

News of the Week.

FRIDAY.

THE Premier of Victoria has telegraphed to the Agent-General instructing him to protest to the Imperial Government against the proposed deportation of the Phoenix Park informers to Australia.

The tobaccoists and others who are threatened with prosecution for Sunday trading intend holding a meeting and arranging to fight the matter.

A young man named James Hagan is believed to have been lost in the bush near Upper Hutt while pigeon-shooting. He wandered away from a companion on Tuesday, and has not since been heard of.

A fire occurred yesterday evening at the private residence in Herefordstreet, Christchurch, of Fleming, hairdresser. The family were out for a holiday. Considerable damage was done.

It is now considered doubtful whether Tynan, who offered to surrender to the British authorities at New York, is "Number One," as alleged.

The wheat harvest in South Australia has been a failure. The average for this Colony is 4 bushels 13lbs. per acre. Three bad seasons have now followed one another in succession, and agricultural matters are depressed.

The *Western Star* reports the arrival, in Riverton, of Messrs. P. Bush and party, after a nine months' prospecting tour of the West Coast, as far north as Jackson's Bay. The party numbered three, all of whom are experienced miners, and, notwithstanding their pluck and experience of the hardships incidental to such a trip, the fruits of their labour are *nil*—they having found but little gold. They are, however, satisfied that a properly-equipped prospecting expedition would meet with success.

Considerable public feeling is manifested in Auckland over the action of the trustees of the Costley bequest in giving directions for the sale of the landed estate. A public meeting of citizens is spoken of.

The Mayor of Wellington has called a meeting of citizens to consider the conduct of the Canterbury railway leaguers in trying to have the £180,000 voted for the extension of the Middle Island Trunk line applied to the construction of a West Coast line, connecting Christchurch and Hokitika. Any proposal to divert the money from promoting the establishment of the Trunk line's terminus at some point on Cook Strait, is opposed to the future prospects of Wellington.

Five men, found with dynamite in their possession, at Liverpool, have been committed for trial.

Baron de Lesseps, of the Suez Canal Company, requests the English Government to support the project for obtaining the land required for the construction of a second canal, promising in return a reduction of charges, and increased powers of control to England.

The amusements of the Queen's Birthday were marred yesterday by rain, which seems to be general.

The Dunedin Jockey Club's winter meeting, held yesterday, was thinly attended, owing to the inclement weather. The different events were won as follows:—Handicap Hurdle Race, Mr. G. Robertson's Wildboy; Maiden Plate, Mr. J. Stephenson's Captain Webster; Birthday Handicap, Mr. J. Stephenson's Tairaroa; Handicap Time Trotting Race, Mr. C. H. Harding's Polly; Novel Race, Mr. A. Owen's Clinkerina; Tradesmen's Handicap, Mr. J. Cotton's Adamant; Hack Race, Mr. J. Stephenson's Eugenie; Consolation Handicap, Mr. T. H. Dodson's Miss King.

At Timaru the New Zealand Grand National Handicap was won by Mr. H. C. Adam's Kosciusko; the Maiden Plate by Mr. A. Frisby's Captain; the Hunt Club Cup by Mr. J. Pilbrow's Clarence; and the Consolation Handicap by Mr. Rutherford's Commissioner.

The results of the Wanganui Steeplechase meeting were as follows:—Wanganui Handicap Steeplechase, Mr. James Munn's Ruahine; Selling Steeplechase, Mr. A. J. Keith's Bugler; Maiden Steeplechase, Dr. Connolly's Ngata; Grand-stand Steeplechase, Mr. H. Enderby's Mount; Consolation Stakes, Lady Bab.

At Takapuna, Auckland, Kalo won the Winter Oats and Birthday Cup Handicaps; Paramena, the Selling Race; and Chandler, the Handicap Steeplechase; and Maori, the Consolation.

At the Heathcote races Luna won the Cup and Larry the Steeplechase.

Besides the diamonds entrusted to his care, Mr. T. A. Kelsey has taken with him to London a volume of poems by Mr. T. Bracken, for the purpose of having it published.

The sum passed through the totalisators yesterday at the Forbury course was £3556.

Two thousand people were present at a temperance meeting held last night at Auckland.

Mr. A. H. Malcolm, merchant of Wellington, recently arrested on a charge of larceny as a bailee, has commenced civil proceedings for the recovery of £2000 damages against Mr. Charles Tricklebank, of Palmerston North, who laid the information.

Sir William Fox complains that the members of temperance societies at Wellington reserve the wearing of their medals, sashes, and blue ribbons for their lodge rooms, and that the people of the town in question are too slack in the good cause generally.

The *North Otago Times* describes the football match played yesterday between the Dunedin Pirates and Oamaru, as having been played in the middle of mud and water. It was, says our contemporary, a hard, wet, and muddy contest.

The body of the boy Lilly, who perished on the Port Lyttelton Hills some time ago, and for whom repeated searches have been made, was found by a shepherd this morning near the place where the body of the boy Mason was found.

A match, Town v. Country, played at the Dunedin Draughts Club last night, resulted in a victory for the town players by 10 points.

SATURDAY.

There were 500 guests at the Governor's ball on Thursday night, among those present being Bishops Cowie and Luck.

A scarcity of servants prevails at Christchurch. The *Lyttelton Times* says:—"There is a great scarcity of farm hands, of whom a large number are wanted at £1 a week and found. Female servants with good references are also in good demand; of this class of servants there are many seeking employment, but there seems to be a difficulty in obtaining the required recommendation from former employers, many of whom are getting somewhat particular on this point, and prefer to put up with the inconvenience of being without servants rather than take them without a reference."

The meeting held at Wellington yesterday on the Trunk railway question was largely attended. Sir William Fitzherbert insisted that any diversion of the money allocated for the extension of the Main Trunk railway would be a scandalous breach of the public faith. It was on the strength of a trunk line from Invercargill to the Bay of Islands that the public works scheme and its debt of 22 millions had been accepted by the people of the Colony, and no deviation from this should be permitted. On the motion of his Worship the Mayor, seconded by the Hon. Mr. Martin, the following resolution was unanimously agreed to:—"That any diversion of the funds allocated to the construction of the Middle Island Main Trunk line would be improper, and at variance with the general scheme of public works." On the motion of Mr. John Duthie, seconded by Mr. N. Reid, it was resolved to send copies of the resolution to each member of the Legislature and Government.

The *Cromwell Argus* says that the partridge and pheasants in the Hawea and Wanaka districts are being destroyed, or have actually been so by the poisoned wheat laid down for rabbits. Compensating in some degree for this unfortunate state of things, adds our contemporary, it is satisfactory to know that the red deer in and about Timaru Forest are thriving and increasing in numbers, herds of from nine to twenty having of late been seen. They are very shy and not easily approached.

Mr. Grealish, of Otaria, was thrown from his horse the other day in crossing the railway line at Waikaka, and was found lying senseless on the rails by Mr. Ballintyne a little before the Clinton train was due. It is feared that the results of the fall may prove fatal.

The town of Majunga in Madagascar has been taken by the French after a bombardment of six hours. A military post in the Sakalva country has also been captured, and the road to the capital secured. Great excitement prevails among the natives. Earl Granville has expressed regret, in the House of Lords, at the action thus taken.

Archbishop Croke states that he will obey the mandate of the Pope.—Who ever suspected that he would not? No mandate of the Pope is in the least likely to be unreasonable.

The ceremony of blessing the banners to be used in connection with the approaching coronation of the Czar took place at Moscow on Wednesday.

Messrs. George and Jans Hansen, deferred-payment settlers residing near Garston, about ten miles from Kingston, suffered a rather heavy loss on Friday morning through fire, says the *Wakatipu Mail*. It appears that they had been busy threshing wheat, and, when knocking off on Thursday evening, had put through the mill two out of three stacks. On returning next morning at about 6 o'clock it was found that the mill and loose straw had been consumed by fire, the bagged grain almost totally destroyed, and the remaining stack was still burning. No direct evidence is at present forthcoming as to the origin of the fire, but there can be little doubt that it was accidental. The engine, which was uninjured, was insured for £130, and the mill for £220, in the National Company's offices. The grain was uninsured, and the owners estimate their loss on that at £125, and on the threshing mill, £100.

A two years old girl belonging to Mr. N. Bracefield, Totara Island, Pleasant Point, died on Wednesday morning from the effects of scalds received by her on Tuesday, when she fell into a pot from which her mother had just taken some meat.

The Dunedin Trades and Labour Council held a special meeting at the Coffee Palace last night, where the city and suburban members of Parliament attended and answered several questions satisfactorily.

The private residence, at Wellington, of Dr. Lemon, Superintendent of Telegraphs, has been lit with the electric light. The plant cost a little over £200, and it is believed the light will prove as cheap as gas.

The opening of the South Dunedin Waterworks was celebrated last night by a supper at Hutchings's Workshops Hotel, where Mr. McBride, one of the chief promoters of the scheme in question, was presented with an imitation, in gold, of the main valve as a mark of the engineer's appreciation of his services.

According to a telegram received by Mr. W. Watson of Dunedin, the weekly return from the Keep-it-Dark mine was 315oz. from 90 tons of stone.

The lad Hagan, who was lost in the bush at Upper Hutt has been found in an exhausted condition.

A. H. Malcolm has been re-arrested on a warrant from Palmerston North, charging him with larceny as a bailee, and has been remanded till Friday.

Captain M'Arthur, of the steamer M'Gregor, was summoned today for having, on the 6th of April, carried a greater number of passengers in that steamer from Waitara than allowed by the certificate. The charge was admitted, but it was stated that an extra number of natives who came on board were not found out until after the vessel had started. He was fined 9s. and 1s. for every extra passenger.

The *Trapska Times* hears that Mr. Perry, of the Gabriel's Tailing Company, in conjunction with Mr. Dewar, of Auckland, contemplates bringing forward a scheme for the purchase of the whole of the Blue Spur claims, with a view to working them on a large scale.