

and your temper ruffled by the information that you are liable to penalties for neglect, the case becomes much worse. Surely the department should not expect a man to act spontaneously and to anticipate their inquiries about a great deal that they should have no business to know, for the law pokes its nose into holes and corners where its intrusion is wholly unjustifiable. We would venture to suggest, then, that forms of inquiry be sent out in the manner of serving notice usual in collecting taxes. There can be no reason why people, if duly reminded, should not send in the returns in time, but do not expect them—even those not liable to pay the tax—to have property tax on the brain, and to keep an eye of terror constantly on the department, is to expect too much. To be threatened with or subjected to penalties for forgetting what no one can reasonably be expected to remember, reversing an old saying to suit the occasion, is to have insult added to injury.

COERCION still remains true to itself and does due honour to its chiefs, Lord Salisbury and Mr. Balfour. The latest report is that a boy has been shot at a sale on a farm in Tipperary. A verdict of wilful murder has been returned against a police inspector and one of his men. But that, of course, is only a pleasantry on the part of the coroner's jury. The Government will not permit their faithful officers to come to grief in the matter. And what is a boy more or less among the ranks of the Irish people? Are there not plenty of boys to be spared from that over-abundant population?

THE Rev. Mr. Barfield, Liberal-Unionist lecturer, suddenly disappears. The Unionist party easily finds the solution of the mystery and Primrose dames especially are confirmed in their horror of everything Irish. Of course the lecturer has been enticed to Ireland and murdered there, in order to put an end to his powerful opposition in the regular Irish manner. The rev. lecturer was, however, bent on something more romantic, and the solution of the mystery is the more difficult one to Unionists that he has re-appeared in Canada accompanied by a young lady. What will be the degree of scandal with which Primrose dames will replace their horror? If fashionable newspapers represent the manners of Belgravia aright it may not after all be very excessive.—But such is the nature of a good many anti-Irish rumours.

MR. GLADSTONE still allows himself no rest, and gives little hope to his adversaries, that the chills of old age are speedily coming to their aid—that idea most worthy of coercionists. He is still speaking away with fire and energy. Two speeches made by him have been reported during the course of the week, in one of which he denounced a withdrawal of the Tories from their promise to forward and endow a Catholic University in Dublin, as the shabbiest of all their shabby proceedings. We are as yet ignorant of the facts of the case, but we shall certainly find that its details bear Mr. Gladstone's denunciation fully out. In another speech Mr. Gladstone has again decided the coercive measures of the Government, as only resulting in the continuance and confirmation of the agitation for Home Rule. The mind of the Grand Old Man continues youthful and vigorous, and we are happy to see that his bodily strength still enables him to bring it into servicable bearing. Long may this remain the case.

WE have received from Graymouth for transmission to Dublin, the sum of £19 3s, concerning which particulars will be found in our correspondence column. This remittance brings the amount subscribed in the district, in aid of the Parnell Defence Fund, up to the handsome figure of £105 3s.

It is announced that Captain Russell, M.H.R. for Hawke's Bay, joins the Ministry. As Captain Russell is sound on the Education question his appointment is to be regarded with satisfaction, more especially if he takes the portfolio of Education as reported. He is, however, a member of the colonial Tory party, which in some degree modifies our feelings with respect to his accession to office.

Messrs. H. S. Fish and Son, who have the contracts for painting and decorating at the Dunedin Exhibition, advertise their readiness to execute at exceedingly moderate prices, orders given them for filling up and decoration of bays in the building. Orders should, however, be sent in without delay.

Mr. J. F. Butler's Family and Commercial Hotel, Ashburton, offers excellent accommodation to visitors and boarders. The house is conveniently situated and is in every respect well conducted.

"The New Zealand Family Herb Doctor," is a work that no household should want. It contains minute particulars of the treatment of disease, by the safe and wholesome herbal system. The information given besides as to the properties of plants is extremely interesting, and useful in a high degree.

Miss Loft is now holding a clearing sale at her celebrated boot and shoe warehouse, Royal Arcade, Dunedin. Almost incredible bargains are offered. The goods are all first class, and the prices reach the lowest point possible.

The *Novae Vremya*, in an inspired article, says: "The outside Powers will make themselves sorely felt when the Triple Alliance attains its real object. That is war."

Diary of the Week.

WEDNESDAY, 25th.

IRISH Delegates Reception Committee formed at Timaru.—European Press pronounce result of French elections collapse of Boulangism.—Dynamite conspiracy against Czar discovered.

THURSDAY, 26th.

Te Kooti expresses intention of contesting East Coast native electorate with Carroll.—Chinery, Rangiora, applies for patent for flax-dressing machine of improved kind.—R. Grace's flax fibre dryer proves success.—Sydney Parliament votes subsidy to A.U.S. Company for inter-island communication with New Hebrides.—Atrocities on Christians reported from Crete.—Long, Gladstonite, returned unopposed for Dundee. Death announced of Eliza Cook, poetess, aged 91.

FRIDAY, 27th.

Disastrous floods in China.—Wife of Canon Holland, St. Paul's becomes Catholic.

SATURDAY, 28th.

Hon. Robinson's estate sworn under £350,000.—Tornado causes serious damage in North Victoria.

MONDAY, 30th.

Gold recovered from Koranui.—Russell, M.H.R., joins Ministry.—Hislop re-elected for Oamaru by majority over Dunn of 136.—Jackson, M.H.R., lost overboard Rotorna from Wellington to Manukau.—Bashranging case reported from Dubbo, N.S.W.—Will of Richard Pigott proved under £2,000.

TUESDAY, 1st.

Bishop Grimes subscribes towards Christchurch funds of Imperial Federation League, expresses willingness to become member.—Meeting at Timaru decides on steps to form another South Canterbury refrigerating company.—Great drought predicted in New South Wales.

Commercial.

MR. DONALD STRONACH (on behalf of the New Zealand Loan and Mercantile Agency Company, Limited) reports for the week ending October 2, as follows:—

Fat Cattle.—189 head were yarded for this day's market, about one-half of which were prime quality medium to heavy weights. Best bullocks brought £8 17s 6d to £10 17s 6d; a few pens extra prime, £11 10s to £13 15s; medium, £6 10s to £8; light and inferior £4 15s to £6 5s; cows, £3 5s to £7 17s 6d.

Fat Sheep.—3295 were penned, of which 350 were merinos, all the rest crossbreds. Crossbred wethers brought 14s 3d to 16s 3d; one pen extra prime Southdowns, 17s; ordinary to good, 10s 6d to 14s; best crossbred ewes, 12s 9d to 14s 9d; ordinary to good, 8s 6d to 12s 6d; merino weibers, 6s 6d to 9s.

Lambs.—Best, 15s to 17s 6d; inferior to medium, 4s 3d to 11s.

Pigs.—Suckers realised 6s 4d to 11s; stores, 13s 6d to 25s; porkers, 29s to 35s; baconers, 39s to 52s 6d.

Store Cattle.—The market is still quiet, and although there is some enquiry, the season is hardly far enough advanced to allow of any business just yet of any importance, but, should the weather continue favourable, in the course of the next two or three weeks we expect to see the market assume a more active tone.

Store Sheep.—The market at the moment is almost at a standstill. There are hardly any offerings now direct, and the small business done is confined to odd lots taken up when the Burnside market is overcrowded and prices suitable to buyers. We do not anticipate that very much business will be transacted in this line during the next two or three months.

Wool.—The London sales are progressing under favourable conditions. Private and Press telegrams advise that the improvement lately reported has become still more marked. Greasy merino has advanced $\frac{1}{2}$ d per lb, since close of last sales; scoured do has advanced $\frac{1}{2}$ d to 1d; fine scoured crossbred has advanced $\frac{1}{2}$ d to 1d; coarse do nearly 1d per lb; other descriptions unchanged. The market is evidently in a healthy condition, and unless disturbed by unforeseen occurrences, apparently there is every prospect of satisfactory prices being maintained during the course of the series. Locally, all offered meet with an excellent demand and very satisfactory prices are being realised, whether disposed of by public auction or privately. During the present week we placed privately 80 bales washed and slipe cross and halfbred at full rates.

Sheepskins.—Owing mainly no doubt to the favourable advices regularly coming to hand regarding the progress of the series of wool sales now being held in London, Tuesday's sales were well attended and in the absence of the usual supplies at the freezing works, owing to a stoppage for periodical repairs, a much keener demand was experienced. We submitted a catalogue of considerable length which elicited very active competition. All sorts were in strong request, dry skins commanded fuller attention, and we would recommend our clients forwarding their supplies at their earliest convenience. The market generally is displaying a firmer tone, fine combing halfbreds and merino have the preference, and an advance on these was quite apparent. Country dry crossbreds, low to medium, brought 1s 5d to 4s; do do merino 1s 3d to 4s 1d; medium to full woolled crossbreds, 4s 3d to 8s 2d; do do merino, 4s 2d to 6s 3d; dry pelts, 3d to 1s 3d; butchers' green crossbreds best, 8s, 7s 10d, 7s 6d, 7s 5d, 7s 3d, 7s 1d, 6s 11d, 6s 8d, 6s 6d, 6s 3d; good to medium and inferior; 6s, 5s 9d, 5s 7d, 5s 4d, 5s 1d, 5s, 4s 9d; green merinos, 5s 9d, 5s 6d, 5s 4d, 5s 2d, 5s, 4s 9d, 4s 7d, 4s 4d, 4s 2d.

Rabbit Skins.—There is no change to report in the market advices received lately of a rise in price at Home, have not had much effect on values locally, while shippers appear to be anxious to secure