

of Candahar. Intelligence from Central Asia states that considerable Russian reinforcements continue to advance on Sarakhs. The Russians have flogged a clerk in the employ of the British Consul at Kesh, a town 30 miles south of Samarcand. The cause of the outrage was the refusal of the clerk to divulge information regarding the English Afghan frontier agents. Fifteen thousand men, armed with breech-loaders, will garrison Herat, and a large number of heavy guns are being sent there for the fortifications of the town.

WEDNESDAY.

In the House of Representatives yesterday, Mr. Pyke gave notice that on going into Committee of Supply, he would move that it is desirable and necessary that the nominated system of immigration be resumed without delay.—The following bills were introduced:—The Westland and Grey Education Boards Bill (the Hon. Mr. Stout), a bill to validate the Sydenham Municipal Council public works loan (Mr. White), The Coroner Juries Act Amendment Bill (the Hon. Mr. Toke).—Major Atkinson resumed the debate on the second reading of the Local Bodies Finance and Powers Bill. He said it was greatly to be regretted that the Government had made this a Ministerial measure, as if there was one bill more than another that should be free from party bias it was the present one, and it would require all their combined wisdom to make it an acceptable measure. On looking carefully through the bill to ascertain its principles, he said the only principle he could see was that the whole of the roads of a country were to be made out of the consolidated fund, and he would be prepared to show the House that this could not possibly be done. He thought it would be generally admitted that they had an assured finance in the manner in which they at present provided for the maintenance of roads. He contended that the property tax could not fairly be abandoned for the purpose of the construction of these roads. The question then arose, How were the roads to be made? He held that the chief charge for their construction should fall upon the landed property of the country, and they could not be made out of the consolidated fund. All those who were connected with road boards were aware that they experienced great difficulty in raising sufficient revenue to construct their roads, and they knew that the larger the rate the more subsidy would be granted. He said they must abandon the idea of making the roads by granting subsidies. The only way to make them would be by capitalising special rates. In other words they should borrow upon the rates in order to make the roads. It seemed to him reasonable that the Colony should contribute a small sum towards the construction of roads, and the property-owners should bear the chief burden. He thought that although borrowing in any shape was very unpopular, a million of money would be sufficient to cover everything that was required for, say, 10 years. He thought that money expended on roads was as directly profitable as upon railways, and if they got to slack off one or the other, his opinion was that the railways should be the first slackened off. He did not intend to defend the Roads and Bridges Construction Act, but he considered that Act was very much misunderstood by the House. He thought the country would willingly contribute a certain amount for road constructing. He felt that it was quite hopeless to proceed with a bill of this kind in a satisfactory manner if it was made a party question. He would not oppose the second reading, as the most objectionable part of the bill had been eliminated. He thought that instead of thrusting the measure upon a willing House, some temporary arrangements should be made for this year, and the whole matter should be considered further during the recess. The motion for the second reading of the bill was put, and carried on the voices.

It has been almost conclusively proved in Melbourne that Kerry, who for some time has been actively engaged in forming a syndicate to purchase, prospect, and work certain reputed goldfields in New Guinea, on the strength of some fine specimens which are claimed to have been discovered while a member of the *Age* New Guinea Expedition, is identical with a person named Lord, who purchased several quartz specimens in Launceston in February last. His story of the discovery of auriferous country in New Guinea is consequently discredited, and the expedition, which was about to start under the auspices of a syndicate, has been entirely abandoned.

In the House of Commons on Monday the Right Hon. W. H. Smith, Secretary for War, brought down a motion for Supplementary Estimates. The War Minister informed the House that military preparations are being continued pending a definite settlement with Russia on the Afghan boundary question. The House voted the supplementary credit asked for by the Right Hon. Minister for War, urging that it was needed to complete the necessary preparations pending a settlement. Mr. Smith added that the present Government were not prepared to accede to the demands made by Russia to their predecessors in office. The Hon. Robert Bourke informed the House that so far no arrangement had been completed for arbitration between England and Russia on the Afghan frontier question, but the state of the case put forward was still under discussion between the two countries.

THURSDAY.

In the House of Representatives yesterday the following bills were introduced:—A bill to provide for the better preservation of the lives of young children from poisoning by phosphorus matches (Sir George Grey); a bill to amend "The Dunedin Drilled Act 1876 Amendment Act 1884" and partially repeal the operation of the same (Mr. M. J. S. Mackenzie); the New Zealand Currency Bill (Mr. Brown); the Rakaia Domain Board Empowering Bill (Mr. Ives); a bill to amend "The Public Works Act 1882" (the Hon. Mr. Richardson); "The Public Reserves Act 1881" Amendment Bill (the Hon. Mr. Ballance); "The Police Offences Act 1884" Amendment Bill No. 2 (Mr. Fisher). Mr. Bradshaw moved—"That the amendment made by the committee on 'The Employment of Females and Others Act 1881 Amended Bill'" be agreed to. Mr. Levestam moved as an amendment—"That no person shall employ any young person for more than 48 hours in any one week." Mr. Fitzherbert moved as a further amendment—"Providing for not more than 48 hours per week, and eight and a-half hours per day." Mr. Levestam withdrew his amendment, and Mr. Fitzherbert's amendment

was then put and carried on the voices. Mr. Fitzherbert moved a further amendment in the Employment of Females Act, to add to clause 3—"Provided always that any inspector in any district in case of emergency allows young persons to work overtime." The amendment was carried on division by 35 against 25. Mr. Ross moved a further addition—"That it shall not be compulsory on any young person to work such overtime." The amendment was lost on the voices. Mr. M. J. S. Mackenzie moved to strike out in the clause relating to holidays the words "without loss of wages." The Hon. B. Stout opposed the amendment. The latter had been in force for 12 years, and the employees had never complained of it. Mr. Fergus said that all respectable tradesmen paid their apprentices for all holidays. He thought they were legislating for the ignorant people. Mr. Levestam said that notwithstanding the law had been in force so many years he knew of cases in which boys' wages had been stopped for holidays. The amendment was lost on the voices. The bill was reported with amendments, read a third time, and passed.

Lord Wolseley, on his return to London from the Soudan, met with a most enthusiastic reception.

In the House of Commons on Monday during the discussion on the vote of credit, the Secretary for War stated that the credit was for the purpose of despatching 35,000 additional troops to India if required. In his despatches General Komaroff has accused the Afghans of still advancing, but he has received orders from his Government to act strictly on the defensive. Colonel Ridgeway, the English Afghan Frontier Commissioner, is proceeding to Herat.

AN EXPLANATION.

The following copy of a letter addressed to the Premier has been sent us as a possible explanation of the delay in the education statement:—

"Selwyn street, Addington, July 1, 1885.

To the Honourable Mr. Robert Stout, Premier.

"Sir,—I take the liberty of forwarding to you a copy of a petition emanating from the recent sitting of the Anglican Synod, and about to be presented to both Houses of Parliament in a week or two. Also the following statements, which have appeared embodied in a letter on education, in the *Christchurch Press* newspaper of the 19th of May last. These statements have been copied verbatim from a paper on State education read by you before the Otago Teachers' Association in 1870, and afterwards published in pamphlet form. Now, hon. sir, it seems to me that a gentleman listening in the lobbies, and having in his hand a copy of these statements, would be highly amused at the grand Philip you will no doubt deem it your duty to pronounce against this petition, on its presentation, and in defence of the present system. Summing up your argument at page 7 in the pamphlet referred to, you say:—

"(1) That State education is educating one class at the expense of another.

"(2) That it confers knowledge at the expense of character.

"(3) That it retards the development of a quality universally needed one in the absence of which, poverty, and restlessness and crime must ever continue; and all that it may give a smattering of information.

"(4) That it makes men forget their duties, and deadens that parental feeling for progeny which nature has implanted in the bosom.

"(5) That once admit the doctrine of the State care of minds, and the State care of bodies must be enforced.

"(6) That state education is a violation of the social compact and unjust.

"(7) That it destroys parental responsibility and uneducates those who need education most.

"(8) That it is never expedient to be unjust.

"I am, your obedient servant,

"THOMAS MILNER."

HE WAS NOT SUITED.

"YOU have furnished rooms, I observe," he said, as the landlady opened the front door and sized him up. "Y-e-s, I think we might possibly spare you a room. Come in." "Is it on the top story?" "Yes." "Is it large enough to contain my trunk and a chair and a bed at the same time?" "Hardly." "Is there a handle on the water pitcher?" "I think not." "Is the washstand minus one leg?" "I believe so." "Window looks down on the back yard, I presume—three old ash barrels, swill box and a heap of cans and bottles?" "Yes, sir." "Twenty-eight holes in the carpet on the floor?" "I have forgotten, but I think there are 28." "Piece of yellow soap in the dish, and a clean towel twice a week?" "Correct, sir." "Madam, I am a man of few words. I don't want the room." "Exactly, sir. I am a woman who can't afford to waste any time. It is evident that you have struck too high a plane. Good-day?" And she stood on the steps and watched him until he had turned the corner, and then said to herself: "He forgot to ask me if there were any drawers to the bureau, and I forgot to tell him there wasn't. Never mind, though—he is looking for a cheap place."—*Detroit Free Press.*

Dr. Lemoine found at Champagne a fossil bird ten feet in height. It is believed to belong to the order of the waders, but nothing like it has ever been seen.

It is said that the transposition of one word was the foundation of Daniel Clark's great fortune. He had bought 1,920 square toises of land in that part of New Orleans that afterwards became its commercial centre. In the engrossing of the deed the "1,920 square toises" was carelessly made to read "1,920 toises square," and increased the value of 10,000dols. to 20,000dols. Mr. Clark took advantage of the error, and the law of New Orleans was powerless to prevent him.