

# News of the Week.

FRIDAY.

In the Wain case yesterday the medical evidence was continued;—Dr. Stenhouse stating, in the course of his examination, that Wain had brought the deceased for advice to him on October 16, when the man seemed not to have ill-treated the child, but to have done what any other father would have done under the circumstances. Dr. Alexander said that such treatment as that deceased had received would probably develop tubercular disease in a healthy child; Dr. Coughtrey agreed in the opinion. Mr. Denniston, on behalf of the accused, reserved their defence, and they were committed for trial, bail being allowed in their own sureties of £400 each, and two sureties of £200.

At a conference of the Railway League with members of Parliament, held in Christchurch yesterday, it was unanimously resolved—“That in the opinion of this meeting it is advisable that in consideration of the vast importance of the proposal, from a colonial point of view, of connecting the east and west coasts of the Middle Island, the £180,000 set apart for the extension of the Middle Island Main Trunk line northwards, should be diverted towards constructing a line to the West Coast by the route decided on; and that this meeting recommend that all Government land for 15 miles on each side of the determined route be reserved from sale, and that the proceeds of the sale be applied towards constructing a railway to connect Canterbury with Westland.

Three hundred and fifty people were present at the Citizen's Ball given to the Governor and Lady Jervois at Auckland last night.

The ship, British Commerce, from London to Melbourne, has been run down in the Channel, 25 lives being lost.

100 persons were killed by the cyclone in the Mississippi States.

The delegates at the Irish convention in Philadelphia have, as a matter of course, reprobated the use of dynamite.—Rooney, a prominent delegate, urges the adoption of Mr. Parnell's programme, which he warmly praises.

Tongarua is in violent eruption, not equalled for 13 years.

The Obau Siamese twins are dead. The small sickly one died about a quarter of an hour before the other one.

The chairman of the Christchurch Chamber of Commerce has waited on the Colonial Secretary, bringing under his notice the Chamber's desire that New Zealand should be represented at the Boston Colonial Exhibition, and desiring to learn how far Government will assist their object. Government will consider the question.

The near approach of the opening of Parliament prevents Major Atkinson from lecturing in the North; he will, however, address his constituents.—The session will commence in the first week in June if the alterations to the House be finished.

The sum of £50 has been collected at Christchurch in aid of the sufferers by the Rhine inundation.

The Railway Commissioners left Christchurch for the West Coast this morning with Mr. C. Y. O'Connor, C.E.

A fire broke out at Franks' brewery, Timaru, last night, and did a considerable amount of damage. The loss is covered by insurances in the South British office.

A whale, measuring 75 feet in length, seen at daybreak yesterday in the Gulf, about seven miles from the Thames, was forced up the river into shallow water and killed.

A farmer named Edwards had his neck broken at the Thames by a fall from his trap, the horses having bolted.

The Tauranga residents have presented a handsome testimonial to Mr. Vesey Stewart, who goes home to float the Tauranga-Rotorua Hot Lakes railway, with a capital of £250,000, and a frozen meat company, with a capital of £30,000. Properties representing 60,000 acres have also been entrusted to him for sale.

In the Phoenix Park case the jury, in Timothy Kelly's trial, being unable to find a verdict, have been discharged. The trial of Michael Fagan began on Wednesday, and Joseph Hanlon has turned informant.

Prince Bathyani, an attaché to the Austrian Embassy, died suddenly at the Newmarket races on Wednesday.

The American news runs thus:—A fall of snow in Wyoming has blocked the Union Pacific line, delaying the homeward San Francisco mail. Earl Granville considers it premature to negotiate with the Government respecting the freedom of the Panama canal; and the English Government have asked for the extradition of Tynam, believed to be “Number One,” and resident in New York.

The Queen's medical attendants say now Her Majesty will probably not have recovered from the effects of her fall for some months.

The French difficulty in Madagascar is said to have been arranged, and the Queen of that country is seriously ill.

Earl Dufferin has been instructed to strongly protest against the Sultan's misruling of Armenia.

The *Mount Benzer Mail* reports that the Government Inspector of Mines has informed the Mayor of Roxburgh that £2000 would not construct the Waikaiti Bush road, and the money would be wasted. The Inspector recognised the importance of the road, but did not think Government would be justified in spending a very large amount on it.

A man named James Hooper had his left foot severely injured, and one of the toes cut off by a fall of earth yesterday at Logan's Point quarry, Dunedin. Another man named James Faulkner was also hurt, but not so seriously.

At the Supreme Court sittings, Wanganni, the trials of two Maori prisoners were concluded before Maori juries, which showed themselves to be intelligent, and in all respects as capable as Europeans.

The Ngatimanipetos at Te Kuiti have resolved to send Wahanui to Wellington to explain their wishes respecting the laws affecting the passage of Native lands through the Courts.

In the case of Jonathan Brown, who bought certain Native lands, the transfer being lost in the s.s. Taranaki, Judge Gillies, while admitting that a hardship arose from no provision being made in the Act for cases where a transfer was lost, has confirmed the refusal of the registrar to whom Brown had applied to register a memo. of transfer, and who refused as no such instrument was mentioned in the Act.

In the Massey case at Invercargill, his Honor, in summing up at 10 p.m. yesterday, told the jury that what they had to determine was whether while these debentures were in custody of the male accused as Town Clerk, he converted them to his own use by getting his wife to go and sell them. With respect to the female accused it was different. The evidence went to show that if the bonds were stolen she could not have acted independently of her husband in stealing them, since the larceny would take place when he converted them to his own use. There was no question of the female accused's having taken the bonds surreptitiously from her husband. The evidence seemed to his Honor to point to the fact that the husband, having the custody of the bonds, stole them and gave them to his wife to sell, so that she stood in the position of the receiver of them,—she was not charged with receiving the goods, or with wrongfully selling the bonds, but of converting them to her own use, and there was no evidence to show that she had stolen them. A verdict of guilty was returned against Massey, and not guilty against his wife. His Honor afterwards said he would decide to-day as to whether he would pass sentence on the second count, that charging Massey with the larceny of three pieces of paper—Mr. Stout having agreed to abandon the first count as the punishment would be the same on the second as on it. As to the course to be followed respecting the other indictments, Mr. Stout pronounced himself undecided until he should consult the Attorney-General.

The Hon. Mr. Bryce, speaking at Opuake to-day, said that a mistake had been made in telegraphing his remarks at New Plymouth. He had been careful to say that by the King Country's being opened up, he meant it was open for surveys of roads and railways. With regard to other surveys he anticipated considerable delay.

The Archbishop of Cashel has been called to Rome to consult with the Pope concerning Irish affairs.

It is said that many of the delegates at the Philadelphia Convention have refrained from censuring the dynamite policy.—And the saying is utter rubbish. It is also said that the American Cabinet are discerning the necessity of forbidding inflammatory speeches from being made, and this is more rubbish!

At the trial of the dynamite conspirators in London, Whitehead, proprietor of the Birmingham factory, has been proved to have bought large quantities of acids for the manufacture of explosives.

The ferry-boat, Waldemar, has been burned at Sydney. No lives were lost.

In the Parliament of New South Wales, the motion of the Post Master General for the continuance of the San Francisco mail service, has been carried.

A discovery of ruby tin, mixed with gold and platinum, is said to have been made by a Mr. John O'Connell, near Clunes, Victoria.

John Morgan Massey was sentenced to-day to three years' penal servitude, the heaviest punishment allowed for larceny. And all the money found on him at the time of his arrest—that is a draft for £200 on the Bank of New South Wales, and £10 18s. in cash—was ordered to be applied to the payment of costs and expenses of prosecution.

The house of James Holden, a fisherman at Port Chalmers, was burned down about one o'clock this morning. Holden and one of his sons were away fishing, and his wife had lain down dressed on a bed besides a little girl of two. On being awakened by the flames, the woman rushed out, leaving the child still in the bed, and the poor little thing was burned to death.

The details of the sad accident at Wanganni are thus described by the *Herald*:—On Saturday afternoon Mr. Kirkwood was shooting some pigeons, which had been frightened off the roof of his stable. He had killed two, when a third flew across the pathway. Just as he fired, his boy (aged seven years) called out “Dadda, dear.” Mr. Kirkwood declared at the inquest that he did not know that the child, who was playing in the yard, was behind this empty cottage until he heard his cry. Part of the shot penetrated the head, and some the left arm and chest. The poor little fellow died in his father's arms ten minutes afterwards.

It is denied that the jury in Timothy Kelly's case have been discharged. They have been locked up until Monday next, when a verdict of guilty is expected from them.

SATURDAY.

The Agent-General has suspended forwarding emigrants to the Colony until June. The ship Oxford sailed for Wellington on April 26, with 235 emigrants. This ship had been dismantled in the Bay of Biscay, and on her return to London typhoid fever broke out among her passengers, owing to their having been obliged to use bad water. The Waipawa left for Lyttelton on 4th February with 220 souls, equal to 205 adults, including 130 single women. The Caroline, the vessel which re-embarked the Wild Deer's passengers, left the Clyde on the 19th February for Port Chalmers with 235 souls, equal to 213 adults, of whom 112 were single women. Of the 164 statute adults on the Wild Deer 134 had sailed in the Caroline. A few were ill from exposure on the occasion of the wreck, and would be sent, if they recovered in time, by the Forfarshire. Some of the emigrants had refused to re-embark.

The Queensland sugar planters are making arrangements for the introduction of Chinese labour into their plantations by means of the compradore system, which the *Australasian* asserts to be a system of slavery. The labourers bind themselves in China, giving sureties to the comprador, who, on any breach of agreement abroad, exacts his pound of flesh at home, without being troubled by a necessity to cut it free from blood. In this way the Queensland planters will be able to have their slaves, and yet the reputation of the Empire will be preserved—on whose soil, as we all know, the foot of no slave may tread. The principle will be that of cheating the devil in the dark, of course, but not only have the Queensland planters been used to