

Mr. M. W. Green, M.H.R., has written to the *Observer* denying the statements made as to his having calumniated the Auckland settlers with respect to the Waikato war.

Bishop Cowie proposes that the Costley estate should not be sold but divided, so that the various institutions may secure the unearned increment.

Judge Richmond complains that without a balance-sheet it is impossible for the judges to ascertain a bankrupt's prior position.

The *Gazette* publishes regulations providing for the classification of prisoners, who may raise themselves by good conduct, with increase of privileges, and gratuities to be paid to them on leaving gaol. No smoking by prisoners will be allowed in future.

The Italian Press denounce the annexation of New Guinea as a usurpation of the fruits of Italian exploration.

A blast with half a ton of Mackley and Lejohn's powder brought down 15,000 tons of stone at Mr. Nicol's Caversham quarry on Saturday.

There is a probability of war between France and China on account of Tonquin.

The Queen has instituted an Order of the Royal Red Cross, for nurses of the wounded in action.

On the evidence of informers numerous arrests in connection with the conspiracies are being made in Ireland.

The Irish Convention at Philadelphia have concluded their sittings, and adjourned indefinitely. Before adjourning a motion was adopted, denouncing English rule in Ireland; urging the banding together of Irishmen in America and Canada for the purpose of obtaining autonomy for Ireland by lawful means; recommending the organisation of a National League; and resolving to co-operate with Mr. Parnell in his efforts to obtain redress of the Irish grievances.

#### TUESDAY.

The Railway Commissioners arrived at Kumara on Saturday night, and having inspected the diggings country went to Hokitika on Sunday afternoon. They were to return to Kumara and take evidence yesterday evening, and then proceed to Greymouth.

The Christchurch Acclimatisation Society will apply to the New Zealand Shipping Company for aid in importing humble bees as fertilisers of red clover.

Richard Bowen, who was injured last week by a steam-engine, died in the Christchurch Hospital last night.

The house occupied by Mrs. G. Thompson at Temuka was burned down yesterday morning.—Insurance, £100, in the New Zealand.

The Canterbury rivers are rising, and serious floods are threatened.

Hannah Daley was fined £10 and costs, or 14 days' imprisonment, yesterday, at Oamaru, for sly grog selling.

The Oamaru *Times* complains that the season is the worst known in the district for 10 years. Besides injury done, farming work has been delayed by the rains.

George Dowling, of Emerald Hill, will match Edward Blackburn against either George Robertson, champion of Australia, or Professor Miller, champion of the world, or any other man in the world, Border style, for £100 a-side, and the championship of Australia.

The Dunedin *Times* says: The Dunback contract, for which tenders are now invited, consists of two and a-half miles of formation, and the construction of four bridges on the Palmerston-Waiheimo line of railway. The contract extends over five miles and 50 chains and includes a number of culverts and crossings. Two of the bridges have one span of 60ft. and two of 13ft. each, while the others are somewhat smaller. The work extends as far as the junction of Macraes road, and it is to be completed within 10 months from the acceptance of the tender.

At a meeting of the subscribers of the Dunedin Athenæum, held last night, an amendment was carried recording the opinion of the meeting in favour of the immediate establishment of a public library in the city. The majority of the members present were adverse, and very properly so, to the proposed merging of the Athenæum in the library.

A man named John Wyllie, who, on hints being given as to his having had something to do with the mysterious shooting of William Chinn, near the Waiau River, some months since, endeavoured to have an inquiry undertaken, is reported to have been found shot through the head, as Chinn was shot, at Bellemont station, Waiau.

Arab fanatics have attacked the Greek residents at Port Said, and had not British marines been landed from the ships of the Mediterranean fleet, it is believed a serious massacre would have taken place.

The Fenians will blow up the London Guildhall on May 6, and O'Donovan Rossa, at a caucus of the dynamite faction, has declared that plans for further outrages are mature.—No doubt they will be published all in good time, so that folk may get out of the way of the explosion; but as to Rossa we may wonder, with Trincolo, "that a monster should be such a natural!"

Christchurch railway station is to be lit by electricity. One "Gilder" light tried on Saturday night proved most satisfactory.

Sir Wm. Jervois has pronounced the Waitemata-Manukau canal of insufficient importance to warrant a large expenditure at present.

The Russell police lately have been making a raid on sly-grog sellers, a number having started selling when the prohibition was in force against the Natives obtaining spirits at licensed houses.

The annual meeting of the Napier Jockey Club took place to-day. The report showed the total number of members to be 128. The total receipts for the year were £4564; the amount paid away in stakes was £2726, and there was spent in improvements £429. The revenue derived from owners of horses was £2453. The report recommended that for the future, in forming programmes, owners should be more liberally dealt with in the matter of nominations.

A Chinese gambling-house was discovered in Wakefield street, Auckland, this morning. A Chinaman who had lost £70 at fantan, and refused to pay, saying he had been cheated, was detained there as a prisoner until liberated by the police.

The trial of Fitzharris for the Phoenix Park murders has commenced.

Professor Walker and Tucker, of the Auckland University, were boating, and their boat capsized, Professor Walker being drowned. Mr. Tucker got ashore with difficulty.

An Orchestral Society is about to be formed in Dunedin.

The British Government are expected to apply for the extradition of a number of American Fenians said to be implicated in the doings of the Invincibles.

Keefe has been executed for the murder at Cork.

The heavy rains having injured the railway between Waimate and Timaru, through traffic between Dunedin and Christchurch has been suspended. The express from Dunedin to-day only went as far as Oamaru.

C. E. Dudley has been committed for trial at Kaiapoi, on a charge of embezzling money belonging to the Harbour Board. He is also accused of malpractice while acting as town clerk.

The Christchurch Diamond Company's shares are at a premium, and the stones found are generally believed to be genuine.

Mr. Trevelyan has stated, in the House of Commons, that a wide-spread conspiracy to murder has been discovered in Clare.

So many of the Irish prisoners have volunteered to become informers that the Government are seriously embarrassed in selecting those whom they will accept as Queen's evidence.

The American branch of the Land League have adopted the Philadelphia platform.

Heavy rains and floods are reported from Canterbury—there being four and a half feet of water in the main street of Temuka. The express from Christchurch has been stopped at Orari and the south train at Makikihi. Between Orari and Rangitata a considerable portion of the line has been washed away, and it is feared that the bridge over the Hinds River will go. The express from Christchurch to Dunedin was stopped at Ashburton, most of the passengers returning to Christchurch. It is expected that the line will not be ready for traffic for at least two days. The bridge over the Selwyn is also said to be in danger.

The grocery store of Mr. D. Stranaghan, Victoria street, Christchurch, was burned down this morning.—The adjacent unoccupied shop being also destroyed, and one beyond it damaged considerably. The fire is supposed to have originated in Stranaghan's office, where a fire was burning when he went to bed. His insurances amounted to £1150—the loss being about £300 in excess of that sum. The buildings belonged to Mr. Dearsley, and were insured for £550.

George Clark, the defaulting clerk of the Vincent County Council, has been remanded, pending an examination of the County books.

#### WEDNESDAY.

A trial was made on Saturday, in the Caversham tunnel, of the effect of luminous paint on a railway carriage. It was found that by means of the paint passengers could see one another distinctly, and an opinion was expressed in favour of having it used generally for the purpose in question.

The Mataura *Ensign* says that Mr. Howorth, County Engineer, accompanied by Mr. Arthur, Chief Surveyor, Dunedin, will shortly visit Waikata, for the purpose of deciding upon the most necessary roads to be constructed to open up the blocks of educational reserves shortly to be offered for sale and lease.

At the opening of the session of the Otago University last evening; a portrait of Mr. J. Hieslop, which had been subscribed for, was presented to the Council by Mr. Stout.

The thoroughbred horse Palmbearer, which ran second in the Derby three years ago, died during the voyage out in the *Halcione*, by which it had been consigned to Messrs. Clifford and Weld, of Flaxbourne.

Mr. George Bennett, a very old and much-respected Wellington citizen, has offered to hand over to the promoters of the Home for the Aged Poor three acres of land in the neighbourhood of Wellington as a site for the Home.

A Hong Kong telegram reports that China is much excited by the French action towards Tonquin. The French men-of-war have been warned of an attack of Chinese, and have been ordered to keep watch on the coast.

Mr. Gladstone will move that precedence be given to the Affirmation in Lieu of Oaths Bill in the House of Commons.

The Shag River is flooded, and the Naseby coach could not cross it to-day. The heavy rain in the Palmerston district has hindered all kinds of farm work.

The flood at Albury washed away a blacksmith's shop, and a family named Cowper had a narrow escape of being drowned. At Washdyke several families had to be taken from dwellings on horseback in the middle of the night. Considerable loss of live stock is reported, and it will be still heavier if the rain does not soon cease.

Mr. J. O'Connor, a prominent Parnellite resident at Cork, has been imprisoned for refusing to give evidence before the secret inquiry which is being held at Dublin Castle.

A letter addressed to Mr. Forster, containing explosives, has been discovered by the Post-office officials, who stopped its delivery.

Professor Walker, who was drowned at Auckland yesterday, was a single man of 26, a fellow of Queen's College, and second wrangler in 1879, who arrived a fortnight ago to occupy a chair of Mathematics and Mathematical Physics in the Auckland University.

The Government scholars at Hokitika are in imminent danger of being perished out by a want of fuel. The committee, which has been unsuccessfully sued for £17, for coal supplied to the schools, have no funds, and unless the Board will provide them with money for the purpose in question, the schools will be closed.—But why could not each child fetch its own shovel of coal, as Irish school children used each to carry its own sod of turf.

Mrs. Doloughy, widow of the man for whose murder poor Francis Hynes was unjustly hanged, is on her way with her family to Port Chalmers—a sum of money, of which Mr. Clifford Loyd contributed £50, having been subscribed for her. It seems the woman was boycotted by her neighbours after the execution of Hynes, and this, although perhaps in some degree excusable in a neighbourhood where the innocent youth hanged had many friends, was very lamentable. It would, we need hardly say, be quite inexcusable and