

exclude children under seven from the schools. The enormous sum paid to the teachers to act as nurses to the infants is pronounced necessary for the support of the system, and without the money obtained in this way under false pretences it could not stand. The absurdity of all this should be palpable, but the perceptions of a people so besotted in the matter as the colonists of New Zealand can only be aroused when a bitter experience has in more ways than one overtaken and punished them.

We clip the following from our contemporary, the Sydney *Express*:—Mr. Bernard King, who left Melbourne some twelve months since—where he had been teaching for some years in St. Patrick's (Jesuit) College—for the purpose of studying in Ireland, has returned to Australia, the climate of the old country being too severe on a constitution naturally delicate. On his way back Mr. King travelled overland to Rome, where he spent a fortnight. On the feast of *Corpus Christi* he was presented to the Pope, and it will interest Mr. King's compatriots to know that he asked the Holy Father's blessing on behalf of the Australian Catholic youth of both sexes, and that His Holiness was pleased to grant that special favour in addition to imparting the papal benediction to Mr. King for his family and friends. Mr. King is now fast recovering, and speaks highly of the kindness shown him by several Irish dignitaries in Rome, as well as the hospitality he experienced at the hands of Signor Achille Spezza, and his brother, Cason Spezza, grandnephews of Leo. XIII. Signor Spezza takes a lively interest in Australian Church matters, and exercises himself in the English language by reading our Catholic papers, which he requested Mr. King to send him regularly. He expresses his intention of visiting this country as soon as he can obtain a holiday, and Mr. King undertook to promise him a hearty reception from the Catholic population of Australia. Mr. King is now pursuing his studies here, and is at present located at St. Ignatius' College, Riverview.

Those working men of Wellington who have petitioned Sir George Grey to obtain for them the means of emigrating to South Africa might find cause to repent if their prayer were to prove successful. The South African papers for some time back have given anything rather than favourable accounts of their colony, and drought, and dearth, and want of work have been the burden of their song in a very marked degree. They have besides given us certain details of a very horrible and shameful disease which has developed itself among their colonists as an epidemic, conveyed from black nurses through the little children into many households, and there are various other evils of which we know nothing in New Zealand. The working men of Wellington, therefore, would do well, as the old saying is, to look before they leap.—The remedy, meanwhile, for the bad state of things in New Zealand—a much finer country than South Africa in many ways—is in the hands of the working men themselves, and may be applied by them if they will unite to return honest and competent men, instead of self-seekers, charlatans, and ridiculous theorists, to Parliament. But it is vain to hope they will do so for, at least, an indefinite period; claptrap has taken possession of their minds also, and they are eagerly and steadily sacrificing their interests to it. Of this we require no clearer proof than the unanimity and boldness with which all proposals for reducing the enormous and ruinous cost of the godless education system have been rejected in Parliament. Hon. Members know that they must continue to humour their constituents in this matter, and to please their constituents and make sure of their seats is their first object. The workmen may go to South Africa, or anywhere else they like, so long as that object is gained.

In addition to the amount acknowledged by us last week, 15s. have been received towards the Invercargill convent fund, of which 10s. were subscribed by Mrs. Feldwick.

On Tuesday, the 18th inst., the anniversary of the religious Profession of the Very Rev. Mother Prioress was celebrated at the Dominican Convent, Dunedin. A large number of the pupils and ex-pupils assembled to honour the occasion, taking the matter as usual into their own hands, with the performance of an affecting and pretty play, and some brilliant music. A very pleasant afternoon and evening were spent.

We have seen a number of Christmas cards executed at Wanganui by Mr. A. D. Willis. The subjects are coloured views of New Zealand scenery, contained in a framework of flowers and other pretty designs. The manner in which the whole are turned out, and the artistic work and taste displayed, being most creditable to the designer and executer. These cards will doubtless find a ready sale in the Colony, and be not only appreciated, but eagerly sought after by persons desirous of sending to their friends in other parts of the world something most appropriate, as coming from New Zealand. Mr. Willis is to be congratulated on the enterprise so well carried out by him.

We would remind the numerous subscribers to the TABLET that Mollison, Duthie & Co's sale is now drawing to a close and during the next 10 days they will offer extraordinary Bargains.—See advt.

## Commercial.

MR. DONALD STRONACH (on behalf of the New Zealand Loan and Mercantile Agency Company, Limited) reports for the week ending August 19, as follows:—

Store Stock.—There is not much inquiry for either cattle or sheep in the meantime, and the business transacted is limited.

Sheepskins.—On Monday last we held our usual weekly sale, when we offered a large catalogue. There was the ordinary attendance of buyers, and prices realised were similar to those of last week. Country dry skins—low to medium cross-bred brought 1s 3d to 3s 6d; do. merino, 1s 1d to 2s 10d; dry pelts, 2d to 8d; butchers' green cross-breds, 2s 10s, 3s 5d, 3s 6d, 3s 7d, 3s 8d, 3s 9d, 3s 10d, 3s 11d; do. do. merino, 2s 3d, 2s 7d, 2s 10d, 3s, 3s 5d.

Rabbit-skins.—We offered all lots forward on Monday, consisting of various descriptions, none of which were prime skins. All the buyers were present, and last week's prices were fully maintained. We disposed of 11 bales and 58 bags at the following rates: For suckers and inferior; 4d to 3d; mixed and low summer skins, 4d to 7d; medium, 8d to 10d; fair to good winter, 11d to 14d.

Hides.—A good demand continues to be experienced, all coming forward being easily placed at late rates.

Tallow.—The market is well supplied, but prices are in favour of buyers. Advices from London continue to be of a most discouraging kind, limiting exporters' operations to a minimum. We quote inferior and mixed, 15s to 17s; medium, 18s to 20s; good to prime, 21s to 22s; and rough fat, 11s to 14s per cwt.

Grain.—Wheat: There is no change either in demand or values during the week; late rates, however, continue firm for all sorts. We quote prime milling velvet and Tuscan, 3s 2d to 3s 3d; medium, 2s 9d to 3s 1d; inferior and soft, 2s 6d to 2s 8d; fowls' wheat, 2s 3d to 2s 5d.—Oats: There is a fair demand existing for shipment, and as holders still continue firm in their demand for prime lots, medium and inferior quality have been more readily taken up at improved rates, while the business in good bright sorts is in the meantime rather checked because of the difference between sellers' and buyers' ideas of values. We quote stout, bright milling 1s 10d to 1s 11d; best bright short feed, 1s 9d to 1s 10d; medium, 1s 8d to 1s 9d; discoloured, 1s 6d to 1s 7d; damp and inferior, 1s to 1s 6d.—Barley: There is no improvement in the market for this. We quote prime milling 2s 9d to 3s; medium, 2s 4d to 2s 8d; feed and milling, 1s 9d to 2s 3d.

### DUNEDIN PRODUCE MARKET, AUGUST 19, 1885.

MR. J. H. KILGOUR, grain and produce broker, reports under above date as follows:—Wheat: There is some inquiry for prime milling, both locally and for shipping, but prices do not show any marked improvement. White velvet and Tuscan would fetch 3s 3d, or possibly 3s 4d, for very choice quality; other milling sorts, 2s 10d to 3s 1d. Fowl feed and inferior milling is wanted at 2s 3d to 2s 6d, and I have placed several lines at the latter figure.—Oats: There is a fair demand for any lots suitable for shipment, and 1s 10d can readily be got for bright short feed; while prime milling would command 1s 11d. Ordinary feed sells locally at 1s 8d to 1s 9d. Seed parcels of Long Tartarian are wanted at up to 1s 11d. Barley: The market is quite, malsters being fully supplied, and shipping buyers will not offer more than 3s 3d for making quality. Feed and milling, 2s 3d.—Chaff: Prime quality, well cut, is wanted at 2s; inferior is offering freely at 2s 5s to 2s 10s; medium, 2s 15s.—Potatoes: 2s 5s to 2s 10s for Derwents, and 2s to 2s 5s for kidneys; which sell very slowly.—Eggs: 9d per dozen, with full supply.—Turnips: 18s 6d is best price for Swedes.—Butter: Salt, scarce at 10s for really prime; fresh, 1s to 1s 1d.—Grass Seed: 3s 9d for farmers' lots if clean, and 4s 6d to 4s 9d for town dressed.

MR. F. M'KENAN, King street, reports:—Wholesale prices, including bags: Oats, 1s 8d to 1s 10d; wheat, milling 3s to 3s 1d; fowls' feed 1s 6d to 2s 6d; barley, milling 3s to 3s 3d; milling 2s 0d to 2s 6d, feeding 2s; oaten hay, 2s; rye-grass, 2s; chaff, 2s 10s to 2s; straw, 2s 15s to 2s; bran, 2s 10s to 2s 15s; pollard, 2s 10s; flour, 2s 10s to 2s; oatmeal, 2s 10s; fresh butter medium to prime, 1s to 1s 4d; eggs, 11d; good salt butter, scarce, 10d cheese, 4d to 6d; bacon, 7d in rolls, hams 10d; potatoes, Derwents 2s to 2s 10s, kidneys 2s 5s.

Young, old, and middle-aged, all experience the wonderful beneficial effects of Ayer's Sarsaparilla. Young children suffering from sore eyes, sore ears, scald-head, or with any scrofulous or syphilitic taint, may be made healthy and strong by its use.

Writing to the *Daily News* on "Indian Loyalty," Mr. John Jardine says:—"People in England have no access to the vernacular newspapers of India, and I fear that some of the wonderful results of Lord Ripon's rule there are hardly known or noticed by his fellow-countrymen. Seldom has a statesman received so much abuse, but probably none has ever seen the fruitless success of his policy, so soon. When Lord Ripon gave freedom to the Press, he urged in the face of opposition that a free Press would be a new safeguard to the British Government. 'What is the result?' In the late critical and alarming time, the native Press has throughout India used its influence for the Government, urging the people to support it against the Russians with ruzes and regiments. The native gentry of Bengal have offered £70,000 to a patriotic fund; the people elsewhere are demanding to be enrolled in volunteer corps; and it is said that Lord Dufferin assents to proposals for regiments to be officered entirely by natives of rank. Here is a novel extension of the policy of trusting the people. The warm and open loyalty lately evinced is altogether astonishing to the Anglo-Indians; the leaders, native editors, and civil servants belonging to a class once supposed to be seditious; the Press, which was lately gagged, has become the great preacher of loyalty."