

News of the Week.

FRIDAY.

THE state of affairs at Parihaka still continues unsatisfactory. Mr. Purnell, on behalf of the Government, offered the Natives the rent due them from the leases to Europeans, but the Natives absolutely refused to take the rents, saying that if they didn't get more money than the amount offered they would take their land back from the Europeans. The Natives show a determined opposition to settlers, trying to annoy them in every possible way. When the native cattle trespass on the cultivated lands of Europeans the Natives, instead of taking the cattle out through the slip-bars, deliberately demolish the fences, or cut down the ditch and bank, as the case may be, and take their cattle away. This causes a heavy loss to the settlers, who see no way of obtaining redress.

Leigh Kissling, aged 13, a son of Mr. T. Kissling, Registrar of deeds, Auckland, while out shooting on the Tamaki River with another boy, was accidentally shot in the head. Death was instantaneous.

The services of the following corps have been accepted as garrison corps:—Lyttelton Artillery Volunteers, Canterbury Mounted Rifle Volunteers, Ponsonby (Auckland) Naval Artillery Volunteers, Auckland Engineer Volunteers, Canterbury Engineer Volunteers, Canterbury Irish Rifle Volunteers, Auckland Cavalry Volunteers, Parnell (Auckland) Artillery Volunteers, Caversham Rifle Volunteers, Dunedin Irish Rifle Volunteers, Auckland Veteran Rifle Volunteers. As country corps: Timaru Rifle Volunteers. As honorary corps: Auckland College Rifle Volunteers, Auckland Naval Coastguard Volunteers, Woolston (Christchurch) Rifle Volunteers, Gordon (Auckland) Rifle Volunteers, Blenheim Mounted Rifle Volunteers.

It is persistently rumoured (says a Wellington telegram in the *Daily Times*) that the Government intend to increase the sugar duty on the first day of the session. It is considered certain that the property tax will be raised to the same amount as in 1883-4. Sir Julius Vogel is said to have had a great deal of consulting with Mr. Sperry, the Commissioner of Property Tax, and to have come to the conclusion that it would be impossible to raise the same amount of revenue as easily and cheaply in any other way.

A heavy flood in the Pelorus River on Saturday afternoon carried away the staging of the ninety feet span; estimated loss, £100. The opening of the bridge will in consequence be considerably delayed. The floods and the landslips at Pelorus and Rai Valleys have rendered the road impassable for wheel traffic for some weeks to come.

An action of a peculiar nature has been commenced in the Supreme Court at Wellington by the parents of two boys named Guthrie. It appears that on the morning of Good Friday last the boys went to the house of Mr. Tatum, commission agent, with some hot-cross buns he had ordered from the baker. The hour was early, and in groping about the back premises in search of a receptacle for the buns, the youngsters made some noise. Mr. Tatum, under the impression that burglars were about, fired off a revolver to scare them away. The parents are now suing Mr. Tatum for £100 as damages for assault and injury to their sons' nervous systems.

It has been decided to form a company with a capital of £8500, in £1 shares, to construct a tramway from Christchurch to New Brighton.

The Archbishop of Sydney leaves for Rome on June 12, and expects to be back in Australia by December.

The New South Wales contingent are under orders to return to Australia, and will leave Souakim for Sydney on June 5. England will award medals to the contingent for their services in the Sudan.

In the House of Commons on Wednesday night Mr. Gladstone announced that a bill will be introduced shortly enabling Parliament to dissolve in November next.

Advices from Saskatchewan state that a pitched battle took place on Monday last between General Middleton's forces and the rebels under Louis Riel, resulting in the latter being ousted from their rifle-pits at the point of the bayonet. During the struggle the Battouche Indians managed to rescue a number of prisoners who were in the custody of the Canadians. The loss on General Middleton's side was 16 killed and wounded, whilst a large number of Riel's men were killed.

SATURDAY.

Ministers are very busy preparing for the coming session. It is likely to be a particularly important one. It is believed that the two momentous subjects of the disposal of Native lands and local government will be thoroughly considered and dealt with. The Financial Statement is likely to be delivered before the end of June. The finance of the year will involve very serious consideration, as there are many additional charges which will have to be provided for, such as the defence expenditure, the increasing cost of education, the English Exhibition, the contribution to the cost of governing New Guinea. It is said that the Government have arranged for the purchase of all the district railways except one. Each arrangement is, however, subject to the approval of Parliament. There are likely to be other measures of special importance.

A party of the Saida's officers and some citizens went to Motuapo Island on Thursday shooting. In the chase for game the party became separated, and on returning to Reid's house a shipman belonging to the man-of-war *Berringer*, of the Australian navy, was found to be missing. Searchers were out all night, and exhibited lights and fired guns, but to no purpose. Word was sent to Auckland, and the Saida's launch, with a search party of 32, proceeded to Motuapo yesterday, where the officer was found at Reid's. He had fallen down a gully and broken his gub, but was himself uninjured. After recovering consciousness from the fall he wandered about all night till daylight.

We give the following extravagant and ridiculous message for what it is worth:—It is reported that the Vatican will submit to England three names in connection with the appointment of an Archbishop for Dublin, and that Bishop Moran's name will be the first submitted.

The Government at Sydney have been advised that the New South Wales contingent, which will shortly embark for home, will be transported at the expense of the British Government. The whole of the horses sent to the Sudan with the Colonial artillery have been presented to the War Office as a gift from New South Wales. A telegram from Souakim announces that Lieutenant-colonel Richardson, the Australian commander, is suffering from fever. Reuter's special correspondent states that the greater portion of the troops under the command of Major-general Graham will leave at once for England. The Guards leave first.

Negotiations are still proceeding in regard to the Afghan frontier question. It is proposed that the Russian boundary shall be fixed at Penj-deh, while the frontier of Afghanistan will not extend northward of the Zulfikar Pass, leaving a neutral zone between the two territories. The *Standard* states that the Russian Government will not sanction the draft agreement drawn up for the settlement of the question, and that parleying has been resumed.

MONDAY.

John Collins, a miner has been killed at Barrytown by a tree falling across his tent during the night. A verdict of "Accidental death" was returned. Deceased was a native of Cork, and 40 years of age.

It is understood that the balance of the New Zealand loan will be placed on the London market some time next month.

A hitch has occurred in the settlement of the Franco-Chinese question.

It is reported that Italy will occupy Souakim.

The *Daily News* states that the point of difference between England and Russia on the Afghan frontier question does not involve any essential portion of the agreement recently come to by the two countries. It is announced that his Imperial Majesty the Czar has despatched a letter of thanks to General Komaroff, together with a diamond-hilted sword.

Referring to the Irish question in the House of Commons on Friday, Mr. Gladstone announced a partial renewal of the Prevention of Crimes Act in Ireland, and stated that the Government are at present unable to deal with the question of Irish local self-government, or to proceed with the Land Purchases (Ireland) Bill.

The insurrection fomented by Louis Riel is collapsing, and numbers of rebels are daily tendering their submission to General Middleton. Advice to hand from Saskatchewan state that Louis Riel has been captured.

The nine-pounder battery with which the Colonial Artillery were armed by the Home Government on their arrival at Souakim has been presented to New South Wales by the War Office. The Australian contingent embark for Sydney either by the Union Steam Ship Company's *Arab* or the Peninsular and Oriental Company's *Deceat*. It is understood that the Hon. Mr. Dalley has declined the honours offered him in recognition of his action in offering the services of the New South Wales contingent to England. Lord Wolseley advised that 80 of the New South Wales contingent should visit England, and Mr. Howard Vincent and others were willing to defray the expenses of the visit.

TUESDAY.

By the April number of the New Zealand *Schoolmaster*, we (*Wanganui Herald*) learn that Mr. Thomas Lloyd, B.A., Sydney University, was admitted *ad eundem* to the B.A. degree, N. Z. University. Mr. Lloyd is the teacher of St. Mary's Parish School, Wanganui.

The contract for the completion of section No. 1 of the Thames Valley and Rotorna railway was signed yesterday by Mr. Fallon. The price is £27,041, and operations commence immediately.

The Australian contingent embarked at Souakim on Sunday morning, and were loudly cheered by the British troops on shore. At a dinner on board the transport, Lord Wolseley, who was present, addressed the Colonials, and in the course of his speech expressed surprise at the appearance of the men, which he said was most creditable for a force just off active service. He concluded by assuring them they carried with them the heartiest good wishes of himself and staff for their homeward voyage.

We give the following telegram for what it is worth. All reports touching Catholic or Irish affairs should be received with caution:—The Irish Bishops are opposing the rumoured appointment of Bishop Moran, of Sydney, to the Archbishopric of Dublin.

Frosts are injuring the English hop crop.

Louis Riel, the leader of the recent rising at Saskatchewan, will be tried for treason.

Late information from Khartoum states that the Mahdi is in great straits.

WEDNESDAY.

The largest fire that has happened in New Plymouth for years occurred shortly after 1 o'clock yesterday morning in a block of buildings of which Courtenay's auction mart formed the centre, and in the shop connected with the fire is supposed to have commenced. When the alarm was given the fire had got a good hold. The shop of Stohr (jeweller) and two empty shops on either side of him, Tole Brothers' butchery, the New Zealand Clothing Factory, Mrs. Callaghan's grocery and bakery soon followed, the fire being stopped at that end by a railway line separating it from Brash and Co.'s fancy warehouse. On the other side, Ford's (draper) and Jackson and Lightband's (shoemakers) shops soon followed. The backs of the houses in Brongham street, on the other side of the railway line, also at times caught fire, but the flames were extinguished. The Imperial Hotel was saved by the great exertions of the Fire Brigade. During the fire it was pouring with rain, so that most of the goods saved, but not housed, were damaged. The wind was blowing a gale from the sea, which