

An accident occurred yesterday, near Blueskin, by which a woman named Muirhead was thrown from a cart and seriously injured.

A large building at Napier, containing various rooms and shops in connection with Knowles' boiling-down works at West Olive, was burnt down this morning. The loss is estimated at £300. Insurance on the building, £100.

A six-roomed house at Newton, Wellington, owned by the Equitable Building Society and occupied by a family named Fulton, was burned down on Monday morning. Insurances: building, £300; furniture, £150. Incendiarism is suspected.

Mr. R. Sexton's four-roomed cottage at North Invercargill was burned down on Monday morning. Insurances: house, £125; furniture, £100.

Mr. Montgomery, speaking at Christchurch last night, said the Government had nothing to bring forward but old Bills. They had no policy to stand or fall by. The West Coast railway was a national question, and the populations of the East and West Coasts had a right to be united. The Government were going on with the Te Awamutu line and the Central Otago line, but they neglected the West Coast one. Canterbury electors must agitate steadily for it. Good arable land, improved in any way, should be taxed commensurately with the increase in value, and an income tax should catch those who escaped a land tax. Dreadful things were being done about the land in the North Island, which belonged as much to the national estate as that which was being sold in Canterbury for £2 per acre. It was most important that the promise given should be kept, that the Public Works Statement and other business should always be ready when members met in Parliament.

#### THURSDAY.

A number of gentlemen in Auckland intend to apply for the Pahipahi block (lately passed through the Native Land Court) at Kawakawa, under the District Railways Act, to construct a railway which shall join the line at Kamo, and ultimately go on to the Bay of Islands. Pahipahi is a splendid forest of Kauri, comprising hundreds of millions of feet. It is the only great kauri forest not yet private property.

Mr. Errington, editor of the *Tralee Sentinel*, and brother of Mr. Errington, M.P., has been sentenced to six months' imprisonment for printing some notices for the Invincible Society.

The Mayor of Moscow has been publicly disgraced for having advised the Czar to grant certain reforms.

The *Journal de St. Petersburg* in its issue to-day publishes an article hinting that additional constitutional liberties will be granted to the Russian people if they confide in the Czar and do not endeavour to coerce him.

The French Government has ordered the Algerian native regiments to proceed to Tonquin to reinforce the expedition now operating against the Anamese. It has transpired that the Chinese Government has intimated that it will be forced to assume a hostile attitude unless France seeks to arrive at an accord with the Government of Anam.

John Holden, a young man, dropped dead yesterday morning at Christchurch, while washing himself—it is supposed from heart-disease.

A very successful movement is being made at Invercargill for the relief of the distressed inhabitants of the Scottish Highlands and Hebrides.

A crowded public meeting was held in the Town Hall, Hokitika, yesterday evening to consider the action of the local school committee in closing the State school. Mr. Petrie (chairman of the Board of Education) addressed the meeting, which gave him a noisy and hostile reception. It was resolved—(1) To endorse and approve the action of the local committee; (2) to prepare a monster petition to the Minister of Education praying for the appointment of a Commission to enquire into the management of the Education Board during the past three years; (3) to request Messrs. Seddon and Fitzgerald, M.H.R.'s, to bring in a Bill to separate the Westland County from the Greymouth portion of the district; and (4) to telegraph the foregoing resolutions to the Minister of Education. The resolutions were all unanimously carried. The Mayor presided.

In reply to a deputation of Ministers who waited on him for the purpose of recommending the annexation of the New Hebrides, Solomon Islands, and New Britain, the Victorian Premier said he believed it was England's special mission to civilise and elevate the dark races.—What is it, then, that men cannot bring themselves to believe? Where is there even one dark race, or white race for the matter of that, that England has civilised or elevated?

Mr. Thomas Johnston, of Outram, yesterday served notice of motion for a *mandamus* to compel the grant to him of a license for section 2, block VI., Strath-Taieri.

It is suggested that a wharf for large ocean steamers should be built inside the pilot-station at the Bluff, where there is a great depth of water.

The *Tuapeka Times* reports that an area of twenty acres at Wetherstones has been marked off by the Tuapeka Prospecting Association.—The wash-up on Saturday of the Great Extended Company, Blue Spur, and that of the Undaunted Company were satisfactory.—The last month's returns of the dredge Hope of Dunkeld, which is still at work on Carson's Beach, are said to have been most encouraging.—Preparations are being made for the removal of the dredge Excelsior to M'Gunn's Beach, where it is anticipated that the proprietors will meet with greater success than they have experienced for the past few months.—It is currently reported that a share in the North of Ireland Company's claim, Blue Spur, changed hands a few days ago at a figure satisfactory alike to both buyer and seller. Within the past month or six weeks there has been a considerable rise in the value of shares in this company's claim. The last wash-up, which gave a fair dividend after payment of all expenses in connection with the mine, has had a tendency to re-assure shareholders that their property is of some considerable value.—Considerable improvement can be reported of the Waitabuna copper mine, the lode now showing a thickness of about 2ft., and being pretty solid.

## General News.

There will be English agents at the National Convention, no matter how they get there. They will have an opportunity of making an interesting report to their Government. If they introduce any dynamite resolutions or otherwise attempt to produce discord, they will be recognised. Otherwise they may escape notice, as nobody cares for their presence.—*Pilot*

To the memorial wreath laid by Queen Victoria on John Brown's coffin, there was affixed a large mourning card bearing the following words in her own hand writing; 'A tribute of loving, grateful, and everlasting friendship and affection from his truest, best and most faithful friend, Victoria, R. I.' It is noted that the wreath she sent for Lord Beaconsfield bore the words, 'A mark of true affection, friendship, and regret;' that for Dean Stanley, 'A mark of sincere affection and high esteem.'

Death has removed from the ranks of French journalists one who, wielding a powerful pen, was famous in his day for earnest, unflinching championship of Catholic principles in France. On Saturday night last M. Louis Veuillot, the brilliant editor of the *Paris Univers* passed away at the ripe old age of seventy years. For some time previously he had not been a very prominent figure in the French capital as four years since a stroke of paralysis quite prostrated his mind. But up to that period he wielded considerable influence in the public affairs of his native country. Against infidelity and scepticism he waged a ceaseless war, and the temporal rights of the Pope found in him an eloquent and untiring advocate. In the days of the Empire he attacked Napoleon unsparringly for his Roman policy in 1859. He was repeatedly warned by the authorities, but nothing daunted him, and his paper was ultimately suppressed. In the columns of the *Monde*, however, he continued to fight the same battle. His old paper, the *Univers*, reappeared in 1867. All the French papers speak of his death as a public event.—*Nation*, April 14.

A writer in the *New York Tribune*, over the signature "B," directs attention to certain methods by which the Irish statistics of the New York Police Courts are manufactured. He says: "When Smith of Vermont, Adams of Massachusetts, or Ogelthorpe of Virginia, comes to New York to have a 'good time,' and fetch up in the police courts for being drunk and disorderly, he is at once transformed on the police books into 'O'Rourke, McCarthy, or O'Brien.' In confirmation of this assertion, he cites the following instances: 'When Mosher and his comrade (kidnappers of the Ross child) were shot and captured while breaking into Judge Van Brunt's house at Bay Ridge, L. I., a few years ago, they gave Irish names, and said they were Irish. When a Jew known to New Yorkers as 'Sheeny Mike' was arrested, he appeared on the police returns as Michael Sheehan! I myself was sent for by an old schoolmate, a native of Vermont, to help him to get out of the Tombs. What was my astonishment to find him registered as O'Donnell, born in Ireland.'

A correspondent of the *London Tablet* says that the Catholic journals of Verona announce the recent conversion to the faith of the Countess Morozzo Della Rocca, *nee* Miss Harriet Louisa Venables. Four of her near relatives were lately received into the Church, in the same city of Verona, by his Eminence Cardinal Canossa. Recently Father Armellini, Secretary-General of the Society of Jesus, received into the Church a young American named Carey. The ceremony took place in the rooms of St. Aloysius, in the late Roman College. He will receive his first communion from the hands of the Holy Father. Two distinguished persons, whose names are for the present withheld, are, it is said, under religious instruction, preparatory to the reception into the Catholic Church. On Holy Thursday, Father Armellini, S.J., received into the Church, and conferred baptism upon Mr. McNutt of Indiana, U. S. A., a graduate of Harvard University, Cambridge, Mass. The ceremony was performed in the rooms of St. Stanislaus, in the convent attached to the Church of St. Andrea Quirinale. On Holy Saturday His Eminence the Cardinal-Vicar administered the sacraments of baptism and confirmation to a Jewish family, consisting of the father, who took the name of Hugh Benedict, of the mother, Mary Annunciata, and of three children, respectively baptised as Joseph, Louisa and John. At a later hour His Eminence conferred Holy Orders upon 135 candidates, forty-four of whom were admitted to the priesthood.

It's really curious to note to what petty meannesses small minds will descend. The *Brisbane Telegraph* publishes some stolidly offensive verses, in which all the assumptions and lies which have been going the rounds respecting the pretended connection between the Land League and the Assassination Circle are repeated. But as though this were not sufficient evidence of stolid pettiness, the verses are signed "Eva," a signature which everyone in Queensland associates with the wife of the Hon. Dr. O'Doherty, M.L.C., as having been the *nom de plume* under which that lady, during the "Young Ireland" era, contributed stirring patriotic poems to the *Dublin Nation*. By the device of using this signature, therefore, the *Telegraph*—ominous name—succeeds in combining an eruption of unreasoning prejudice with an affront to an amiable lady as palpable and cowardly as if they had sent up their writer to slap her face. In fact, more cowardly, because Queenslanders would not have stood *that*. The spirit, however, is the same as that jury which claps delicate ladies into gaol for providing ejected women and infants with shelter from the wind and rain, and calls that sort of humanity "incitement to refuse to pay rent."—*Sydney Bulletin*.

Affairs in Skye remain at a deadlock in consequence of the difficulty of obtaining an officer to serve evictions. On Tuesday, April 10, a large body of men, women, and children belonging to Glendale, in the Isle of Skye, and estimated at about 1,500 proceeded to Cor Bast to await the arrival of the officer who was expected to serve the summonses of removal issued recently. On seeing the crowd, the officers fled. Great excitement prevailed among the people.