

natural result of the audacity of a criticism which effects to mistake prudent finance for a headlong rush in a limitless debt, and pretends to take vigorous clearness for a jumble of obscurities. It is the obvious consequence of the position Mr. Wakefield occupies in the minds of honourable members on both sides of the House. The House was not convinced by Mr. Wakefield's amusing fun and disordered fancy, simply because every man who heard him knew perfectly well that if he had happened to be on the Government benches, all that eloquence would have been displayed in favour of the Statement, which he would have contrived to see in a prudential light, and full both of literary merit and statesmanlike comprehension. If Mr. Wakefield wants to find politicians who trust him, he had better betake himself to that Arafura Sea he is so fond of talking about. The innocent savage intellect, as long as the indolent savage body is not fed upon frozen mutton from New Zealand, might grant him the appreciation which is denied here to his stable qualities. The House and the country have an obvious reason for not placing implicit faith in him. Therefore, the real interest in the discussion of Friday night centres in the speeches of the Treasurer and his chief opponent.

A very rich parcel of specimens from the Prince Imperial mine Thames, was crushed on Friday, 16 cwt of stone producing 196 ozs. gold.

The body of M'Namara was extricated from the tunnel at Cape Terrace at half-past 2 o'clock on Sunday morning, and brought to Kumara. Death must have been instantaneous, as the neck was broken, the skull fractured, and the bones in one leg broken in two places. At the inquest a verdict of "Accidental death by the fall of timber and earth" was returned. Boban is at the Hospital, and still suffering from his injuries.

The following items of Ross mining news are from the *Ross Mercury*:—"On Thursday last, word was received from the mining manager of the William Tell claim at Cedar Creek, that rich quartz had been struck at a distance of 10 feet from where the winze is situated. We were informed by a party who came down from the reefs on Thursday, that a small piece of quartz from the Comstock lease, had been crushed and yielded a very good return; also that good indications had been met with in the Slievenore Lease. As soon as the weather clears up, Mr. Murray, District Surveyor, intends leaving with his party, to survey the remaining leases applied for at Cedar Creek.

A draper in Wellington who had agreed to close his premises at 9 o'clock on Saturdays, and who broke the agreement, is being made the subject of demonstration at the hands of the Wellington Early-closing Association. Last Saturday a brass band paraded in front of his shop, playing the "Dead March," etc. A thousand persons collected outside, and a good deal of badinage was indulged in. Speeches were made in favour of early closing. A demonstration is to be held each Tuesday and Thursday evening.

A contemporary gives the following list of the cost of crushing quartz on the various Queensland goldfields:—Gympie, 8s 6d per ton; Palmer, 12s 6d to 20s; Hodgkinson, 15s to 20s; Mulgrave, 20s to 25s; Ktheridge, 20s to 30s; Charters Towers and Cape, 12s to 15s; Ravenswood, 5s to 10s; Peak Downs, 12s 6d to 14s; Nebo, 20s to 30s; Rockhampton district, 16s to 20s; Tenningering district, 20s.

The *Telephone* has the following:—"A peculiar circumstance occurred a few days since. A young lady, now residing in Auckland, was suffering from pains at the back of the head, but the cause was never ascertained until lately. About 12 or 13 years ago a lady-bird got into her ear and caused her great pain, but it gradually wore off, and the beetle was forgotten until a few days ago, when the pains returned to her ear and in probing it the shell of a lady-bird came out, it having been in her head during this number of years.

Constable Cartmill, stationed at Sheffield, Canterbury, while crossing the railway after dark on Saturday, was knocked down and run over by a truck which was being shunted on to another line. He received injuries to his groin, and had one thigh broken. He died in the Hospital at noon to-day.

At the Thames goldfields (says an exchange) mining has shown an improved tone, especially in the outside districts of Karagahape (where in 1875 there was a great rush), Otunui and Tapu. The latter district in the early days of gold-mining gave excellent results, but latterly has been almost deserted. Working parties are again taking up the ground with encouraging prospects. The yield of gold for the month is over 300,000ozs., which, considering the inclemency of the weather during the past month, is considered highly satisfactory.

The Wellington correspondent of the *Lyttelton Times* says the debate is reckoned as good as over already, and with the anticipatory habits of men who live in the fast way of the world nowadays, a few are beginning to look forward to the Public Works Statement, and further still, to the prorogation. Should there not arise any large storm after the Hon. Minister of Public Works has had his say, the finish of the session is looked for in about one month from now. Some say more and some say less; but that is about the average. Many southern members are so satisfied that there is no serious party question likely to arise, that they are going home for a few days.

Serious Nationalistic riots have occurred at Castle Willan, County Down. Several rioters were wounded by the police, and the police barracks were wrecked by the mob. Many arrests were made.

The *Times* asserts that the Crown has an undoubted right to all the gold found in Victoria.

Religious troubles continue in Newfoundland. On August 29 hundreds of Orangemen attacked the Roman Catholic Church yacht at Henley Harbour, and threatened the missionary, Father Lynch, with death. They tore down the Papal flag, and smeared the vessel with tar.

It is reported that a British official has removed the flagstaff and German flag which Dr. Nachtigal recently formally hoisted at one of Cameron's calling stations on the West Coast of Africa. The report has occasioned considerable excitement in Berlin.

News of the Soudan states that the Egyptian forces have occupied Halfayah; that the town of Senar is safe; and the Shaggies country tranquil, many of the chiefs swearing to abandon El Mahdi.

Mr. Stuart, Premier of New South Wales, replying to Mr. Service's communication re New Guinea annexation, states that he does not concur in the proposal to again urge Lord Derby to take immediate steps for the establishment of a protectorate over New Guinea and the Pacific islands. Mr. Stuart considers the time inopportune and altogether unsuitable. He stated that he was actuated principally by a desire to look upon the question in a broad light, and to adopt that line of action by which the Colonies would be most likely to accomplish the object they had at heart. He was most desirous that this should be done effectively, but with the least embarrassment possible to the interests of the whole Empire.

Arrangements have been made for sculling matches between Clifford and Hanlan on February 7, Clifford and Beach on February 28, and Hanlan and Beach on March 28. The final match between Clifford and Hanlan, if victorious, will take place on April 18.

An electric launch for Australia has been successfully tried on the Thames.

Sir Hercules Robinson, Governor of Cape Colony, threatens to resign unless a decisive British policy in regard to Bechuanaland is announced.

WEDNESDAY

Mr. Macandrew (says the Wellington correspondent of the *Daily Times*) has a plan by which he proposes not only to relieve New Zealand of unemployed, but also to alleviate the distress of the Highland crofters, of whose hardships so much has recently been said in the Home papers. He has given notice to-day of two motions with these objects in view. The first is to the effect that inasmuch as there are millions of acres of Crown lands in the Colony capable of supporting an industrial population, the House is of opinion that there should be no unemployed in New Zealand, and that it is desirable that such persons should be enabled to obtain a free grant of land to the extent of 10 acres for each male adult upon similar terms and conditions to those provided by the Auckland homestead system; such allotments to be near labour markets and railway and water carriage. His second motion, of which he also gave notice to-day, is to the effect that a special settlement of 10,000 acres be formed between Catlin's River and Waikawa, which Mr. Macandrew considers specially suitable for the Highland crofters. The motion proposes that a third of the land should be set apart for making free grants to the crofters in the proportion of 10 acres to each family, and that the remaining two-thirds be opened for sale to the settlers at a moderate price per acre.

A public indignation meeting has been held at Cambridge to protest against the action of the Government in delaying from time to time the opening of the Cambridge railway.

In the House of Representatives yesterday, Sir George Grey gave notice that he would introduce a bill providing for the appointment of a Parliamentary Under-secretary of State.—The Hon. Sir J. Vogel gave notice that he would introduce the Grey-mouth and Westport Harbours Construction Bill.—The Hon. Sir J. Vogel gave notice to move on Friday—"That inasmuch as the Californian service and the direct steamers afford the quickest means of communication to and from Great Britain and New Zealand, and mail matter brought or sent by way of Brindisi entails a considerable loss, this House is of opinion that the rates on letters to and from Great Britain by way of Brindisi should be raised to 1s the half-ounce, and other mail matter in proportion; and that if there is a difficulty in levying the additional charge in Great Britain the same should be collected here."—The following bills were introduced and read a first time: To amend the law relating to Contempt of Court (Sir G. Grey); Gold Duties Act 1872 and 1892 Amendment (Mr. Seddon).—The Public Revenues Bill No. 2 passed through all its stages.—The debate on the Financial Statement was continued.

Since making the protest in conjunction with Austria and Germany against the suspension of the law of liquidation as notified by Nubar Pasha, the French Government has further considered the question, and has now entrusted M. Barriere, its Minister at the Egyptian Court, to formally demand the withdrawal of the proclamation and the recognition of the functions of the Caisse de la Dette as by appointed the decree of the Khedive in 1880.

The English Press generally are advocating an increase in the navy.

In consequence of the frequent occurrence of riots, the city of Brussels is virtually in a state of siege.

Intelligence has been received that the steamer conveying detachments of the Royal Sussex Regiment has successfully passed the third cataract of the Nile. The troops have since arrived at Dongola. Lord Wolseley has advised that two regiments under orders to proceed from Malta to Egypt should be stopped, as their services are not likely to be required there. The French Consul at Khartoum telegraphs that the vicinity of that town has been freed of rebels, and that he is about to leave for Dongola with Mr. Power and Colonel Stewart. The latest intelligence from the Soudan states that the Mahdi is about to resume the offensive, and, since the siege of Khartoum, has been engaged in gathering an army of rebel troops, which, in consequence of General Gordon's continued successes, is about to be despatched against Khartoum.

THURSDAY.

In the House of Representatives yesterday, Sir George Grey gave notice that he would introduce a bill to make changes in the Constitution.—Replying to Mr. Duncan, the Hon. Mr. Ballance said steps would be taken as soon as possible to open for deferred-payment agricultural settlement about 7,000 acres of land adjacent to the Kurov railway-station.—The following bills were introduced and read a first time: To provide for the appointment of a Parliamentary Under-secretary of State; to provide that Justices of the Peace be elected by the people (Sir George Grey).—Mr. Stewart moved that a return be laid before the House giving particulars of all moneys paid by the Government in connection with the Dunedin Gaol inquiry