

view to detect them. Representations having been made to the French police on the subject, every assistance is being afforded to the English officers to effect the arrest of the offenders.

At the wool sale on Tuesday 12,300 bales were offered. There was a firm and active demand. Good qualities were about the same as at the close of last sales. On Wednesday 12,000 bales were offered. The tone was rather weaker. The withdrawals amount to 26,000 bales. The present series of wool sales close on March 15. On Friday 13,000 were offered. Prices remained steady, but the demand was not active on Saturday. 12,800 were offered, and the market was unchanged.

The report of the Western Pacific Commission has now been published, and shows that it was correctly summarised in the message forwarded in October last. It recommends that any authority exercised beyond the confines of Australia should be wholly of an Imperial character, and that the existing machinery is sufficient for the purpose. It recommends that a commissioner, with the status of an Australian Governor, should be resident in New Guinea, and that naval officers on the station should be authorised to bring all offenders before the Court. It is essential that the labour traffic should be entirely under Imperial control, and that the recruiting of women should be stopped, except the immediate relations of male recruits. Authority should also be given to punish native outrages on the whites. The Council of British residents in the Pacific should be empowered to levy taxation to defray part of the cost of the control.

A blue-book just issued on the *recidiviste* question shows that the English Government informed France that they would regard it as an unfriendly act if the number of convicts in New Caledonia was increased, and repeatedly urged that they should be sent elsewhere. M. Ferry, replying early in January, suggested that the display of Colonial feeling on the question was prompted by a thirst for annexation; to which Lord Lyons replied stating that the feeling of the Colonies against the *recidiviste* scheme was perfectly genuine, and rapidly growing stronger. M. Ferry stated that the *recidivistes* now being sent to New Caledonia were not many, and that they were not positive criminals, and were strictly prohibited against leaving the island. Most of the French criminals were now sent to Cayenne. He, however, refused to give any pledge that no more should be sent to New Caledonia, but said he would pay reasonable respect to the feelings of the Australian Colonies in the matter, and the Governor of New Caledonia would be instructed to apply for the extradition of all escaped convicts.

Intelligence has been received that the British troops from Trinkit have arrived at Souakim and landed there. Hostilities have broken out in Kordofan between the rebels and certain loyal tribes. An engagement was recently fought at a place to the northward of Obeid. The followers of El Mahdi mustered fully a thousand, but the loyal Arabs mustered a strong force, and inflicted a severe defeat upon the rebels. The first and second battalions of the Royal Sussex Regiment have been ordered to proceed to Stout, a town about 150 miles south of Cairo on the Nile in Upper Egypt. The ultimate destination of the troops has not transpired. News has been received from Jeddah, a seaport in Arabia on the eastern shore of the Red Sea, that the Bedouin Arabs living in the neighbourhood have broken out in revolt, and have already committed great excesses. The remainder of Baker Pasha's guns and a quantity of plunder have been recovered near Tokar, and the Arabs appear cowed. Major-general Graham has determined to attack Osman's forces unless they at once disperse.

TUESDAY.

The *Republique Francaise* ridicules the protest of the Australian Colonies against the *recidiviste* scheme, and says it is not worthy of being seriously discussed. Another French journal contends that the convict question is only used as a pretext to aid in obtaining the annexation of the New Hebrides.

On the news of Baker Pasha's route being received in London, the French Ambassador had a conference with Earl Granville, and offered the co-operation of the French forces in Egypt, proposing that the French troops be landed at Souakim, and march thence to the relief of Khartoum, the ultimate settlement of the Sudan question to be left to a conference of the Powers. Lord Granville reserved his reply to the offer.

James O'Kelly, the Egyptian correspondent of the *London Daily News*, who was supposed to be killed, turned up at Assiut on January 5.

Sir Henry Parkes has written to a Paris paper pointing out that the sending of French convicts to New Caledonia is regarded as a serious grievance by the Australasian Colonies.

The lecture of Henry George, the Socialistic reformer, at Dundee on February 3 drew a packed and enthusiastic audience.

Lord Hartington, Secretary for War, has obtained sanction to a scheme for increasing the effective army. The recruiting system will be modified, and the standard of height made shorter.

The Cobden Club has circulated 20,000 copies of a pamphlet by Giffen, entitled "Progress of the Working Classes," which Mr. Gladstone pronounces the best answer to the doctrines advanced by Mr. Henry George.

Mr. Gladstone was the subject of an unpleasant surprise on the afternoon of February 14. He was walking along Bond street, unattended, on his way to the House of Commons, when suddenly a man seized him by the collar and brought him to a standstill. Mr. Gladstone with some difficulty shook off his assailant, and continued on foot to his destination. It was asserted later that the man's action was due to a stupid wager.

Osman Digma, the leader of the rebels in Eastern Sudan, has refused to surrender to the British force, and announced his determination of fighting. General Graham's troops were to advance against the rebels to-day and it was expected a battle would take place. Osman Digma is preaching a holy war. Major-General Graham hopes to induce the Friendly Arabs to block Osman's retreat to the mountains. Governor Gordon advocates the employment of a British cavalry force to reopen communication with Berber while the infantry, in company with Sir E. Wood's forces, operate on Wady Halfa. An emissary from the Mahdi is endeavouring to induce the

Arab tribes north of Khartoum to rise; and Governor Gordon admits the situation to be critical. Telegrams have been received stating that he is unable to make arrangements for the relief of the garrison at Khartoum without the aid of a military force.

John Morrin, an old and much-respected settler in the Tuamarina district, died yesterday morning from lockjaw, the effect of crushing two of his fingers whilst moving a log. He was 43 years of age, and leaves a wife and 12 children.

The two principal Ngatiporon chiefs, Major Ropata and Tuta Tihoniko, who have always hitherto opposed each other, have now agreed, and it is believed this will lead to the opening and settling of a large area and to the settlement of a lot of disputes. The first result has been that the two chiefs, with Mr. Rees, have bought out Somerville and Hay's claims in a number of blocks for £15,000.

In a short visit to Auckland the Rev. Father Lemenan de Chesnais has collected over £300 for St. Patrick's College, Wellington.

David Heenev, a farmer, was attacked by a two-year-old polled bull yesterday morning, and tossed over a fence. He sustained severe internal injuries, and is in a critical condition.

George Harr, a firewood-dealer residing at Para, on the Picton road, whilst returning from Picton on Saturday night on horseback, was drowned in the Waitohi Creek which overflowed its banks and covered the bridge. The body was found close to his residence.

Messrs Redmond have arrived in Queenstown *en route* for London. They were warmly welcomed by a large concourse of Leaguers. Mr. J. E. Redmond made a speech, in which he dwelt upon the success of their mission to the Australasian Colonies and America. He announced that the National League would continue to maintain its position of no compromise with the landlords, and expressed the opinion that until the latter are abolished crimes and outrages are not likely to cease.

A large meeting was held last night at the Garrison Hall, Dunedin, for the purpose of expressing an opinion with respect to the action of the Land Board in the Waikouaiti cases. The following resolutions were passed unanimously:—(1) "That as on the proper administration of the land laws depends in a great measure the progress of the Colony, this meeting views with regret the action of the majority of the Land Board in declining to either submit the question of the occupation of lands in the Waikouaiti districts to the Supreme Court decision, or to cancel the licenses of the present holders, Messrs. Borthwick and Hertslet." (2) "That this meeting, believing that the provisions of the Land Acts have been infringed by Messrs. Borthwick and Hertslet, respectfully requests the Minister of Lands to vindicate the law, either by appeal to the Supreme Court or otherwise." (3) "That this meeting is of opinion that the only way of conserving the Crown lands of the Colony for the benefit of the people is to dispose of them on a tenure of lease only; and this meeting thanks the Minister of Lands for his efforts in this direction, and also for his general administration of the lands." (4) "That the thanks of this meeting be tendered to Messrs. Stout, Duncan, and Bradshaw for the independent action they have taken in the interests of the public on this question."

WEDNESDAY.

Threats emanating from Fenians having been made against the life of Lord Lansdowne, the guard of Government House has been doubled, and other precautions are being taken for the safety of His Excellency.

The Government has ordered Count Lubuamia, a Polish landowner, to sell his property and quit Russia. He is accused of conducting a Catholic propaganda, and exciting the people against the authorities.

A meeting of Nationalists at Ballymote, Sligo, on February 3, was attended by a party of Orangemen, and in a riot that ensued three Nationalists were wounded by shots, and also two Orangemen. The police surrounded the dwellings of the Orangemen to prevent the Nationalists from wrecking them. A meeting at Donoughmore was proclaimed, but was held outside the town.

Anticipating the coming debate on Ireland, Mr. J. M. Healy, M.P. for Monaghan, published on February 7, a pamphlet called "Loyalty plus Murder," containing extracts from vituperative Orange speeches, and articles and descriptions of scenes of violence in Ulster in which the Orangemen participated. In introducing it, Mr. Healy attacks Earl Spencer. The pamphlet is issued in an orange-coloured cover.

The German Admiralty is discussing a proposal to ask the Reichstag to vote 7,000,000 marks to maintain ironclads, construct torpedo boats, and increase the number of soldiers.

The Nationalists' meeting at Newport on January 27 was, in spite of the storm that raged at the time, attended by at least 10,000 people. Messrs. Mayne, Biggar, and O'Brien, M.P.'s and many priests were there. A resolution was passed, declaring the last Act inadequate, and the emigration system a brutal blunder. Meetings were also held at Parsonstown and Edgeworthstown.

A convention of farmers at Callan on February 1 denounced Lord Rossmore and the Orangemen, and it was resolved to prohibit hunting on the lands of the farmers, and, if necessary, to prevent it. The farmers declare they will poison their grounds.

According to a despatch from Rome, the Pope, commenting on the hostilities in Tonquin and Soudan exclaimed, "The Church has small cause to thank the great western Powers for their service on behalf of religion and civilisation. When Africa and Tonquin are pacified we shall be at a point where we were half a century ago."

Hanlon, who is a passenger by the mail boat, comes to the Australian colonies as a tourist, paying his own expenses, but is prepared to row anyone who will test him. It was expected that Beach would be pitted against him, but on being told that Trickett had lately beaten Beach and was champion of Australia, he said he supposed he would have to meet his old opponent. Hanlon will probably spend a few months in Australia, and when he returns will give exhibitions in New Zealand if suitable arrangements can be made. He brings with him a boat of Spanish cedar, 11 in. in width, which weighs 29lb.

Very rich gold has been found in the Eureka mine, at Hargrew's Mudgee district, New South Wales.