

# News of the Week.

FRIDAY.

INTELLIGENCE to hand from Canton states that much alarm is felt by Europeans in that city on account of the excited and threatening attitude of the Natives. Fears are entertained that an attack may be made upon the European quarter, and gunboats have arrived in the river, and are in readiness to afford protection to Europeans and their property in case of necessity.

Smith, the Phoenix Park informer, was recognised at Marseilles, where he shipped for China.

Sir Dillon Bell and Sir Saul Samuel attended the banquet given by Lord Derby, when Sir Dillon Bell, in the course of his speech, pointed out that the colonies assured a supply of cheap food to England.

A little boy named Muller, son of Clans Muller, of Manuka Creek (writes a correspondent of the *Tinapka Times*) met with an accident of a serious nature on Saturday last, having received a kick from a horse on the side of the head, which fractured the skull in several places, inflicting a deep wound near the region of the right ear, and caused paralysis of the boy's right side. The little fellow lies in a precarious condition, not having spoken since the accident occurred.

It is currently reported at Rome that His Holiness the Pope is seriously ill.—There is nothing in the report intrinsically incredible, but such reports have so often been false, that they are always doubtful.

The *Cromwell Argus* say:—Work at the quartz claims on the top of the Carrick Range has been suspended nearly all the winter, but a commencement is now being made again. The Star of the East Company is pushing on with the tunnel, which is now in about 300ft., and the manager expects to cut the reef in another 70ft. or 80ft. As the stone is known to be good as far as the reef was worked, it is to be hoped as soon as the reef is struck a fresh impetus will be given to quartz-mining on the range, which received so severe a blow by the fictitious excitement got up over the Last Shot Company. By the way, the winding-up of the Last Shot Company seems a most interminable one. The local shareholders here have forwarded a large amount for calls, but neither the wages-men or anyone else have received any money from the liquidators yet.

The Arrow correspondent of the *Otago Daily Times* reports as follows:—"The prevailing excitement consequent on the opening season of the reefs has reached a height during the past few weeks to which it did not attain in any former year. Several old and abandoned reefs have been taken up and formed into companies, the scrip in which has changed hands at premium prices before anything had been done to the claims to establish their value. Recently the prevailing excitement has been further utilised by placing upon the market scrip in a claim without a reef, or at best one in which the reef has to be found first; and thus we have landed at last on the borders of the four peg system for the first time since the Macetown reefs have been discovered. The 'four-peg system' consists of marking out a claim by fixing four pegs securely in the ground, applying for a lease for the same, forming a company of 20,000 or 25,000 shares, and selling these for anything they will fetch. It must not be overlooked that the money is pocketed by the promoter, and that none of it goes towards the opening up of the claim. Of course there is nothing 'wrong' in all this, so long as the investors are fully aware of what they are doing or what they are buying, and it is to put the public upon their guard that this reference to the 'four-peg system' has been made. It also may be added that the antecedents of some of the parties who introduced this system are not so pure as they might be, and that intending investors cannot be too wary.—Preliminary arrangements are being made by several of the companies at Macetown to make a commencement with crushing. The Gladstone Company have agreed with the Public Crushing Company for the use of their battery for three months, with the option of taking the machine for an additional period of three months. The Premier will shortly make a start with crushing at the Maryborough battery, and considering that the All Nations, the Lady Fayre, the Homeward-Bound, the Garibaldi, and several other claims are getting out stone for the mills it may be prophesied that by Christmas the Macetown reefs will have given a very fair account of themselves.—At Skippers Mr. Fred. Evans, manager of Mr. Bullen's Phoenix claim, has opened on the stone from the new low level, which commands 60ft. of backs. The stone is of excellent quality, and returns from it are expected to eclipse any formerly obtained. The stone has been proved by adits and winzes to extend for a distance of nearly 200ft., so that its quantity also is no mean one. Southberg and party, too, are on a very rich stone, but the reef is only very narrow as yet. The Gallant Tip are about making a start shortly.

Another tram accident occurred in Sydney on the 28th ult. A man whilst in a state of intoxication got in front of a motor and was killed instantaneously.

The Mokihini correspondent of the *Westport Star* gives the following:—"Messrs. Brown, Parker, and party have completed the driving of the low level tunnel for the Red Queen Company. It is certainly very workmanlike, and will be the means of opening up a fine block of gold-bearing reef.—The Guiding Star claim has been driven on for a considerable distance along the line of a most payable reef. The gold is to be seen or felt in heavy 'dabs.' This magnificent claim might be well called the 'Glittering Star.'—The Mokihini Company's contractors are making rapid headway with their work.—I believe the directors of the Empire claim anticipate commencing operations on the property, and from its position it will be a valuable property.—The South Pacific Company will at once commence to drive on their claim, and judging from indications, this will be a splendid property, as they have several valuable water-rights which enhance the value very much. I should suggest that this claim and the Southern Light should take active steps in erecting a

machine on the southern side of the river, and crush for the numerous claims in that locality.—Rough-and-Tumble Beefs, though very good, are not attracting much attention from their isolated position, but as the intended road to Karamea will pass close, it will be the means of starting those."

We clip the following paragraph from the *Dunedin Morning Herald*:—"In the course of an address delivered at Queenstown recently, by Mr. Henry Campbell, on the questions of the kea and rabbit nuisances, the lecturer said another pest to be watched during the lambing season was the seagull. It was a carrion bird, and when the ewe was weak and the lamb lay with its tongue out the cruel bird swept down and bit the end off it. Much loss had been experienced thus, and no doubt the fact accounted for the hitherto unaccountable death of many lambs."

SATURDAY.

The report current yesterday that the Pope was seriously ill is now proved to have been unfounded. It is announced from the Vatican that his Holiness is in good health.—Just as we suspected.

Thomas Miller, who arrived in Auckland by the British King, was found dead in the yard of the Blue Post dining-room yesterday morning. The medical evidence at the inquest showed that death resulted from the bursting of a blood vessel on the brain. He had been drinking heavily, and fell out of a door on the first floor into a right-of-way. He leaves two children.

The annual balance-sheet of the Canterbury Farmers' Association (Timaru), just issued to shareholders, shows a net profit on the year ending September 20, 1883, of 26½ per cent. on the average paid up capital. The amount of assets over liabilities is stated at £14,904.

A man named T. Millard, a veterinary surgeon, was killed by a fall from his horse near Geraldine, on Thursday evening.

Mr. Murray Smith, Agent-general for Victoria, has written to the *Times*, in reply to Professor Dicey, and justifies the action of Mr. Service in excluding the Irish informers from Australia. He adds that colonists are determined to prevent the Colonies from becoming the cess-pit of Europe.

The latest intelligence from Madagascar is to the effect that the Hovas are making active preparations for the renewal of hostilities. The French forces are stated to be numerically weak, and their position to be somewhat precarious.

The failure is announced of Messrs. Suis and Sabeth, general merchants, of Lime street, the City. Their liabilities are set down at a quarter of a million sterling. Other failures are apprehended in London and the provinces, and an uneasy feeling prevails in mercantile circles.

The Wellington correspondent of the *Dunedin Morning Herald* wires as follows:—"The secret of Mr. Bryce's demonstration at Kawhia begins to unfold itself. The purchase of the township is hardly *en regle*, and needs some further confirmation. Besides more land is wanted before a suitable or permanent settlement can be formed; hence the present reconnaissance in force. Why not irritate the natives into some overt act of outrage, and make a pretence for confiscation of the land? The buoys in the harbour were untouched, and the removal of the beacon or beacons was a very innocent act. They were erected without leave being asked on Maori land, where the Government had no more right to erect them than they would have to put up poles in the garden of a Dunedin citizen; hence the removal of the beacons would not be enough of itself. The natives must be goaded into something wrong, and perhaps the appearance of the Armed Constabulary on the scene may lead up to the desired consummation. But it is poor policy after all.

The Emperor William of Germany has wired to King Alfonso that the insults offered him by the Parisians were directed against himself.—So we said ourselves.

It is intended if possible to hold a large Volunteer review at Wellington in Easter. The Colonel in command of the district will wait on the Defence Minister on his return from Kawhia to ascertain what assistance may be received from Government.

MONDAY.

As reparation to Spain for the insults offered by Parisians to King Alfonso during the recent visit to Paris the official journal announces the authenticity of the apology which was made to the King of Spain by President Grévy, in the name of France, on the 29th ult., and which was subsequently published by the newspapers.

Mr. W. Redmond passed through Greymouth yesterday for Ahaura, where he delivered an address last evening. He leaves for Reefton to-day.

The Waitareka Dairy Factory, which will commence operations in a few days, will give 4½d per gallon for milk, a price equal to 1s per lb for butter.

The inquiry into the sinking of the Austral was continued on Friday, when evidence was taken that the captain justified his emptying the ballast tanks, and that he was mistaken in neglecting a warning previous to the listing during the coaling. The court in their decision found that the captain should be censured for leaving the deck in charge of a fireman, and found the chief engineer free from blame. The Court declined to deal with the certificate of the master and chief officer, owing to the peculiar circumstances surrounding the sinking of the vessel.

It is announced that General Thebaudin has resigned his position as Minister of War in the French Cabinet.

A cablegram has been received from the Shaw, Savill-Albion Co. stating, in reference to the new steamers they are now building, that the speed of the vessels has been considerably increased, and that the steamers will be faster than anything that has yet been in these waters.

A twenty-four hours walking match, between Edwards and Scott was terminated at the Garrison Hall, Dunedin on Saturday evening. The winner was Scott, the local man, who had walked 111 miles, Edwards having done 104 miles, 480 yards.

Several of our contemporaries criticise unfavourably the sentence in the Roy case. The *Southland Times*, for example says:—"What