

## LAWRENCE.

(From our own Correspondent.)

9th February, 1885.

THE yields and divisions of profits from the principal claims are still satisfactory, the Gabriel's Gully Tailings Company especially contributing to the general success. The proprietors of this claim have been put to considerable expense and are now beginning to reap their reward. The manager, Mr. Adams, who came here from the Thames, informs me that last year there were 804ozs. of gold obtained in 10½ months, which would, after all expenses were paid, leave about £1200 to be divided among the shareholders. The expenses in this claim are not very heavy at the present time, and as it is believed that the richest portion of the ground still remains untouched, there is no doubt that the dividends will increase considerably. Mr. Ferry, who is, I believe, the largest share holder, is now in New South Wales, where he has invested in a tin mine from which he anticipates great results.—The Great Extended Company are still sluicing with good results in Munto's Gully, and Kito's party, who have since my last been joined by two others, are also doing well at the same place.—The North of Ireland and Extended Amalgamated are on good ground just now, as also are the Perseverance, and Morrison and Company obtained a very good dividend at the end of the year.—Livingstone's, which is also a sluicing claim and has always borne a very good name, is for sale.—The Otago Mining Company are still trucking the dirt out of the open face, and have about twenty men at work, who keep the battery with 20 stamps continually going.—The Great Extended tributaries, of whom there are twelve are working under ground. Their dividend last month, after paying all expenses, was small, but they entertain good hopes that next washing will tell a different tale.—Since my last letter, a number of the men at the Wetherstones claim stopped work on account of the wages being reduced from 8s to 7s. Finding that they were not paying expenses the manager, told the men that he would be compelled to reduce the wages, but at the same time informed them that the Company would guarantee them 7s per day, and promised, should they realize more than that amount after paying all expenses, the men should reap the benefit up to the former rate of 8 shillings, the shareholders to take the remainder. I believe that by most people this offer is looked upon as a very fair one. For a number of years this claim has kept from 40 to 50 men constantly at work, paying them good wages. These men have for the most part established themselves in good comfortable homesteads, with gardens, orchards etc., and many of them have cattle and are very comfortable, and would in all probability find it better to remain at home, even though working at slightly reduced wages, than to wander over the country seeking work. Some few have left for "pastures new," whilst others are still holding on; the greater part of those who have been at work lately have, however, again set to, and when I went down on Friday last there were over twenty of them "down below." It would make a very great difference to the district if this claim were to stop, especially to Wetherstones, and it is to be hoped that some means will be found by which the interests both of employers and employed may be served.—I see that in Victoria, gold-mining has greatly increased within the last twelve months, the dividends of the year '84 exceeding those of the previous year by no less than one million sterling. The increase has also been gradual, each month showing a greater production of the precious metal than the one preceding it. There have been no new mines of unusual richness discovered, nor any unusually rich veins in the old ones. It is also believed that this state of things will not only continue but improve. There can only be one cause for this great improvement, and that is, that more effective appliances have been used with which to save the gold, or some cheaper process of obtaining it has been discovered. We need not go far to find out the reason of this. The schools of mines have for many years been established in Victoria, and in one of them (I believe the principal one), of which Mr. Cosmo Newbery is the head master, there are no less than 200 pupils. Just at this period the advantage to be derived from these schools is becoming apparent in Victoria, as the young men who have been instructed there, are now taking up their position in the mining community, and the instruction they have received is producing the result above mentioned. Such a result as this in an adjoining colony should surely show us the necessity which exists for the establishment of similar institutions in the central townships in the goldfields of New Zealand. Mining has now reached a stage at which an amount of scientific knowledge is absolutely necessary both for the procuring the gold at a moderate cost and for the saving it, and this is only to be obtained by an education being given to the young men of the present day which will teach them the best method of eliminating the gold from the minerals and the most economical way of producing it. To quote the words of our present Minister of Mines—"Gold has driven these colonies 50 years ahead of what they would otherwise be, and the diggings have brought a lot of enterprising, daring, and honest men to the Colony. Irrespective of the pecuniary benefit which must accrue to the Colony from the fostering of this industry, surely every encouragement should be given to such men as these—the bone and sinew of the country, and accordingly it is most sincerely to be hoped that next session the Government will abolish that obstructive element which is assisting so greatly in ruining the mining industry throughout the Colony—the gold duty.

Persons desirous of burning kerosene oil without danger of accident, will do well to see that they are supplied with the "Noonday" brand.—It is also the best for lighting purposes.

Mr. J. B. Mansfield, of Christchurch, undertakes to execute with satisfaction to his employers, all orders in connection with monumental sculpture.

If a well be poisoned, woe be to those who drink thereat. It is worse to poison the fountain of life for one's self, and for posterity. Often by carelessness, or misfortune, or inheritance, this has been done. Ayer's Sarsaparilla frees the blood, the vital stream, and restores appetite, strength, and health.

## Commercial.

MR. DONALD STRONACH (on behalf of the New Zealand Loan and Mercantile Agency Company, Limited) reports for the week ended February 11, as follows:—

**Fat Cattle.**—292 head were yarded to-day at Burnside, comprising various qualities. The number was largely in excess of requirements. A large number was turned out unsold, and prices all round receded fully 2s 6d per 100lb. from last week's. Best bullocks brought £8 1s to £9; others, £5 to £7 10s; cows in proportion. We sold on account of Messrs. F. Simmons (Makikihi), N. W. Quinn (do.) John Duncan (Cherry Farm), and J. C. Buckland (Tumai), bullocks at from £6 10s to £8 7s 6d; cows at £4 7s 6d to £7; and quote prime beef barely 20s per 100lb.

**Fat Calves.**—Thirty-two were penned. All were disposed of readily at from 9s to 27s 6d. We sold 10 at 9s to 23s each.

**Fat Sheep.**—2,318 were penned. These included 224 merinos, the balance being cross-bred. The latter with few exceptions were good to prime quality. Competition was not over active, and we can hardly report any improvement on last week's prices. Best cross-breds brought 14s 6d to 16s 6d; others brought 9s to 14s; merinos, 6s to 13s 6d. We sold, on account of Mr. John Duncan (Cherry Farm) and others, 69 cross-bred wethers at 13s 6d to 13s 9d; 38 cross-bred ewes, at 12s 9d; Mr. W. Hartnell (Rakaia), 140 merino wethers, at 13s 9d; and quote prime mutton 2½d per lb.

**Fat Lambs.**—432 were penned. There was only a poor demand for these, last week's prices being barely reached. The range to-day was 6s 9d to 10s 6d.

**Fat Pigs.**—124 were penned, representing all sorts. Competition was fairly active. Suckers brought from 11s 9d to 23s; porkers, 27s to 40s; bacon pigs, 50s to 79s. We sold 14 on account of Messrs Wilson Bros. at from 19s to 40s; A. M'Laren, Milton, 24 suckers at 12s 3d to 13s 9d; W. Shand, Keith Hall, 5 do at 11s 9d; others, 15 porkers at 27s to 35s.

**Store Cattle.**—We have no transactions to report in these.

**Fat Sheep.**—There is a good inquiry experienced for suitable lots such as described in our report of last week, but as owners' demands still continue too high to induce buyers to operate, scarcely any business is being done.

**Sheepskins.**—We offered a miscellaneous catalogue at our weekly sale on Monday, which, with a fair attendance of buyers, was disposed of at about equal to last week's prices. Dry cross-breds brought 1s 7d to 4s 6d; merinos, 1s 3d to 4s 6d; green pelts, in good condition, 11d to 1s 5d; lambskins, 1s 2d to 1s 6d.

**Rabbit-skins.**—We did not offer any this week.

**Hides.**—The demand continues good, but we have no alterations to note in prices.

**Tallow.**—The market is anything but brisk, and to induce speculation lower prices must evidently be quoted for parcels in shipping condition. Inferior and mixed lots find purchasers for local consumption at from 18s to 22s; medium, 23s to 25s; prime nominal, 26s to 27s; rough fat according to quality, 14s to 17s per cwt.

**Grain.**—Wheat: There is not much inquiry for wheat of any kind, which precludes the possibility of any improvement in price in the meantime. Prime samples of velvet, however, can be placed at last week's quotations—viz, 3s 5d to 3s 7d. There is no market for any other unless obtainable at about fowl-wheat prices, say 2s 3d to 2s 9d.—Oats: A better demand has been experienced during the past week, and as the quantity of good milling or sweet-flavoured feed sorts is limited, quotations continue firm, but musty or otherwise damaged are hard to place. We quote stout, bright milling, 2s 5d to 2s 5½d; short, bright feed, 2s 4d to 2s 5d; medium, 2s 2d to 2s 3d; discoloured and musty, 1s 9d to 2s.—Barley: There is no business being transacted in this. The new grain will no doubt be in request, but in the meantime there is scarcely any inquiry.—Grass-seeds: The market for these is quite dull; no demand of any consequence existing.

## DUNEDIN PRODUCE MARKET, FEBRUARY 12, 1885.

J. H. KILGOUR, Grain and Produce Broker, reports under date February 12, as follows:—Wheat: The market continues quiet, the only demand being for white velvet, which is saleable at 3s 5d to 3s 6d, and inferior milling at 2s 6d to 2s 9d; other descriptions of milling are quiet at 3s to 3s 3d; fowls' feed, 2s 2d to 2s 4d.—Oats: There is a fair demand for bright, short feed, and very few coming to hand, but prices remain at about level of last week's quotations, viz.—2s 3d to 2s 4d for bright feed, 2s 5d to 2s 6d for milling, and 2s to 2s 2d for inferior to medium quality.—Barley: Buyers are holding back until arrival of the new crop, and there is little business doing. My sales have been—medium quality malting, at 3s 6d per bushel; feed and milling are not inquired for.—Chaff: Demand is quiet at £3 per ton for oaten sheaf, bags returnable.—Potatoes: The market is completely glutted, and sales are effected with difficulty. The best price obtained at auction on Saturday was £2 15s per ton.—Butter: 7½d per lb. for prime salted in kegs, but the demand is not active.—Hides: The market is unchanged, the quotations being—heavy hides, 4d to 4½d; medium, 3½d to 4d; light, 2½d to 3d.—Tallow: 26s to 27s per cwt. prime rendered; 14s to 17s for rough fat.—Cheese: 4½d to 5d per lb. for prime quality.—Eggs: 1s 1d per dozen.

MR. F. MEENAN, King street, reports:—Wholesale prices, including bags: Oats, 2s 0d to 2s 3d; wheat, milling 3s to 3s 6d, fowls' 1s 6d to 2s 3d; barley, malting 3s 6d to 4s, milling 2s 6d to 3s 6d, feeding 2s; oaten hay, £3 5s to £3 10s; rye-grass, £3; chaff, £2 10s to £3; straw, £1 15s to £2; bran, £3 5s; pollard, £3 15s; flour, £8 to £8 10s; oatmeal, 13s 0d; fresh butter, medium to prime, 6d to 9d; eggs, 1s; salt butter, 7d; cheese, 4d to 5d; bacon, 8d in rolls, hams 10d; potatoes, new, £2 10s.