

had determined to relax the active prosecution of the Colonial defence works, but as the news is contradicted to-day, and the situation seems almost as menacing as ever, it is understood the question will be reconsidered and operations probably be pushed on as vigorously as before.

The Russian man-of-war *Shelak* is cruising on the Atlantic sea-board, and has been followed from point to point by H.B.M. frigate *Garnet*. The Russian had scarcely let go her anchor before the English frigate was at her moorings.

Curious stories are current about Riel, the Manitoba insurgent leader, to the effect that he is a "crank." Letters written by him are shown, in one of which he declares himself high priest, prophet, and pontiff. He signs himself "Louis David Riel," believing that he has a Divine mission, like David, to slay the Goliaths of evil.

The determination of the Queensland Government to return to their homes all the Island labourers has caused great dissatisfaction among the sugar-growers, and some of the planters are resisting. The Government, however, maintain a firm attitude on the question.

It is stated that the Government intend to buy for Prince Victor, as a permanent place of residence in Ireland, the celebrated Brian Place, in County Meath, between the rivers Boyne and Blackwater. It is also stated that the Queen has arranged to visit Ireland in the autumn.

In reply to a question from Mr. Parnell the Chief Secretary for Ireland justified the police in their action on several occasions during the Prince's visit to Cork and Mallow, and curtly added that the Government declined to order an inquiry as desired by Mr. Parnell. Mr. Parnell thinks that the effect of the Prince's visit will be to stimulate the Nationalistic workers.

The Irish Local Government Bill will probably be introduced before the close of the present session. The new measure provides for a properly elected Council in each county, whose duty it shall be to conduct the administration of business hitherto relegated to grand juries. Provision is also made for a Central Council at Dublin, to be elected by the county councils. This Council will discharge the functions of boards of education, public works, etc. It is also premeditated to abolish the Lord-Lieutenancy, and to create a secretary of State for Ireland, but this is still undecided on. It is not unlikely that the measure will be passed this year.

The *Daily News* states that King Christian of Denmark has been requested by England to arbitrate between that country and Russia on the Afghan boundary question, and his Majesty has consented to act in that capacity.

The majority of the Powers are persisting in their endeavours to internationalise the Suez Canal. Despite England's guarantee to maintain its neutrality, the Suez Canal Commission are proposing rules for the control and working of the Canal which will seriously affect British shipping interests.

The State funeral of Victor Hugo took place on Monday when his remains were conveyed to their final resting place in the Pantheon. The procession was of a most imposing character, and was witnessed by an enormous crowd, who thronged the streets along the line of route. Several Communists, who were carrying red flags in contravention of a recent decree, were arrested on starting, but in other respects the proceedings were orderly.

A second Blue-book on the Afghan question has been issued, the tenor of which displays the unyielding attitude of Russia, and the feebleness shown by Lord Granville in the parleying on the difficulty.

The seizure of the newspaper *Bosphore Egyptian* at Cairo by the authorities, and the refusal of the Egyptian Government to make an apology and reparation therefor at the demand of France, led to the breaking off of official relations between the two countries on April 24. Earl Granville telegraphed instructions to Sir Evelyn Baring on that date to support Nubar Pasha, the Egyptian Foreign Minister, to the utmost extremity in his refusal to make an apology or explanation of the suppression. The Paris morning papers of the 25th were loud in their praise of M. de Freycinet's action. The cafes were thronged with enthusiastic partisans, and cheers for the new Foreign Minister alternated with jeers for England. The evening papers had an enormous sale. Many of them asserted that M. De Freycinet's peremptory sundering of intercourse with Egypt was the first step towards a formal alliance of France with Russia. France evidently is acting with a desire to overthrow Nubar Pasha. A despatch dated May 4 mentions that the question is settled. England, without disclaiming her share of the responsibility for the acts of the seizure advised Egypt to apologise to France and allow the paper to reappear.

THURSDAY.

The *Auckland Herald* remarks in reference to an interview between Mr. Larnach and a deputation at the Thames: "Mr. Rolleston formerly contended, and Mr. Stout and Mr. Balance now contend, that the liking for a freehold is a mere sentiment, which in a very short time would wear off, to be succeeded by a deep affection for leaseholds. The experience at the Thames would not seem to confirm this idea; for here we find the settlers, after a long experience of leaseholds, agitating for freeholds, and, moreover, wanting the land for nothing under the provisions of the Homestead Act! Perhaps the most curious feature of the interview, as reported by our correspondent, is Mr. Larnach; a member of a Ministry whose Premier and Minister of Lands declare that the State will give no more freeholds, declaring solemnly 'that he believed in settlers having their freeholds,' adding 'that if he could assist towards that end in this instance, he would do so.'"

Mr. William Kelly, the unsuccessful candidate at the late Tauranga election, has instructed Messrs. Hesketh and Richmond to proceed by petition against the return of Mr. Sheehan on the ground of corrupt practices. Numerous allegations of breaches of the Act will be made.

It is now authoritatively notified that the town of Penj-deh has been ceded to Russia. The military authorities at Herat are irritated at the cession of the town.

Telegrams announce that severe earthquake visited the district of Cashmere, and caused heavy loss of life.

Commercial.

MR. DONALD STRONACH (on behalf of the New Zealand Loan and Mercantile Agency Company (Limited)), reports for the week ending June 3, as follows:—

Fat Cattle.—A very large supply came to hand to-day—viz., 278 head, representing all qualities with but few really prime. The latter maintained last week's rates, but medium was in less demand, and suffered a decline. Best bullocks brought £7 10s to £10 7s 6d; others, £5 to £7 7s 6d; cows in proportion. We sold, on account of Mr. Quinn, Makikihi, and Mr. Greenaway, Kaitangata, 10 bullocks, at from £6 to £7 7s 6d, and 9 calves at £5 5s, and quote really prime beef at 22s 6d, and ordinary 17s 6d per 100lb.

Fat Calves.—There were only 5 penned, which sold readily at up to 25s.

Fat Sheep.—2,929 were penned, of which about 670 were merinos, the balance crossbreds, the quality ranging from good to prime. Competition was fairly active, prices realised being about the same as last week. Best crossbreds brought 13s 6d to 15s 6d; two extra heavy pens of wethers brought up to 17s; ordinary to good, 10s 6d to 13s; merinos, 5s 6d to 12s.—We sold on account of Mr. William Acroyd, Temuka, 62 crossbred ewes at 15s; Mr. William Telford, Otanomomo, 110 do. do., at 13s 3d; Mr. G. M. Williamson Mataura, 60 do. do., at 10s 9d to 11s. We quote mutton at 24d per lb.

Fat Lambs.—34 were penned, and found buyers at 9s 3d.

Fat Pigs.—149 were forward, and under very good competition, were disposed of at slightly higher prices. Suckers brought 8s 9d to 15s; slips, 17s 6d to 25s; porkers, 27s 6d to 40s; bacon pigs, 45s to 70s.

Store Cattle.—There is a fair inquiry for lots suitable for fattening on turnips. During the week we have placed 120 head mixed, chiefly bullocks, at a satisfactory price.

Store Sheep.—We have a very good lot of sound-mouth merino wethers on hand, but have no transactions to report.

Sheepskins.—At our weekly auction on Monday last we cleared a good catalogue. The attendance of buyers was large, and competition spirited. Prices realised were as follows:—Country dry crossbreds, low to medium, 1s 2d to 2s 9d; good to full-wool, 3s to 5s; merinos, low to medium, 11d to 3s; good to full-wool 3s 3d to 4s 9d; dry pelts, 2d to 7d; butchers' green cross-breds, 2s 7d to 2s 11d; do. do. merinos, 2s 8d to 3s 1d.

Rabbitskins.—Consignments as yet are only on a small scale, and, although all coming to hand meet with a fair demand, buyers are operating with caution; and from present appearances last season's prices are not likely to be reached.

Hides.—There is no alteration in values. The demand continues good, more especially for heavy, good-conditioned parcels.

Tallow.—We have no improvement to report in the demand for this article. The local trade continues to absorb all country small lots coming to hand at about last week's quotations, but any good-sized lots are difficult to place except at further reduced rate. Rough fat is lower now, ranging from 12s to 14s 6d per cwt, according to quality.

Grain.—Wheat: The market during the week has been quiet, but prime milling samples could be placed at our quotations of last week. There is not much of this quality coming forward; medium and inferior sorts are showing up more plentifully, and for these prices are a shade easier. We quote prime hard velvet and Tuscan 3s 2d to 3s 3d; medium, 3s to 3s 1d; red wheat, 3s to 3s 1d; medium, 2s 9d to 2s 11d; broken, inferior and damp, 2s to 2s 6d.—Oats: Considerable quantities are coming to hand, and stout bright quality is in fair demand for shipment, whilst partially discoloured—even when sweet and in good condition—are neglected. For the former quality buyers do not readily meet the views of growers, consequently there is not quite so much business passing during the last week. We quote prime milling, 1s 8½d; short bright feed, 1s 8d; medium, 1s 7d to 1s 7½d; Danish, 1s 6d to 1s 7d (ex-store)—Barley: There are buyers for first-class malting at from 3s 3d to 3s 6d. There is but very little of this quality offering, and as maltsters are fairly well supplied business is quiet. A large supply of inferior and discoloured is in store, for which there is but a very limited demand, at from 2s to 2s 6d, bags weighed in.

Grass Seed.—There is no demand of any consequence for these.

DUNEDIN PRODUCE MARKET, JUNE 3, 1885.

J. H. KILGOUR, Grain and Produce Broker, reports under above date as follows:—Wheat: There is a fair demand for milling parcels at about level of last week's quotations. I have placed several lines at 3s 3d for white velvet, and 3s 1d for red straw. Fowl feed is rather more plentiful—prices 2s 3d to 2s 6d.—Oats: There is some demand for shipping, but supplies are rather in excess of requirements, and stocks are accumulating. I quote bright short feed 1s 8d; milling, 1s 8½d to 1s 9d; inferior and long oats, 1s 5d to 1s 6d—except long Tartarian, which are wanted for seed, and would fetch 1s 9d to 1s 10d.—Barley: There are very few lots prime malting offering, and such would command up to 3s 9d; medium malting, 3s 6d to 3s 7d. There is no inquiry for milling and feed lots, which are plentiful.—Chaff: My sales have been at £3 per ton for best quality.—Potatoes: Supplies continue short, and I disposed of by auction yesterday all lots on hand at £3 10s to £3 15s (ex store).—Butter: The demand is quiet at 8½d per lb for prime salted, in kegs.—Eggs: Still scarce at 2s per dozen.—Cheese: 4½d per lb for best quality.—Grass Seed: I have disposed of 100 bags ryegrass this week.

No one can be sick if the stomach, blood, liver and kidneys are well. American Co.'s Hop Bitters keeps them well. Notice