

failed in the main points of which he had raised the expectations of the country. Messrs. Stout and Ballance would then try and stand by themselves (they believe they can), and if they failed they would let Major Atkinson have his trial, believing that at present he could not stand for a week, when with Messrs. Macandrew and Montgomery they would come in again. Their chief difficulty is with the Canterbury Vogelities, who do not so much care for Sir Julius Vogel as they dislike Stout and others. Probably a portfolio would be offered to Mr. Leonard Harper or some other Canterbury member of the party. A change of some radical kind is now considered almost certain before the end of the session, but Mr. Stout will certainly try to keep office. Under any circumstances there is not the slightest necessity to take account of Sir George Grey. His opposition is considered better than his support, and his influence has not only died away in the House, but is thought to be waning in the country, even in the North.

The half-yearly meeting of the Union Gold-mining Company was held at Arrowtown on the 29th ult. (says the *Dunstan Times*). There were 6,500 shares represented. Mr. Henry B. Smith was voted to the chair. The report was most encouraging, as from a recent visit of one of the principal shareholders to the mine for the purpose of making a rough survey of the lines of reef, it showed that both White's and McKenna's reefs ran through the company's claim. During the past six months a cross-cut tunnel had been driven 200ft. by contract, but a considerable distance would still remain to drive prior to striking White's line. Prospects of an excellent character had been obtained at ends of the lease. It was recommended to proceed with tunnelling in the spring.

The Karaka district, at the Thames (says the *Auckland Herald*), appears likely to come to the front before long. For many years a few have always manifested a strong faith in the future of this district as a gold-producer, but hitherto the results obtained have been somewhat discouraging. Recently the workings in the Old Lord Nelson claim have been examined, and the reefs which pass through that block of ground. Samples of stone have been brought to Auckland and tested at the Bank of New Zealand, which have shown a richness of gold little dreamed of. One trial gave a return at the rate of 30oz. to the ton of stone, and a subsequent one gave a similar result. On another trial being made with a larger quantity of stone, a yield at the rate of 50oz. per ton was obtained. These results are very encouraging, and should give fresh hopes to those interested in Thames mining properties.

The Agent-General for New South Wales, Sir Saul Samuel, announced on Saturday that his Government has decided to abandon the projected loan for the present, owing to the uncertainty as to whether peace would be maintained.

A deputation, headed by the Right Hon. Robert Fowler, M.P., Lord Mayor of London, waited upon Lord George Hamilton, First Lord of the Admiralty, on Friday. His Lordship stated, in reply to the question put by the deputation, that the Government had decided to reclassify ironclads, and discard those which were inefficient. He further stated that the Government would co-operate with the various colonies in the work of defending their principal towns.

The British Government have adopted a scheme of defence for the colonial commercial ports to aid the loyal efforts in this direction made by the Volunteers. The English Government will furnish the guns necessary for the fortification of such ports.

The motion tabled by Mr. Parnell demanding an inquiry into the recent convictions for murder in Ireland has been negatived. During the debate on it the Earl of Carnarvon, Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, said the Government would be quite willing to consider any memorials that might be presented to them on the subject.

The Government have introduced the Irish Land Purchase Bill, which proposes the advance of money at the rate of 4 per cent., repayable in 49 years, to tenants who may desire to purchase their holdings.

It is announced that the Russian Government have put forward a claim to occupy a position commanding the Zulfikar Pass. It is also announced that Russia now wishes the delimitation inquiry to take place on the Afghan frontier, and not in London. The *Journal de St. Petersburg*, in an article on the movements of the Russian troops in the vicinity of Zulfikar Pass, states that they are of an unimportant character, and adds that Russia will do nothing likely to compromise the present negotiations for a peaceful settlement of the frontier question.

TUESDAY.

A seam of coal one foot thick has been discovered at Wharekawa, opposite Grahamstown. A further trial by borings is being made in the area of the coal.

The expedition which has been fitted out by the German Government to scientifically explore New Guinea will be under the command of an ex-officer of the army.

Cholera is again increasing in Madrid.

The Russian Press generally regard the Russian movement as due to fears of an Afghan attack on the part of General Komaroff, who, it is stated, is completing preparations for assuming the defensive without occupying the defiles commanding the Zulfikar Pass. The *Standard* expresses its belief that Russia is to receive Maruchak in return for waiving her claims to the Zulfikar Pass.

WEDNESDAY.

In the Legislative Council yesterday the Hon. J. B. Richmond moved the second reading of the Employment of Females Amendment Bill. The bill was thrown out by 21 to 14.—In the House of Representatives, replying to Mr. Turnbull, what steps have been taken to remedy the defects in the building at the Seacliff Asylum, pointed out by the Inspector of Lunatic Asylums in his report of his visits on the 28th November, 1884, and on the 2nd, 3rd, 4th, and 5th May 1885, the Hon. E. Richardson said Mr. Blair having been in the district he had called on him for a report, from which he gathered that the state of things described in the report did not exist.—The following bills were introduced:—"A bill to amend the 'The River Boards Act 1884' (the Hon. Mr. Stout); a bill to amend 'The Life

Assurance Policies Act Bill 1884 (Sir Julius Vogel); a bill to give effect to a resolution of the House of Representatives agreed to on the 9th July, 1885, imposing certain customs duties (Sir J. Vogel). The Hon. Mr. Stout made his education statement.—The Hon. J. Ballance moved the second reading of the Whitmore Enabling Bill. He explained the reasons which induced the Government to introduce the Bill and said that the offer was made to Sir G. Whitmore in consequence of an officer whom the Government had applied to in Canada refusing to accept the appointment. There being also at the time a strong probability of war breaking out, the Government felt they could not do better than offer the position to Sir G. Whitmore. He believed Sir G. Whitmore to be thoroughly well qualified for the appointment, having seen several years' service in the field, and being also a member of the Legislature of many years' standing. The appointment was also necessary in consequence of a competent head being required for the Volunteer force. He thought the Government could not have made a better selection.

Great reductions are being made in the Auckland railway workshops. About 50 hands have been discharged during the past few weeks.

The panic that was caused in Ireland by the suspension of the Munster bank is now on the wane. The Government will not assist the bank in any way.

The cholera epidemic in Spain is increasing in violence, and deaths are again becoming numerous. One thousand nine hundred cases were reported to the sanitary authorities on Sunday, of which 800 ended fatally.

The announcement we have to make of the death of the Rev. W. H. Gualter, minister of the First Church (says the *Daily Times*), which took place about midnight on Monday evening, will be received with regret by our readers. The rev. gentleman only arrived in the Colony in December last, having been selected by the commission appointed by the First Church Kirk Session to secure a pastor after the death of the Rev. Lindsey Mackie. He was inducted to the First Church by the Presbytery on January 11. Before coming to Dunedin he had charge of St. Mark's Free Church, Glasgow, where he had a large congregation, and previous to that he was minister in one of the Aberdeen churches, where he also had a large congregation. The deceased was 51 years of age, and leaves a widow, two daughters, and five sons. His illness was a long one, and his demise was not at the end unexpected. Though only a comparatively short time in Dunedin he had made many and warm friends, and was greatly esteemed both by his congregation and outside of it.

THURSDAY.

In the House of Representatives yesterday, the following bills were introduced:—a bill to amend the law relating to contempt of court (Sir G. Grey); a bill (2) in amendment of the adulteration prevention (Mr. Beetham); the Licensing Act 1881 Amendment Bill (Mr. Pyke); a bill to provide for the encouragement of schools other than State schools (Mr. Pyke).

It is expected that the Earl of Carnarvon will take an early opportunity of considering the memorials relative to the release of several Irish prisoners. The *Times*, commenting on the matter, condemns the action of Lord Salisbury in truckling to Mr. Parnell.

In the House of Commons on Tuesday, Lord Randolph Churchill, Secretary of State for India, gave an official denial to the statement recently made by the *Standard* newspaper to the effect that Maruchak had been ceded to Russia in exchange for the Zulfikar Pass.

ASHBURTON.

July 22, 1885.

MASS was celebrated in the Church of the Holy Name of Jesus, Ashburton, on Sunday, the 19th, by the rev. Father Chastagnon. After the Gospel the rev. gentleman delivered an eloquent and appropriate address. In conclusion he stated that he had received a purse on that morning from Mrs. Sutherland, Green St. and not having opened it yet, he would proceed to do and see what it contained.

Upon opening it he agreeably surprised the congregation by counting 50 sovereigns, the contents of the purse, which was collected by Mr. Sutherland for the purpose of assisting in paying off the Church debt.

His Reverence then referred to Mr. Sutherland's untiring efforts on behalf of the Church, in complimentary terms; and eulogised the manner in which the money was presented. He further stated that Mr. Sutherland's services on behalf of the Church were fully appreciated by all the parishioners.

It is the intention of Father Chastagnon to have a marble slab erected in a conspicuous place in the church, and on it engraved the names of all persons collecting or subscribing fifty pounds towards the debt.

It will be gratifying to Mr. Sutherland to know that his name is to be first on the list, and, indeed, it must be fully admitted that the earnestness which he displayed for some time past in connection with the subscription, entitles him to the honourable position. In continuation, Father Chastagnon informed his parishioners that he paid £76 during the past week towards the church debt, and would pay £56 on Monday, making a total of £132 for the fortnight.

So that the success he has achieved in this direction exceeds the hopes of even the most sanguine. This success is attributable to his zeal and the generous responses of his parishioners, who have every confidence in him.

Notwithstanding the strain on parishioners, the schools are carried on successfully, and the affairs of the parish are in good order.

A young doctor in Valencia has made some interesting and successful experiments of inoculation as a preservative against cholera.