

THE assurance of pacific hopes given the other day by the Emperor of Austria by no means points to a continuance of the map of Europe in its present condition, and rather goes to favour the suspicion of a secret understanding between his Majesty's Government and that of the Czar. If Russia and Austria agreed to mutual annexations in the Balkan Peninsula, Germany and France giving their consent, there would necessarily be no war. And that is probably what the affair may result in.

THE report of the almost certainty of an immediate reconciliation between the divided sections of the Liberal party points to the impending triumph of the Irish cause. Mr Gladstone and his party will make no serious compromise, and the measure of Home Rule proposed by them is that to which they will substantially adhere. Mr. Labouchere, in his speech at Dublin, was most decided in such a declaration.

IT is now announced that the row made about the Archbishop of Cashel's recommendation as to the non-payment of taxes was a storm in a teapot. His Grace denies that he recommended anything of the kind—just as we thought all along.

WE see among the names of the gentlemen appointed to the commission of the peace that of our respected fellow-citizen, Mr. Francis Meenan, of Dunedin. The appointment will be hailed in many quarters with much satisfaction.

IT should be comforting to those people whose business or pleasure calls on them to frequent the seas to learn that Captain Allman of the s.s. Penguin has invented an apparatus by which the approach of danger may be immediately indicated. The invention is highly spoken of and pronounced extremely valuable.

Those requiring the services of a dentist should call on Messrs MYERS and Co., Dentists, Octagon, corner of George street. They guarantee highest class work at moderate fees. Their artificial work gives general satisfaction, and the fact of them supplying a temporary denture while the gums are healing does away with the inconvenience of being months without teeth. They manufacture a single artificial tooth for Ten Shillings, and sets equally moderate. The administration of nitrous oxide gas is also a great boon to those needing the extraction of a tooth. Read.

WORK FOR ALL. Permanent employment given to energetic men and women everywhere. £10 a week given and expenses paid. Send at once for full particulars of the greatest money-making business in the world. Address J. F. HILL & CO., Augusta, Maine, United States. Don't miss this chance. Write to-day.

Messrs Campbell and Livingstone have taken over the grocery business long conducted in George street, Dunedin, by Messrs Esther and Low.—The reputation of the establishment has been known for many years and it will lose nothing in the hands of the new management.

Messrs Hill and Walker, Princes street, Dunedin, warns the public against the purchase of any others than the genuine Indian Teas. The superiority of the Indian article is now admitted, but it must be obtained in its purity to prove its value. The firm in question are prepared to supply it in perfection and on the most liberal terms.

ENTERTAINMENT IN DUNEDIN.

A VERY agreeable entertainment was given on the evening of the 3rd inst., in St. Joseph's Schoolroom, Dunedin, in aid of a fund for improving the organ in the Cathedral, under the conductorship of Herr Benno Scherek. The musical portion of the programme opened with Nicolai's overture to the "Merry Wives of Windsor," played brilliantly as a pianoforte duet by Miss Popplewell and Herr Scherek, which was followed by "The Kerry Dance," sung in an especially charming manner by Mrs. Angus. This lady, whose voice and style seem improving every year, notwithstanding the conclusion long since come to that there was no further room for improvement, afterwards took part in a duet, "Venetian Regatta," in which Miss Corrigan also displayed her by no means inconsiderable vocal powers with much ability, and in a trio, Gottschalk's "Cradle Song," in which she was assisted very sweetly by the Misses Conway and Murphy. Miss Conway gave a pretty rendering of Pontet's "Forget," and Miss Woods sang in a very pleasing manner Ganz's "Sing, Sweet Bird." Miss Corrigan also sang Robaudi's "Confiding Star," with violin obligato played by Mr. Schacht, which was one of the most deservedly appreciated performances of the evening. Mr. Schacht played as well, as a solo, a Song without Words and Dance by Hauser, in which his reputation as a violinist was finely sustained. Mr. Thomas Bracken gave a couple of his delightful recitations, and the evening concluded with the comedietta, "A Match for a Husband," most amusingly acted by Messrs. J. G. McKelvey and W. J. Power. The entertainment was the first of a series, of which two still remain to be given, and we would bespeak a full attendance for both of these, as, judging from that we refer to, they will repay the audience admirably.

In Italy the nuns are persecuted; in Germany they are the recipients of favours from the highest personages of the realm. The Sisters of St. Catherine in the diocese of Ermeland, had the pleasure on the feast of their holy patron to receive, through their Bishop, from the Empress Augusta a precious gift, consisting of a magnificent crucifix, accompanied by a letter full of tender sympathy.

Commercial.

HORSE REPORT.

WRIGHT, STEPHENSON, AND CO. report as follows:—For last Saturday's sale about 80 horses came forward, consisting chiefly of hacks and light-harness horses, of which about 60 changed hands at quotations. We quote first-class heavy draughts at from £18 to £22; medium, £12 to £16; first class hacks and light-harness horses, £18 to £25; medium, £8 to £12; light and weedy, £1 10 to £5.

GRAIN REPORT.

MESSESS. SAMUEL ORR AND CO., Stafford street, report for the week ending March 9, as follows:—Wheat: A brisk business has been done during the past week in this cereal, millers having gained more confidence in the market, and their stocks getting low. Prices have, however, weakened on account of the rush of it on the market. The Home market is also weaker from latest advices. We quote prime milling up to 3s 9d; medium to good, 3s 5d to 3s 7½d; inferior and fowl feed, 2s 9d to 3s 1d, according to quality.—Oats: A very good demand has been experienced during the past week, not only for the intercolonial markets, but for the coast, indicating low stocks; thus maintaining prices lately quoted. So far the outlook for the new crop is a good one, and much against expectations; and with fine weather we may soon expect large arrivals, as threshing is going on in all districts. We quote prime milling—old, up to 1s 10d; new, 1s 8½d to 1s 9½d; good bright feed, 1s 7d to 1s 8d; long tartars, if clean and bright, 1s 9d; inferior and discoloured, 1s 2½d to 1s 6½d.—Barley: Samples of the new crop are now to hand, and which are very bright, though not so plump and mellow as last season. We quote prime malting up to 3s 1d (bags extra); and 2s 5d to 2s 8d feed and milling. Our sales of all classes of grain have been 13,845 bushels.—Grass Seed: No improvement in the values, as the Melbourne market is keeping steady and buyers there holding off, pending further supplies from this side. Our sales have been up to 3s 1d for good, cleaned parcels.

DUNEDIN PRODUCE MARKET.

J. H. KILGOUR, grain and produce broker, reports under date March 9, as follows:—Wheat: The market is quiet; a few sales of new crop have been made this week at from 3s 7d to 3s 8½d, which may be taken as the quotations at present. Inferior and fowl feed, 3s 6d.—Oats: Very few parcels arriving, and some demand exists for good bright samples, although no advancement in prices has taken place. I quote prime milling, 1s 8d to 1s 9d; short bright feed, 1s 7d to 1s 8d; discoloured, 1s 3d to 1s 5d.—Barley: Malsters are not disposed to operate until the new crop is fairly in, and quotations are but nominal—viz.: Best malting, 2s 8d to 2s 11d; feed and milling, 2s 3d to 2s 7d—bags extra.—Chaff: Supplies of old chaff still come forward, and prices are easier than at last week's quotations. Best feed, £2 17s 6d; medium, £2 10s to £2 12s 6d.—Potatoes: Market full at £2 10s to £2 15s per ton.—Grass Seed: There is little demand for ryegrass. Machine dressed is offering at 3s 6d; farmers' samples, if clean, 2s 9d to 3s.—Butter: Prime keg is wanted at 7d. Cheese: Full supply at 4½d to 5d.—Eggs: There is a demand for eggs at 1s 2d per dozen, and supplies short.

MR. F. MEENAN, King street, reports:—Wholesale prices, bags included: Oats, medium to prime, 1s 6d to 1s 10d. Wheat: milling, 3s 6d to 3s 9d; fowls', 3s 3d to 3s 6d. Barley: malting, 2s 9d to 3s; milling, 2s 6d; feed, 2s 3d. Chaff, best, £3; straw chaff, dull of sale, nominal. Straw, £2; hay, (open old), £5; new oat hay £3; ryegrass (new), £3 Bran, £3 5s. Pollard, £4. Potatoes; kidneys £2; Derwents, £2 Butter: fresh, 6d to 9d; salt, nominal, 6½d. Cheese, 4d to 5d. Eggs, 1s. Flour: sacks, £10; 50lbs., £10 10s. Oatmeal, £9 10s. Roll bacon, 6½d; sides, 6½d; hams, 9d.

Addressing a temperance meeting at Blackburn, the Bishop of Salford said the moral condition of English society, both with respect to divorce and impurity, dishonesty and intemperance, was far lower than was generally supposed.

The Pope has signified his intention of co-operating in the celebration of the fourth centenary of the discovery of America, by collecting and publishing all documents in the Vatican Library referring to, or in any way connected with the history of that discovery. There is no estimating the value of such a publication.

In France there are four holidays of obligation: Christmas, the Ascension, the Assumption and All Saints. In England there are eight: The Circumcision, the Epiphany, Corpus Christi, and, SS. Peter and Paul in addition to the four observed in France. Ireland has ten, which include the eight observed in England, and with them the Annunciation and St. Patrick's Day.

A correspondent writes from Naples to the *Times*:—"I have to announce the arrival of the Zampognari, who have come with their ruddy bagpipes to celebrate 'Natale,' or the advent of Jesus Christ. They tell us too by their presence that another year is drawing to its close, and clad in their shaggy sheepskins they ask us to believe that it is Christmas. Truth to say the Zampognari are only prelude the birth of Christ. They are here now to celebrate the most miraculous *fete* of the Church, that of the Madonna Immacolata and for nine days we shall have our ears dinned with the wild and shrill music of the Abruzzi shepherds. As regards the customs of a people rendered venerable by the observances of centuries, I am a strict Conservative, and have got a small picture of the Madonna in my hall, surrounded with lights, before which the shepherds will play every morning for the better part of the month. They will offend only my ears, but they will gratify the religious sentiment of many who come to listen and to pray."