

exceptional. Paris is a city where circumstances seem favourable to illnesses of the kind, as witness, for instance, the serious effects sometimes following on an outbreak of the local affection, known as *la grippe*. A new disease, meantime, or a fatal form of one well known, is not a pleasant addition to the belongings of mankind.

MR. LLOYD of St Mary's school, Wanganui, has been admitted as a solicitor of the Supreme Court.

WHILST speaking last night before the distribution of prizes of the efficiency of the Catholic School, (says the *Wanganui Herald* of December 20), the Very Rev. Father Kirk took advantage of the occasion to remark that, as already known to the people, Mr. Lloyd was about to sever his connection with St. Mary's School. He said he did not think they could find anyone more gentlemanly than the teacher they were about to lose. During the 8 or 9 years that he had known Mr. Lloyd he had invariably found him most generous, virtuous, and self-sacrificing; very energetic in promoting the success of whatever he undertook, and most willing on all occasions to assist in every work for the general good. For the reception, etc., of the Irish Delegates they could all testify that he left nothing undone to render their visit what it was, highly creditable to the people of Wanganui. The Very Rev. Father Kirk expressed the hope that the people would on some future day show their appreciation of Mr. Lloyd's sterling qualities.

On Friday (says the *Christchurch Press*) the annual distribution of awards was made at St. Joseph's Convent School, Rangiora. There was a fair attendance of the public. Not only had the school-room been decorated with floral designs, but there was a display of fancy and plain needlework, the handicraft of the scholars. The girls were dressed in white with blue sashes. Mr. E. R. Good, Mayor, by request, distributed the prizes. The Rev. Fathers O'Connor and Halwachs were present. His Worship said he considered it his duty, whenever requested, to preside at gatherings of this character, and he noticed the improvement in the scholars and the evident care which the Sisters had displayed in the tuition of those in their care. An entertainment of vocal and instrumental music was given by Misses Mullin, Dwan, Toohey, Murray, Sheath, Duncan, Flynn, Anderson, and Masters Fitzpatrick, Mullin, Anderson, Flynn, Murfit, O'Brien, Sheath, and the infant pupils, the programme concluding with "God Defend New Zealand."

A MUSICAL festival will be given by the Tailoresses' Union of New Zealand in the Garrison Hall, Dunedin, on Friday evening, the 3rd inst., in aid of a benefit fund in connection with the Union. A very attractive programme has been prepared, and the names of those who are to take part in it speak highly as to how it will be carried out. Sir Robert Stout will take the chair, and his Excellency the Governor and Lady Onslow will be present. A very brilliant entertainment is confidently looked forward to.

THE drawing of the Dominican Nuns' Art-Union will take place in St. Joseph's Schoolroom to-morrow (Wednesday) at 3 p.m. The prizes, however, will not be distributed until January 27, as the nuns are about to enter their annual retreat of ten days. The list of the winning numbers will be published in next week's TABLET.

Mr. William Taylor, George street, Dunedin, conducts his business as watchmaker and jeweller on terms that must prove most satisfactory to those who deal with him. Mr. Taylor's stock will be found a very choice one, artistic designs being worked out in an extremely skilful manner. In executing repairs Mr. Taylor is particularly moderate in his charges.

Mr. J. Blenkinsopp, 99 George street, Dunedin, offers for selection a remarkably fine stock of goods suitable for the season. Ladies should visit Mr. Blenkinsopp's establishment and judge for themselves. They will find the prices remarkably moderate.

The City Boot Palace, George street, Dunedin, announces the arrival of a large stock of gymnastic shoes, suitable also for wear in all the favourite sports of the period. The firm's general stock also is exceptionally good, and most deserving of patronage.

Ladies desirous of obtaining a beautiful dress material should see the printed liberty silk offered for sale, at a greatly reduced price by Messrs. Mollison Mills and Co. George St. Dunedin, other materials also very deserving of attention are in stock.

The carrier pigeon has lately been turned to a curious use in Russia. It is to convey negatives of photographs taken in a balloon. The first experiment was made from the cupola of the Cathedral of Isaac, and the subject photographed was the Winter Palace. The plates were packed in envelopes, impenetrable to the light, and then tied to the feet of the pigeons, who safely and quickly carried them to the station at Volkovo.

A journal says truly that those who wish to see Rome should make haste. If the present rage for demolishing the finest works of architecture continue, there will not be a fragment left where once arose the most poetic, the most interesting and the most imposing city that the imagination of the poet has ever conceived. The vandals who at present control the city would be capable of hiring the Vatican to a *bric-a-brac* tradesman, or converting the ruins of the Palatine into a bazaar.

Commercial.

MR. DONALD STONACH (on behalf of the New Zealand Loan and Mercantile Agency Company, Limited) reports for the week ending December 31, as follows:—

Owing to the holidays there was no fat stock sales held at Burnside to-day.

Store Cattle.—No change of any importance has occurred since date of our last report. A few lots are offering, but sellers still seem indisposed to quit at prices suitable to buyers.

Store Sheep.—There is some inquiry for these, especially good crossbreds, all offering being readily placed. A few merinos are also being disposed of. Up to the present, however, the offerings are limited.

Wool.—Since the date of our last report there have been no further advices from London either by cable or mail respecting the position of the market. Locally, there is nothing of any consequence passing. The continuance of moderately good weather has been favourable to shearing operations, which are now prosecuted with vigour. We shall have a large catalogue to submit at our next sale, to be held on Thursday, the 9th prox.

Sheepskins.—The demand for these continues very satisfactory, and all sorts are briskly competed for. At our weekly auction sale on Monday we submitted a lengthy catalogue, when all the buyers were in attendance. Bidding was spirited, and last week's prices fully maintained. Country dry crossbreds, inferior to medium, brought 1s 3d to 3s 10d; do do merino, 1s 2d to 3s 8d; medium to full-wooled crossbreds, 4s to 6s 2d; do do merino, 3s 9d to 5s 9d; dry pelts, 6d to 13d; green do, 1s 5d, 1s 4d, 1s 3d, 1s 1d, 1s, 9d, 7d, 6d; green lambskins, 2s 6d, 2s 3d, 2s 1d, 2s, 1s 9d, 1s 7d, 1s 4d, 1s 3d, 1s 1d.

Rabbitskins.—The business done in these now has dwindled down to very small proportions. There are very few coming to market now which for the most part are summer and inferior lots; but there is still a market and buyers on the spot willing to purchase whenever there are any to offer. This week we offered a small catalogue, when every lot was competed for with animation. Prices ranged from 4d to 9d per lb.

Hides.—This market continues fairly well supplied, but the demand being sufficiently active there is no difficulty in effecting sales, at prices about equal to those current for the past few weeks. We quote, best extra heavy weights, 2d to 3d; medium to heavy, 2d to 2½; light, 2d to 2½; inferior, 1½d to 1¾d per lb.

Tallow.—The demand continues active, all coming forward being easily placed immediately on arrival, chiefly for local consumption. A few small lots are being shipped, but the quantity thus disposed of is very limited. We quote, prime rendered mutton, 19s to 20s; medium to good, 16s to 18s; inferior and mixed, 13s to 15s. Rough fat, best mutton, 13s to 14s; inferior to medium and good, 4s to 12s 6d per cwt.

Grass Seed.—The market at the moment is almost at a standstill; beyond the disposal on rare occasions of small retail lots, there is nothing passing.

Potatoes.—The market is over supplied with these. Continual heavy shipments from the north in addition to the local production has considerably weakened prices, and made it impossible to maintain late rates, quotations are for best local grown, £5 to £6; imported £2 to £4 10s per ton; old derwents unsaleable at any price.

Chaff.—The supply during the week has been ample for requirements. We quote, best, £3 5s to £3 10s; medium, £2 10s to £3; inferior, 25s to 45s per ton.

Grain.—Wheat: Owing to the holidays the business done during the past week has been unimportant. Millers at the moment are not inclined to increase stocks, and only purchase when certain descriptions run short, and then sparingly preferring to work off stocks on hand. Public Press this week again reports the English wheat market has an upward tendency; Continental, steady; American, unchanged. This is a little more satisfactory, and will no doubt have some effect on the tone of the local market. Meantime we quote—Prime tuscan, 3s to 3s 2d; best red straw and velvet, 2s 9d to 3s; medium to good, 2s 8d to 2s 9d; inferior to medium, 2s to 2s 7d; (ex store).—Oats: There is no change to report in the demand for these, especially feed sorts. Short bright milling have been inquired for, and some business in these has been done, but at very low figures. Common feed sorts are almost unsaleable and at the present there are no indications of any improvement.—We quote, best milling stout and bright, 1s 6½d to 1s 7d; best short feed, 1s 6d to 1s 6½d; medium to good 1s 5d to 1s 6d; inferior, 1s to 1s 3d (ex store, sacks extra). Barley: There are no sales of any consequence passing in this, quotations nominal, say for prime malting, 3s to 3s 3d; medium to good, 2s 9d to 3s; feed and milling, 1s 9d to 2s 6d (ex store, sacks extra).

MR. F. MENAN, King street, reports:—Wholesale prices, bags included: Oats, 1s 6d to 1s 8d, dull. Wheat: milling (dull), 3s 3d to 3s 6d; fowls', 2s 6d to 2s 9d. Chaff: Full supply, bulk inferior, £2 10s to £3 10s, according to quality. Hay: Oaten, £3 10s; ryegrass, £3 5s (both dull). Bran, £2 15s. Pollard, £3 10s. Potatoes: old, unsaleable; new, plentiful, £2 10s to £4. Flour: Sacks, £8; fifty's, £8 15s; roller, sacks, £8 10s; 50lb., £9 5s. Oatmeal, £10 (dull). Butter from 5d to 8d. Eggs, 8d. Salt butter, nominal, 5d to 6d.

The journals of Naples announce that on the 20th of September enormous crowds thronged the Cathedral, to be present at the miracle of St. Januarius. The precious blood of the patron of the city was found hard and then exposed to the veneration of the crowd. After twenty-four minutes of prayer the miracle of the Liquefaction took place. Immediately the bells and cannon of the city announced the event, causing the greatest joy among the faithful people.