

at work, the result will compare favourably with any other field in the Middle Island. The auriferous ground is simply inexhaustible, and with plenty of water any of the spurs will pay wages, as the gold is pretty evenly distributed throughout the whole of them from here to Orepuki. The latter place eventually will connect with this, the workings all tending in that direction, which is only a few miles distant."

A woman residing in Victoria street, Auckland while asleep the other night, was bitten on the cheek by rats. Symptoms of blood poisoning have since appeared, and her face has swollen fearfully. She is under medical treatment, but is seriously ill.

The Cambrian's correspondent of the *Dunstan Times* writes:—"There is, and has been for some time, a plentiful supply of water for mining purposes, and claims all in full work, with more cheering accounts from Vinegar Flat. The construction of a main tail-race for the purpose of working this ground necessitated a great outlay both of capital and labour, and for some time the returns were very poor, so it is satisfactory to notice a change for the better. The ground is very heavy and it will take time to properly open it up. In common with most mining centres in Otago, we have supplied a contingent to assist in unearthing the treasures of Criffell."

His Holiness the Pope has agreed to mediate in the matter of the Caroline Islands dispute.

The wheat market is steady; ex ship and warehouse have advanced 6d; off-coast cargoes are selling at 35s 6d; a cargo on passage has been sold for 35s.

The wool market is firm. Good combing shows a slight advance; clothing and faulty sorts are unchanged. 237,000 bales were catalogued, of which 35,000 were withdrawn. The final sale of the series will be held on November 17.

The attitude of the inhabitants of Bulgaria in connection with the Roumelian revolt is distinctly anti-Russian. Kaimil Pasha, the President of the Council in the Turkish Ministry, is hopeful of a peaceful solution of the difficulty. The Turkish troops which are intended for service in Roumelia have been sent to Macedonia, a small district in that province. The Russians are largely petitioning the Czar not to desert Bulgaria. Greece has informed the Powers that if the Bulgarians are allowed to enlarge their principality, they, too, will seize additional territory. The French Government have submitted a proposal to the Powers, that joint representations shall be made to Roumania, Greece, and Servia with a view to prevent the spread of the revolutionary agitation.

TUESDAY.

The correspondent of the *Daily Times* wires as follows concerning Criffell: Do the best to stop the impending rush. Miles of country have been riddled, and no gold struck. There is great disappointment, and numbers are leaving.

One of the heaviest shocks of earthquake experienced for years occurred throughout South Canterbury at 9.55 o'clock on Sunday night, the direction being from north-west to south-east. A slighter shock was felt about a quarter of an hour afterwards, and there are some who aver two more occurred early yesterday morning. No damage of importance was done. The weather was very close at the time.

It transpired in evidence at the Auckland Police Court yesterday that G. P. Hogan, master of the Kohimarama Industrial School, handcuffed absconding boys. Two boys swore they had been manacled together for a week, six days, and 14 days. The bench of justices expressed great dissatisfaction at such brutality, and said an inquiry should be held.

Mr. Chamberlain's attitude towards the Liberal party is much condemned. Mr. Gladstone, he says, unites within himself Tory sympathies and Court influence. He strongly favours Prince Alexander of Bulgaria.

M. Rochefort's journal, *L'Intransigeant*, lately published a letter from a person named Selcovitch, formerly interpreter to the British army in the Soudan, declaring that M. Olivier Pain was arrested in the Soudan and shot by order of the British military authorities. Since then M. Rochefort has written a series of articles of the most outrageous character, grossly insulting to the British Government and Lord Lyon, besides threatening the latter, and endeavouring to hound on the Paris mob to attack the embassy.

The Marquis of Salisbury has joined the Powers in accepting the position of affairs in Roumelia, and it is untrue that he has demanded that matters be restored to the *status quo*. In view of the serious position it has been decided to hold a conference of ambassadors of the various Powers accredited to the Porte, and they are expected to meet at an early date in Constantinople. At the battle of the Drin (not previously reported here), the Turks lost 200 men killed and wounded, while the loss of the Albanians was 1000 killed and wounded.

The meeting of the Czar and Emperor of Austria at Kremsir, following close upon the conference between Prince Bismarck and Count Kalnoky at Varzin, gives rise to much political speculation. The apparent object of Germany and Austria is to keep the peace of Europe by encouraging Russia to develop and aggrandise herself in Central Asia; but a sincere agreement between England and Turkey might introduce a disturbing element in the calculations, and render Russia less disposed to be contented with an expansion eastward if it had to be purchased at the cost of relinquishing for Austria's or England's benefit her long-coveted share in the eventual partition of the Turkish Empire.

WEDNESDAY.

Lieut-colonel H. E. Reader, late Under-secretary for Defence and Commissioner of Police, died suddenly at Wellington yesterday morning. He had been ailing for some time, but rose as usual and joined his family at breakfast. Subsequently he complained of feeling ill, and retired to the smoking-room, where he laid down and expired. Colonel Reader had been many years in the army, and had seen much service.

Some time ago a quantity of valuable plate was abstracted from the Catholic Church, Geraldine, and despite all efforts of the police, no trace of it could be obtained. On Monday a man, while cutting

flax near the township, came across two bundles, and on opening them found the stolen articles, which were identified by the priest.

A sad accident is reported from Leeston. The children of a Mr. Douglas were playing on a straw stack yesterday afternoon, and one of them, who had some matches, set fire to the straw. Though assistance was close at hand, and two of the children were dragged from the burning straw, the flames had got too great a hold of it to be possible to save the third child, a little boy three years old, who was burned to death.

A boy, aged eight years, died suddenly at Oamaru, on Sunday morning, and an inquest was held to-day, at which the medical evidence gave the cause of death as poisoning. It appears that the boy had eaten green rhubarb tops on Saturday last, and on Saturday night and Sunday morning was taken ill with vomiting, retching, and purging. The *post mortem* revealed the fact that the irritation caused by eating the rhubarb had occasioned the boy's death, causing congestion of the brain.

Up to date (says the Criffell correspondent of the *Daily Times*) no fresh finds are reported. Numbers of men arrive daily and numbers go, so the population does not visibly increase. The country for miles round the auriferous deposit is literally riddled with holes (all diffusers). Scores of shafts are bottomed daily, but nothing but strong colour at the best, as far as I can learn, has been obtained. Hardy men are now prospecting Pisa knee-deep in snow. They report having to delve through 2ft of frozen surface, and more on the shady faces, and have struck nothing up there but a fine colour, though some of them say it is a grand-looking country. Numbers of men have also prospected the range Cardronawards with a like result. Great dissatisfaction exists because no gold is being got. If somebody would only prove successful, it would give impetus to the energy that will speedily wane. Criffell is already proclaimed a duffer by the majority of comers, and they are not far wrong. The gold on Criffell, as I have often stated before, runs in narrow, confined leads, very hard to trace; in fact, it may never be traced, hence the disappointment. I distinctly say to all who intend to rush this field; Until something is struck don't come.

His Holiness the Pope, who has agreed to mediate between Germany and Spain with reference to the annexation of Caroline Islands, has selected a committee to examine the documentary evidence in connection with the islands.

Several Socialist riots have occurred in Amsterdam during the past few days, culminating on Sunday in a severe encounter with the police, who charged the crowd, wounding several persons with their sabres.

The negotiations between Sir H. D. Wolff, the British Envoy-extraordinary to the Porte, and the officials appointed by the Sultan to confer with him on the Egyptian question, have been resumed after being in abeyance for some time.

It is announced that Greece and Servia have notified the Powers that they will demand an indemnity if the union of Roumelia with Bulgaria is upheld. Prince Alexander is adopting energetic measures to secure quietude on the Macedonian frontier.

THURSDAY.

The return of gold from the Cambria mine, Thames, for the past month is 3161oz. 12dwt. melted gold. The workings are yielding large parcels of specimens, and 9cwt. of rich stone was secured yesterday, while a splendid show of gold remains in the lode. Since the beginning of the year the mine has produced more than 13,800oz of gold. The returns of the Hauraki goldfield for the month of September amounted to 7317oz gold.

Disastrous floods are reported from many parts of the Bengal Presidency. It is estimated that fully 3500 square miles of country are at present under water.

Intelligence is to hand from Albania of a further engagement between the Albanian forces and the Turkish troops despatched to suppress the rising in that province. The Turkish troops sustained a decided defeat, and are now completely surrounded by the Albanians. The Russian troops are massing in great force in Bessarabia, a province of South Russia, between the Pruth and Dneister. The Turks are sending large reinforcements to Adrianople and Salonica. Servia is enrolling soldiers. Prince Alexander is about to dispatch a deputation to his Majesty the Sultan, with the object of reassuring him of the continued loyalty of Bulgaria to the suzerainty of the Porte.

Our Holy Father the Pope is never tired seemingly of referring affectionately to Ireland and her people. On Tuesday week the red biretta was presented to the new Irish Cardinal, and two days later he received the red hat of the Cardinalate from the hands of the Pope at an open consistory held in the Vatican. On the occasion of the presentation of the biretta the Pope, as he handed it to Cardinal Moran, addressed him as a "dearly beloved son" and as a "child of brave and dutiful Ireland." Expressions of this character show that the sympathies of the Holy Father are with the Irish people in their troubles, and they cannot fail to have the effect of strengthening the bonds which unite our country and Rome.—*Nation*, August 8.

In an article which warmly praises Lord Salisbury, the semi-official *Fremdenblatt* of Vienna says:—"England has for the present no allies because her authority as a Power suffered immensely from the policy of the late Cabinet, which loosened old friendships without creating new ones. Lord Salisbury is now doing his best to withdraw England from her isolation, and in the Egyptian and other questions it may already be seen that his policy is not only more Conservative, but more European. In re-entering the political system of Europe as a Conservative factor on the side of the existing order of things, England will soon make her influence felt everywhere, and it must count for a great deal at Constantinople. "We repeat, then, that Lord Salisbury's policy is more European and at the same time more English than was Mr. Gladstone's. It is more English because it recognizes that England's authority must be based on an increase of defensive strength, and more European because it brings England nearer to the Conservative Cabinets of Europe."