

General News.

Oklahoma is desirous of entering the grand union of States, and great preparations are being made for the event in the Territory.

Five hundred thousand gallons of oil were on fire a few days ago at the Waters-Pierce Oil Company, Dallas, Tex.

Professor Wagner of the Vienna University, Austria, it is stated, has found a cure for insanity. Experiments have proved successful. Koch's tuberculine is the principal ingredient.

A hog has been killed on Frank Eno's farm, at Pine Plains, New York, the dressed weight of which was 1,200. This is the biggest porker known for years.

The total number of telegrams, inland, press and foreign, in Great Britain in 1869 was 6,830,812; in 1894, 71,465,380, an almost incredible increase.

The monks of the Great St Bernard have engaged 150 workmen for this year to build a new and larger hospice, as the Aosta-Martigny Pass is becoming constantly more used, and is much frequented even in winter.

His Holiness Leo XIII has presented to Bishop Emard of Vallyfield, Canada, the pectoral cross which he was wearing at the time of the late audience, and accepted Bishop Emard's cross in return.

Ever since the Czar proclaimed his intention of maintaining the autocratic rule in Russia, his Majesty has, a German paper states, almost daily been the recipient of threatening letters and manifestoes from the Nihilists. It is even rumoured that one of the palace officials has been arrested on a charge of having placed various seditious illustrations in the Czar's study at night.

The young Earl of Arundel and Surrey, who is now in his 16th year, is slowly but steadily increasing in health.

A Commission which was appointed by the Russian Government to consider the question of the advisability of exiling political and other offenders to Siberia has, it is reported, decided in favour of banishing only members of the privileged classes to that region, while criminals belonging to the lower classes, will be confined in prisons in the mother country.

A Catholic has been elected to the Imperial Diet of Germany for the Moser District, in the Rhine Province. Two thousand was the majority. It was previously in the hands of the Conservatives and anti-Catholics.

Three thousand prisoners in Belem prison, Mexico, had worked cautiously and continuously during the past three months on a tunnel which would have eventually helped them to liberty but for its discovery by the officials. They had pierced the foundations in many places.

Kirk Ackerman of Big Pond, near Port Jervis, New York, played a trick on his neighbors last week. He gave out a report that he was dead, and they shovelled the snow through the woods for two miles to bury him. Upon reaching the house they found him alive. He said he spread the story to fool them. On Friday he died without any fooling. He was 73, and a war veteran.

Dr De Paradis is just as well known in Chicago as if he was a Chicago priest. He is one of the most active and most popular members of the Columbus Club. He is regarded as one of the best theologians in the archdiocese, having been a graduate of the University Collegio Romano, where he was one of the most brilliant students. He was exiled from Rome in 1870, when the Pope was deprived of temporal power. He sought refuge in Paris, and subsequently came to America. He was chosen as one of the contributors to the "Magnificat," the memorial volume published at the celebration of the golden jubilee of Leo XIII, which contained 150 languages. In Archbishop Sabotti's western trip last year Dr De Paradis was his confidential guide and adviser. He was toastmaster at the banquet given by the Italians in Chicago to the Ablegate.

The Sacred Congregation of Rites has received from the Holy Father the order to prepare the decrees for the Beatification of the Venerable Bernardo Realino, a Jesuit, and Vincenzo Romano, parish priest of Ercoletto.

A letter has been written by the Holy Father recommending the bishops in Piedmont to aid as far as possible a society which has been formed in Turin for promoting devotion to the Blessed Sacrament. Bishop Maos, of Covington, U.S.A., has begun the publication of a journal, the object of which is to promote the interests of the Eucharistic League.

Mr Gawne, of Dunedin (says the *Southland Times* of April 13 1891), has just been on a visit to Invercargill to push business a little. Not that it wants much canvassing, for since he commenced the manufacture of his Worcestershire Sauce, the demand has kept pace with his capacity to supply it. He makes a really good thing, indistinguishable from the famous Lea and Perrin's, which he places upon one's table at a much lower price, and trusts to that to secure a steadily growing trade. Those who have not yet tried the Colonial article should put their prejudice aside for a time and test the question with a bottle or two.—ADVT.

MYERS AND CO., Dentists, Octagon, corner of George street. The guarantee highest class work at moderate fees. Their artificial teeth give general satisfaction, and the fact of them supplying a temporary denture while the gums are healing does away with the inconvenience of being months without teeth. They manufacture a single artificial tooth for Ten Shillings, and sets equally moderate. The administration of nitrous oxide gas is also a great boon to those needing the extraction of a tooth. Read—[ADVT.]

CATHOLIC EDUCATION IN WEST AUSTRALIA.

(From the *Monitor*.)

BISHOP GIBNEY, of Perth, W. A., seems to have held recently the very same position as that which Bishop Moran had to face, when years ago, in order to combat falsehood, calumny, and misrepresentation relative to Catholic affairs in the Press, he established a Catholic paper. By a coincidence Bishop Moran's journal, the *NEW ZEALAND TABLET*, and Bishop Gibney's, the *W. A. Record*, are each in their twenty-second year of publication. Both of them have accomplished a very large amount of good, and both have now to wage a vigorous war, offensive and defensive, against the forces of secularism and bigotry arrayed against them. The most vital question at issue is Catholic Education. There is, however, a difference in the circumstances. In N. Z. Bishop Moran is fighting for a proper recognition of Catholic claims. In W. A. Bishop Gibney is single-handedly fighting against the bigotry and envy which would abolish the system of assisted schools, under which Catholics, in the larger centres at least, may give their children that education which their conscience will rest satisfied with. We may repeat here that according to the Act in force in Western Australia denominational schools are assisted on certain conditions, mainly on the grounds of efficiency, to the extent of £1 15s per head annually. Now while the heads of other religious denominations seem, to say the least, somewhat apathetic to the Catholics on the other hand are taking full advantage of the provisions of the Act. As a matter-of-fact their schools have been marvellously successful and for efficiency and general excellence they stand unchallenged by any in the land. It is interesting to note that these schools are attended not only by Catholics but the children of non-Catholic parents, who appreciate the standard of education in these institutions. In some places the Catholic assisted schools have proved strong rivals to the State schools, and, as Bishop Gibney recently declared, "the assisted schools at Geraldton have a majority of four pupils to one over the Government schools." It has been again and again pointed out that while the maximum annual subsidy to the assisted schools is set down at £1 15s per head for children taught in them, not less than £4 10s per head is annually spent in the education of children attending the State schools. It would be, therefore, difficult to account for the spirit of antagonism which the Bishop has to face, were it not that we knew it springs from the envious bigotry of some and the secularistic spirit of others. On the authority of a secular paper, we have it that the Anglican Church has completely surrendered its position on the educational question in West Australia to the advocates of "free, compulsory, and secular education." The Anglican authorities have sold to the Government their chief school, and in the words of the *Bunbury Herald*—"There are now only the Anglican orphanages which receive aid from the grant; the whole of the remaining assisted schools, acknowledge the supremacy of the hot-headed, warm-hearted Bishop Gibney." This is, we think, an eloquent tribute to Catholic efforts in the cause of proper education for the young. We hope that Bishop Gibney will succeed in overcoming all the obstacles raised by the bigots and secularists, who, having nothing to lose themselves, unite in the endeavour to aim a blow at Catholicity by indirect and dishonourable means. But, as the secular journal previously quoted from says—"It seems almost certain that the Catholic schools are too efficient and well-founded in this colony (West Australia) to be wiped out by the withdrawal of the Government grant."

The Russian Minister of Finance will make a large appropriation of money to promote the production of cotton in Russia.

A young man named Eugene came from Paris to London, England, last August, and made his home in the Anarchist quarter. He appeared to be destitute. The Anarchists fed him, clothed him, and found him employment. Gradually they admitted him to their confidence. He professed their doctrines and often took part in their secret councils. By the end of November he had attended several of their secret meetings. It was then observed that the Paris police were getting an unusual amount of information as to the Anarchistic proceedings in London. Early in December the Anarchist leaders began to suspect Eugene. They were not sure, however, until an important document, addressed to Eugene by Commissary Andre, Third Brigade of the Paris police, was delivered by mistake to an English Anarchist. Twenty-four hours later a special meeting was called. Eugene was invited to be present. The moment he entered he was seized and bound. He was kicked, cuffed, spit upon, and, with a revolver at his head and several knives at his breast, was ordered to confess within ten minutes. He acknowledged that he was a trusted police agent known as Cotin, Cuviller and Cottance. In a search of his person a bundle of police documents was found in a secret pocket. One of them was a letter from the Paris Prefecture, instructing him to watch and report in full the doings of a woman who was about to start from Dieppe for London. When the detective had answered all the questions the Anarchists cared to ask, his captors proposed to kill him. Ultimately he was kicked into the street with the warning that he would be killed if he did not leave London at once. He started at once for Paris, and, it is said, will enter the army to protect his life. The London Anarchists will send pictures of him to France for circulation among the Anarchists of the principal cities.