

session of Parliament, his Excellency Sir James Fergusson intends paying Auckland a visit, and he will then take the opportunity of visiting the Lake district.

THE credit balance of Canterbury on June 30, was £401,581 5s 4d.

THE Napier 'Telegraph' referring to the introduction of Hauhaism in Hawke's Bay says:—"In the north, it bereft the Maoris of every trace of former religious teaching, but did not interfere with their desire to approach the level of civilization attained by their European neighbours; in the south, the natives, on the contrary, idle, dissipated, and discontented, wrap themselves around with the cloak of Hauhaism, and pride themselves on being believers in the grossest superstition that has ever succeeded in usurping the place of the Christian religion."

At the Dunedin Municipal elections, Mr Prosser was elected councillor for South Ward by a majority of 57 over Mr Fish. Mr Beck was elected for Bell Ward by a majority of 97 over Mr Paterson. Mr Burt was elected for High Ward by a majority of 21 over Mr Barron.—The greatest interest was centred in the contest between Messrs Prosser and Fish.—Messrs Evans and James were elected auditors.

Mr Malaghan has been, by a large majority, re-elected mayor of Queenstown.

At the shipping of the bulky material of the steam crane for the Oamaru breakwater at the Rattray street wharf Dunedin, the ponderous blocks of iron for the ballast, weighing 18cwt, were hoisted with the greatest ease on a single rope of phormium fibre, of moderate thickness.

IN reference to Mr Waterhouse's charges of abuses in the administration of the Government, and gross extravagance, the Auckland 'Herald' asks—Why did Mr Waterhouse allow so long a period to elapse before he gave his statement publicity? If he was aware that a fraud was being perpetrated by the Government on the colony, he should have stepped in to prevent it. It was his bounden duty in all honesty to have done so. He was in high power at the time. If all that Mr Waterhouse states be true, he will have much to answer for, and must be called to account for ignoring his position and power in such a time of emergency. The public have a right to expect a full disclosure of those matters to which the ex-Premier has referred.

THE 'Evening Post' says that there now seems every probability that the Ministry will break up, even if its opponents take no active steps to precipitate that event.

THE Auckland 'Herald,' referring to the policy of the Government, which "instead of curtailing Provincial powers, proposes enlarging them to an extent never dreamed of by the most ultra of Provincialists," says:—"The aim of Ministers, summed up, appears to be this: Give the Provinces all the powers they ask; let them constitute their own law courts; allow them to borrow money to the full extent of their credit, and by so doing they will in no long time so embroil and involve themselves, that in fighting their Provincial battles, the central Government will be able to pursue undisturbed and unquestioned its own policy. If ever there was a time we should cease to give undivided attention to subjects purely local or Provincial, and watch the course of action being taken at Wellington, that time is the present."

IN the 'Timaru Herald,' of July 30, it is stated that upwards of seventy applications for nominated immigrants have been received by the Immigration Officer at Timaru during the month. The system now adopted is very simple. The person having stated to the officer the name of the individual for whom he desires a free passage, the cash required by the General Government regulations is transmitted direct to the Government by the Immigration Officer, means being supplied out of provincial funds—the result of the vote of the Council's last session. To all in Canterbury desirous of getting out their friends from the home countries free now the opportunity offers, an opportunity which possibly may not occur again.

THE following is a telegram sent by Mr Farnall to the Superintendent of Auckland announcing his (Mr Farnall's) dismissal by the Agent-General:—"London, July 5, 1873.—Superintendent of Auckland.—Featherstone obstructs scheme. Restricts applications. Refuses them assisted passages. Dismissed me in consequence of O'Rourke's memorandum. Shall continue at post. Wire instructions." Referring to the dismissal of Mr Farnall by Dr Featherston, the Auckland 'Evening Star' says:—"The scheme with which Mr Farnall was identified was one for a special settlement of a community of friends and neighbours to be transferred from the Green Isle of the North to this sunny Southern land, and it had received the approval of Mr Vogel and Mr Gillies. But our London nabob taking action on a memorandum which was intended to snub himself, and feeling that blood must be drawn somewhere, hoped apparently to make a scapegoat of Mr Farnall and his Irish immigration scheme."

THE Press generally deeply regrets that the Hon. Mr Stafford is seriously indisposed.

THE Wellington correspondent of the Dunedin 'Evening Star' writes that there is no organised Opposition, but considerable dissatisfaction is expressed with some of the Ministerial propositions, particularly with the increased taxation under the new tariff. It is likely that an Opposition will be formed next week. Mr Fitzherbert states that his leadership is only assumed *vice* Stafford.

"DR FEATHERSTON," remarks the Auckland 'Herald' "has awakened to the importance of creating a favorable impression in his own favor at the opening of the Assembly. The colony, however, cannot hold itself indebted to any extra activity, or indeed any activity whatever, on the part of the Agent-General; the fact of the increase of coming immigrants is due to those who have preceded them, who, writing home to friends and relatives, speaking of the colony and its prospects with high favor, have caused such an impression as to induce a spontaneous desire to emigrate to the shores of this colony. We believe that if Dr Featherston were never to move from his soft lounge at Westminster, and the whole of his agents were ordered to return from whence they came, that two or three shipping agents and a clerk would keep the immigration machinery going that has been set in motion by other agencies than that of Dr Featherston." Can anything be stronger than this extract in favor of nominated immigration, a system which is more

largely availed of by the Irish people than by any other nation? And Dr Featherston, notwithstanding, throws obstacles in the way of people who are the best supporters of that system coming to the colony.

THE voluminous Immigration correspondence between the Colonial Government and the Agent-General in London, just laid before Parliament, discloses the startling fact that the cost of the Agency in the United Kingdom at the present time in departmental appointments and travelling agents alone exceeds £7,800 per annum; while to this has to be added the cost of 120 local agencies and their auxiliary charges, which, if estimated at the moderate sum of £100 each, or £12,000 per annum, brings the entire cost of the establishment up to something like £20,000 a year. Even this is probably below the actual expenditure, as it does not include the cost of advertising, rent of offices, and numerous other contingent expenses which are certain to arise in carrying out the duties of the department. But making all allowance for the exceptional circumstances, there is still left, says an exchange, a wide margin for dissatisfaction with the result of this large expenditure for immigration agency alone, which the correspondence does not explain away. The number of immigrants despatched to the Colony during the last 18 months—that is to say, since the several branch agencies throughout the Provinces of the United Kingdom have been in full operation—bears a most inadequate proportion to the costly establishment the Colony is now maintaining in England for immigration purposes. We must say it is not to the credit of the Government that more effective measures have not been adopted long since.

IN reference to the presumed intention of the Wellington and Auckland representatives to logroll for loans for their several Provinces, it may be said that Mr Gillies has introduced into the House of Representatives a Bill to empower the Province of Auckland to borrow £1,000,000. With respect to this announcement we take the following from the Auckland 'Star' of the 28th ult.—"A telegram received in town this afternoon from Government buildings signed by Mr John Williamson, says that the Auckland members are unanimous in going in for a loan of one million pounds, for this Province."

THE 'Evening Post' publishes a comparative statement showing the amount of the duties actually paid last year on the articles affected by the change in the tariff, and the amount that would have been paid if the new tariff had been in operation. The total result is as follows:—Under the old tariff, £33,577 8s; under the new tariff, £168,100; increase under the latter, £84,422 12s, or upwards of 100 per cent. At the meeting of the Dunedin Chamber of Commerce, Mr Webb quoted figures to show what the actual difference between the old and the proposed duties would have been on the imports on which duty was paid on importation in 1871 (goods from warehouse are omitted):—Total New Duties, £143,756 12s 3d, total Old Duties, £73,655 18s 11d; total increase, £70,100 13s 4d; increase, 95 per cent. This table represented actual transactions, so that the figures could not be suspected as having been prejudiced by the feelings of those that compiled them. There were also several articles on which the duties proposed to be levied were entirely new. The several Chambers of Commerce manifest a determined opposition to the new tariff.

ANOTHER murder is contemplated by the Maoris in the Waikato. So says the correspondent of the 'Thames Advertiser.' Certain it is that a party of men cutting a patrol line were warned by a native woman, and in consequence have desisted from working.

THE 'Goulburn Herald' says that the hostile attitude assumed by New Zealand to Mr Samuel's proposition is difficult to account for, considering the part New Zealand formerly took relative to a San Francisco service; and it almost appears as if the influence of Victoria, upas-like is overshadowing the less populous Colonies, making them mere appendages to herself.

GREAT confusion appears to have been caused by the successive contradictory lists of regulations for immigration issued by Dr Featherston. In March last, he was positively instructed by the Government which accused him of "starving immigration," to give free passages. On the 10th of the month he issued a set of regulations to that effect, and on the 17th of the same month he cancelled them. Dr Featherston states that he came to the conclusion that the step he had taken was an ill-advised one, because it would have the effect of compromising the Government, both in regard to past and existing emigration contracts. "Throughout" remarks the 'Daily Times,' "he seems to have hampered his own action by taking into consideration questions of policy as affecting the Colony, of which the Government should have been the only judges. In the above case, the Government instructed Dr Featherston to offer free passages, and in doing so they assumed the sole responsibility of the step."

PROVINCIAL COUNCIL OF OTAGO.

CONSTRUCTION OF RAILWAYS.

IN a previous issue we stated that the Provincial Government had submitted to the Council certain proposals for the construction of railways in the Province. An amendment was moved by Mr Donald Reid, but the Government opposed the amendment, which was rejected by the House. After a great deal of discussion the Government ultimately succeeded in carrying their proposals in the following form:—(1.) That the main line from Waitaki to Invercargill should be at once completed right through; that the cost of construction should be provided out of the "Public Works and Immigration Loan;" that application be made to the General Government accordingly, and that failing such provision being made by the General Assembly during its present session, the Provincial Government is hereby requested and authorised to proceed with the construction of the line from Clutha to Mataura, and from Dunedin to Moeraki, both lines to be submitted to public tender; the first to be paid for out of the proceeds of land contiguous to the line, such land to be reserved from sale pending the construction of the line; the second to be paid for by the sale of 500,000 acres of pastoral land, in terms of section 150, "Otago Waste Lands Act, 1872." The concurrence of this