

who at once opened fire. They attacked the British columns most fiercely, and repeatedly broke the leading square, and, after desperate fighting, captured some of our guns and drove back the 1st battalion of the York and Lancaster Regiment (65th Foot). The Marines and troops, however, speedily rallied, and further heavy fighting took place. The rebels were finally driven back completely defeated, and the guns lost in the early part of the battle were re-captured. The fighting lasted fully two hours and a half, during which time the whole of both forces were actively engaged. The 1st battalion Royal Highlanders (42nd Foot) were the heaviest sufferers. Osman Digma with a remnant of his followers, has retreated to the hills near Tamaneh. It has been definitely proved that the rebels suffered more heavily than was at first supposed. Their loss in killed alone may be set down at fully 4300, and the wounded exceed that number. Major-General Graham telegraphs the Sheik Mahomed, a prominent Arab chief of the Eastern Soundan, has expressed a belief that the recent victory of the British will have the effect of pacifying the natives of that district, and that the road to Berber will now be opened. Further details state that the Arabs by an impetuous charge broke the square commanded by Colonel Davies, and, creating a panic, succeeded in making a temporary capture of the guns. The cavalry, however, came to the rescue, and attacking the enemy afforded time for the brigade to be re-formed, and re-captured the guns. Colonel Buller's square proceeded without check and captured and burnt the enemy's camp. Major-General Graham's force has returned to Souakim after burning four villages and exploding vast stores of captured ammunition. The bodies of 1500 Arabs were found on the spot where the square under Colonel Davies was broken. The total British loss in killed proves to be 120, of which number the 65th Regiment lost 30, and the "Black Watch" 65, including 10 sergeants. The Victorian gunboat Childers is at Souakim, and may not improbably be employed for some time as a despatch boat.

## TUESDAY.

The French captured 100 guns at Bacninh. Their loss was eight killed and 30 wounded. The troops are following up their victory by pursuing the Chinese and driving them from the various positions in the neighbourhood of Bacninh. The Press generally urge that the troops should advance towards the Chinese frontier, and recommend that the army should forthwith occupy Honghoa and other towns to the westward of Bacninh.

A number of disappointed Spanish officers, including two generals, have been arrested on a charge of conspiring against King Alfonso's Government. A Republican conspiracy, having ramifications throughout the country, has been discovered. Numerous arrests have already been made of persons suspected of complicity in the movement.

The police of Buda-Pesth have effected the arrest of 36 men on a charge of plotting to incite anarchy in that city. Seven hundred Anarchist, have been expelled from Vienna.

In the House of Commons Lord Hartington, Secretary of State for War in, reply to a question, has announced that the telegraph-wire between Shendy and Khartoum had been cut, and that a steamer from Khartoum had been fired upon. It is assumed, his Lordship added, from these facts that the tribes inhabiting the country between Shendy and Khartoum are now in rebellion. Admiral Hewitt and General Graham have conferred with the leading sheiks of the loyal tribes, and a reward of £1000 has been offered for the rebel leader, Osman Digma, alive or dead. Before leaving the scene of the recent battle all the villages in the neighbourhood of Tamaneh, occupied by Osman's followers were burnt to the ground. It is rumoured that Earl Granville has received information that the rebel tribes at Khartoum have risen in rebellion. Anxiety is being felt in Cairo regarding the safety of General Gordon.

Mr. Richard Turnbull, member for Timaru, addressed a meeting of his constituents last night. There was not a very large attendance. Most of the address had reference to the land question, condemning the holding of large blocks, and of any blocks (large or small) for speculative purposes. The speaker advocated a progressive land tax as a first tax, an income tax next in order, and if these were not sufficient, then a tax that would reach the industrial classes. He proposed that the land tax should be 1s. in the pound on value, with modifications. He argued that a land tax would burst up the big estates owned by the English capitalist companies, but would not injure the resident freeholders. He advocated annual Parliaments (at least so long as barrowing continued); to give the electors better control over their representatives; and the restrictions of votes at general elections to one. He ridiculed the excuse offered by some "independent" members for supporting the Government; said that no Government could be formed out of the Opposition, and condemned some of those members who, foreseeing a change, were now speaking against the Government. At the close of the address a few unimportant questions were asked, and a vote of confidence passed to him.

Sir Charles Dilke, president of the Local Government Board, has made a statement to the effect that if the Opposition succeed in forcing a dissolution the Government will take care to appeal to the country, not on the Egyptian policy alone, but upon their policy generally.

The wool sales have closed. 300,000 bales were sold during the series, and 26,000 are held over for the new auctions. Unwashed Australian wools closed at  $\frac{1}{2}$  lower than at the close of the December auctions. Good medium Australian, good qualities of fleeces generally, and medium to good scoured have closed in good demand. Faulty wools are 1d to 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ d lower than in December.

Mr. Fitzgerald, M.H.R., both at Ross and Hokitika spoke strongly against land nationalisation, and said that freehold was the best tenure and was what attracted men to the Colony. He argued that the Legislature should either limit the area which any one man could hold, or should impose a progressive tax on holdings above a certain area. He preferred the former plan, but had no objection to a limited area of agricultural land being leased by the Crown. He was, however, sure that the system would break down if an attempt were made to push it too far.

At Auckland yesterday nearly 2000 children took part in the Catholic school procession to the Domain. One child was run over and had both of its legs broken. In a dispute that arose over the arrangements one of the committee struck Monsignore Fynes, the Vicar-general. At Wellington the day was celebrated by the Irishmen by a procession through the town and a picnic at the Hut; and at Christchurch there was a banquet at the Catholic Literary Society's rooms and a concert at the Theatre Royal. Both events were a great success.

Tawhiao and party are being advised by their friends here to go to England in the Ionic, which leaves Lyttleton at the end of the present month. The usual meeting of Parihaka Natives took place yesterday. Altogether there were about 200 visitors, making a total at Parihaka of about 900. The proceedings were of the most orderly character.

Captain Anderson, of the Rotorua, visited the breakwater at New Plymouth on Saturday, and intimated that he would be ready to bring the Union Company's boats alongside at any time. The breakwater now extends over 1000ft.

## WEDNESDAY.

Agricultural statistics give the following results:—Total number of acres under crop: Selwyn, 385,037; Ashburton, 402,967. Total for Canterbury north of Rangitata, 1,184,352.

Upwards of 1000 sheep per day were brought into Wellington by railway last week to be slaughtered for export to England. The Ionic is now loading 4000 carcasses of mutton.

A boy named Kelly, about sixteen years of age, was accidentally shot through the right arm at the Nelson rifle butts yesterday morning. The danger flag was flying, but no notice was taken of it. Both bones were broken.

It is intended to reduce the number of Armed Constabulary, so that at the beginning of the year (1st April) the total number will be only 500. The reduction has been carried on for some time, but on the first inst. notice was given to between sixty and seventy men that their services would be dispensed with on the 31st.

The Mount Ida *Chronicle* has been informed that the crops in the Hyde district are, generally, very heavy this season. Some crops of oats, calculating roughly, will yield 100 bushels to the acre. The general average will be somewhere about 70 bushels. The wheat is in fair condition, that which was sown in light soil being superior to that grown in heavy ground. Some of it has been attacked by blight. The farmers are thoroughly satisfied with their prospects. The only drawback is the want of a market at which they could dispose of their produce. But that is a complaint, says our contemporary, that is to be heard from Strath-Taieri to Cromwell, and is likely to be heard for eight or ten years to come.

In consequence of the increased railway tariff it is proposed to run a coach between Kaiapoi and Christchurch; return fare, 3s.

The Christchurch Chamber of Commerce have passed the following resolutions:—“That this Chamber consider it most unjust that grain should be singled out to bear so large a proportion of the recent increase in the railway rates, especially at a time when extreme depression exists among grain-growers in consequence of the unusually low values ruling for their products. That this Chamber shall, in co-operation with the Agricultural and Pastoral Association, the Corn Exchange, and the Industrial Association, call a public meeting for the following purposes:—(1) To respectfully protest against the action of the Government in raising the railway tariff on grain and on other articles in the Canterbury district, and to consider what steps should be taken to induce the Government to abandon the increased rates; (2) to consider the advisableness or otherwise of taking steps to effect the transfer of the management of the New Zealand railways from the Government to an independent and non-political board, and to consider what other action should be taken in order to secure efficient railway management and an equitable tariff; (3) to appoint a representative Committee as an executive to carry into effect the resolutions of the said public meeting.”

In the House of Commons the other night Lord Edmund Fitzmaurice, Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs, stated in reply to a question that the Government did not intend to protest against the action of the German Government in stationing men-of-war in the South Seas during the labour season.

News has been received that the French troops have entirely routed the Chinese at Johnhung, and that the standards and a number of guns fell into their hands.

Monday was a great feast day at Parihakas. About 100 Natives and 100 Europeans were present. Te Whiti entertained the pakehas and Tohu the Maoris. Te Whiti was nicely dressed and proved a most attentive host, having tablecloths, cruetstands, knives, forks, spoons, and everything in regular European fashion. A large crowd of Maoris sat down to a repast, Tohu going up and down and seeing everything right. Each man and woman was served with a cup and saucer, bread and butter being brought in large trays and served out by waiters attired gaily in worked aprons, and with towels slung across their shoulders in orthodox fashion. There was a procession of about twenty women dressed in European clothes. For the privilege of exhibiting their figures and dresses they had to contribute some silver as they entered Te Whiti's house, but to what purpose the money was devoted did not transpire. Tohu, who was dressed in European costume, addressed a few words to them, denouncing extravagance in dress, and one of the women replying. There appeared a general tendency towards European ways and customs, so different from two or three years ago, when all the Natives who came to Parihaka at once assumed the Maori blanket or mat. Yesterday, on the contrary, most of the men were smartly dressed in European costume, and many of the women also, especially those belonging to the younger generation. Although Tohu served out grog to all the Natives no drunkenness and no disorder of any kind was to be seen. Everything was scrupulously clean so far as the food was concerned, and the pah was much much cleaner than it used to be. It is anticipated that the pakehas will invite the Maoris to partake of an