

At the London wool sale on Thursday 9,200 bales were offered. The tone of the market was steady, but the demand not active. 24,000 bales have been withdrawn from the sale since the opening. The fourth series of auctions has been fixed to open on November 20. Hides are dull and slow of sale, with a downward tendency.

The executors of Costley's trust have estimated the value of the properties as follows:—Real estate, £18,000; mortgages, £37,300; fixed deposits, £12,000; shares, £1,930;—total, £79,330. The present annual income is £4,858. The executors are resolved to realise the freehold estate, notwithstanding the expression of opinion from the charities interested and the public being in favour of retaining them.

The trial of the dynamite conspirators at the Old Bailey was concluded on Thursday. Four of the prisoners—Dr. Gallagher, Whitehead, Wilson, and Curtin—were found guilty, and were sentenced to penal servitude for life. Bernard Gallagher and Arsburgh were acquitted.

The Taieri County Council decided yesterday to apply to Government for £31,400 to carry out works under the Roads and Bridges Construction Act.

Constable Porter has been transferred to Port Chalmers from Mornington, where he is replaced by Constable O'Sullivan, of Dunedin. Edward Davis, chemist, has been fined at the B.M. Court, Palmerston, the minimum penalty, £5 5s, with £4 4s costs, for having kept an unregistered printing-press.

The Radical party are making use of the proposal to annex the New Hebrides and other Pacific Islands as a weapon for argument against sanctioning the annexation of New Guinea. Mr. Murray Smith, the Agent-general for Victoria, is arranging for a deputation to Lord Derby in support of the Pacific annexation scheme.

Messrs. Cargill and Anderson have turned loose a number of ferrets on their Roxburgh ran.

The House of Assembly, at Melbourne, has been successfully lighted with Lane incandescent electric lamps.

The Right Hon. John Bright, in addressing a meeting of 20,000 people, appealed to America to abandon her policy of Protection.

The Chinese Government are making large purchases of munitions of war in America. The Chinese troops are also massing at Shanghai, and the foreign residents there are becoming alarmed at the prospect of affairs.

A boy named Riddiford, aged 11, who was looking for cows near Kanieri the other day, climbed up on a hollow stump about seven or eight feet high, and, falling down into the inside, was unable to get out until some three or four hours afterwards when a digger who was passing heard his cries and rescued him.

At the land sale at Hawera yesterday, seven sections of bush, 885 acres, were sold at £2 to £3 1s. Four more leaseholds have been taken up at 2s to 2s 6d per acre.

What appears to have been a deliberate attempt at incendiarism occurred in Timaru early yesterday morning, when a three-roomed unoccupied wooden house was found to be on fire. The flames broke out in two places, but were soon subdued. The passage and walls were found to have been literally dosed with kerosene and tar, while an old sack, saturated with kerosene, was found on the doorstep. The building was insured for £200 in the Liverpool and London and Globe Office.

When the train from Invercargill to Riverton was approaching the latter place on Thursday night, the driver noticed a dark object in front of the engine, and then saw a hat blown across the track. The engine was stopped, and it was found that Jeremiah Regan had been caught by the cow-catcher and carried 200 yards. On being taken to the Riverton Hospital, Regan's skull was found to be severely lacerated, his left arm broken in two places, his back bruised, and he had also sustained concussion of the brain. Regan was insensible when admitted, and continues in that state. It is considered possible he may recover.

The out-going mail takes applications from Dunedin for immigrants under the nominated system as follows:—English, 19; Irish, 26; Scotch, 45; of whom 35 are single men, and 30 single women.

At the Timaru Harbour Board on Thursday, the report of the Engineer showed that the Priestman's crane dredge was lifting sand at the rate of 240 tons per day, and rapidly increasing the depth of water alongside the wharf. The progress made during the month with the breakwater was slow, owing to continued heavy seas.

It has been discovered in Dublin that a society has been formed of members sworn to kill the Invincible informers.

The French forces in Anam refuse quarter to all Chinese found joining the Anamites.

The Press says:—"The agricultural statistics for most of the Australasian colonies have now been made public, and in the case of those not completed, estimates from reliable sources have been made, so that we are now in a position to give a statement of the probable yield of wheat last year from the whole of Australasia. New Zealand heads the list with 10,270,591 bushels; Victoria follows with 8,735,440 bushels; South Australia occupies third place with a yield of 7,356,000 bushels. For New South Wales we have only an estimate before us, according to which the yield was about 5,000,000 bushels. Tasmania, it is calculated, has produced 900,000 bushels; Western Australia, 350,000 bushels; and Queensland 150,000 bushels. Not only does New Zealand head the list as regards the total quantity; our average yield of wheat is also very much higher than that of any of the other colonies. The total number of acres in wheat was 390,818, which gives an average of over 26 bushels to the acre. In Victoria there were 969,362 acres under wheat, giving an average of 9.01 per acre. South Australia heads the list as far as acreage is concerned, the area under wheat being 1,746,864 acres; but the average was only 4 bushels 13lb. The Government returns for New South Wales, Queensland, and Western Australia are not before us, and we are indebted for the figures we have quoted to the last monthly circular of the Adelaide Milling and Mercantile Company. As regards New South Wales, the figures are arrived at by adding one-third to the highest recorded production. In 1882 the yield of that colony was 3,405,000 bushels from 221,888 acres, showing an average of 15.35 bushels per acre.

The Queensland and Western Australia yield are also estimates, but as the figures for these two colonies are small, a slight error will not affect the total result.

A blacksmith's shop at the Green Hills, Southland, was accidentally blown up by dynamite cartridges, placed in a tin to soften for use in Conyer's quarry, yesterday. A young man named James M'Hardy was cut in the head and face by some of the splinters, and a man named Haberfield received a slight scalp wound.

Miller and Smallic's tender of £4131 has been accepted for the Dunback contract, No 2, Palmerston-Waihemo branch of the Waitaki-Bluff railway. Walton Rhode's tender has been accepted for station building contract, No. 2, Albury, Fairlie Creek, and Burke's Pass line.

A petition is being circulated, at Christchurch, for signature praying the General Assembly to provide for grants-in-aid being made to denominational schools, subject to their coming up to a certain standard in attendance and instruction; also to provide for religious instruction being given by ministers in the State schools.

MONDAY.

The Right Hon. John Bright, in the course of an address to the people of Birmingham the other evening, strongly advocated the formation of the Channel tunnel, and also urged the advisability of co-operating with France in the formation of the projected Suez canal.

Judge Wilson has entered into an agreement with a Tauranga company to work the sulphur of White Island. The capital is to be £10,000. It was considered that the premises already erected here would manufacture 1300 tons of acid in the year.

The man Regan, who was injured on the Invercargill-Riverton railway, shows signs of returning consciousness, and hopes of his recovery are entertained. Nothing is known as to how the accident occurred; but it is surmised that Regan, who was the worse for drink, had either been lying on the line or been knocked down when walking on the line from Riverton, which he was compelled to do through not possessing enough money to pay his fare.

A longitudinal iron railway-sleeper to prevent vibration has been patented by Mr. E. W. Otway, C.E., of Auckland.

Mr. E. Smith, of the Dunedin Savings Bank, has forwarded on the part of the trustees £5 5s. to the sick and accident fund of the Dunedin Fire Brigade, in recognition of the services rendered by them in extinguishing the fire last Monday night. Mr. A. W. Morris, of the Otago and Southland Investment Company, has sent £5 5s., and Mr. Nott, of the Arcade, £2 2s to the Salvage Corps.

Percy Smith, watchmaker, poisoned himself at Auckland, on Saturday night, taking cyanide of potassium. He was lately from Marlborough. He had been drinking, and was embarrassed. Dr. Hooper tried the stomach-pump, but it was fruitless, Smith dying in 20 minutes.

A fearful catastrophe has occurred at Sunderland. A conjuring exhibition had been given in the Victoria Hall, and upwards of 1000 children, in addition to a number of adults, were in the gallery. After the show they attempted to leave by a narrow winding staircase, which formed the only means of egress. A door half-way down became accidentally jammed, stopping egress, and 200 persons, chiefly children, were crushed to death.

The following petition is being circulated for signature in Canterbury:—"The petition of the undersigned inhabitants of the Provincial District of Canterbury humbly sheweth—(1) That your petitioners are convinced that any fully satisfactory measure for education by the State should contain a provision for grants in aid being made to schools set on foot by any religious denomination, provided that the attendance and secular instruction in such schools shall come up to the required standards, and satisfy the Government inspector. (2) Your petitioners are further of opinion that the Education Act should be so amended that provision may be made for the communication of religious instruction in the public schools by ministers of religion, or by persons duly authorised by them, to the children belonging to their respective communions, within school hours. Your petitioners, therefore, pray that effect may be given to the foregoing representations."

Sir Vernon Harcourt, the Home Secretary, is parleying with the Land Leaguers regarding the protest made by the Colony of Victoria against the Invincible informers proceeding to Australia. James Carey absolutely refuses to leave Dublin. But the portion of this report relating to the Land Leaguers we may take as an unvarnished lie.

The discovery of the crater of an extinct volcano, about 14 miles from Masterton, as reported the other evening by Mr. A. M'Kay to the Wellington Philosophical Society, excited much interest. Dr. Hector pronounced it of importance in reference to the existence of gold and other minerals in the district.

The Tories are greatly incensed at Mr. Bright's recent charge that they are allied with the Irish rebels who are supported by funds subscribed by the avowed enemies of England.

The Ministry are said to be sure of a majority of at least 10, and it is believed the Opposition will not bring forward any serious "no-confidence" motion this session.

President Grévy and M. Jules Ferry (the French Premier) are opposing the conquest of Tonquin. M. Challemeil-Lacour, Minister for Foreign Affairs, will probably resign in consequence of the action of the Premier and President. In the event of M. Challemeil-Lacour's resignation, the former will take the vacant portfolio.

A publican in Dublin who had rendered himself obnoxious to the "Invincibles", has received a letter containing some explosive substance. Other cases of a similar character are reported.

Application has been made on behalf of James Carey, the informer, that he should be released from custody, but the Government have declined to agree to it. Carey has since been offered, but has declined, a wardenship in an English prison.

The Mayor of Berlin acknowledges the receipt of 61,000 marks (£4,575) from Australia in aid of those who suffered by the severe floods which occurred in the Rhine provinces during last autumn.