

Mr. Milner was asked to give his opinion on the effects of strong drink, but unfortunately for the information of the questioner Mr. Milner's knowledge had not reached the point of personal experience of strong drinks, but his observation led him to notice that it had different effects on different individuals. Some men were merry, some dull, some ill-tempered and excitable, and oftener were carried into brutal excesses by the vice of addiction to strong drinks.

Mr. Letters next gave his candid opinion of "The Women's Rights Question." He did so by admiring in well-termed phrases the many excellent and useful qualities of woman, which were shown to most advantage "at home." By this he meant to say that the true position or sphere of woman was not the surgical operation room, nor yet the Legislative lobby, much less the public Law Courts, but it was in the discharge of her domestic duties that woman found her true avocation, and her charms were seen to best advantage. He was therefore opposed entirely to the claims put forward by Women's Rights agitators, that women should, in all respects, be placed on the same footing as men.

Mr. Kennedy also spoke on this subject in a very humorous speech, in which he held that women had their rights and exercised them, too, towards himself and some of his bachelor friends in a very decided manner, by refusing to have anything to say to them, which was a source of perpetual sorrow to his afflicted breast. However, it was his intention to be revenged, by *not* being bad friends with them.

Mr. Scanlan was entirely opposed to these new fads, such as Women's Rights and Land Nationalisation, and thought the world got on very well without them in the past, and he saw no reason why it would not and could not in the future. True, there were some eminently clever women, but the printing Press afforded ample opportunity to those who were literarily inclined, while various paths of usefulness were open to women now, and he believed that nothing would be gained, but much lost, by allowing women to enter the several professions which were now solely practised by men. In accounting for the previous speaker's want of success with the ladies, he attributed this to a fate accompanying men of genius, who were frequently cold and severe from their pre-occupation of mind and as a consequence failed in those little attentions and graces which were pleasing to ladies.

Mr. Leahy was opposed *in toto* to the three foregoing speakers and thought their objections to women's admission to the liberal or learned professions was based on a very old-fashioned, but a very ill-founded prejudice. It was customary, not so long ago, not to allow women to be even educated, and in Eastern countries, now where civilization had not progressed, the women were still held in a subservient and slavish position. Even in some European countries the women were compelled to perform the greatest drudgery in the fields, and on the sea coasts, while the men lazily lounged about. Now we have highly educated women; have developed their intellect, until in many cases they are not only equal to but surpass the male students, but we courteously inform them that these talents and qualifications beautifully fit and perfectly adapt them for kitchen cookery and kindred domestic duties. This is only one of the refined cruelties of our modern civilization. He held that where talent and all other necessary gratifications are found in woman, to occupy any public or private post of honour, that the mere circumstance of sex ought not to stand a barrier. It was well known that many eminent statesmen of England, France and America, were assisted in their Legislative duties by their wives, the former taking credit for the latter's genius. This was hypocrisy dishonorable in man. He ended a long peroration by declaring his belief that the time is not far distant when women's intellect and talents will force the owners into positions their ability entitles them to, and like many reforms of recent times, when once accomplished, people will wonder why it was not done long before.

Rev. F. Bowers said the more he heard of this subject the more ridiculous it seemed to him. However, he believed that at present no law really existed to prevent women from being elected members of Parliament, and a certain Miss Taylor, of London, intended to contest a seat next election in that city, in order to test the question of allowing women to take their seats in the House of Commons as members. He knew nothing of Miss Taylor, only that she was a great friend of Mr. Bradlaugh's. He meant to lay no stress on this, but merely mentioned it as an incident.

The question of Colonial Federation appears for next night's debate.

THE success in Otago of the Mutual Life Association of Australia has necessitated the removal of the agency to large and commodious premises—and for this purpose a purchase has been made, at an outlay of £13,500, of the building known as the Glasgow Pils House, situated in Princes street, Dunedin, where the business will in future be conducted under the management of Mr. J. P. Spring, the district Agent for the Province. Of the standing and progress of the Company a full idea may be obtained from an extract dealing with their Fifteenth Annual Report, taken from the *Sydney Morning Herald*, and which will be found in our news columns under the heading "Wednesday." The advantages of doing business with the firm will be apparent to all who read the paragraph in question, and we recommend it to their careful attention. Mr. J. P. Spring is to be congratulated on the energy with which he has conducted the business in Otago, and largely contributed to make it so markedly successful.

Messrs. Mollison, Duthie and Co. are now selling off at an immense sacrifice the stock of Mr. G. Brown. A visit to their establishment at the corner of Princes and Stafford streets, Dunedin, will be found advantageous to persons in need of really good articles at low prices.

Lord Chesterfield, the pink of politeness in his day, said that a true gentleman should be always *suaviter in modo, fortiter in re*, which means, mild in manner, strong in action. This is precisely the character of Ayer's Cathartic Pills. Nothing operates so mildly and yet so powerfully in removing disease.

Commercial.

MR. DONALD STRONACH (on behalf of the New Zealand Loan and Mercantile Agency Company, Limited) reports for the week ended October 15, as follows:—

Fat Cattle.—213 were penned for the week's requirements, the most part of which were little better than stores. Best bullocks realised about the same as last week. Inferior were considerably lower. Best bullocks brought £7 2s 6d to £11 12s 6d; 1 pen extra prime brought £14 17s 6d; cows, from £8 2s 6d to £10. We sold a draft of cows from Seadown estate and from C. F. Ward, Gore, at quotations, and quote beef 27s 6d to 30s per 100lb.

Fat Sheep.—3,961, of which 1,446 were merinos. This number was a long way beyond requirements, and only that a number were taken up for freezing, also several pens withdrawn, a big reduction on last week's prices would have to be recorded. As it was, sheep all round were lower by 2s to 2s 6d per head. Best cross-breds in the wool brought 18s 6d to £1 0s 3d; others, 14s 6d to 18s; shorn do, 12s 6d to 15s 9d; merino, 12s 9d to 16s 3d. We sold on account of Messrs. Cochrane and Robertson, Palmerston, 150 merino wethers at 13s 9d to 14s 3d; A. M'Laren, Milton, 77 cross-bred ewes, 15s 3d; New Zealand Agricultural Company, 40 cross-bred do, 16s 6d, 80 merino wethers, 12s 9d to 13s; D. Clarke, Waipahi, 130 merino wethers, 12s 3d to 16s 3d, 52 cross-bred do at 18s 9d; H. Driver, Milburn, 80 cross-bred ewes, 16s 9d to 17s 3d; and quote mutton 8d to 3½d per lb.

Fat Lambs.—299 were penned, and sold readily at from 9s 6d to 15s.

Fat Pigs.—153 were penned, consisting for the most part of suckers, with a few bacon pigs. Suckers brought 8s 6d to 15s; bacon pigs, from 40s to 60s.

Store Cattle.—Owing no doubt to the backwardness of paddock feed, the demand is not quite so good as might be expected at this time of year. However, a large number of cattle will be required during the next month or so, and no doubt all offering will bring fairly remunerative prices.

Store Sheep.—We have no transactions to report, nor do we anticipate any business being done until after shearing.

Sheepskins.—Our weekly sale on Monday last was well attended by the trade, and a large catalogue, comprising all descriptions of skins, was offered. Prices, on account of the still eager competition, ruled quite as high, and, in some instances, for merino, higher than last week's. Butchers' green cross-breds brought 4s 8d, 4s 10d, 4s 11d, 5s, 5s 1d, 5s 2d, 5s 4d, 5s 5d, 5s 6d; do merinos, 4s 6d, 4s 10d, 5s, 5s 1d, 5s 3d, 5s 5s; lambskins, 7d to 8d; country dry skins, merino, 1s 3d to 5s 7d; cross-breeds, 1s 10d to 6s 4d; in bales, 5d to 5½d per lb.

Rabbitskins.—Our London circular of August 29, by the s.s. Doric, reports as follows:—"At the periodical auction held on the 22nd inst. there was only a moderate attendance of buyers, the fur trade not adequately represented. Competition, however, was fairly good, resulting in the sale of 875 bales out of a total of 905 catalogued, the prices secured being on the whole nearly equal to those current in the previous sales. Skins of light average weight occasionally realised a slight advance, while black skins were only saleable at a decline of 1d to 2d per lb. on former quotations. Speaking generally, the quality and condition of the various offerings were not altogether satisfactory. We quote good to prime winter skins, averaging 1½lb to 2½lb, per dozen, 1s 10½ to 2s 0½d. On Monday last we sold three bags suckers and broke it at 1d to 5d; three do inferior, 9½d to 1s; six do medium, 1s 1½ to 1s 4½d; three do and four bales good to prime, at 1s 6½d to 1s 8½d per lb.

Hides.—There is a fair market for all coming forward. The bulk however, consists of small and light hides, which realise late prices; but for large, well-saved, heavy sorts higher prices could be obtained.

Tallow.—The market for this is decidedly flat, and beyond small lots for local requirements there are no sales of any importance being made. We quote for inferior and mixed 18s to 22s; medium, 23s to 25s; good to prime, 26s to 27s 6d; rough fat, 16s to 19s per cwt.

Grain.—Wheat: The market continues quiet, and nothing of importance transpiring. Millers are open to buy at late quotations, but as their requirements are not pressing they decline operating at anything over 3s 5d to 3s 7d for prime milling, 2s 9d to 3s 3d for medium; fowls' wheat is moving off at 1s 6d to 2s 7d, ex store, bags weighed in.—Oats: In consequence of so few coming forward there is no business of any magnitude resulting, but the demand is still good, and late quotations continue firm. We quote stout, bright milling, 2s 9d to 2s 10d; short feed, 2s 3d to 2s 9½d; inferior to medium, 2s 4d to 2s 6d, ex store, bags weighed in.—Barley: There is nothing doing in malting. Feed and milling are in moderate regard at from 1s 9d to 2s 3s for the former, and 2s 9d to 3s for the latter.—Rye-grass seed is in fair demand, but stocks are ample. We quote machine-dressed from old pasture, 4s 3d to 4s 6d; mixed lot, undressed, 2s 3d to 3s.

PRODUCE MARKET.—OCTOBER 23.

MESSES. MERCER BROS., Princes street, report:—Fresh butter (in ½lb. and 1lb. prints), best quality, 10d per lb.; ordinary butter, 6d to 8d per lb.; eggs, 10d; roll bacon, 8d per lb.; good salt butter, in kegs, 6d per lb.; cheese, 4½d per lb.

MR. F. MEEHAN, King street, reports:—Who's a price, including bags: Oats, 2s 6d to 2s 10d; wheat, milling 3s to 3s 8d, fowls, 1s 6d to 2s 7d; barley, malting 3s 6d to 4s, milling 2s 6d to 3s 6d; feeding 2s; oatmeal, £3 5s to £3 10s; rye-grass, £3; chaff, £ 10s to £3; straw, £1 15s to £2; bran, £4; pollard, £4; flour, £8 10s to £9; oatmeal, 14s; fresh butter, medium to prime, 6d to 10d; eggs, 11d; salt butter, nominal, 7d; for good cheese, 4½d to 5d; bacon 8d in rolls, hams 10½d; potatoes, £5 to £5 5s.

When worn down and ready to take your bed, Hop Bitters is what you need to relieve you. See.