

CABLE NOTES.

THE DREYFUS CASE.

THE following is the substance of the latest cable messages:—

Contrary to expectation outside of France, the Rennes court-martial has, by five votes to two, declared Dreyfus guilty, and he has been sentenced to ten years' detention in a fortress.

The French people were eager for the verdict, but there was no disturbance.

Immediately on the result of the trial becoming known in Germany, the Emperor ordered the *Official Gazette* to reiterate that Germany had no relations directly or indirectly with Dreyfus. The Alsations declare that the verdict will clinch their loyalty to Germany.

The verdict was received with feelings of indignation outside of France. The London newspapers expressed themselves shocked; the Americans threaten to boycott the Paris Exhibition, the feeling in the United States being especially bitter, while the German newspapers say that the decision has raised a barrier between France and the rest of the world.

Members of both Houses of the New Zealand Parliament have forwarded the following cable to Madame Dreyfus in Paris:—
'Deepest sympathy from members of New Zealand Parliament.'

As Dreyfus has been convicted under extenuating circumstances, he will not suffer the degradation to which he was subjected after the first trial, and will not be sent back to Devil's Island.

THE CRISIS IN THE TRANSVAAL.

The news from South Africa, during the week, has not been of a reassuring character, and war seems imminent, unless Sir Alfred Milner's demands on behalf of the Uitlanders are acceded to in full by the Transvaal.

A general exodus of Uitlanders from the Rand has set in, and at latest accounts 25,000 people had left.

The gravity of the situation is shown by the preparations for war which have been going on in England. The British Cabinet has ordered 10,000 troops for purely defensive purposes to reinforce Natal. The total number of troops at present in South Africa is 23,000. Sir Redvers Buller takes chief command of the British forces.

Large orders for tinned meats, wheat, oats, and flour for South Africa have been received in Melbourne, and there is also a considerable inquiry for gold for the Cape.

It is said that the Boers are procrastinating so that the rainy season might set in before hostilities commenced. In reference to the proposed conference between representatives of Great Britain and the Transvaal, the latter sent an evasive reply, and asked for details as to its scope.

A meeting of the British Cabinet was held on Friday, when it was unanimously decided to demand a categorical reply to Sir Alfred Milner's proposals.

At a meeting of the Volksraad several vehement speeches were delivered, and violently disparaging references were made to Mr. Chamberlain and Sir Alfred Milner. President Kruger declared that Mr. Chamberlain was aware that there was no suzerainty. The Transvaal had yielded everything but its independence. God must be the final arbitrator. A resolution was carried deprecating the British concentration of troops, and disclaiming responsibility in the event of war.

NOTES FROM THE HOUSE.

PROCEEDINGS IN PARLIAMENT.

(From our special correspondent).

THE House went into Committee of the Whole on Tuesday afternoon to consider a bill to amend the Old-Age Pensions Act so as to extend the benefit of the Act to naturalised subjects in certain cases. The members discussed and wrangled over the bill until after four o'clock on Wednesday morning, when it was read a first time.

On Wednesday afternoon a discussion arose over the recommendation of the Library Committee that a chief librarian should be selected in England at a salary of £400 per annum. Mr. McNab moved that the report be referred back to the committee with a recommendation that an effort be made to secure the services of a librarian in the Colony. The amendment was supported by Messrs. Guinness, Taylor, Hogg, Fisher, Wilson, O'Meara, Flatman, Pirani, Morrison, and Captain Russell, and was carried by 39 votes to 9.

The House then went into Committee on the Loan Bill. It was reported in the early hours of Thursday morning.

A number of questions were answered on Thursday afternoon, but the majority were only of local interest.

On the House resuming after the dinner adjournment the Premier moved the third reading of the Loan Bill. The debate dragged on into Friday morning, the speakers devoting their remarks, in the main, to the advocacy of larger consideration for their respective districts. The third reading was agreed to at half-past three o'clock, and the House rose.

On Friday afternoon the House proceeded to consider the exhibits in connection with the everlasting Marine Commission. A motion that they lie on the table was met by an amendment by Mr. Taylor to the effect that the House was dissatisfied with the administration of the Marine Department. The finding of the Commission was exhaustively threshed out until shortly before 1 a.m. on Saturday, when the amendment was negatived and the original motion carried by a majority of 6 votes.

LOBBY GOSSIP AND NEWS.

It is said in the lobbies that every effort will be made to terminate the session about the end of the first week in October, as many of the members are anxious to get back to their districts, where opponents are already engaged in canvassing for votes in view of the General Election. Should Parliament rise at that time it is evident that there will be a wholesale 'slaughter of innocents,' and some necessary and useful measures will have to be sacrificed. Up to the present very little useful work has been done; the only thing members can lay claim to is that they have managed to fill an average number of pages of *Hansard* with speeches of a very inferior kind.

As reciprocity with the proposed Australian Commonwealth will be talked of to a certain extent at the coming general election, the following figures relating to the trade between New Zealand and the six sister colonies, compiled by Mr. Tanner, will be of interest. The statistics are for the twelve-year period, 1887-1898:—New Zealand's total exports to Victoria in the above period amounted to £6,420,843, but our imports from that colony in the same time show £514,822 less—a balance of over half a million in our favour. New South Wales has always been our best customer, taking from us £8,953,834 worth of exports, whereas our purchases from New South Wales totalled but £6,723,258—a balance of over two millions on the side of New Zealand. With South Australia our trade has always been much less, amounting to £358,438 in the twelve years, but again our imports are £112,686 less. From West Australia the imports into this Colony have never been more than nominal, but in the last seven or eight years our exports to that colony have risen so satisfactorily that against a total of £340,374 exports we have only £21,493 of imports, the balance of £318,881 being again to the good. The case is different with Queensland and Tasmania. Our exports to the former colony have steadily decreased, and our imports increased till out of £856,765, representing our imports, we are £211,143 to the bad, our exports being deficient to that amount. With Tasmania our trade has been steadily maintained with little fluctuation, our exports thither totalling £420,678, but our purchases exceeding that sum by £58,683. Altogether our exports to the six colonies in the twelve years named total £17,139,819, and our imports from them were £2,907,139 short of that aggregate.

NEW ZEALAND: GENERAL.

'A FRIEND,' Orepuki, has sent us three shillings in stamps for Father Lighthouse's Maori mission.

We regret to learn that ex-inspector Hickson of Auckland, and father of the Rev. J. P. Hickson of Napier, is in a critical condition.

REFERRING to a paragraph which appeared in our issue of August 31, an esteemed correspondent informs us that the high altar in the new Catholic church at Petone, was designed by Mr. Raymond P. Collins and erected at his sole expense. Mr. R. P. Collins is said by our correspondent to be a singularly generous benefactor to the Petone Church.

THE second number of the *Church Circular*, in connection with St. Patrick's Church, Palmerston North, is to hand. The *Circular* is edited and published by the energetic pastor, Rev. Father Patterson, and contains besides matters of local interest well-selected news items from foreign parts. The present number has a very good portrait of his Holiness the Pope.

OUR Southland correspondent writes:—The wife of Mr. Southorn, of Oraki, Riverton, died last week, after a brief illness. The deceased was only in her nineteenth year. The Very Rev. Father Walsh came from Wrey's Bush to Riverton to perform the last sad offices.—The secretary of the Riverton Liberal Association has received a telegram from Mr. Giffedder, M.H.R., that the Orepuki-Waiapu railway will be commenced shortly.

THE total mortgages registered for the financial year in New Zealand amount to £6,710,427. According to districts the amounts were as follows:—Auckland, £845,011; Gisborne, £127,115; Hawke's Bay, £621,703; Taranaki, £518,066; Wellington, £1,880,281; Marlborough, £127,277; Nelson, £216,626; Westland, £21,067; Canterbury, £1,455,543; Otago, £598,928; Southland, £298,810. There is a sum of £280 lent in Canterbury at twenty per cent., and another sum of £182 lent at forty per cent.

A RECENT cable message stated that the Hon. J. G. Ward had paid the English creditors of the Farmers' Association in full, and that in recognition of this action they had presented Mrs. Ward with a landan and valuable piece of plate. To show that his voluntary payment of the large sum involved is quite as highly appreciated in Southland we (*Daily News*) hear that it is the intention of his supporters in Awarua to also present Mrs. Ward with a handsome pair of horses and set of harness, so that the turn-out will be complete. It has been left to Mrs. Ward to choose the colour of the pair, which will be selected by a good judge of horse-flesh.

OUR Hawera correspondent writes traversing the note of Mr. Geo. Potts, who had written a denial of our correspondent's statement that a sum of over £300 had been raised for church purposes in Dannevirke district by Father McGrath. Our Hawera correspondent says that he called on Father McGrath at Patea and learned that the sum actually raised was within a shilling of £417. 'This magnificent sum,' he continues, 'represents the generosity and self-sacrifice of Catholics and non-Catholics in Dannevirke, of whom Father McGrath speaks in the highest terms. No doubt many of the Catholics of Dannevirke are still struggling against adverse circumstances, but when your correspondent is a little longer amongst them he will find that their generosity in the cause of their holy religion is great enough to surmount many difficulties.'