

avail themselves of this for the last fifteen years, or since the Polynesian labour trade was established by them, but there is some ground to believe that the Imperial Government have also, from time immemorial, found it useful to themselves.

*Appropos* of Ogden and Sutherland, the Tasmanian murderers, having been rabbiters, a gentleman writes to the *Hobart Mercury* quoting the testimony of the late Chief Sheep Inspector for the Colony to the effect that rabbiting is an occupation injurious to the morals of the lads who are habitually engaged in it. But we should have thought the fact was obvious, and hardly required to be explained. Any desultory, unsettled occupation of the kind must needs be deleterious, and of a degrading tendency.

The medals of the Anglers' Association have been awarded as follows:—Acclimatisation Society's silver medal for bait-fishing in the Shag River on the 3rd March, Mr. William Webster, for a basket weighing 14lb. 12oz. In the competition of 23rd March, Mr. Webster took first prize with a basket weighing 14lb. 2oz., taken in the Shag River; and Mr. B. J. McKenzie, jun., second prize with a basket weighing 7½lb., taken in the Waitati. Mr. S. Thompson has obtained the gold medal presented by the Acclimatisation Society for fly-fishing in Lee Stream on 30th November, his basket weighing 4lb. 5oz.

The *Clutha Leader* reports a case of supposed incendiarism, by which 400 or 500 bushels of oats were destroyed in the stackyard of the Messrs. Small, at Inch Clutha, on Saturday.

The *Palmerston Times* reports favourably of the results of the threshing in its district—the yield being for the most part up to expectations.—Ploughing has been already begun.

The first meet for the season of the Otago hounds takes place this afternoon at Mr. Hungerford's, Waikari. We wish the sportsmen a "southerly wind, and a cloudy sky,"—or whatever, instead, may be conducive in these latitudes to the successful chase of a red herring.

One of our daily contemporaries understands that an effort will be made to form a company from among the debenture-holders and creditors of the Peninsula and Ocean Beach Railway Company to purchase the concessions and plant, and by working the railway, to eventually recoup themselves the loss they have sustained through the company suspending operations.

Somebody is reported to have made use of his umbrella last night in anything rather than a sheltering manner towards a borough councillor at Mornington. It is supposed that a particular description of the affair will be given to someone or other of our magistrates, and, no doubt, it will prove entertaining.

Mrs. Fuchs, jun., of the Wellington Hotel, Christchurch, had her foot badly crushed at Lyttelton, between a pile of the jetty and the gangway of the steamer *Wakatipu*, which had returned from an excursion to Akaroa. She was conveyed, under the care of Drs. Robson and Bakewell, to Christchurch, where part of the injured foot was amputated. The young lady is a daughter of Mr. Krull, of Dunedin, and has not long been married.

The Hon. Mr. Rolleston has pronounced the conference between the Canterbury M.H.B.'s and the West Coast Railway League very inopportune, in view of the fact that a Commission is now enquiring into the matter.

The *Lyttelton Times* states that a significant, but not very reassuring, sign of the times was afforded by the fact that no fewer than 76 men applied at the office of a commission agent in Cathedral Square on Thursday morning, in response to an advertisement for three men to work at the Belfast Chemical Manure Works.

An innocent individual yesterday evening stole a bundle of hats from Mr. Master's shop in Princes street, and shortly afterwards, with a childlike simplicity, returned to sell them there. It is needless to add that he was cordially received,—taken in, indeed, and done for on the spot.

The Canadian Land Company offer to locate 10,000 Irish families in that country if the English Government will lend a million of money for the purpose.

At Auckland, Mr. Montagu Smith has purchased *Hippodamia* for 345 guineas.

Squire Flockton, a man aged 50, in charge of the Guano traffic on Juror's Island, has committed suicide while suffering from sunstroke.

Mr. Allan McLean, of Napier, has purchased from the New Zealand Pedigree Stock Company a seven-months-old brown filly, at the price of 135 guineas.

The third son of Mr. Ferguson, tailor, aged six years, accidentally fell into the Wespport River yesterday afternoon and was drowned. The body was recovered by the Government divers.

M. Daniells, charged with arson at New Plymouth, has been committed for trial, bail being refused.

Messrs. Kennedy Bros., of the Brunner Coal Mine, have just concluded a contract with the Noumea Nickel Company to supply 250 tons of coke and 100 tons of coal monthly. The *Pelimen*, an iron barque, has been purchased, and will be despatched in May. Another vessel will be provided by Stone Bros., Auckland. Previously the Nickel Company obtained all their coal from Newcastle, but having seen a sample of the Brunner coke and coal, concluded the present contract. Hitherto the Brunner coke-ovens have been turning out only 100 tons per month, although material enough to manufacture 300 tons per month have been thrown into the river. New coke-ovens are now in course of erection, a cargo of bricks for that purpose having been sent up a few days ago.

A little girl of two, belonging to Mr. T. Smith, of Rangiora flour-mills, fell in the mill-stream on Thursday, and on her being taken out, apparently lifeless, her mouth was found to be full of half-chewed food, which had prevented the water going down her throat or the air being breathed out, and kept her afloat. She had recovered before nightfall.

Mr. J. O'Connor's Counsellor, won a trotting match for £50 against Mr. Milner's Cock Robin, on the Timaru racecourse yesterday.

A man named Maurice Power had his skull fractured on Friday, at Murray Creek, near Beeton, by a branch from a tree which he was engaged in felling.

The Boards of Reviewers under the Property Assessment Act, have raised, up to the present time, the valuations of properties in the Oamaru district over £50,000. The most of these were on appeals by Mr. Sperry, the commissioner, against the value of the valuers. The road boards first took action in the matter on account of many of the values being what they considered much too low, with the result as stated above.

The Right Hon. J. G. Dodson, has been appointed Minister of Agriculture for the United Kingdom.

The *Clutha Leader*, in commenting on a report that the venue in the Wain case will be changed to Invercargill, says:—"This would seem to be a prudent course, for it is an undoubted fact that the public have lost all confidence in Dunedin juries."

The heirs of the late General Wynyard, have succeeded to a large fortune by the death of a relative who owned an extensive street property in London.

It is stated that the accident to Mrs. Fuchs occurred by the landing-stage's being pushed out over the wharf before the steamer had stopped, which caused it to be twisted round and to crush the lady's foot against one of the iron stanchions, and which has, moreover, been twisted out of shape.

At an indignation meeting held in Riverton on Tuesday evening, the following resolution was passed:—"That the anomalous position of the Waimea Plains railway—as a private line with all the inconveniences, expenses and uncertainties attaching to it as such, while it is virtually a trunk line—calls for the immediate attention of the Government, and that this meeting strongly urges on the Government the immediate purchase of the line."

Mr. Patrick Egan has expressed himself willing that the Land League accounts should be referred to an auditing committee.

A nitro-glycerine factory has been discovered by the police at Northampton.

Mr. Parnell, who has returned to England, has cabled to the Irish Convention at Philadelphia urging the delegates to adopt a prudent programme.

Three Fenians named Kingston, Gibney, and Healy have been arrested at Dublin, charged on the evidence of an informer with conspiring to murder.

Michael Fagan, the fourth of the Phoenix Park prisoners, has been found guilty and sentenced to death.

#### MONDAY.

The Hon. Mr. Rolleston, who is now in Christchurch, comes South on Tuesday, for private and departmental business.

A seven-roomed house, owned by John Clarke, and occupied by James Webber, was burned down at Philipstown yesterday morning. The insurance on house and furniture amounted to £650.

The barque *Monarch* was docked at Lyttelton on Friday. About 20ft. of her false keel, between the main and mizen masts, had been torn away, the keel bent upwards, and her copper wrinkled both fore and aft.

Sir Wilfred Lawson's perseverance has been rewarded by the carrying by a large majority of the House of Commons of his motion in favour of local option.

The Convention at Philadelphia have adopted Mr. Parnell's plan for the unification of all Irish Societies. This has displeased O'Donovan Rossa's faction, who have threatened to withdraw and take separate action.

It is reported that Dr. Croke has been censured by the Pope for his support of Parnell.—The report, we need not say, is a falsehood, and on somebody's part a wilful one.

The informer, Devine, has divulged the operations of the Vigilance Committee in arranging the attempted murder of Judge Lawson. The murderers of Cox and four other persons have been arrested in consequence of Devine's statements.

The Grey-County toll-gates have been sold by auction, fetching £1540 as against £1000, for which they were last year let by tender.

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The *Matuira Ensign* says the first section of the railway from Riversdale to Switzers is to be proceeded with at once. The vote of £5000 allocated for the work last session will be expended in forming and fencing the line to the point known as Mr. Gillander's pre-emptive right, some seven miles from Riversdale.

The Wellington Education Board complain in their report that Otago and Canterbury are unduly favoured:—"In 1879 the amount of grant to Otago was £44,522 6s 4d, and Wellington £13,857 0s 9d; in 1880 Otago, £28,500 and Wellington £16,000. These figures speak for themselves. 'Equality of sacrifice' may be a just political dogma, but it can only be so when applied to 'giving' as well as 'taking.' The traveller who visits Otago and Canterbury, with their numerous large and costly school buildings, and compares with these the wooden school buildings of this district, may well be excused for asking whether the same Government controls the system in both Islands."

The Auckland Rowing Association matches came off on Saturday afternoon. The races were well contested, North Shore winning the majority.

An apology has been made in the Mornington assault case, and consequently there will be no trial.

The Victorian crew won, by six lengths, the Inter-Colonial Eight-oared race on the Parramatta River.

The *New Zealand Times* publishes the following account of Southern's Falls, Arthur River, about 30 miles from the head of Milford Sound:—"It is said to be no less than 5700ft. high, and takes the whole waters of the Arthur River with it, making one almost perpendicular leap of 3000ft. downwards at starting. It is only 20ft. broad at the first point of its descent, and looks at a distance like a bright, broad thread of water. The source is apparently in some large glacier among mountains over 9000ft. high. Even in dry weather it takes down five times as much water as the Bowen Falls in the same district do at any time.