

THE LADIES' LAND LEAGUE.

THE report of the meeting of the Ladies' Land League which appears in our present issue will attract more than usual attention. It contains an announcement that the League—or, rather, the central executive of that association—is about to be immediately dissolved.

The reasons for the dissolution are plainly stated by the ladies themselves. The League was established to supply the physical wants of two classes of persons—viz., first, those arrested under the Coercion Act of the benevolent Mr. Forster, together with their families; and, secondly, such evicted tenants and their families as might happen to be destitute. As to the former of those two classes there is no longer any need for the existence of an elaborate organisation to render them relief. The number of persons now imprisoned as suspects is comparatively small, and six weeks hence the odious measure under which they are confined will expire. It will be equally unnecessary, though for a different reason, for the ladies to continue the work of providing for the wants of the victims of landlord greed and oppression. Another organisation to be presently founded is to undertake that important business, and to that organisation, we feel confident, the sole responsibility in this matter may well be left. The Ladies' Land League, therefore, as we have said, dissolves.

The event, though under the circumstances one that will cause no surprise, cannot be allowed to pass without comment. The Ladies' Irish National Land League will live in history. Its story will reflect unfading lustre on the generation in which it was established, and will for ever act as a stimulus to patriotic action on the part of all future generations of Irishwomen. For what is that story? At a time when a British Government by brute force put down the legal and constitutional organisation of men which had been established for the protection of the Irish tenantry against their ruthless and hereditary oppressors, and when it was a crime for a man even to furnish the means of living to starving people in Ireland, some patriotic Irish ladies stepped into the breach, took up the work which had been interrupted by the imprisonment of their brothers, and, in the face of both governmental terrorism, on the one hand, and, on the other, of denunciations from some who might have been expected rather to applaud them, carried on that work unflinchingly to the end. Some of them actually suffered the penalty of imprisonment for pursuing their charitable mission, but that fact, too, was powerless to check their operations. How many tragedies might have been enacted throughout the land had Ireland possessed no such heroic daughters at such a crisis, no one but the Almighty Ruler of the Universe alone knows. It is certain, however, that, in the contingency referred to, thousands would have died of starvation.

Miss Anna Parnell, in short, and her colleagues of the Ladies' Land League, went to the rescue of a large portion of the Irish tenantry when, but for their action—distinguished, as it was, at once by courage and true womanly devotion—the tenants in question would inevitably have perished. Such services the Irish nation, while it lives, cannot forget. They were invaluable, and their record is imperishable.—*Nation*.

TIRE OF GOING TO SCHOOL.

"THE cause of education be banged!" he muttered, as he sat down on the curbstone on Fayette street.

He was a lad of thirteen. His pants were supported by a piece of wire clothes-line girted around his waist; his big flat feet appeared to be waiting for a thunder shower to wash them clean.

"That is what ails me!" he went on, as he pushed his toes into the wet sand. "I don't believe in a feller dipping in and learning all there is to learn, and not letting other folks have a chance. There's lots of other folks in this world besides me, and I ain't going to be a hog, and try to learn all there is to learn."

After a minute he went on:

"Dont I know 'nuff? Three times two are six, four times five are twenty, and four and four are eight. That's as correct as I could get 'em if I went to school for a hundred years. And dont I know how to spell? C-a-t is 'cat' the world over, and I'll bet on it every time. H-e-n spells 'hen' and I know it as well as if I weighed a ton."

He rose up to throw up a stone at a dog across the street, and after resuming his seat he went on:

"Joggerly kinder wrestles me down, but I don't go much on joggerly. What do I care whether an island is entirely surrounded by water, or whether there ain't any water within ten miles of it? S'pose I'm going to buy and sell islands for a living. I don't care which is the highest mountain or the longest river, do I? I'm going to keep a feed store, and when I'm rolling bales o' hay around will I care about mountains and rivers? I've heard the boys go on about exports and imports, and straits, and seas, and capes, but what's them to me? If a feller wants a bag o' oats is he going to wait and ask me when the Island of Madagascar was discovered?"—*American Paper*.

The origin of the word "Hoosier" is now discussed by the *Indiana papers*, but Dr. Aaron Wood, the oldest Methodist clergyman in that State, appears to have settled it by an incident he relates to the *Michigan City Dispatch*, as follows:—"A learned foreigner by the name of Leminouski, formerly a soldier under Napoleon, during the years intervening between 1823 and 1830 lectured extensively on the wars of Europe to the pioneers of this State. In his discourses the valour of the Hussars was conspicuous, but his accent was not English and he pronounced that body hoosiers. During the excavation of the canal at the falls of the Ohio through Kentucky a young man from Washington County, Indiana, on the grounds one day fought and whipped three Kentuckians. Highly elated at the conclusion, amid a torrent of backwoods profanity, he exclaimed, 'I'm a hoosier,' from Leminouski's pronunciation of Hussar. From that day to the present the term has been applied to all citizens of Indiana."

Commercial.

MR DONALD STRONACH (on behalf of the New Zealand Loan and Mercantile Agency Co., Limited) reports for the week ending October 25th as follows:—

Fat Cattle.—The yards contained only 149 head, about 60 being stores and dairy cows. The supply being again small last week's quotations were fully supported, under good competition from the trade. Bulls fetched from £8 10s to £13 15s, and cows £4 12s 6d to £10 10s per head. We quote as in last report, 27s 6d to 30s per 100lb.

Fat Sheep.—Considerably larger consignments were to hand, 2879 head having been penned (260 of which were merinos), but the trade having been bare of stock, prices of last market were nearly approached, especially towards the close of the auction. Cross-breds sold at from 10s 6d to 17s 6d, the former price being for shorn sheep; and merinos 10s 9d to 15s 3d. Our sales were on account of Messrs. Wayne and Lear, James Mein, and C. H. Jessop, at quotations. Best mutton may be quoted 2½d per lb.

Fat Lambs.—244 offered, and sold at 10s to 12s, at which we sold consignments on account of Messrs. Jessop, J. and S. Wilson, and Cruickshank.

Fat Pigs.—53 yarded, and sold at from 9s 6d to 8s 5s each. Sheepskins.—Our Monday's catalogue was a very full one, and exhibited a fair assortment of various descriptions, which were well competed for. Prices for merinos were well supported, but cross-breds were a little easier. Station and dry skins fetched from 2s 10d to 5s for cross-breds, and 1s 4d to 5s 2d for merinos. Butchers' cross-breds sold at from 4s to 5s 11d; and merinos, 4s 10d to 5s 8d; lamb-skins, 9d to 1s each.

Rabbitskins.—We did not offer any this week, but purpose bringing forward several lots on Monday next.

Hides.—Quotations are unaltered, and we have cleared all our consignments at 4d per lb. for well-trimmed heavy hides, and 3d to 3½d for inferior or light.

Tallow.—Under good competition we sold several lots by auction on Monday, prices ranging from 28s to 31s 6d for medium to fairly-rendered tallow; 25s inferior; and up to 21s 6d for butchers' rough fat.

Grain.—Wheat: Millers are believed to be low in stock, but continue to hold off from purchasing in the hope of buying at reduced quotations, of which, however, there are no indications at present; sales of milling wheat are therefore very much restricted. Fowl feed sells freely, though not quite up to recent prices. We sold by auction on Monday 362 bags of fowl wheat at 2s 9d to 3s 11d, and 450 bags of milling at 4s to 4s 8½d, which will sufficiently indicate present values. Oats: We sold at auction 1,300 bags good short feed oats at 3s 2½d to 3s 3½d, on which figures buyers show no disposition to advance; in the meantime the market may be reported firm thereat. Inferior and discoloured we quote at 2s 10d to 3s 1d, without demand. Barley: No change to record.

PRODUCE MARKET—OCTOBER 25, 1882.

MR. F. MEENAN, Great King street, reports:—Wholesale prices, Oats, 2s 10d to 3s 3d per bushel; milling wheat, 4s 8d to 4s 9d per bushel; fowls' feed, 2s to 3s 8d; barley, malting, 4s 3d to 5s; milling, 3s 6d; feeding, 3s to 3s 6d; hay, £6 10s per ton; chaff, mixed, £4 10s; hay chaff, £5 10s; straw, £2 10s; bran, £5 10s; pollard, £5 10s; potatoes, £4 10s; oatmeal, £16; flour, £11 to £11 10s; butter, medium to prime, 10d to 1s per lb.; salt, 10d per lb.; eggs, 10d per dozen; bacon, sides, 8d per lb.; rolls, 7½d; hams, 9½d; pork, 4½d; cheese, 8d to 9d.

MESSRS. MERCER BROTHERS, Princes street, report:—Fresh butter (in ½-lb. and 1lb. prints), best quality, 1s 1d per lb.; ordinary butter, 10d per lb.; eggs, 10d per dozen; roll bacon, 8d per lb. good salt butter, in kegs, 9d per lb.; cheese 9d, per lb.

LABOUR MARKET.—OCTOBER 25, 1882.

GRANT AND CO., Universal Labour Exchange, report for the week ending Thursday, October 27th, as follows:—Business has not been so brisk this week, and the demand for labour has eased considerably, the stormy and very unseasonable weather retarding preparations for the shearing season, together with the dark prospects of failure in crops and grass which threaten the farmers from the effects of the bad season, grub in their wheat, etc., causing them to curtail their expenses and do with as few hands as possible:—these reasons, coupled with a disinclination on the part of the employers to accede to the high rates of wages demanded by servants, have tended to cause the market to be very flat and wages, therefore, considerably lower. The only exception to these remarks are domestics for country farms, stations, etc. Wages: Couples, £65 to £70; shepherds, £60 to £65; ploughmen, £52 to £55; gardeners, £65 per annum and found. Musterers, 40s; useful hands, farms, stations, 15s, 20s; milkers, 22s 6d; boys, 5s, 10s; grooms, 20s; station cooks and bakers, 25s, 30s; hotelmen, barmen, waiters, boots, kitchenmen, 15s, 30s; cooks, 30s, 40s per week and found. Draymen, road, rail, and bush, 6s, 7s; tunnelmen, quarrymen, 8s, 9s. Tradesmen busy, wages satisfactory. Domestic, hotels, 12s, 15s, 20s; barmaids, 20s, 30s; cooks, 20s, 40s per week; farms, stations, private, £30 to £52 per annum.

Mr. T. Katterfeldt, watchmaker and jeweller, George street, Dunedin, has continually on hand a fine stock of watches, clocks, and jewellery, which he offers to his customers and the public generally at very reasonable prices.

The share list of the Equitable Insurance Association of New Zealand will close on the first of November. Applications will be received at any branch of the Colonial Bank throughout the colony, and should be made without delay.