stanley has reached Brindisi. The Fenian military prisoners have been released. The Manchester murderers are detained.

SPECIAL TELEGRAMS.

The Grand Duke Nicholas has announced that Count Radasky, after desperate fighting yesterday, captured the Schripka Pass, with the whole of the Turkish force, comprising 41 battalions, 10 batteries of infantry, 10 batteries of artillery, and one cavalry regiment.

LONDON, January 11th.

The French Ministry have suspended several generals. It is believed that this action has reference to the intended coup d'etat.

MELBOURNE, January 12th.

It is rumored that, unless there is a speedy settlement of the dispute between the two Chambers of the Legislature, a dissolution of the Assembly may be expected early in March.

At a Cabinet meeting on Monday next Mr. Graham Berry will probably submit the names of officers in the departments under his jurisdiction for dismissal from the Civil Service.

Two school inspectors have been dispensed with, and other changes in the Railway and Public Works Departments are anticipated.

It is stated that a Bill to reform the Legislative Council has been drafted, and will be proposed as the first measure when the Assembly meets on the fifth prox.

Should the Council reject the measure there will be an appeal to the country on the ground that the Council refuses self-reformation.

[REUTER'S SPECIAL TELEGRAMS.]

LONDON, January 12th.

The Grand Duke Nicholas has replied to Ibrahim Pasha that all negotiations must be direct with him, and that an armistice is impossible without the basis of peace negotiations being first settled.

Nissa, a fortified town to the south-west of Widdin, has capitulated. Russian troops have arrived at Yenik Saghna and Barodak, two positions south of the Balkans.

The civilian population of Adrianople has been ordered to leave. A new Turkish Ministry has been formed, with Hamet Pasha as Grand Vizier and Savet Pasha as Minister of Foreign Affairs.

The Russians took 8000 prisoners at the surrender of Nissa. Adrianople surrendered on Thursday with 38,000 men and 1092 guns. The town of Chipka has also been captured.

It is now probable that Adrianople will be abandoned, and that the Turks will retreat on their lines at Tehekembdaha. The Civil Government of Adrianople has been removed to Podosta.

It is alleged that the Russian military authorities are averse to the armistice proposals; they have in view the occupation of Adrianople and Gallipoli.

England has protested against the non-fulfilment of the promise that an order would be sent to the Russian Commander-in-Chief for an armistice with a previous stipulation in reference to peace conditions. The Daily News regards this as the beginning of the intrigue to involve England in the war. Three Cabinet Councils have been held this week.

SYDNEY, January 14th.

The investiture of Archbishop Vaughan with the pallium presented by the Pope proved a very imposing ceremony. There was a congregation of 3000 persons.

MELBOURNE, January 14th.

It is announced that the Postmaster-General has declined to allow any officers of his department to be dismissed.

In some churches prayers have been offered for the wives and children of Civil servants recently dismissed.

The dismissal of other public servants is expected next week.

POWERSMOUTH is about to be made the seat of a new Catholic Diocese, including Hampshire and the Channel Islands. A magnificent cathedral will immediately be commenced, and one of the most conspicuous sites in the borough has been purchased from the War Department for that purpose. The building is to possess great architectural pretensions, and will accommodate 1,000 persons. The style adopted is the early decorated.

HENRY DRIVER (on behalf of the New Zealand Loan and Mercantile Agency Company), reports for the week ending 16th January as follows:

Pat Cattle.—A large supply of 230 head came forward, which was greatly in excess of the requirements of the trade, who seemed not to be in want, and only bid sparingly. They only took 110 head, the balance being turned out, and the balance bought by graziers. Although the quality is a whole was very good, only a shade over store prices was obtained. Best bullocks brought from £8 10s to £12, do cows from £6 10s to £10, or equal to about 28s per 100 lb for prime quality. We have sold 85 head and turned out 30 for next week.

Pat Calves.—30 were penned, and could only be disposed of at greatly reduced prices 15s to 30s being the quotation for prime quality. Pat Sheep.—1700 were penned, and could only be disposed of at a further reduction in prices to about equal to 45 per lb. Some of the fowls are in the market.

Pat Pigs.—476 came forward, but only really good quality could be placed, the rest being turned out. Best pens brought from 7s to 8s 6d; medium to ordinary, 4s 6d to 5s 6d. We sold 100 at 10s and 5s 9d.

Store Cattle.—Owing to the low prices ruling for fat cattle, it is difficult to clear stores, unless in good downward condition, and we sold 120 head, at up to £7 for bullocks, and 4s for cows, and 5s for Store Sheep.—There still continues an active enquiry for sheep of description of young sheep. Cross-breds are saleable at from 8s to 10s 6d for lambs, 6s to 7s for two-tooths, 7s to 8s 6d for four-tooths and upwards. Coleridge lambs, 6s to 6d, do cows, two, four, and six-tooth, 6s to 6s 6d; merino wethers, two, four, and six-tooth, 5s to 5s 9d. During the week we have sold 4500 at above prices.

Wool.—We held our second wool sale yesterday afternoon, when we submitted a catalogue of 1,550 bales. All the local buyers were in full muster, supplemented by two foreign buyers just arrived from the Melbourne sales. Throughout, bidding was spirited, every bale being well competed for. Some exceptional good lots, both in greasy and washed, brought extreme rates. In the former, we obtained a sale of Mr. Waite's Miller's greasy merino at 22d, and Mr. J. Johnston's at same figure; also Mr. A. Johnston's at 1s 10d, gold washed, washed and not very bright, speaking more than words for the quality of the wool. One large clip of 500 bales was passed in these limits not being quite reached. Another clip of 200 bales was withdrawn for shipment, not being offered. We sold by auction in the evening, not yet reported, 800 bales and 98 bags, cross-breds in greasy, realising from 8s 1d to 11d; washed do, 11d to 16d; merino, 10s to 12s 6d to 12d; washed, 15d to 18s.

Sheepskins, hides, and tallow sales were postponed this week on account of a public holiday on Monday. They will be held as usual next Monday, when we shall have some larger parcels of these different products to offer.

Grain.—Wheat—very little offering, and as little wanted, supplies being fully stocked. The present weather, affecting harvest, may create a better demand. 4s 6d to 4s 9d, good milling samples. New grain may be expected, if fine weather, commencement of next month. Oats are much inquired for, but scarce any offering. 3s 6d is readily obtained for feed, and 3s 9d, milling samples. They are likely to stand at those figures if no advance, as there are no stocks (except the one or two hands) and as the new crop is late, two months may elapse before any new oats can supply the market. Barley—there is more enquiry for malting, secondary parcels finding buyers at 4s 6d per prime, none. The new crop is late, and average small, and not expected to be a full average yield. Feeding parcels have been cleared up for the Melbourne market at 3s, f.o.b., which has stiffened the market.

Mr. SKENE'S labour report for the week ending January 16th. The labour market was never in a sounder state than at present. Work is plentiful and very good. No one need go to the streets for the plainest outdoor work. There is a very large demand for farm people in every department. Sheep shearing is still going on, and many men to care for the grain harvest. The building trade is very busy. Bushmen are needed. Couples are moving off with their families, the old, heartless way—no children allowed. When will you get over this short-sighted policy? Female servants are fast speaking about it; they are getting scarcer and scarcer. Harvest people may now look out, and it would be well for them, who can do nothing else, to pick up a little before winter catches them facing cold weather and want. It is a mystery, how many men exist, who seem to do nothing but loaf. Wages.—Couples, £65 to £80; dairy hands, 15s, 20s, and 25s; day labour, 8s and 9s; ploughman, £52 to £65; harvesters, 30s to 60s; girls, 10s, 12s, 15s; printer, 20s, 25s and 40s; boy, and girls, 5s to 10s; stewards, cooks, washers, &c., 25s to 40s; dock hands, 30s to 60s.

Mr. J. FLEMING reports (wholesale prices) for the week ending Jan. 16, 1878, as follows:—Oats (feed) per bushel, 3s 6d; do (milling), 4s to 5s 6d; do (mills), 3s to 3s 6d; Barley, milling, 4s to 4s 6d; feed, 2s 10d to 3s. Pollard, 6s per ton; Bran, 4s per cwt, included. Flour, large bags, 41s; small, 41s 10s. Oatmeal, for the Old Potatoes, 15s per ton; New Potatoes, 15s per cwt; Hay, 47 10s per ton; New Hay, 45 10s per ton; Chaff, 45 10s per ton; Straw, 42 per ton.

Mr. A. MERCER'S market report for the week ending January 16, retail prices only:—Fresh butter, in 1 and 1 lb prints, 10d to 1s; fresh butter, in lumps, 9d; powdered, and salt, butter, 10d; fresh butter, although pretty plentiful, is selling well, and in better demand; salt butter, in keg, old, 6d to 7d; new, 8d, but not much selling; cheese, prime old, 10d to 1s; new, 8s to 10d; side and rolled bacon, 9d to 10d. Colonial hams, 4s; English hams, 4s 1s to 1s 2d; new, 1s 4d. Eggs have been very scarce, and retailing at 1s 9d per dozen.

Mr. J. VEZAY reports for the week ending Jan. 16, 1878, 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; lamb 2s 6d to 4s per quarter.