

News of the Week.

FRIDAY.

Marriott Sheard, a coalminer, was killed instantaneously in the Brunner mine last evening while working in that part of the mine where the banquet was held when the Premier was here. Not quite a truckful of coal and stone fell on him. He was 30 years of age, and leaves a widow and seven children.

It is announced that the Admiralty have definitely adopted the Brennan torpedo, which is the invention of an Australian engineer.

The Emperor of Germany does not show signs of improvement in health. The intestinal disorder from which he is suffering is checking his progress towards recovery.

The arrangements for the evacuation of the British headquarters at Dongola are now completed, and the first detachment of troops left there on Wednesday.

The boundary of the English protectorate in New Guinea which was agreed upon by England and Germany has been cabled to the Australian Governments.

The Admiralty will supply the Governments of New Zealand and New South Wales with 10 torpedoes each, of German manufacture, immediately, and will also supply Adelaide, Victoria, and Tasmania with Whitehead torpedoes.

SATURDAY.

At the sitting of the Electoral Revision Court for Auckland City North a curious claim cropped up. A protest was entered against J. Boss, of Sargood, Ewen and Co., being struck off the roll for a freehold qualification for the allotment upon which the firm's warehouse stands in Victoria street, registered under the Land Transfer Act by J. S. Sargood. The question was adjourned in order that Mr. J. P. Campbell, solicitor, might call evidence to show cause to have the name retained on the roll. Considerable importance is attached to the decision, as it is considered it will affect all joint-stock and other companies of the city by giving all shareholders possessed of a £25 qualification the right to vote.

Some anxiety is felt at Gisborne for the safety of the barque Lochnagar, which left here 142 days ago for London, laden with wool, and nothing has been heard of her since. She had only one passenger—Mr. Ralph Arthur.

Captain Brennan, of Victoria, the inventor of the torpedo bearing his name, has received a large amount from the English Government for his patent rights.

It has transpired that the conference which was held on Wednesday between the colonial Agents-general and the senior naval Lord of the Admiralty, was merely to ascertain how many torpedoes would be required for the defence scheme of each colony.

The several Agents-general and Sir Charles Tupper, High Commissioner for Canada, are urging upon the Government the exemption of colonial securities from stamp duty. The Colonial Institute are also urging upon the Government the necessity of granting more favourable concessions in regard to the importation of colonial wines.

MONDAY.

The *Tairi Advocate* says:—"We have been informed that at a wedding which took place recently at Maungatua a most dastardly piece of larrikinism was enacted. We are told that a dance was held during the evening in a barn, and next morning a considerable quantity of blasting powder was found under the flooring of the barn and a piece of fuse. The latter had been lighted, but had gone out before the fire reached the powder. It seems hard to believe the statement, but our informant declares that it is a fact, and that the matter has been placed in the hands of the police. If such be the case, we sincerely trust that the culprits will be detected."

The Colonial Treasurer acknowledges the receipt of £140 from some one in New South Wales, who states that many years ago he wronged the Government of New Zealand of that amount.

The Government have received intimation that Russia has accepted the proposal of England, and that peace is assured.

The reply of the Russian Government to the proposals of the English Foreign Office was received yesterday, and the contents have been made public. An arrangement has been come to that Maruchak and the Zulfikar Pass remain in the possession of Afghanistan, and the work of the Commission will only include the details of delimitation, the main points having already been fixed.

TUESDAY.

The following report must be taken for what it is worth:—It is asserted that the Vatican and England have approved of the nomination of Bishop Moran, of Sydney, to the Archbishopric of Dublin.

The Irish bishops assembled in the College of the Propaganda at Rome on April 30. Cardinal Simeoni addressed them. The bishops expressed their determination to treat all questions submitted to them uninfluenced in any way by political bias or feeling.

John Dillon, ex-M.P., was entertained at a banquet given him in San Francisco on April 26 by a few sympathising friends and countrymen.

The trial of Richard Short for stabbing Captain Phelps at O'Donovan Rossa's office, in New York, ended on May 6 by a verdict of not guilty. The judge's remark to the jury was, "Gentlemen, I am astonished at your verdict. You are discharged from all further attendance on this panel."

The subject of the proposed international control of the Suez Canal was discussed by a Commission in Paris on May 7. The German, Austrian, and Russian delegates favour international control, and the English and Italian delegates oppose it.

The Pope has decided to send a golden rose privately to the Empress of Germany, who, though not a Catholic, has quietly used her influence on many occasions to protect Catholic German subjects from persecution, and to smooth away difficulties dividing the Empire from the Holy See.

The war against polygamy in Utah is being waged successfully by the United States Courts, and the prospects are that the practice will soon be eliminated from the Mormon system.

General Grant has got well again, and the papers are now ridiculing his doctors for their ignorance or desire to make advertising material out of the patient.

The *New York Times* concludes from the reports and from the summary afforded of the latest and most complete presentation of the condition and prospects of the Panama Canal, that it cannot be completed in less than five years, and not at a less cost than 350,000,000 dols. Also that if its net receipts when completed should be as high as 13,000,000 dols, the annually fixed charges would swallow up nearly, if not all, this interest on the amount. It is extremely doubtful, in point of fact, if the interest on its obligations could be met, to say nothing of dividends on its stock. When its present resources are exhausted, as they are likely to be in about a year, it depends absolutely on the ability of the Company to raise money whether it can go on. If it goes into financial straits, what will be the consequence? Too much will have been done and too much expended to admit of the scheme being readily abandoned. Will not the interposition of the French Government be then evoked and political complications so often prophesied come in sight?

The Italian Foreign Office have been notified that the Prince and Princess of Wales intend to visit Rome early in May, and, according to a dispatch of April 29, the English Government had sent a secret agent there to sound the Vatican as to the Pope's willingness to give the Prince an audience. The agent had several interviews with prelates at the Vatican, but though warmly recommended by Cardinal Manning and other ecclesiastical dignitaries, it is doubtful whether he will succeed. The object of the Prince's visit is said to be two-fold. First, to arrive at an understanding with the Vatican in regard to Irish bishops, and second, to persuade Italy to form an alliance with England.

The latest London cable to the *New York Tribune*, on May 9, says that the St. Petersburg and Moscow papers all the week have been saying that arbitration is a comedy now. Kalkoff remarks in the *Moscow Gazette* that arbitration is simply a respectable means of closing an incident to which Russia assented, in order to find an honourable issue for Mr. Gladstone out of his difficulties in consideration of his feelings and former policy towards Russia. The Continental Press, though puzzled to know what arbitration meant, took a similar view. The Berlin and Paris papers agreed that England has given way. Vienna, the one European capital, except perhaps Rome, which hitherto had shown a spirit friendly to England, regards this agreement as a surrender. Everybody rejoices over the prospect of peace, and few seem to regret that it has been obtained by what they regard as humiliation for England. The feeling in England at first was one of perplexity, and is daily hardening into one of hostility and anxiety about the ultimate result of peace attained in this singular manner.

The United States Marines, about 12,000 of whom are now on the Isthmus to look after American interests and keep the railroad transit open, were fired on by the Panama soldiery on the 22nd April. On the afternoon of the 23rd barricades were erected, enclosing the Central and South American Cable Company's premises, and great preparations were made for a fight, but three columns of Americans entered the city at 2.30 the same afternoon, knocking down all obstructions as they passed through the streets, and had full possession in about 10 minutes. The Columbian Guards withdrew. The American commander, Admiral Joett, telegraphed to the Navy Department at Washington as follows:—"It was absolutely necessary to occupy Panama to protect the transit and American property and the safety of Panama. American interests are secured by this move. Government officials will arrive soon when everything will be turned over to them, and we will withdraw." The *New York Tribune* special of April 26 says the American troops began to withdraw from the city on the night of the 25th, under agreement with General Aizparrala and the French Consul. The evacuation of the city destroyed American prestige on the Isthmus, and there was wild rejoicing among the insurgents and their sympathisers. The Americans were tauntingly called cowards. Experienced naval officers at Washington consider that Admiral Joett acted wisely in withdrawing the troops, and it may become a serious question if the United States be not held responsible for the damage resulting to merchants in Panama from the rioting. The final settlement of the trouble was by the withdrawal of the revolutionist General Aizparrala from the city of Panama, which, together with the revolutionary armament, was handed over to General M. Madaya, who landed on May 1 with an expedition of 850 Government troops. General Madaya assumed military and civil governorship.

A special despatch from Calcutta to the *Times* says that the news of peace arrangements has created dismay in India, and the vacillation of the Ministry is ruinous to British prestige.

WEDNESDAY.

Mr. Kelly's supporters have subscribed £250 for the purpose of unseating Mr. Sheehan, for alleged corrupt practices in the late Tauranga election.

A meeting was held in the Garrison Hall last evening (says the *Daily Times*) for the purpose of forming the Dunedin Irish Rifle Volunteer Company. There was a large attendance, and Mr. J. B. Callan presided. It was decided that the standard height should be 5ft 8in, and 60 men were then enrolled. The following officers were elected:—Captain, Mr. J. B. Callan; first lieutenant, Mr. T. S. Graham; second lieutenant, Mr. W. G. Neill; colour-sergeant, Mr. John Carroll; sergeants, Messrs. H. Robinson and Nicholas Maloney. The appointment of the other non-commissioned officers was postponed. Mr. J. Carroll was elected treasurer and Mr. John Murray secretary for the company. The members of the company are to meet for drill at the Garrison Hall at 8 o'clock this evening, and will also be required to turn out when the night alarm is given.

The Wellington correspondent of the *Daily Times* wires as follows:—"The Government, in view of the re-assuring telegram as to Russia's acceptance of England's terms and the certainty of peace,