

# Telegrams.

(REUTER'S SPECIAL.)

LONDON, September 26th.

The British Government leaves it to a member of the Council of the Indian Secretary of State to initiate and carry out the line of policy towards the Ameer of Afghanistan.

The prevalent opinion favours the English occupation of Khyber Pass and Kandahar.

ST. PETERSBURG, September 25th.

It is officially denied here that Russia is acting in complicity with the Ameer of Afghanistan.

GRAHAMSTOWN, September 26th.

Gold has been got on the cross-cut from the 650ft. level. The water race is about to be completed. Ministers having promised to re-introduce the vote of last session, which was allowed to lapse.

AHAUURA, September 27th.

Heavy rain has fallen during the last two days. The rivers are rapidly rising. There is no communication with Reefton, owing to the floods.

HOKITIKA, September 28th.

There has been a continuance of most severe weather during the week.

The rivers are heavily flooded, and all traffic inland is stopped. The Christchurch coach has not arrived since last Saturday.

September 29th.

The Christchurch coach has not yet arrived, and the Court will be adjourned from day to day until the arrival of the Judge. The Reefton cases will not be heard before Tuesday.

REEFTON, September 29th.

The rivers are still flooded here, and the rain continues without immediate prospect of cessation. A large number of Supreme Court suitors and witnesses are awaiting an opportunity to proceed down the country, but there is little chance of travelling possible before Monday or Tuesday at the earliest.

CHRISTCHURCH, September 27th.

The damage to the north line at Chaney's corner will be repaired on Monday. At the Rangitata bridge the passengers crossed to-day on foot, and if the wind lulls, the work of repairing the bridge will begin late to-night.

ASHBURTON, September 28th.

Two double sets of piles were carried away out of the Rangitata bridge this morning by the heavy freshes in the river. The 7.5 train from Ashburton halted at the south of the Rangitata, and several of the passengers crossed the bridge on planks, and were met by the Timaru train, which returned to that town. The express from Christchurch was not allowed to proceed beyond Ashburton. The 11.5 train from Ashburton, proceeded to South Rangitata, where the passengers are now waiting. It is supposed they will have to return to-night. Mr. Couyers, accompanied by Mr. Lowe, left Rakaiia, for the scene of the disaster this morning. It is believed that it will take days to repair the damages done. The South Rakaiia bridge is also in a very critical condition, and it is feared that the up-train will be unable to cross this afternoon. All the rivers are flooded. Yesterday, the gale uplifted several buildings, levelled several chimneys, and caused other considerable damage throughout the district.

LAWRENCE, October 1st.

At Beaumont to-day, the Clutha maintains about the same level as yesterday.

Hugh Craig crossed the river this morning, and reached Lawrence this evening. He obtained information from Roxburgh that the flood at Queenstown was very high. Eichardt's Hotel, the Bank of New Zealand, and other buildings were flooded, and the people living on low lying ground had left their homes.

Owing to Lake Wakatip being so high, there is every probability of the river being flooded for some time.

At Etrick, Nicholson's Hotel is flooded, there being seven feet of water within the building.

The Tuapeka County Council will place a boat on the Clutha at Beaumont to-morrow.

CHRISTCHURCH, October 1st.

As was expected, the north-wester brought the Waimakariri down last night, and so high did the water rise, that part of the railway line was carried away. Traffic of course is again stopped for a further period. The weather is still warm.

GREYMOOUTH, October 1st.

There is considerable excitement regarding an important discovery of ore at Langdon's, about nine miles from Greymouth. Several leases have been applied for. The discovery was made some months ago, but its value was not known till Dr. Hector's analysis of the ore was received, which is as follows:—

July 19th. The ore received per Captain Palmer is antimony sulphate, with 84oz. gold and 86oz. silver per ton. Send larger sample for verification, as it is a very valuable ore if it maintains the quality—worth say, £350 per ton.—August 12th. The last sample of antimony ore has 81oz. of gold per ton, which is chiefly in the quartz. Part of the second sample is quite equal to the first.—J. HECTOR.

HOKITIKA, October 1st.

The Christchurch coach has just arrived, after an eight days' journey. The driver reports all the rivers heavily flooded. The coach upset in one river and three horses were drowned; and the passengers had a narrow escape. The Chief Justice and Judges associate and other

passengers are still at Cass, and will not reach here before to-morrow night. Some of the passengers' luggage was lost, but the mails arrived safely.

CHRISTCHURCH, October 1st.

The repairs to the Rangitata bridge are expected to be completed by to-morrow, when through traffic from Christchurch to Dunedin will be resumed. To-day, passengers on arrival at the bridge, left the train and crossed on foot, afterwards entering the train on the other side of the bridge.

## Commercial.

MR. HENRY DRIVER (on behalf of the New Zealand Loan and Mercantile Company) reports for the week ending October 2nd, as follows:—

For to-day's market the following fat stock came forward:—171 head cattle, 1768 sheep, 100 lambs.

Fat Cattle.—The quantity forward was an average one, and the quality consisted chiefly of good to prime. Last week's prices were well maintained, say, for best pens bullocks, from £14 to £19 10s; cows, from £7 to £14—or fully 40s per 100lb for prime beef. We sold 60 head on account of Mr. W. H. Keith, Canterbury; and 34 head on account of Mr. John Anderson, Wyndham, at above quotations.

Fat Sheep.—We have again to report a comparatively bare market, and the trade having been unable to supply itself from the country, high prices were again realised. But cross-breds brought from 18s 6d to 24s 3d; medium, 13s to 17s, being fully 4d per lb for prime mutton. We sold 500 at the yards, at above rates.

Fat Lambs.—A fair supply, but the quality was nothing extra. Prices from 6s to 9s 6d, and for a small lot of good lambs 14s 6d was got.

Store Stock.—Numerous enquiries are now being made for cattle for paddock feeding, but very few lots have yet been offered.

Wool.—Latest cablegrams report:—"London wool sales, prices weaker, recovered opening prices not sustained." No business doing in this market.

Sheepskins.—We catalogued 1500, which were briskly competed for, bringing advanced rates. Butchers' green cross-breds sold at 6s; merinos, 5s; station skins, in bales, 7d.

Hides are coming in greater supply; prices have declined. Wet salted best heavies, 4d per lb; butchers' green, from 17s to 24s.

Tallow is in better demand at improved prices. We sold medium mixed at £28 per ton.

Wheat: There is fair demand for milling and export, but little arriving. Prime milling, 4s to 4s 2d; medium, 3s 9d to 3s 10d. Oats are inquired for, supplies are very small, and stocks light. Good to heavy feed, 3s 10d to 4s; seed, 4s 6d. Barley is much wanted. Fair to good malting, 5s 9d to 6s 6d; milling, 5s.

MR. SKENE reports for the week ending Oct. 2, as follows:—September, just closed, has been upon the whole a very busy one. Every man suited for outdoor work is at once secured for arable farm work. The demand for shepherds, couples, musterers, &c., is now very large, also for station cooks, blacksmiths and carpenters. Girls suited for ordinary work are hard to get. We will soon get relief with the shipments afloat. Storemen for the country are now needed for the opening season. Bush, road, and rail labourers have very good prospects. Wages—Couples, £75 to £90; day labour, 7s, 8s, and 9s; milkers, 10s, 15s, 20s; ploughmen and shepherds, £60 to £70; station cooks, smiths, and carpenters, 30s, 40s, and 50s; girls, 10s, 12s, and 15s; upper do., 20s, 30s, and 40s; storemen, 50s and 60s; musterers, 50s; hotel cooks, waiters, boots, &c., 25s to 60s.

MR. J. FLEMING reports (wholesale prices) for the week ending Oct. 2, 1878, as follows:—Oats (feed), 3s 10d to 4s per bushel. Wheat—4s; chicks, 3s to 3s 4d. Barley, malting, 5s to 5s 6d; feed 3s to 3s 6d. Pollard, £6 per ton. Bran, £5 10s. Flour, large bags, £10; small, £10 10s. Oatmeal, £19 10s. Potatoes, £5 to £5 10s per ton. Hay, £6 10s per ton. Chaff, £4 10s to £5 per ton. Straw, £2 per ton. Onions, 28s. Cheese, 7d.

MR. J. VEZEY reports for the week ending Oct. 2, as follows:—Retail prices. Roasting beef, 6d to 9d per lb; boiling do, 3d to 6d per lb; stewing do, 4d to 6d per lb; steak, 6d to 9d per lb; mutton, 4d to 6½ per lb; veal, 4d to 8d per lb; pork, 6d to 8d per lb; lamb, 4s to 5s 6d per quarter.

## THE UBIQUITOUS TRACT.

THE irrepressible tract distributor has found his way into the tram cars. A most benign individual might have been observed yesterday morning in one of the cars on the southern lines with a huge bundle of those offensive articles neatly assorted, so as to suit the age and supposed tastes of the various recipients of his favours. There were nicely-coloured goody-goody ones for young children, and plain and grave-looking documents for the more grown unreflective people. This thing is becoming a nuisance, and, if allowed by the tramway companies, will eventually injure their traffic. They should not permit their passengers to be insulted by the cheap and obtrusive sanctity of these travelling Chadbands. It is bad enough to be bored in Sackville-street by a couple of groups of "Christian young men," who thrust their stock-in-trade almost into your coat-sleeve, but to meet the pest every time you endeavour to get away into the suburbs, as you fancy, out of his reach, is a ten-fold aggravation of the nuisance. It is an Old Man of the Sea, an incubus, an evil eye, that fastens itself upon you and will not be shaken off. It is, in fact, becoming intolerable, for it has no sense of decency or propriety, and is abashed at nothing. It should be frowned down by every tolerant man and woman.—*Dublin Freeman.*