

# News of the Week.

FRIDAY.

Margaret and Frederick Wain were brought before J. Logan, Esq., J.P., yesterday on a charge of the manslaughter of Joseph Henry Wain, a child of seven. The Crown Prosecutor said the intention was to prove a long course of cruel and inhuman treatment of the child, likely to cause tuberculosis, or to develop it where there was a tendency towards it and make it become dangerous. Madina Doyle, who had lived near the accused at May Bank, said that the deceased looked a poor, starved, ill-used child. She had heard sounds as if he were being beaten coming from the house, and heard the child cry out mournfully: "Oh, mother! Oh, mother!" to which Mrs. Wain made a rough answer. Deceased used not to play like other children. Agnes McGrath, aged eleven, had seen the deceased put into a room in the Grand Stand at the Caledonian Grounds by his father, who then locked the door and walked away. Margery Diack had lived next door to the accused at May Bank. The child was generally kept outside and often in bad weather; she had seen him out from 7 a.m., till 5 p.m.; he used to come and ask witness for bread, which he seemed much in need of, and ate very fast; she had seen Mrs. Wain beat him. Mary Ann McKay said the deceased had come to her father's house at South Dunedin on Jan. 28; he looked cold and miserable, and asked for food, which was given to him. She noticed that his arm had been broken, and his forehead was marked. Martha McEachern had seen the child standing on the ledge of a window at his father's house. He was trembling, and seemed raving to get out for a drink. He was without shoes or stockings, and had a cut on his forehead and a black eye. He ate the bread she gave him ravenously, but she could not raise the window to give him a drink. He looked cold, hungry, and frightened. On March 2nd, he came out of the window and tried to climb over witness's fence; he was cold and shivering, and she gave him something to eat. The witness gave some farther details of the treatment the child had received from his stepmother, and of which he had told her. The Court was adjourned until noon to-day.

At the first meeting of the Western Germany Inundation Relief Fund, held in Dunedin last night, the hon. treasurer read a report showing that the sum of £172 15s 6d had been collected, leaving the net sum of £162 3s 4d for transmission to Germany.

The Dunedin Town Belt, opposite the residence of the late Hon. H. S. Chapman, is to be replanted,—it having been denuded of bush.

The scene of the supposed murder near Roxburgh was not far from the junction of Shingle Creek, where the Chinaman, Ah Chin, lived in a kind of cave in the side of the gully. A fellow-countryman of his named Wah Ki, states that he was with him in his shelter on the evening of the murder, and that having fallen asleep he was awakened by the sound of a gun, Ah Chin crying out at once that he was shot, and was dying. He also heard footsteps running away outside the cave. Ah Chin's watch and money were found untouched so that no robbery had taken place.

At the Ashburton races yesterday (second day), M. J. Green's Canary won the County Hurdle Handicap, and Mr. Lawson's Marchioness Nill the Flying Handicap.

The cargo of frozen meat by the ship Dunedin is selling at 6d per lb. The shipment per Cuzco is inferior to previous cargoes, and has realised 3d per lb. The market is glutted.

At Secunderabad, in Madras, sixty-two natives have been drowned by falling from rafts on which they were worshipping into the tanks beneath them.

Daniel Curley has been found guilty and sentenced to death. A box containing explosives has been found outside Salisbury Cathedral.—A sure sign, we need not remark, of the presence of Fenians.—No one else could have been so stupid.

At a meeting of Irish delegates, held at Philadelphia, and at which Mr. Parnell was present, it has been decided to hold the convention there on the 25th inst.—The use of dynamite was condemned.

The Victorian Government are anxious that the annexation of New Guinea shall be approved of by the Imperial Government.

Victorian wheat statistics of the Northern countries show that last season's yield was 5,321,000 bushels, or an average of 8.65 bushels to the acre against an average of 9.46 bushels last year.

The South Australian wheat crop returned 4.16 bushels only per acre last season.

A native meeting at Te Kuiti has decided that Mr. Bryce shall be permitted to pass through, but not allowed to make a survey until they are sure as to how their lands are to be dealt with; they would have nothing to do with the Native Reserves Act passed last session, as they were afraid the result might be a proclamation tying up a large district, as in the case of the land between Rotorua and Waikato.

A man named Smith was cut in half and instantaneously killed on Wednesday by falling on a circular saw at Wilding's sawmill Waipukurau.

Mr. Bryce reached Otorongata on Tuesday, to which place the railway may be made cheaply. Wi Pere, and other delegates from the Te Kuti meeting met him there, and stated that the meeting had decided to petition Parliament to amend the law dealing with Native land. The motive of the proposal is that the chiefs wish to prevent those who are willing to sell lands from doing so, as they find this has a tendency to destroy their own influence. They desire that with land held in common the majority may prevent individualisation of title.

Tawhiao, on arriving with 200 followers at Cambridge, was recommended, in a speech of welcome by Mr. Sheehan, to live in harmony with Europeans as natives do at Wanganui and elsewhere. He made no reply.

An agreeable interview took place yesterday between a deputation from the Dunedin School Committee and the Education Board. The chairman of the Board gave the deputation to understand that the Board had enough to do without being bothered by the likes of them. And Mr. Robin made a suitable reply, in which he vowed he would have said more only he was afraid the reporters might tell on him. Then the Chairman said the Board had a lot of business to do, and Mr. Robin said so had the deputation, and he himself had no notion of sitting to listen to Mr. Green talking. Mr. Begg next protested against Mr. Robin's behaviour, and wanted the Board to resent it—(how?) And Mr. Green poured coals on Mr. Robin's head by saying he agreed with him.—Mr. Green, we presume, stands up when he listens to himself talking. Mr. Ramsay wanted the Board to put a stop to this sort of behaviour—and Mr. Robin tried to get in a few more words of advice, but Mr. Begg would not allow him to be heard—and would not have the Board lectured about their own business. Finally, it was decided that Mr. Green should talk, but the reporters, probably touched by Mr. Robin's fear of their presence, have not told us as to whether that gentleman stood meantime, or sat, or lay down on the floor and kicked, or rolled about.—Something or other, however, he must positively have done, and we want to know what it was. But the only decision come to by the Board in which we feel any interest was that they could not provide the additional accommodation necessary, owing to their want of funds.—Afterwards, Mr. Robin had another little brush with the Board, but succeeded in disburdening himself of the word or two he had to say.

At a meeting of the ratepayers of St. Kilda, held last evening, it was resolved to approve of the proposal made by the Council to pay off the bank overdraft of the borough by borrowing £1500, by which £45 a year would be saved—the loan being available at 7 per cent., whereas 10 per cent. was paid on the overdraft.

A digger named Henry Coulter is missing, under suspicious circumstances, from Roxburgh, having been last seen on the 4th inst., when he was the worse for liquor and had some money on him.

The telegraph office at Tenui was set fire to by lightning on Saturday night—eleven poles on Black Hill being shattered at the same time.

The successful tenderer for the Crofton section of the Wellington Manawatu railway is Mr. Anderson. The amount is understood to be £17,500.

Another member of the "Invincibles," named Kingston, has been arrested for complicity in the crimes of the conspirators.

The telegraph clerk, kidnapped by Fenians, has been suspended on suspicion of having invented the story told by him.

H.M.S. Dragon, ordered to Madagascar, has been detained at Aden, owing to a conflict between the Arabs in the vicinity.

The Imperial Government will appoint a Permanent Committee of Agriculture under the presidency of the Right Hon. Mr. Dodson.

The Fenians are accused of having threatened Government House at Ottawa.

The Tapanui paper says Moa Flat Station has been sold to an Australian squatter named Keogh.

Mahuki and sixteen of the Maori prisoners are coming south by the Hawea; it is supposed to Lyttelton gao'.

Messrs. S. Kerr and T. C. Fisher, members of the Dunedin Bicycle Club, were thrown from their machines last evening by a rail fixed across the track at the Oval. Both gentlemen were a good deal hurt, Mr. Kerr having his face disfigured.

Mr. John Arthur, who comes to Dunedin as the representative of Messrs. Gibbs, Bright and Co., is regretted at Sydney as the champion amateur sculler of New South Wales.

A woman named Lee, who was lately witness in the Priestly-Hamilton case, has been severely injured by the cow-catcher of an engine, between Te papa and Onehunga. Her recovery is dispaired of.

The Auckland whaleship *Especulador*, has arrived at the Bay of Islands, and reports taking 500 barrels of sperm oil since leaving in December. The captain reports that there were plenty of whales, but the weather was not favourable.

The entries for the Cambridge Jockey Club Autumn meeting are the largest ever received for any previous meeting in the Waikato. Nineteen of the principal Auckland horses have entered for the Cup.

The Diocesan Treasurer denies that Bishop Nevill made in the Synod the statement reported concerning his income. In the last four years, he adds, law costs have amounted to only £14 19s 9d.

The Committee of the Christchurch Chamber of Commerce have passed a resolution to ask Government to afford assistance in forwarding and arranging exhibits for the forthcoming foreign exhibition at Boston, U.S.

The trial of Timothy Kelly for the Phoenix Park murders was begun on Thursday.

Gallagher, one of the dynamite prisoners, is said to have hinted that it was intended to blow up Westminster bridge and Scotland Yard.

Two vast squatting companies, for the purchase of land in the Northern territory of Australia, will shortly be launched. Sir Julius Vogel is the promoter of one.

A general rebellion has broken out in Ashantee.

The *Lyttelton Times* gives a few particulars respecting the Hack Race at Ashburton. The owner of Dalesman decided to ride the horse himself, displacing the jockey Sharp, and, as certain betting men seemed anxious to lay their money against him, suspicions were aroused. These were strengthened when it was seen that on the fall of the flag Dalesman's rider made no attempt to keep a safe place—King Philip leading all the way and winning easily. The consequence was that the stewards, after hearing evidence, decided to disqualify Dalesman and his rider for ever, and further, declared all bets on the horse off. Sharp told the stewards that he had been requested to pull the horse and that on his refusal the owner said he would himself ride him.

A fire occurred at Eglinton, near Dunedin, this morning, by which three houses were completely destroyed. The fire is supposed