

It has transpired that the French Government has decided to grant China eight days in which to agree to the payment of the required indemnity before steps are taken by France to seize a material guarantee for reparation for the Lang-son outrage.

The Marquis of Normanby, late Governor of Victoria, has promised to support the views of the colonies, and to advocate the desired protectorate over New Guinea. The London *Echo* denounces colonial agitation on this subject, and asserts that it is folly on the part of the British Government to oppose the colonisation schemes of France and Germany in the Pacific.

Telegrams from Marseilles report that the cholera is still raging there, no less than 53 deaths having occurred on Wednesday from the disease. Latest news from Toulon states that the epidemic is somewhat abating.

#### TUESDAY.

An action was recently brought in the Auckland District Court by Robert Barlow, the capturer of Winiata, to recover from the Onehunga Building Society Trustees £120 of his reward, which he had entrusted to his mother, and which she had deposited with the Society prior to her death. Judge Smith ordered a refund of the money by the trustees, and also payment of costs.

Serious rioting between Orangemen and Catholics has taken place in Cumberland. The fighting was very severe, and resulted in one man being shot and 50 wounded. The disturbance was only quelled by the intervention of a large body of police.

Stormy scenes have taken place in both Houses respecting the private overtures made by Mr. Gladstone to Earl Cairns, which, it is believed, will certainly ensure a redistribution of seats next year. These disclosures are also considered to render the franchise question more acceptable at the autumn meeting of Parliament. Efforts are being made to avert the conflict between the Lords and Commons. With this view Lord Wemyss will, in the House of Lords, move a compromise requiring that the Lords shall pass the Franchise Bill now, and the Government introduce at the autumn session a bill for the redistribution of seats. In the House of Lords the Earl of Salisbury opposed the motion brought forward by Lord Wemyss.

Reports to hand from Marseilles and Toulon state that the deaths from cholera on Saturday amounted to 57 at the former place and 36 at the latter. News is now to hand that the epidemic is appearing at Lyons.

A report has reached here that Osman Digma has seized the town of Ras-Assease, on the Red Sea, to the south of Trinkitat. Intelligence is to hand that the Mudir (Egyptian Governor) of Dongola has joined the rebel force, and has announced his intention of marching on Wady Halfa.

Active parleying is now proceeding at Shanghai between a representative of the Chinese Government and M. Patenotre, French Minister, with a view to arriving at an amicable settlement of the difficulty which has arisen in connection with the attack on French troops at Lang-son, on the Tonquin frontier.

The Chicago Convention has nominated Governor Cleveland, of New York, as the Democratic candidate for the Presidency, and Hendricks for the Vice-presidency. The sitting of the Convention has been adjourned.

#### WEDNESDAY.

Fourteen hundred persons have signed a petition to the Auckland Hospital Committee in favour of a homoeopathic ward. One of the medical staff has lodged a formal protest.

About 45 of the Christchurch unemployed have accepted the Government terms, and gone to Rolleston and other places to plant reserves.

The son of James Keith, 18 months old, was accidentally drowned in the Mangatawhiri Creek, Auckland.

In the House of Lords on Monday night Earl Granville, in reply to a question, stated he had made an urgent appeal to France's sense of the comity of nations with reference to the convict question, and it was impossible for the British Government to do more. Earl Rosebery has withdrawn his motion on the question. Earl Granville and Lord Lyons are persisting in their friendly though urgent appeal to the French sense of justice. The *Times* states that the silence of Earl Derby will strengthen the Australian feeling of his lack of sympathy with the interest of colonists, and that it is a very grave mistake to suppose it possible to prove or suppress the complaints against the recidiviste scheme. The proposed exchange of the Falkland Islands for New Caledonia is considered improbable.

Telegrams from Tasmania report that a severe earthquake was experienced there on Monday evening. The shock was felt in Victoria.

It has transpired that the Government will support Lord Wemyss' motion for arriving at a compromise on the subject of the Franchise Bill. Earl Granville stated in the House of Lords that the Government would probably proceed with the redistribution of seats in November next, provided the Bill was passed now.

In the House of Commons on Monday Lord Edmund Fitzmaurice, Under-secretary for Foreign Affairs, announced that intelligence had reached the Government that General Gordon was still at Khartoum, and holding his own against the besiegers. The garrison made constant sallies from the town with varying success.

#### THURSDAY.

A Turkish battalion proceeding to Assouan mutinied and deserted.

At a meeting of Conservatives at the Carlton Club it was decided to refuse the offers of a compromise on the Franchise Bill. The Marquis of Salisbury considered that the offers made would not suffice to secure the redistribution of seats before the Franchise Bill came into operation.

The excitement arising out of the anniversary of the French Republic on Monday culminated in an outburst of popular feeling against Germany on the part of a large body of Parisian youths, who proceeded to a hotel which was flying the German national flag and forcibly removed the banner and tore it into pieces. The disturbance was speedily quelled by the police. M. de Courcel, French Ambassador to the Imperial German Court, has been instructed to express regret on behalf of the French Government for the insult.

Lord Rosebery, in withdrawing his motion before the House of Lords regarding the recidiviste scheme, explained that the position has greatly changed since M. Courbet has reported unfavourably on the main objects of the bill, and that M. Favre's last demand in the Senate Committee for restraint and compulsory labour has quite reversed the policy of the bill. The *Pall Mall Gazette* has expressed the opinion that Earl Granville has failed to convince either France or Australia that he is in earnest in his action on the question, and further states that he should have welcomed the action taken in the matter by Earl Rosebery and Carnarvon. The *Globe* urges that the pressure of public opinion is required to prevent the conclusion of a makeshift arrangement with France.

## Commercial.

MR. DONALD STRONACH, (on behalf of the New Zealand Loan and Mercantile Agency Company, Limited) reports for the week ending July 16 as follows:—

Fat Cattle.—We sold on account of Messrs H. Lindsay (Pukeuri), and others, cows up to £8 12s 6d, and bullocks £6 7s 6d, and quote prime beef 20s to 22s 6d; ordinary, 15s to 17s 6d per 100lb.

Fat Sheep.—We sold on account of Mr. J. C. Buckland (Tumai), 292 crossbred wethers at 13s 6d to 14s; Mr. H. Lindsay (Pukeuri), 70 do. do. at 13s 3d to 14s 9d, 69 merino wethers at 11s 9d to 12s; Mr. R. Wilson (Romarua), 256 merino wethers at 10s 3d, 50 crossbred ewes at 14s, 59 do. wethers at 14s 3d to 15s; and quote mutton 2½d to 2¾d per lb.

Store Cattle.—We sold to-day at Burnside, on account of Messrs. Brugh Bros., 51 head mixed. Three-year-old steers brought £3 10s, two-year-old do. 40s, others 18s to 34s.

#### PRODUCE MARKET.—JULY 10.

MR. F. MEENAN, Great King street, reports:—Wholesale prices for the week are as follows, including bags: Oats, 1s 9d to 2s; milling wheat, 2s 9d to 3s 3d; fowls, 2s to 2s 10d; barley, malting, 3s 6d to 4s 3d; milling, 2s 6d to 3s 6d; oaten hay, new, £3 5s to £3 6s; rye-grass, £3; chaff, £3 to £3 10s; straw, £2; bran, £1 5s; pollard, £4 10s; flour, £8 10s to £9; oatmeal, £11 10s; fresh butter, medium to prime, 10d to 1s 1d; eggs, 1s 3d; salt butter, 8d to 9d; cheese, 4½d; bacon, sides, 8d; hams, 10d; rolls, 8d; potatoes, £2 5s to £2 10s.

MESSRS. MERCER BROS., Princes street, report:—Fresh butter (in ½lb. and 1lb. prints), best quality, 1s 1d per lb.; ordinary butter, 11d per lb.; eggs, 1s 2d; roll bacon, 8d per lb.; good salt butter, in kegs, 8d per lb.; cheese, 4d per lb.

OTAGO LAND BOARD.—At Wednesday's sitting G. E. Pollock's application to purchase 30 acres, block III., Glenomaru, was approved of. William McWilliam's claim for an allowance for fencing at Otara was refused. Section 34, Catlin's, was ordered to be put up to auction at 21s. per acre, Mr. O'Connell's application to purchase section 35 being approved of. T. Dowling's application to purchase section 16, block V., Lower Hawea, was referred to the district land officer. W. Wallace's application to purchase camp reserve, section 17, block IX., Lee Stream, was declined, as was also Mr. Ar buckle's application for a site for flour-mill in Derwent street, Lawrence. It was resolved to permit, if possible, T. McLatchie to change his application for land at Glenomaru to Owake. Runs were offered as follows:—No. 6, Wakatipu—for 10 years at the reduced rental of £20 per annum; Nos. 11, 12, 13, and 15 (grouped)—for 21 years at the reduced rental of £150 per annum; No. 236E, Morven Hills—for 10 years at £60 per annum; No. 236H, do.—for 10 years at £200 per annum; No. 432, do.—for 14 years at £15 per annum; No. 445, Hawkdun—for 14 years at £35 per annum; No. 170B, Beaumont—for 10 years at £60 per annum. Government recommended a village settlement to be made at section 3, block XIII., Tuapeka West—sale to be under deferred payments. Deferred-payment license was issued to J. Docherty, section 16, block IV., Gimmerburn. Applications to purchase on deferred-payment were approved as follows:—James McKernan, section 23, block VIII., and section 26, block IX., Toit-tois; Hinson Mee, sections 1, 5, and 6, block II., Blackstone. It was resolved that the following sections should be offered at the upset price of £5 per acre:—Sections 1 to 11, 12, and 14, 16, 18, 20, and 23, Waikoikoi: sections 19, 17, 24, and 29, being subdivisions of sections 17 and 19, block X., Glenkenich district.

[ADVT.]—The only safe and sure cure for Gravel or Urinary troubles is Hop Bitters. Prove it. Read.

Mr. Henry George returned to the United States last week apparently very jubilant over the results of his Propagandist work in behalf of his pet scheme of land nationalisation, which captivate the minds of thousands of landless people in the United Kingdom, who, like many of their fellow-men elsewhere in the world, are easily persuaded that it is their "right" to have anything which they do not possess, and to have it at the expense of somebody else. Nobody who owns land can ever be induced to advocate Mr. George's theory that private ownership of land is iniquitous and intolerable. That is the reason his scheme has few admirers in this country. Too many individuals own land, and they never can be induced to give it up and put the State in charge of it as a landlord. The Edinburgh *Scotsman*, just before Mr. George left Scotland a few weeks ago, gave him the following parting shot: "If the land bought by the savings of industry and enterprise is to be taken away by the State, the savings of hard labor lodged in the bank, or applied to the purchase of a house, can not be safe. When Mr. George has convinced his own countrymen of the soundness of his principles, he may come here with some regard to the fitness of things. As matters are, he has been out of his place among us. There is nothing in the British character that can make it look favorably upon plundering projects, even though they are partly disguised under the mask of an earnest philanthropy."—*The Current* (Chicago).