

# News of the Week.

FRIDAY.

PETER CAREY has left Ireland for Manitoba, and it is reported that his brother, James Carey, also embarked at Queenstown on Tuesday last.

Mr. Rochfort and party left Marton yesterday morning to survey a central route for the railway. They go along Rangitikei Valley, and thence west of Ruapehu. Mr. Carkeek will follow along the same route a few weeks hence as far as Raiketiapa, and will then diverge to the east of Ruapehu. Government wish to discover whether the route west or east of Ruapehu is best.

The Auckland Tobacco Association has been formed into a company of 5000 shares at £1 each. One hundred acres of land has been secured at Pahi, Kaipara. Material is now on hand to manufacture 160,000 cigars.

In consequence of the large number of penniless immigrants who are now arriving in New York from Ireland, and who require pecuniary assistance on landing, the Immigration Board of that city has decided to send all paupers back to Ireland.

A serious catastrophe, resulting in the deaths of 37 persons, has occurred at some place in Italy. A fire broke out at a puppet show, which was being held in that town, and in the rush which was made to escape from the building, a door became blocked. Besides those who lost their lives by the fire, many suffered severe injuries.

The report that an outbreak of cholera had occurred at Damietta is fully confirmed. The number of deaths is rapidly increasing, and the nature of the disease is now beyond doubt.

A requisition, signed by 230 electors of the Avon (Mr. Rolleston's constituency), has been sent to the Minister for Lands, asking him to carry out his former views on the West Coast railway, and to urge that the £180,000 allocated for the Northern Trunk extension should be spent in the construction of a line westward from Hurunui.

A man (name unknown) who was sleeping on the Auckland wharf was observed to tumble over at midnight. Ropes were lowered, but he made no effort to seize them. He was apparently stunned by striking the wharf or a vessel alongside.

The Catholic residents of Albania have invited annexation by Austria.

The Marquis Tseng, Chinese Ambassador, has taken occasion to deny the report recently to hand from Shanghai that a settlement had been arrived at of the difficulty between France and China regarding their claims in Anam. The Marquis states that the Chinese Government are not prepared to yield their suzerainty of that province.

The cholera epidemic is spreading in Egypt. Several cases of disease are now reported at Port Said.

The discoverers of the alleged goldfield in Canterbury have received a letter from Wellington stating that the Government are now prepared to offer a bonus for the discovery of a payable goldfield in Canterbury on conditions not yet made known. With a view to hasten on the matter a telegram has been sent to Mr. Lee, M.H.R., requesting him to see if this bonus has been placed on the Estimates, and if not to ask the Government whether they are prepared to do so at once. If so, the prospectors are prepared to disclose the locality of the field.

In the House of Representatives, yesterday, Mr. M. W. Green, in moving the second reading of his Moral Training in Schools Bill, asked permission to alter its title to Bible-reading in Schools Bill, and added a few words not worth reporting. The Hon. Mr. Rolleston said the State had no responsibility for religious teaching; all it could undertake was secular education. Mr. Montgomery said nothing would ever induce him to vote for the introduction of denominational teaching. Mr. Macandrew denied that the Bible contained dogma, and was sorry Mr. Rolleston scouted it as a historical book. Mr. Hursthouse was of opinion that it was the insincerity of the parsons and so-called religious people which brought religion into disrepute among the young. The youth of the Colony were not growing up in religious ignorance. Mr. De Lantour thought clergymen were unfit to impart religious instruction to children. The people might give such instruction by building their own schools. Mr. Seddon moved as an amendment—"That the second reading of the Bill be postponed till the will of Parliament is known in regard to the petitions sent from Roman Catholics." He said the present system was better than the former, which it was being attempted to revert to. Mr. Sutton denied that in Hawkes Bay a large majority were in favour of this movement. Mr. Batgate supported the Bill. He was prepared to do substantial justice to Roman Catholics in the matter of education if a direct case was put forward. What was taught in the State schools at present was not education. It was simply a system of cram, and to many it was becoming altogether intolerable. The Hon. Mr. Conolly looked upon the Bible as too high and sacred to be used in the manner proposed. It would, further, be a great injustice to teachers, Roman Catholics, and those who did not believe in the Bible would be practically excluded from the teaching staff. The Hon. Mr. Dick would vote for the Bill, although not that which he would wish to see. The House divided on the second reading.—Ayes, 16; noes, 52. The Pensions Bill was introduced and read a first time. A Commission was appointed to inquire into the alleged cases of dummyism in Otago. In the Legislative Council the motion for the committal of the Married Women's Property Bill was rejected by 11 to 8, on the ground that it went too far.

The adjourned meeting of the Otago Land Board was held yesterday for the purpose of inquiring into the alleged cases of dummyism. The Chief Commissioner, having stated that the case heard in the Resident Magistrate's Court had been dismissed, referred Mr. Clarke for an answer to his question "Where are we?" to "Bradshaw." To which Mr. Bradshaw replied "Up a tree." The inquiry

was adjourned *sine die*, and the Board will await the issue of Johnson's case at the Supreme Court.

At the Dunedin Gaol inquiry yesterday, John Ontram, an ex-warder, said there had always been great dissatisfaction among the warders because of the system of espionage. Mr. Caldwell had encouraged tale-bearing. Witness had been in charge of the worst gang in the Gaol. The discipline in the Gaol had been bad, because Mr. Caldwell, who could not control himself, was not fit to have the control of others.—He was frequently in the habit of cursing and swearing at the warders and prisoners. Witness had had reason to complain because he would not be let do inside duty when unwell. He had taken certificates from three or four doctors to Mr. Caldwell, who jumped at him as if he had been a dog, and said he might get a bucketful of certificates if he wanted them. When it became apparent that witness was not in good health, he had been sent home. He had got a pension, for which he thanked Mr. Stout and Mr. Macandrew.—Mr. Stout remarked that Mr. Caldwell had strongly recommended Government to grant the pension.) Captain Hume had called at witness's house, and asked if he knew anything about the Gaol discipline. He was questioned by the Inspector and had not complained. John Thomas, a prisoner, gave evidence to a similar effect with that already given by prisoners. Robert T. V. Beasley, a warder, said short sentence prisoners were usually sent to sleep in the corridor when the Gaol was crowded. He had given liquor to Lewis, Reid, and Butler,—Lewis being almost choked when the liquor was taken to him. Female prisoners had been placed on the male side—a woman named Driscoll, because of her violence. For the last year or so prisoners had not been so respectful to warders. There were very few cases of gross subordination. There had always been dissension among the warders. During 20 years' service witness had always found that there was always a certain amount of discontent among any body of men.

SATURDAY.

A man called "Gorkie" also fell off the Auckland wharf on Thursday night, and narrowly escaped being crushed to death between the wharf and the steamer Orromandel. Mr. Wilson, of the Rotomahana, jumped overboard with a rope and saved him.

In the House of Commons on Thursday, the Chief Secretary for Ireland was questioned with regard to the recent announcement that the Immigration Board of New York had decided to send back to their native country all Irish immigrants who arrived in a destitute condition. In reply, Mr. Trevelyan denied that penniless paupers were being despatched as emigrants to America.

The cholera still continues to rage at Damietta with unabated vigour. The outbreak has now spread to Tantah, a town of 60,000 inhabitants, situated 72 miles from Damietta, and at the junction of the Cairo-Alexandria railway.

The woollen manufacturers in the north of France are pressing on the Government the desirability of establishing a line of trading steamers between Havre and Australian ports. M. Cochery, Minister of Posts and Telegraphs, approves of the project if the colonies unite in granting subsidies.

At a meeting of the Canterbury Jockey Club the programmes for next season were decided. The date of the spring meeting is November 6, 7, and 8. The New Zealand Cup will be run on the first day, the Derby on the second, and the Canterbury Cup on the third day. The new races introduced are a Hunters' Flat Race Handicap of 100 sovs., two miles; a Spring Steeplechase Handicap of 150 sovs., about three miles; a Stewards' Stake Handicap of 250 sovs. added, six furlongs; and a Handicap Steeplechase of 100 sovs., two miles. The added money to the Metropolitan Handicap has been increased to 200 sovs.; and the added money to the Juvenile Plate of 200 sovs. The total added money at the spring meeting is thus £3,650. For the New Year's Day meeting £920 is given. The Christchurch Cup is in future to be called the Midsummer Handicap, and the added money reduced to £300. The name of the two-year-old race is altered to the Middle Park Stakes, and penalties for winners and allowances for maidens are introduced. The programme of the autumn meeting on Easter Monday and Tuesday is the same as last year's, except that the Flying and Easter Handicaps are each increased by £50.

The Ionic left Port Chalmers for Lyttelton this morning. She crossed the bar safely an hour before high water, drawing 18ft. 9in. aft, and 18ft. 1in. forward.

The inhabitants of Waipori are agitating with a view of obtaining telephonic communication with Lawrence.

According to telegrams received by Messrs. J. and W. Gage, the weekly return from the Welcome Company's Mine, Reefton, was 676 ounces amalgam from the usual quantity of stone; and that from the Keep-it-Dark 686 ounces.

Mr. McDonald has been returned for Bruce.

Dr. Grabham, Inspector of Hospitals, reports favourably of the management of that at Dunedin. He complains, however, that the drainage runs into a cesspool situated too close to the hospital.

In the House of Representatives yesterday, the School Committees Election Bill was read a second time. The Bill provides for the retirement of only a portion of the members of the Committee periodically, and for the abolition of the cumulative vote.

At the Dunedin Gaol inquiry yesterday, Dr. Burns, medical officer to the Gaol for the last seven years, stated that he had generally given instructions for spirituous liquors to be supplied to prisoners. He did not see that there was so much difference between sleeping in the corridor and in the cells. He would not have given his consent to Cummock's sleeping in the corridor in October; the prisoner had not complained to him concerning the matter although he had every opportunity. Moffatt had been very troublesome; his brain had suffered from drink and he had become a monomaniac. It was wise to keep him under observation inside the gaol, and to exclude him from hard labour. Witness had seen prisoner Rogers every day in the week before he died except the Wednesday: he died of peritonitis, which generally comes on suddenly. Mr. Caldwell had been anxious that he should have hospital attendance, but witness reluctantly refused, believing him unable to stand removal. Witness had always