

News of the Week.

FRIDAY.

In the House of Representatives yesterday, Sir George Grey introduced "The Printers and Newspapers Registration Act 1868" Amendment Bill. On the motion for its first reading, he explained that under existing circumstances anyone presenting a book or paper to which the printer's name and address had not been attached was, along with the printer himself, liable to heavy penalties. The bill was intended to remedy that hardship. He thought it was a measure Government might very properly take over. Mr. Macandrew remarked that he hoped the bill would make provision for the writers' names being appended to newspaper articles. The Hon. Mr. Stout added as a further suggestion that a similar provision should be made as to the names of Parliamentary newspaper correspondents. He promised Government would assist in pushing the bill through.—The following bill was also introduced and read a first time:—"To repeal sections 4 and 14 of "South Island Native Reserves Act 1883" (Mr. Tairaoa).—The following were read a second time:—West Harbour Borough Empowering Bill (Mr. Macandrew); Wanganui Harbour Rating Bill (Hon. Mr. Ballance); Thames Recreation Reserve Sale Bill (Colonel Fraser).—The following passed through Committee, were reported, and read a third time: Thames Recreation Reserve Sale, Wanganui Harbour Board Rating and West Harbour Borough Empowering Bills.—Mr. Guinness moved the second reading of the Coroners' Juries Abolition Bill. The House divided—aye, 37; noes, 21. The bill was read a second time.—On the motion for committal of the School Committees Election Bill, Mr. Rolleston appealed to the member in charge of the bill to withdraw it, stating as his opinion that it was a bill wholly in the interests of the enemies of our present educational system. The Hon. Mr. Stout contended that the education system as it stood did very well. He asked them to compare the calibre of the members of the school committees with that of the average city councillors, and he contended the comparison was in favour of the former. Such being the case, he contended the bill would not improve the results of these elections. The motion for going into Committee was put. The House divided—aye, 36; noes, 18. In Committee on the bill, on clause 7, the Hon. Mr. Stout moved that the clause read, "Every elector shall be entitled to distribute his vote as he may think fit, provided always, however, that he be not entitled to give more than three votes in favour of any one candidate." The Committee divided—aye, 14; noes, 22. Clause 8 was struck out on the voices. The remainder of the bill passed through Committee with a variety of amendments, chiefly of a technical character.—The False notice of Births, Marriages, and Deaths was considered in Committee. Both bills were then reported with amendments.

The *Kumara Times*, of the 11th inst., says:—An inquest on the body of John Dellacosta was held yesterday at the Court House, Goldsbrough, before J. Giles, Esq., Coroner. Antonio Masciorini, mate of deceased, was the only witness examined. He stated that whilst he was standing with his feet one on each side of the tail-race, he suddenly saw deceased pass between his legs; he was going down the tail-race with his head first and his face downwards. He did not clearly recognise that it was deceased until he saw his feet pass him, they being more out of the water than the rest of his body. He then had to run round by the head of the tail-race and down the tramway to get to the tail; when he got there he found the tail-race was blocked and deceased was lying across the heap of tailings that blocked the tail-race. He tried to draw him out but he was fast by one arm; he managed to free him by bursting out the side of the tail-race, and letting the water run out that way; deceased was insensible, and blood was flowing in all directions from his head; he held him till help came; they then found he was not dead and he was carried home; after a little time he recovered consciousness; he knew everyone who was asking how it had happened; he was able to speak for about an hour and a half; then he lost the power of speech, and began to sink gradually; he died about ten minutes to two o'clock. Dr. Rossetti said deceased's skull was broken; the tail-race is over 500 feet long. Masciorini thought deceased when he saw him busy with the stone, tried to jump over the tail-race, and fell in; nothing came down from the face. After a short retirement, the jury found a verdict, "Death from injuries received in his claim by being washed down a tail-race." A goodly number of persons proceeded from Kumara this morning to attend the funeral, which took place this afternoon, the remains being interred in the Stafford Cemetery.

A railway accident occurred on the Auckland line on Wednesday morning. A shunting engine was standing, taking coal, the driver being engaged oiling the wheels, and the fireman being on the engine. The truck, which was being shunted, struck the engine rather violently, and caused the regulator to fall down, letting steam into the cylinders, and the engine started off. It had not gone many yards before the fireman became alarmed and jumped off, leaving the engine going at half-speed, uncontrolled, along the line towards the Domain tunnel. Engineer Burrett had been thrown against the water-tank and had two fingers cut off. Great alarm was felt, as the Onehunga train, with a large number of passengers coming up to business, and school children, had left Newmarket just about the time of the accident. A collision between the train and the loose engine occurred in the tunnel. Soon after the driver of the Onehunga train turned the bend in the tunnel he saw the other engine coming from the opposite direction. He blew the whistle as hard as he could, but as the other showed no decrease in speed, he concluded that there was something wrong, and put on the break. Great excitement prevailed among the passengers on the train. The guard called to them to hold on and lie down; but the shock did not prove so great as was expected. The passengers were thrown in every direction, but not one of them was hurt. The front of the Onehunga engine was broken, and the cowcatcher carried away. Neither carriages nor engines were thrown off the line. A party of gangers

arrived, but their services were not needed, and both engines came safely into town. The escape was miraculous. If the loose engine had been two minutes earlier, the collision would have occurred near the bend, and the driver of the passenger train could not have seen it in time to slow down. If two minutes later, the train would have been going down the heavy Parnell incline, coming up which had exhausted the power of the loose engine and reduced its momentum. An enquiry is to be held this week.

Gibson, the lunatic, who escaped from the Nelson Asylum, has been at large for three weeks, and the Asylum attendants were out for a fortnight searching for the man, but could hear of no clue. Many settlers' houses have been entered and food taken, whilst in two cases a gun has been stolen, but no clue could be found to the perpetrator, who was never seen since Monday. Two constables have been out, being accompanied by a man named Busch, and a settler named Palmer. They scoured the bush, but the constables had to return to town on Wednesday morning to attend at the District Court. Busch then appears to have followed up the scent; and at half past 6 a settler in the Wairoa Gorge named Kerr heard the report of a gun, and looking, saw Busch staggering. Busch said that Gibson had fired at him from behind a fence. The telegram just received says that Busch has been attended by Dr. Satchell, who reports that the man's injuries consist of gunshot wounds in the lungs, face, and arm. Settlers have turned out with guns to hunt down the lunatic, but fears are entertained that others may be shot.

During the passage of the Rowena from Mercury Bay to Auckland on Wednesday night, four drunken bushmen, enraged at the refusal of the captain to give them liquor, assaulted him and several of the crew who tried to arrest them, and then they wrecked the saloon. The captain succeeded in confining them in the saloon, and returned to Mercury Bay for police assistance. Here the men were put in irons and brought on to Auckland. Yesterday they were fined for drunkenness, and ordered to pay damages amounting to \$20.

The *Lyttelton Times* contains the following paragraph:—"The Ashburton 'dog fiend' has taken another of his periodical 'outings,' and the result is that vast numbers of dogs are departing for the happy hunting grounds. Dogs are dying from poison administered to them by some means or other while the animals were actually on the chain at their own kennels, and yesterday and the day previous dying dogs were to be encountered all over the town. The inspector of nuisances for the borough had no less than 18 carcasses of poisoned dogs buried yesterday. So long as the slaughter was confined to mongrels, useful only for devouring food, keeping neighbours awake on moonlight nights and occasionally making a tilting snap at a passing horse's heels, there was no great harm done; but the majority of the animals destroyed, unfortunately, were valuable sheep-dogs, and their destruction means a considerable loss to the shepherds and cattle men who owned them.

The New Zealand Loan and Mercantile Agency Company (Limited) held their second wool sale of the season in Melbourne yesterday. There was an excellent attendance of buyers, being larger than at the opening sale of the season last Thursday. The catalogue submitted was of a purely representative character, and comprised 1,370 bales. Competition was animated, and 1,340 bales were sold. The market for greasy merinos was decidedly firm, and parcels offered to-day realised up to 10s 4d. Scoured wools brought to 20s 4d., and firm and active demand was experienced. At next week's sale a catalogue of an important character will be submitted, and about 8,500 bales will be brought to the hammer. The prospects of future sales continue good, and Melbourne is steadily assuming the position of the central wool market for the Australasian colonies.

The French claim to have obtained a great victory over the Chinese near Lang-son, Tonquin, on the 10th inst. The accounts state that the Chinese general and 3,000 of his officers and men were killed. The French loss is set down at 20 killed and 90 wounded.

The Egyptian Government has decided to cancel the proclamation by which the suspension of the Caisse de la Dette Publique was announced on September 17, and ordered that the revenues assigned to the Caisse shall continue to be paid as in the past. The Internal Commission will, therefore, continue its control, as provided by the law of liquidation.

The Republicans have carried the day in Ohio in the choice of electors for election of President and Vice-president next month.

Sir F. D. Bell is urging Lord Derby to sanction Sir G. Grey's Pacific Annexation Bill.

SATURDAY.

In the House of Representatives yesterday, the following bills were introduced and read a first time:—To abolish the export duty on gold by reducing that duty to 1s an ounce from and after March 31, 1885, and by taking off the remaining duty of 1s per ounce from and after March 31, 1886 (Sir G. Grey); a bill to amend "The Municipal Corporations Act, 1876" (Mr. White). The Imprest Supply Bill for £200,000 was passed through all its stages. The East and West Coast (Middle Island) and Nelson Railway Bill was further considered in Committee. A new clause was added to the bill to the effect that the railway connecting Nelson with the East and West Coast railway should not exceed a cost of £1,000,000.

The warden (says the *Thames Advertiser*) has just completed the purchase, on behalf of the Government, of one-third interest in the Parareka No. 2 Block, Waitohi district, hitherto owned by a native named Hori More. The consideration agreed upon was £500, which sum has been received, and is now ready for payment to the native on his signature of the deeds. The block comprises 302 acres, and extends northwards from the boundary of the Cambria mine, beyond the Bright Smile Company's holding. The annual revenue derived from it averages about £200, so that the County Council will be benefited to the extent of about £70 a year by the transaction. Now that Government has affirmed the principle that the Thames goldfields' lands should thus be acquired, we hope to see it applied to its fullest extent, so that the mining area shall not be permitted to fall into the hands of private individuals.