

LONDON, September 29th.

The Turkish troops in Thessaly have been defeated by the insurgents.

Sir M. Hicks-Beach, in a speech at Chipping-Norton, warmly praised the patriotic behaviour of the colonics during the Eastern crisis, which thus testified to their loyalty and to the unity of the Empire.

(SPECIAL TO THE PRESS AGENCY.)

LONDON, September 25th.

The British fleet will leave Prince's Islands on Saturday for Artaki.

Much business is felt on the Continent at the Affghan difficulty, may lead to a conflict between England and Russia.

The *Standard* says Russia persists in the scheme of a permanent mission to Cabul.

September 28th.

The money market is easy.

Large imports of gold have given improved monetary position.

Discount rates in open market are equal to the Bank minimum.

The Bank reserve is becoming so strong as to warrant a reduction in the rate of discount.

The stock markets are agitated by the Affghan crisis.

The market for Colonial debentures is heavy and depressed.

An improvement recently reported in wool has now been totally lost, and prices show an average decline of from 1½d to 2d.

NAPIER, October 7th.

At a meeting of the Education Board to-day, a memorandum was read from the Secretary to the Education Department, stating that if the £100,000 for school buildings were divided according to population, as he believed it would be, this district would only receive £2300. A reply was ordered to be sent, pointing out the inadequacy of the amount as the Napier school buildings will alone cost £4000, and trusting that the Department would not render the Board unable to carry on its functions. There was a general feeling expressed in favour of resigning in a body, and leaving the matter to the Minister of Education to carry it on himself.

Considerable agitation is going on here about the Maori franchise. The Natives are getting up a petition against it, stating that they want more representatives, and do not want to vote for Pakeha members. To-morrow night a public meeting is to be held to protest against the monstrous injustice about to be inflicted on this constituency. A petition is being numerously signed to the Legislative Council, asking that Chamber to strike out the Maori franchise clause.

(Per *Taranua*, at *Bluff*.)

MELBOURNE, October 2nd.

The Church of England Assembly closed its session, after having passed the Dean of Melbourne's resolution in favour of Bible teaching in schools. The subject of religious education is just now prominently before the community, owing partly to the remarks of the Bishop of Melbourne in favour of a separate grant to Roman Catholics, and partly to the Bill introduced by Sir John O'Shanassy, providing that a grant be made to those schools in which it is shown the prescribed standard of education has been reached, the object being to get separate grants to Catholic schools.

POPULATIONS OF THE PRINCIPAL CITIES OF NEW ZEALAND.

FROM the Census Returns, for a copy of which we are indebted to the Registrar-General, it appears that the number of inhabitants in the four chief cities of New Zealand and their immediate suburbs is as follows:—Dunedin and suburbs, 37,026; Wellington and suburbs, 20,000; Auckland and suburbs, 24,072; Christchurch and suburbs, 27,019.

SUBSCRIPTIONS TO TABLET FOR WEEK ENDING OCTOBER 10th, 1878.

Messrs. P. Butler, Reefton, 25s; J. Harris, Reefton, 12s 6d; Miss J. Gilchrist, Reefton, 6s 6d; W. O'Shanassy, Kouai Pass, 25s; E. Flynn, Palmerston, 25s; M. Flannagan, Palmerston, 12s 6d; M. Fagan, Palmerston, 12s 6d; J. Cosgrove, Waikanae, 31s 6d; J. Gavin, Invercargill, 32s; M. Joyce, Oamaru, 12s 6d; R. J. Collins, Wellington, 12s 6d; M. Collins, Waimate, 2s 6d; M. Gaffney, Temuka, 25s; McGoldrick, Hokitika, 25s; J. Dunn, Oamaru, 25s; P. Colvey, Wanganui, 18s; A. Sullivan, Blenheim, 25s; Farrell, Merton, 20s; J. Purcell, Maori Creek, 12s 6d; J. Austin, Nelson Creek, 25s; J. McEntee, Nelson Creek, 25s; Brazil, Roxburgh, 25s; Ricards, Roxburgh, 31s 6d; Mee, Roxburgh, 25s; Wildermoth, Timaru, 25s; P. Fabey, St. Bathans, 44s; Gudgeon, Cromwell, 25s; J. Lavery, Charleston, 12s 6d; W. O'Neil, Little Grey, 7s; N. Wall, Waimate, 37s 6d; J. Honner, Roxburgh, 25s; W. McFadden, Invercargill, 25s; Fitzgerald, Ashburton, 26s 6d.

Money Orders may be made payable to Mr. John F. Perrin, Secretary, TABLET Office, Dunedin, to whom letters on business should be addressed. Letters on other matters connected with the paper, or communications intended for publication should be addressed to the Editor.

A SAFE investment for capital, with a certainty of large returns, now offers in the Railway Waggon Company. The Company becomes entitled to run waggons provided by them upon the railways in the colony, thus making provision for carriage which the Government has not found it convenient to make, and which must be largely available by the public, who would otherwise be delayed in sending their goods to market. There is no risk whatever of loss connected with the undertaking; on the contrary, we have no doubt that the certainty of profit will make the shares much run after. The prospectus of the Company will be found in another column, and it furnishes full particulars of the enterprise.

Commercial.

MR. HENRY DRIVER (on behalf of the New Zealand Loan and Mercantile Agency Company) reports for the week ending October 9th, as follows:—

For to-day's market the following fat stock came forward:—54 cattle, 1786 sheep, 143 lambs, and 8 calves.

Fat Cattle.—The number forward not being sufficient to supply the requirements of the trade, prices advanced fully 2s.6d. per 100lb. on last week's quotations. We quote best bullocks from £14 to £19 10s; cows, from £8 10s. to £11d.—or 42s. 6d. per 100lb. for prime beef. We have placed 100 privately at above rates.

Fat Sheep.—Those penned consisted chiefly of very prime cross-breeds, and although the number yarded was sufficient to supply the trade, yet on account of the extra quality, they were briskly competed for, and thus last week's rates were well maintained. We quote best cross-breeds from 18s 6d to 22s 6d, or say 4d per lb. for good mutton. We sold 1000 at the yards, at above rates, on account of Messrs. Keith (Canterbury), Corson, McLaren, Grey, and Buckland.

Fat Lambs.—Those to hand were only of medium weight and quality, and brought moderate prices, viz., 7s 6d to 10s 6d.

Store Stock.—No change of importance has taken place since last report.

Wool.—By Press cablegram under date of 29th of September, the wool sales are reported as progressing unfavourably to sellers: the improvement, in tone and prices, had entirely given way, and quotations showed a reduction of 1½d. to 2d. per lb. As the sales are now closed, we should soon be in possession of closing prices.

Sheepskins.—At our weekly auction on Monday, over 2000 skins were offered, which sold at a slight decline. Some heavy cross-breeds brought 6s 8d; average slaughters, 5s 10d to 6s; merinos, 4s 10d to 5s 6d.

Tallow was in good demand; medium mixed brought from £24 to £28; rough fat, 22s to 22s 6d per cwt.

Hides are unaltered; good condition wet salted 4d per lb.

Grain.—Wheat is unaltered in value, fair enquiry, but little offering. Prime milling, 4s to 4s 3d; medium, 3s 9d to 3s 11d; fowls' feed, 3s 3d. Oats are still scarce, good demand, 3s 10d to 4s for feed samples; seed, 4s 6d. Barley: Some quantity of malting has changed hands this week at 6s to 6s 3d. at which price there is a good demand.

MESSRS. A. & H. MERCER reports for the week ending Oct. 9:—Fresh butter in half and one pound prints, 1s 6d to 1s 8d per pound; powdered and salt butter, 1s 3d per pound, and supply not quite so plentiful, owing to the floods. Colonial cheese 10d per pound; English cheese, 1s 3d to 1s 4d per pound—no demand. Bacon, 10d per pound. Colonial hams, 1s per pound. Eggs are in good demand at 1s to 1s 3d per dozen.

MR. SKENE reports for the week ending Oct. 9, as follows:—The crowd of excellent people by the Invercargill have come and are almost absorbed already. In fact they are only as a drop in the bucket, and only stem the demand for a very few days. Wages continue firm for all good farm and station people. Builders are very busy, bricklayers cannot be got. Female servants are as much needed as if none had come by the Invercargill. Couples are quiet, so are shepherds. Storemen are needed. The busy season is all before us now and the certainty of plenty work. Wages:—Ordinary girls, 10s, 12s, 15s; upper do. 20s, 25s, and 40s; station cooks, smiths and carpenters. 25s to 50s; storemen, 50 to 60s; couples, £75 to £90; ploughmen and shepherds. £65 and £70; musterers, 50s; labourers, 8s and 9s; milkers and groomers, 10s: to 25s.

MR. J. FLEMING reports (wholesale prices) for the week ending Oct. 9, 1878, as follows:—Oats (feed), 4s to 4s 3d 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, 25s 10s. Flour, large bags, £10; small, £10 10s. Oatmeal, £20. Potatoes, £4 10s to £5 per ton. Hay, £6 10s per ton. Chaff, £4 10s to £5 per ton. Straw, £2 per ton. Onions, 28s. Cheese, 7d. Bacon, 9d.

MR. J. VEZEY reports for the week ending Oct. 9, 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.

ROSARY SUNDAY AT CHRISTCHURCH.

THERE was an Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament at the Catholic Church here, on Sunday 6th inst.

It was most edifying to witness the number of the faithful present on that solemn occasion.

The members of the different societies attached to the Church kept up a continual adoration during the time of exposition, relieving each other every half hour.

Notwithstanding the increased size of the church, the large congregation which attended the evening's devotions filled it to its utmost capacity.

After Vespers a procession took place around the interior of the church, preceded by a number of little children who scattered flowers before the Sacred Host as the procession went on.

Those little ones, who wore scarlet dresses, gave to the scene an angelic aspect which must have tended to impress those present with the great solemnity and grandeur of that evening's devotion.

The Children of Mary, dressed in blue and white, and the societies of the Christian Doctrine, Catholic Young Men, and Hibernians took part in the procession.

MR. HENRY RICHARDSON, saddler, George-street, Dunedin, has on hand an excellent supply of all the articles connected with his trade. Mr. Richardson is prepared to execute all orders with expedition, and displaying workmanship of the highest order.