

me, as showing how the West Coast railway is thought of in practical quarters. Mr. Martin Kennedy, of Greymouth, the well-known proprietor of the coal mines, has written to Sir Julius Vogel, stating his willingness and readiness to pay the railway \$50,000 a year for six years, for the exclusive right to carry coal from Greymouth to the Canterbury side of the "divide." This, as coming from a coal-owner who has a fleet of steamers, is very important, especially as a substantial guarantee is not far off.

A meeting of citizens was held at Auckland on Saturday night (the Mayor presiding) to inaugurate a movement for a memorial in memory of Mr. John Sheehan. A committee representing all parts of the Colony, containing the names of many members of the Legislature, was appointed to report further as to the form that the memorial should assume.

It is rumoured that Mr. Rolling Dagget, Minister to Hawaii, is on a secret mission to Washington, with a proposal to the United States Government to purchase the Sandwich Islands.

The *Bombay Gazette* states that the Ameer has granted his sanction for the cantonment of 10,000 British troops at Candahar.

A day has been set apart in the United States for national mourning at the death of General Grant. The body, which has been embalmed and is lying in state, will be interred at New York on August 8.

Reports from English hop-growing districts give a very unfavourable account of the prospects of the new crop.

The cholera epidemic continues to increase in virulence in Spain, and is rapidly extending its way northward in the country.

#### TUESDAY.

A meeting, attended by nearly 3000 persons, convened by the mayor, was held in Christchurch last night to consider the West Coast railway proposals. The following resolutions were unanimously passed:—"That we, the property-owners, ratepayers, and residents of Christchurch and suburbs, in public meeting assembled, hereby desire to express our great satisfaction at the prospect of an early commencement being made in the construction of the East and West Coast railway, and also to declare in the strongest manner our hearty approval of the proposals of the Government for the carrying into effect of the provisional contract now before Parliament, including the additional guarantee of £97,000 now asked for, and that his Worship the Mayor be requested to forward a copy of this resolution to the Government." "That this meeting, as residents in the county of Selwyn, desires the hearty co-operation of Mr. Wakefield, as their county member, in passing the West Coast Railway Bill as being a measure bearing greatly on the welfare of his constituents."—A petition favourable to the railway proposals has received 500 signatures at Ashburton.—A large public meeting was held last evening at Greymouth. The Mayor was in the chair. The following resolution was carried unanimously:—"That this meeting agrees with the proposals of the Government on the subject of the Christchurch to West Coast and Nelson railway, and that this resolution be telegraphed to the Government." The principal speakers were Messrs. Kennedy, Petrie, Sheedy, and Wickes. The meeting was very enthusiastic.—An enthusiastic public meeting was held at Hokitika last evening. The Mayor was in the chair. A resolution was moved by the County Chairman—"That this meeting desires to express its approval of the success that has attended the efforts of the East and West Coast and Nelson railway delegates in London, and respectfully urges the Government to endeavour to meet the proposals of intending contractors, and to take such steps as will enable this great work to be at once undertaken," and was carried unanimously. The speakers, among whom were the Mayors of Ross and Hokitika, expressed confidence that there would be little, if any, call for a guarantee, as the traffic, assisted by the valuable mineral country through which the line passes, would soon give far more than 2½ per cent. The West Coast was quite willing to pay its share of guarantee if required.

The Westport Coal Company have resumed the work of sinking their new shaft at the Wallsend mine which had been discontinued some time. For some time past work has been going on in the shape of manufacturing concrete blocks for facing the shaft; and also rearranging the plant and fixing new pumps. To-day three shifts of men were put on to continue sinking the new shaft to completion, the only intermission being on Sunday.

Two smart shocks of earthquake were felt in Wellington at 7.42 on Sunday night. Shocks were also experienced at places in the west coast of both Islands as well as at Blenheim, Christchurch and Ashburton.

The cholera epidemic is assuming an alarming fatality. Upwards of 1000 deaths occur daily.

On June 27, Mr. Balfour made an address which attracted profound attention from the fact that he expressed a not less pronounced wish than Mr. Chamberlain to see Ireland governed by equal laws with England, and to see all exceptional legislation against the Irish people for ever abolished. Lord Hill, M.P. for Downe and Comptroller-general, said in a speech on July 1 that the Coercion Act was unnecessary, and the present Land Act for Ireland a failure; but that he would support the Land Purchase Act which the Liberal Government had proposed.

Despatches from London of June 22nd say there is a growing fear in well-informed circles that trouble is looming in Afghanistan. Russia is continually picking up little occurrences here and there on the border of the disputed territory and making them matter of complaint, seemingly for the purpose of enlarging her grievances, and keeping them before the eyes of Europe. Russian officials now come forward with a strong protest against the fortifying of Herat and massing of troops by the Ameer, asserting that this display of military vigour by Afghanistan at the present moment is uncalled for, and has the appearance of a direct menace towards Russia. A mild warning is also conveyed to the Ameer that he and his officers should exercise a little judgment in regard to their military manoeuvres, and should not try the temper of the Russian troops in the disputed territory too severely, as did the Afghan commander at Penjdeh recently. This series of bickerings on the part of Russia is to obtain an excuse for a quarrel with the Afghans.

A London despatch of July 4, says the results of Parliamentary elections which took place during the preceding week to fill vacancies caused by the change in the Ministry have rather startled the Liberals. The Tories have more than held their own in special pollings, and have increased their majority in such hotly-contested boroughs as Wakefield and Woodstock. Liberals' election agents in many provinces send in discouraging reports, and are now not so sure of any easy victory in the coming elections. Labourers appear to be indifferent about taking advantage of the enlarged franchise, and are falling away from the Liberal interest. Times having been hard, the labouring class are more than ever under the influence of squires, farmers, and local officials.

#### WEDNESDAY.

In the House of Representatives yesterday, the following bills were introduced:—The Otago Dock Act 1883 Amendment Bill (Hon. Mr. Larnach); Inspection of Factories Bill (Mr. Bradshaw); The Tauranga Harbour Board Bill (Sir G. Grey); The Newmarket Reserves Act 1878 Amendment Bill (Mr. Moss).—The Hon. J. Richardson moved the second reading of the Public Works Act Amendment Bill. He explained that the bill was brought in in consequence of the recent probability of the outbreak of war, and its object was to authorise the Government to take land in various parts of the country for the erection of fortifications. Agreed to.

One hundred and fifty Natives have assembled to stop the contractor of the Rotorua railway from proceeding to lay the permanent way, alleging that they have not been compensated for the reserve taken. They are building a barricade across the line.

A direct line of sailing vessels between Hamburg and Auckland has been established. The first vessel, the *Levka*, of 636 tons, left Hamburg on July 15, with an assorted cargo of Austrian and German goods. The vessels, for the present, are to return home by way of the islands, loading with copra.

At a meeting of Home Rulers held in Dublin on June 16, Mr. T. D. Sullivan, M.P. for Westmeath, presiding, it was said the course of action towards the Conservative Cabinet would be the same as towards the Liberals, if the former refused the Home Rule policy. Mr. Sullivan considered coercion now impossible.

Referring to Mr. Chamberlain's charge that 30,000 soldiers are maintained in Ireland to support British rule, the *London Times* of June 17 asks him if he will be ready to acquiesce if Ireland wishes to separate, when the restraining force is removed, and warns him against trifling for party purposes with the gravest Imperial interests.

It is proposed in Dublin to start a fund to meet the expense of inducing the Rev. Dr. Walsh to the Archbishopric.

The Catholic bishops of Ireland, in session at Maynooth, on July 3, protested against the exclusion of Catholics from educational endowments unless they accept the Government system of education condemned by the Church.

A large assembly at Hyde Park, on Sunday, June 28, was addressed by Michael Davitt, as follows:—"We Irish demand nothing less than the right to manage our own affairs as Canada and Australia manage theirs. As long as that right is denied to us, or its exercise abridged, Ireland will remain an obstacle to British legislation, and a menace to the stability of England's power." These utterances were vehemently cheered by the crowd, almost wholly composed of Englishmen.

Some parcels of New Zealand hops have been received in London during the fortnight (says the correspondent of the *Evening Star*), and were placed on the market at prices ranging from £3 to £3 5s per cwt. Tasmanian parcels fetch £2 16s to £3 3s, and Australian £2 10s to £3.

#### THURSDAY.

In the House of Representatives yesterday Mr. Pyke introduced a bill to provide for the encouragement of schools other than State schools. Sir Julius Vogel gave notice that on Tuesday he would move—"That a select committee be appointed to consider the question of the construction of the East and West Coast and Nelson railways, and to make a recommendation regarding the same, with power to call for persons and papers, three to form a quorum, and report within 10 days, such committee to consist of Major Atkinson, Messrs. Cowan, Fraser, Garrick, Hursthouse, Macandrew, Monteith, Mitchelson, Major Steward, and the mover."

The Mayor of Christchurch received telegrams yesterday from Sir Julius Vogel, Messrs. Rolleston, and Wakefield, replying to the resolutions of the public meeting on Monday last *re* the East and West Coast and Nelson railways. Mr. Wakefield says, *inter alia*, "I am grieved and ashamed at the reckless disregard of the public welfare which is shown in Christchurch for the sole object of getting an immediate expenditure of money." The Mayor telegraphed back:—"Surprised you consider proposals profligate when, unless misrepresented, you proposed similar scheme in speech to your constituents, July, 1884."

Dr. Moran, Archbishop of Sydney, has been made a cardinal. The Government are in receipt of a despatch from Brigadier-general Grenfell, commanding the Egyptian army, in which he states that a messenger has arrived at Cairo with intelligence that the Mahdi has been succeeded by the Khalifa Abdoolah. In the House of Commons the Hon. R. Bourke, Under Secretary for Foreign Affairs, announced in reply to a question that her Majesty's Government are taking steps to relieve the beleaguered garrison of Kassala.

As well expect life without air, as health without pure blood! Cleanse the blood with Ayer's Sarsaparilla.

The fact that Carter and Co., of George street, are the only Drapers in Dunedin doing a strictly Cash Trade who import their own Goods direct from Home Markets, is the one cause of their being able to sell cheaper than any other firm. Carter and Co. have just opened, ex S.S. Coptic and Kaikoura, 16 cases Men's and Boys' Clothing, and in consequence of the desperate scarcity of Ready Money, they have decided to offer the whole lot, for a few weeks, at landed Cost. Therefore call, inspect, and judge for yourself. Carter and Co., 60 and 62, George street, Dunedin