

a great success. There were present 800 persons, including Sir James and Lady Ferguson.

GRAHAMSTOWN, August 5.—The Bank of New Zealand will ship 3414 ounces of gold to Auckland to-day.

AUSTRALIA.

SYDNEY.—The Pacific Insurance Co. has declared a dividend of 8 per cent.

A deputation presented to the Government a petition bearing 1000 signatures, in favor of a 40 days' San Francisco service costing £68,000, instead of a 45 days' service costing £48,000.

ADELAIDE.—The Ministerial policy is not yet declared. Some stone from the Northern Territory yielded at the rate of 20oz to 50oz per ton.

Flour is dull at £13 10s to £14. Country flour is at £18 5s (?). The Governor's speech on opening Parliament refers to the prosperity of the Colony.

Instructions have been telegraphed to the Agent-General to send two shiploads of agricultural people before next harvest.

A Port Darwin telegram states that the miners say the Northern Territory is a great reefing country.

Captain Whitcombe, of the barque Zingard, was brutally murdered in the roadstead by five men put on board by the police from the gaol, preparatory to the vessel sailing.

HOBART TOWN.—A fracas occurred outside the Legislative Council Chamber, Mr Kennedy threatening Mr Crowther with personal violence.

MELBOURNE, July 26th.—Mr Parkes offers to carry the letters of all the Colonies to Liverpool, via California, at letter rate only, without subsidy. Mr Francis declines the proposal until the negotiations are completed; but both Tasmania and Queensland accept it, and the latter will reciprocate it with the Torres Strait route.—Smart and Phillips, the trustees who robbed the testator Jacobs's children, have each received a sentence of three years' imprisonment.—2000 has been subscribed for the families of men lost in the schooner Rip.—Leases having been issued by the Government to claimholders, a collision between the latter and the jumpers is anticipated.—The motion for enfranchising the police was lost.—Madame Goddard offers to propitiate the 'Argus' by appointing as her agents the Collins street music firm which receives that journal's patronage.—Bates, a theatrical star, has arrived from California.—Mr Fitzgibbon, the Melbourne Town Clerk, married Miss Dawson to-day. The bride brings a fortune variously estimated at from £10,000 to £80,000.—The conclusion of the mail negotiation with New Zealand is anxiously looked for.—The price of flour will probably reach £13 next week.

SYDNEY.—It is proposed to establish a tweed factory at Bathurst.

CABLE TELEGRAMS.

LONDON, July 22nd.—The Carlists are masters of Carthagena, and have seized four frigates in that port.

A new Ministry has been formed at Madrid. The amount paid up for the New Zealand Meat Preserving Company is £200,000.

July 23rd.—Dr Kencahy has commenced the defence in the Liechborne trial, and says he has a hundred witnesses to swear to the identity of the claimant as the true Roger Tiehborne.

The Colonial Court at the Vienna Exhibition has made a deep impression both in Austria and Germany.

LONDON, July 4.—The New Zealand Land Improvement Co., with a capital of £500,000, is announced.—The New Zealand Trust and Loan Co. has declared a dividend of 10 per cent.—A Company has been formed with a capital of £150,000, to work a gold mine in New South Wales.—The outbreak of cholera in London has created much alarm in Great Britain.—The French Assembly have passed a vote of confidence in the present Ministry.—The Carlist insurrection is spreading. Don Carlos has a force of 30,000 men.—The competition in the iron trade has led to a further reduction in pig iron, the price of which is now £5 9s per ton. Copper is at £90 per ton.—The Carlists after their reverse on the Ebro, received large reinforcements and captured Igualada, near Barcelona. A new Ministry has been formed.—The harvest in France will, it is feared, be an inferior one.—At the Vienna Exhibition seventeen awards have been made in favour of the Colonies.

LONDON, July 25th.—The conditions of peace between Khiva and Russia are the payment of an indemnity by the Khan of two millions of roubles, the payment to extend over a period of seven years, during which a Russian force under General Schwatkin will occupy Kungrad. The Khivan possessions on the right bank of the Amro river have been ceded to Bokhara, as a reward to the latter for assisting Russia.

A German frigate has captured a Spanish steamer named the Insurgent with Internationalists on board.

The Commercial Treaty between England and France has been signed. Its main feature is the renewal of the Treaty of 1860 until June 1877.

The Carlists have asked France to recognise them as belligerents.

At a Consistory Council held at Rome, the Pope nominated two Bishops—one each for the Roman Catholic dioceses of Perth and Adelaide.

MINING.

THE 'Wellington Independent,' writing on the development of gold fields, says:—A mere glance at the world's gold fields and their history from the days of Ophir to those of this Colony shows that they are not readily exhausted and abandoned. It is probable that at this day men are extracting gold from the same fields whence Solomon derived his supplies for the beautifying of the Temple, and we find California not only maintaining, but steadily increasing its product. . . . Already Otago, our oldest gold field, is steadily increasing its yield, and the western coast of the Middle Island, and the mines of Auckland will soon follow its example. The gold at first is merely scrambled for by men working singly or in small parties, and with the crudest mechanical aids. A new gold field is a Tom Tiddler's ground, where no one sets in to honest work, but rushes about from spot to

spot, often leaving rich ground to seek something still better, and be the first to enjoy it. Law is almost unknown, and a communitistic feeling prevails that every worker should have a chance, and capital be prevented from interference, so that pioneers may reap the first harvest. This is it which tempts prospectors, and attracts the most adventurous of gold-seekers in their train. As the news of discovery gradually widens its circle, others follow till the country is over "rushed," and although great seeming prosperity exists, it is almost certain that at such a time the average earnings of those on the field are much less than after the first ebb of the rush, and when the gross product is less. Gradually, as the easily gotten gold—mostly in creeks and river beds—becomes scarcer, it is found necessary to induce capital and competition for the working of the ground, and mining only becomes a high-y-skilled handicraft in all its stages.

The first gold discovered is generally alluvial, the working of which generally leads to the discovery of auriferous quartz reefs. Of both classes there are many mines throughout the Colony, but as the alluvial are the oldest, their development has received the most attention, and is being largely aided by the Parliamentary vote for water supply. This vote of £300,000 is, we believe, all appropriated, and although it is too soon to expect results, there can be no doubt that they will be satisfactory, and induce a much larger grant for the same purpose. . . . Some of these canals will cost from £10 000 to £60,000, but are pigmies compared with some in California.

In California are some canals directing 25 heads of water, with a pressure of 300 and more feet through a single nozzle, which gives such force as to tear down and disintegrate cement beds, which would scarcely yield to the pick. In claims worked with abundance of water, brought under pressure in wrought iron pipes from a great height, as much as 20,000 tons of earth are washed away daily, and a high authority states that less than ten-penny worth of gold to the cubic yard will afford a fair price for water, and leave a handsome profit. 6000 miles of canals have been made in California, where one canal delivers 6000 tons of water per hour. The earth washed away is often as much as 300 feet in depth. A sample claim is perhaps better than a general description, and we abridge from the report of the U. S. A. Commissioner, Raymond, a description of the Little York Mining and Western Co., California, which owns 240 acres of mining ground, with an aggregate depth of one hundred and seventy feet, of which 30 feet is hard cement. The Company have two crushing mills, but have ceased to use them on account of the superior facilities they enjoy for the construction of dumps (falls,) which serve to break up and disintegrate the hardest cement, the claims having an outlet of 600 feet fall. The Company have 6000 feet of wooden troughs, five feet wide, for carrying water, and nearly four miles of iron pipe for conducting the water from the ditches to their mines, where they use sixty heads of water with the hydraulic nozzle, which enables one man to divert the whole stream to any point he chooses within 200 feet. From the same authority we learn that the oldest Goldfields of America are only scratched, and that, "from the light at present thrown on the subject, the writer, if compelled to hazard an estimate of the area of the deep 'placers,' would place it at between 400 and 500 square miles, with an average depth of 120 feet, and would feel confident that he had rather understated than exaggerated the amount."

In this Colony an enormous area of ground, as yet almost untouched, is known to be auriferous, and would be profitably worked by the simplest appliances, if water were available; and plenty of partially worked ground would pay to rework. . . . Gold mining for many years will require an increasing water supply, as the poorer the ground is, the more it is necessary to economise its working, by a larger use of water.

A correspondent of the 'West Coast Times,' writing in regard to "Bogus voting" at the elections of directors of mining companies, says:—"The Mining Act, as it at present stands, has no remedy for what I may term 'bogus voting.' I will give you a case in point. At a recent meeting of shareholders in a mining company which was held lately at Greymouth, for the purpose of electing directors, it was thought by those interested that there would be some close running; the general feeling being anything but favorable towards the old directors. But at the eleventh hour, what do some of our old directors do but actually transfer to no less than thirteen residents at the Grey a large number of shares--to some 250 shares each, and to others 200 each. Then, getting the proxies of those persons, the old directors by this system of 'bogus voting' got themselves re-elected to office. Now, in this company the directors are five in number, two of them being bank managers of branches of the same bank, one situated at the Grey and one at Hokitika. Two out of the three remaining directors are customers of the same bank, and so you will see at a glance that with the two bank managers as directors, one more director constitutes a majority. Well, to say the least, it is very suggestive of what I will leave your readers to determine. So that we have one free and independent director out of five. I may further add that all these self-elected directors are Grey men, except the bank manager of Hokitika referred to above. To me it has a very suspicious aspect to see two bank managers directors out of a body of five, and both of them belonging to the same bank; and that which confirms my suspicions is when such dirty means are resorted to for electing themselves."

The Nelson Provincial Government 'Gazette' of 14th July, gives the half yearly statement for June this year, of twenty-two mining companies that are or have been carrying on operations at the Lyell and Inangahua districts; of these twenty-two, eight have ceased operations. The totals are as follows:—

Aggregate Nominal Capital...	£480,780
„ Sub-Capital Paid-up ...	184,808
„ Calls made ...	37,748
„ Dividends declared ...	5,879

Thus the excess of calls over the dividends has been £33,869! The same state of mining affairs exists in the North, as will be seen by the following remarks of the 'Southern Cross' of 12th July:—"In the Provincial Government 'Gazette' of yesterday, the statement of the