

Otago; Countess of Kintore, for Auckland; Halcione and Schiehallion, for Wellington; Mary Shepherd, for Canterbury. Arrived; Dakotah, at San Francisco.

Thirty-two thousand bales of New Zealand wool arrived in London between February 3 and March 20. On May 16 New Zealand hemp was: Ordinary to middling, £22 15s to £27 5s; fair to good, £27 to £30; tow, £11 to £14. The market is well stocked, and trade is depressed.

The Bebington, Coronilla, Celestial Queen at London; R.P. Bouverie, Electra (Otago ship), Peter Denny, Queen Bee, Robert Henderson, St Leonards—all at London.

The ship Otago arrived at Gravesend on the 7th May.

MELBOURNE, June 28.—The New Zealand Loan is slowly passing off at £91, at which it is now quoted in the Sydney and Melbourne markets.—It is rumored here that an action of breach of promise is pending against a lady of distinguished position in New Zealand.

COMMERCIAL.—Oats are inactive at 5s. The Claud Hamilton's consignment will have the further effect of easing the market. Wheat is offering at 6s 7d. Tookey's: All the issue is in demand at £12. Brandies, owing to the mail advices, are held for an advance.

SYDNEY.—Parliament has been further prorogued to the 19th of August.—The mail difficulty with Queensland is exciting discussion.

ADELAIDE.—Wheat, 6s 3d, and little doing.

MELBOURNE, June 28.—The Electoral Bill has passed the Assembly.—The Government defeated Mr McBain's no-confidence motion on the postal contract by a large majority. Mr Francis, during the debate, read Mr Vogel's telegram agreeing, on behalf of New Zealand, to join in the Services upon the terms proposed at the Conference.—A *rule nisi* has been granted for a new trial in *Degraves v. McMullen*.—A new trial is probable in Mr Villeneuve Smith's divorce case.—Lady Bowen goes to England for a year.—A proposal is mooted for the Government to take over the 'Argus'-Reuter contract.—Nimblefoot and King of the Ring have been scratched for the Cup.—New Guinea is only conditionally taken possession of.—A boy and girl who were married by the Registrar at Geelong have been committed for trial for making false declarations.—Four women died from puerperal fever in Lying-in Hospital.—Advices by the mail mention that the damage to the French vineyards is so great that it is probable there will be no wine or brandy for two years.

SYDNEY.—The Blanche and Clio have gone to Fiji; the latter thence to Wellington, where the Pearl, Captain Goodenough, will relieve her.—Eight persons were drowned in the floods at the Darling.—Sydney will carry on the Californian service at her own expense, rather than land the mails at Moreton Bay.—Sales of Tookeys have been made at £15.

ADELAIDE.—Parliament meets on July 25.—Miss Rose Evans has left for England.—Wheat easy, 6s 3d.

BRISBANE.—It is probable there will be a dissolution immediately.—The Roman Catholics oppose the Education Bill.

HOBART TOWN.—The Intercolonial Tariff Bill has been introduced.

THE COLONY.

WELLINGTON, July 4th.—A deputation from the Grey Coal Company waited on the Minister of Public Works to-day, to urge certain modifications in the lease of the coal mines, which have been granted.—Tenders for the sleepers of the Brunner railway will be invited shortly, as the specifications are nearly ready.—Wellington preserved meats are succeeding at home. Stocks in bond are little altered. Stocks of tea and sugar are reduced, and those of brandies increased. Rates of exchange are unaltered, but the rate of discount is reduced $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. Kerosene is low; 1600 cases are to arrive by the Horatio Sprague, and 2500 by the Skimmer of the Seas. Hennessy's brandy is scarce at 30s. Mr O'Shea quotes produce as follows:—Stocks of flour are full; first Oamaru brands are at £13 10s to £40; Dunedin do, at £13 to £18 10s; and Canterbury do at £12 10s to £18. Oats are in supply at 5s. At auction, King's (Dunedin) flour realised £12 10s.—The United States Government ask permission to establish a station in the Colony, to observe the transit of Venus.

AUCKLAND, July 4.—The Auckland Freight Co. have resolved to amalgamate with the New Zealand Shipping Co, conditionally upon having equal representation with the other Provinces on the London Board, irrespective of the shares subscribed.—The Coromandel gold returns for June show that 1072 ounces of gold were obtained from 595 tons of stone.—The Education rate is being rapidly collected.—Wheat is at 5s 6d, and oats at the same figure. Canterbury flour is at £12 to £14. Hams and bacon are in good demand.—Mr Saunders reports buyers of shares as follows:—Caledonian, £25; Bright Smile, £3; South British Insurance, £2 3s.

GRAHAMSTOWN, July 4.—Six companies at the Thames have divided \$862,458 amongst them since they started, besides having £10,000 in hand. New ground is being taken up.—A meeting of the Thames Rifle Association is to be held to consider the advisability of sending a team to represent New Zealand at the Victorian Rifle meeting.—The 4th of July was duly celebrated by day.

CHRISTCHURCH, June 4.—Messrs. Roys, Stead and Co. report that the grain market is quiet, and that holders are indisposed to sell large parcels. Present quotations are:—Flour, firm at from £12 to £12 10s; wheat, scarce at 4s 10d to 5s; oats, scarce at 4s 10d to 5s; all free on board. Butter and cheese are in excellent demand at 1s and 5½d respectively.

WELLINGTON, July 5.—The Hon. Dr Pollex is gazetted Colonial Secretary, vice Mr Reynolds, resigned.

NAPIER, July 5.—Between four and five hundred shares in the New Zealand Shipping Company have been taken up.—At the inquest on Warrington, a verdict of "Hanged himself while of unsound mind" was returned.—Mr George Kirton, manager of the Bank of New Zealand at Poverty Bay, was fined £50 for contempt of Court in not appearing as a witness in a case of forgery, whereby justice miscarried.

WELLINGTON, July 5.—Mr John Henderson, the representative of Messrs Brogden in this country, has published an able pamphlet explaining their proposal for entrusting to a company the construction

of public railways in New Zealand, such company to be formed in London, with a certain proportion of local shareholders and directors, and a minimum rate of interest to be guaranteed by the Government. The pamphlet will be circulated shortly.

July 7.—The whole of the Australian squadron will rendezvous at Wellington in September or October, to meet the new Commodore, who comes in the flag-ship, via the Cape of Good Hope, direct. Commodore Stirling goes Home in the Clio.

TAURANGA, July 5.—There was a demonstration, followed by a public dinner, on the arrival of the first coach from Napier. Mr Vogel's health was enthusiastically toasted for promptly granting the settlers' memorial in favor of a coach service.—The Maoris contemplate sowing large quantities of wheat.

AUCKLAND, July 5.—Mr Saunders quotes buyers for Rubies at 5s 6d; South British, 4s 6d.

LYTELTON, July 5.—The Edwin Fox has been admitted to pratique.

NEW PLYMOUTH, July 5.—A smart shock of earthquake was felt this morning.

ALEXANDRIA, July 6.—The Kingites have decided that Manuhiri shall remain adviser to Tawhaio, but disputes are to be settled in open runanga. The Kingites blame Manuhiri for the present embroglio with the Government.

CHRISTCHURCH, July 7.—The quarterly sessions of the Supreme Court opened to-day. There are twelve cases, including two cases of manslaughter, three embezzlement, one forgery, one horse stealing, one arson, one obtaining money under false pretences, one larceny as a bailee, and two of assault. Four cases are charges against one prisoner. His Honor, in his charge to the Grand Jury, brought under their notice the facts in the case of *Regina v. Crisp*, a case of manslaughter, in which, owing to the negligent driving of a coach, a man lost his life. The law in such cases was that it is the duty of every man who drives a carriage to do so with such care and caution as to prevent as far as possible injury to any person. If death ensued to any person through rapidity of driving or the driver's want of caution, he would be guilty of manslaughter. In the case of *Stiffe*, the question the jury would have to consider was whether the death of deceased was accelerated by the treatment he received from prisoners; if so, whether such treatment was negligent or unnecessarily violent. His Honor then referred to the proposed additions to the Supreme Court, and also to the building of a drunkards' ward, which he hoped would soon be completed. The Crown Prosecutor withdrew the indictment against Mrs Hill and Dr Parker, in *Stiffe's* case, prosecuting only Miss Herbert and Hill.—Mr Oat was offered £1500 for the hairless horse, but refused it.

INVERCARGILL, July 7th.—Mr Duncan McArthur has commenced proceedings against the 'Tusapeka Times' for a statement contained in a letter from the Invercargill correspondent of that journal, published on June 26th, and which Mr McArthur considers to be libellous.

WELLINGTON, July 8th.—The criminal session of the Supreme Court was opened to-day. Mr. Justice Johnston, in charging the Grand Jury, referred to the lightness of the calendar. He was glad to notice symptoms of returning prosperity in Auckland, and he trusted the immigrants would be carefully selected so as to prevent accessions to the ranks of the criminal classes being made through them. He referred to the importance of providing education, and reforms in prisons, there being no deterrent punishment or reformatory training at present, and the existing system being insufficient for the requirements of the case.—The deputation from the Grey Coal Company have completed arrangements with the Government for the leasing of the coal reserves on the Grey river. The Company is to have the right to select 1000 acres in the coal reserves within twelve months, at a rental of £20 a year, the lease to be for 21 years, with the right of renewal for a similar period on terms to be agreed upon. The company also has the right to purchase 150 acres in blocks of not less than 10, nor more than 30, acres each, a royalty of 2s. 6d. per ton being chargeable upon such coal only as is sent by river. The locomotives, rails, and rolling stock for the Brunner line were shipped in May, and the whole work is expected to be completed within eighteen months. The deputation are working energetically.—The Luna sailed for Wanganui to-day. On her return she will proceed to the Manukau, to bring down the Auckland members of the General Assembly.—The Education Board is vigorously enforcing the Education rate.

AUCKLAND, July 8th.—600 shares in the New Zealand Shipping Company have been subscribed for here, and more are expected to be taken up.—The solicitor of Mr Bass, the well-known brewer, is prosecuting publicans for selling spurious imitations of Mr Bass's brand.—Mr Saunders reports buyers of shares as follows: Caledonian, £17 5s; Tookey's, £3 5s; Waitemata, 6s 6d; Bismarck, £1 10s.

GRAHAMSTOWN, July 8th.—The Bank of New Zealand to-day shipped for Auckland 8344 ounces of gold.

CHRISTCHURCH, July 8th.—At the Supreme Court to-day, Lawrence pleaded guilty to four charges of embezzlement and one of forgery. Sentence was deferred. O'Keefe, convicted of obtaining money under false pretences, was sentenced to 18 months imprisonment. The Judge commented severely upon the facility with which the store-keepers changed cheques for any one. In this case a cheque was cashed for a man without even knowing his name. He (the learned Judge) had frequently remarked upon this practice from the Bench, but his remarks had no effect. He wished that he had power to punish store-keepers for the enormous expense they inflicted on the country by these prosecutions. Adam pleaded guilty to larceny as a bailee, and was sentenced to two years' imprisonment. Piloher, for an indecent assault, was sentenced to three months' imprisonment. This exhausted the Calendar, but the Court will sit tomorrow to pass sentence on Lawrence.

A public meeting will be held at Akaroa on the 17th inst, to consider the best means of obtaining railway communication with Christchurch, so as to utilise the harbor of Akaroa.—Public libraries are being established in various parts of the Province under the vote