

The search for Gibson, the Nelson lunatic, has so far proved unsuccessful. On Thursday night the volunteer patrols were on the *qui vive*, but someone entered the larder of a house near Brightwater. Busch, the injured man, has rallied considerably. His cough, owing to the injury to his lungs, is a distressing symptom, but this is lessening.

Mr. Jones, for over 20 years foreman of works in Lyttelton Gaol, died yesterday, aged 60. He was one of the oldest gaol officials in the Colony. His death is supposed to have been hastened by grief for the loss of a son drowned 18 months ago.

Kingswell's fellmongery at Waikiki, Invercargill, burnt down on Thursday night, was insured as follows:—Buildings and plant: In the Standard Office for £500, in the Colonial Office for £500, in the Fire Association for £250, in the Australian Mercantile Union for £250, in the National for £500. The stock was insured for £150 in the Victoria and for £250 in the New Zealand Office. Nothing is known as to the origin of the fire.

Colonel Warren, with a detachment of infantry, has been ordered to proceed to the Cape for the purpose of restoring British authority in Bechuanaland.

An attempt was made to blow up the grand stand on Houghton racecourse. A tin containing dynamite was found on the spot with a burnt fuse attached, but it had failed to ignite the explosive, and the attempt therefore failed.

An impression prevails that England has agreed with Germany and France for a division of the Pacific islands. Lord Derby will shortly grant the interview requested by the various Agents-general.

The New South Wales Government, in reply to Mr. Service's decline to join in a protest to the Imperial Government against the arrangement with Germany as to Pacific annexation, on the ground that it would be considered impertinent for the colonies to interfere with the Foreign Policy of England. The Tasmanian Government have agreed to Mr. Service's proposal; the South Australian Government have refused to do so, pending the receipt of further information as to the alleged Convention.

Her Majesty's ships Nelson, Diamond, and Espiegle have left Sydney for New Guinea, where Commodore Erskine will finally declare a British protectorate over the island. The German warship Elizabeth left Port Jackson on Thursday, and it is believed that she also is bound for New Guinea. At present the protectorate established over New Guinea will extend along the coast and adjacent country from the 141st meridian to the East Cape, and also to the islands in Goshen Strait, including Rosman Island. Commodore Erskine will hoist the English flag at all points where it may be considered best. Instructions have been given for two men-of-war to cruise on the New Guinea coast for the remainder of this year.

MONDAY.

That diphtheria case which Doctor Nedwill has made public (says the *Lyttelton Times*) is not a pleasant thing to think about. A poor girl is taken ill with diphtheria. She has to leave her service and go into lodgings. The lodging-house people naturally object, and order her out. She goes to the hospital, and is refused admittance. Fever-stricken, the poor, homeless creature finds herself in the streets, with the alternative of dying out in the open, or being sent to gaol as a vagrant, the latter alternative, perhaps, soon to lead to another refusal of admittance, for obvious reasons. Such treatment of a fellow-creature in dire distress is inexpressibly disgraceful to our civilisation. We have Boards of Health, a Charitable Aid Board, a Hospital, and asylums galore, all costing money, and all supervised in some way more or less expensive. Yet we turn a homeless, sick creature into the streets to die, simply because no place has been set apart for the treatment of infection.

Gold prospecting is to be undertaken in the Hokianga district by Thames miners.

The Gap Road Hotel, near Winton, was burnt down on Saturday night. Nothing was saved. The landlord (Mr. R. James) was absent in Winton at the time. The insurances are: £200 in the Colonial on the house, and £150 on the stock and furniture in the Equitable.

Although the East and West Coast Railway Bill has passed through Committee (writes the Wellington correspondent of the *Daily Times*) the opposition to it is not extinct. It is said that Messrs. Fergus, Fulton, and others intend to get it recommitted if possible, and make another determined attack on the measure, especially in regard to the concessions of land.

The death is announced of Mr. Timothy D. Sullivan, the well-known Home Rule representative for Westmeath in the House of Commons.

Six officers and two women who were sentenced to death for complicity in Nihilistic conspiracies have been executed at St. Petersburg.

The retail butchers in London are paying a higher price for New Zealand than for English mutton.

In an article on Colonial defences, the *Times* says England ought to take the initiative in respect to the defence of the Australian ports, and with a little assistance the Colonial navy could be converted into a powerful auxiliary.

Intelligence has been received from the Soudan that many tribes are deserting the Mahdi, but that, at the same time, others hitherto loyal are joining his ranks. General Gordon is sending a considerable force to occupy Berber, recently re-taken from the rebels.

A great labour demonstration and mass meeting was announced to be held at Hamilton, Ontario, on October 1. Working men from all parts of the province were to take part. Resolutions were to be offered demanding the immediate stoppage of Chinese immigration, and the expulsion of all Chinamen who refuse to accept civilisation and citizenship immediately; to recall all immigrant agents in Europe and elsewhere, and the expenditure of money thus saved to be used on public works, so as to give the Canadians employment in their own country.

The remains of a party of American miners, massacred by the Apaches, were recently discovered in the Sierra Madre Mountains, Mexico. Among the party killed were Bob Henry and Edward B.

Carroll, old prospectors, who discovered the celebrated Pilgrim's Rest silver mines in South America, and also were the first to discover silver (in 1877) on the borders of New South Wales and Queensland.

The Imperial Parliament will be asked at the coming session to make provision for the eldest son of the Prince of Wales.

A feature of the present campaign is the nomination by the equal-rights party of a woman, Mrs. Belva Lockwood, for the presidency of the United States.

An English Church paper savagely attacked General Wolseley and Lord Northbrook for starting on their mission to Egypt on a Sunday.

The latest return of the wheat crop of the United States is now estimated at 350,000,000 bushels, of which California is credited with 45,000,000 bushels.

The lawless miners of the coal district of Pennsylvania known as "Molly Maguire's" have reorganised, and are now waging a quiet but deadly war against the Hungarian and other European operatives recently taken on. A number of the latter were found stabbed to death.

The grey nuns of Montreal have sued to recover 100,000 dols. paid as taxes, claiming that by terms of the cession of Canada by France to England they were exempted from taxation and that the money was obtained under false pretences.

The laying of the last deep-sea section at the Irish shore end of the new Bennett-Mackay cable was to be completed about October 5. Bennett was in San Francisco consulting with J. W. Mackay about the business.

The British gunboat Wasp foundered off Tory Island, on the north-west coast of Ireland, on September 23. Fifty-two men, including all the officers, were drowned. Only six persons were saved by clinging to the wreckage. The vessel struck at 3 o'clock in the morning, during a haze.

Over 300 people at Leicester were recently summoned for defying the vaccination laws, the feeling against which is incredibly bitter all over England.

Admiral Courbet, commanding the French naval force in China, is claimed to be an Irishman, his father being a Cork man, who, on emigrating to France, added a U to the original name of Corbet.

A rumour was in circulation on the 22nd Sept. that the Prince of Wales and Duke of Edinburgh had announced their intention to vote for the Franchise Bill at the autumn session.

Bismarck is about to visit the Prince of Wales at Abergeldie Castle.

Late dispatches say the price of bread is much discussed in England and Ireland, the public being wroth that, though wheat never reaches 40s per quarter, and barley is not above 35s, the price of bread remains exactly the same as when the price of wheat was 10 per cent. higher.

The authorities have ordered increased precautions at Dover to prevent the landing of dynamitards endeavouring to reach London from the Continent. English detectives accompany each steamer crossing the Channel, subjecting each passenger and all luggage to the closest scrutiny.

A dispatch from London says the Cabinet is greatly impressed by the attitude of the country, and has resolved to create fresh Peers if a small majority reject the Franchise Bill a second time.

A special from London of September 23 contains the following hosh:—A curious political rebellion is now in progress in County Mayo. That county is now represented in the Commons by Mr. John O'Connor Power and the Rev. Isaac Nelson. Mr. Parnell desires these men to contest the county again at the next general election, but a number of Mayo Nationalists object to his dictation, and propose quite a different programme. They have decided no longer to submit to Mr. Parnell's autocratic sway, and will put in nomination candidates of their own selection. Their choice has fallen on Captain Boycott, who was recently the most execrated man in Ireland, and Mr. John William Nally. The growing popularity of Boycott is one of the most curious facts in current Irish history, and moderate observers consider it a sign of the waning influence of the Irish National League. The local Parnellites ridicule the idea of any successful opposition being possible in the county.

A Shanghai dispatch of September 20 to the *London Times* says a new complication had arisen. The blocking of the mouth of Woosung River was ordered by the Chinese authorities, although a passage for the ships of neutrals had to be left. A veritable panic prevailed at Shanghai, and the merchants of the neutral ports had asked the commanders belonging to those ports to take some action. The British consul advised the Chinese authorities to obtain skilled English assistants to keep the traffic open. The Russian consuls have offered to protect French interests whenever the French consuls leave. The Russian fleet in Chinese waters comprises one ironclad, three cruisers, and six gunboats. Three other ironclads are expected. Considering the smallness of the Russian interests, this strength is considered formidable. A Shanghai dispatch, published in London on September 22, says a Franco-Russian alliance means the disintegration of China and its partition between those two countries, France taking the three southern provinces, and Russia having China as a recruiting ground for her armies, the two countries being connected by railway. The alliance also means France's and Russia's preponderance in Egypt, and therefore is fraught with danger to Germany. It also means the extinction of China's trade, and imperils all the English possessions in the East. It is reported that the suspension of French operations in China is due to German mediation. Admiral Peyron, Minister of Marine, has re-used to request both General Briere de Lisle in Tonquin and Admiral Courbet in China, to recommence warlike operations with the view of hastening a crisis.

At a meeting of the Land League in Dublin on September 17, Mr. Redmond denied that Irishmen were becoming apathetic to national movements, and expected that in the coming winter the cause would receive as great a support as it has ever had. He stated that until the visit of himself and Mr. Sexton to Boston, the Irish Americans