

unmistakable proofs of the unpopularity of the measure among a considerable body of his followers. For the last few days Mr Akers Douglas has been overwhelmed with inquiries as to whether Mr Balfour was serious in saying that he proposed to persevere with the Bill, a proceeding which is evidently regarded as the acme of folly on the Tory side of the House. Further, we are told that in several cases Ministerialists have gone to Mr Akers Douglas and have informed him that it will be impossible for them to support the "put 'em in the dock" clause. In fact, it is thought probable that Mr Balfour will find it expedient on the second reading debate, to make a statement as to the amendment or omission of the clause.

As the meeting of the Middleton Town Commissioners, on Monday May 2, the chairman, Mr Edmond O'Loughlin, presiding, two important communications from Mr William O'Brien and Mr John Dillon, bearing on the subject of the exclusion of the Irish Christian Brothers' Schools from the Education Bill were read. Writing from the House of Commons, William O'Brien says—I have received with much pleasure the Middleton Town Commissioners resolution emphasising the growing demand of the country that the ban imposed upon the Christian Brothers on account of the religious and national character of their teaching shall be removed. This ostracism of the Christian Brothers from State-endowed schools system is a remnant of the penal laws. It cannot long resist a determined demand by the Irish people and their representatives for justice and more generous treatment of this invaluable teaching body. If I should still have the honour of being an Irish representative when Mr Jackson's Bill is presented for second reading I shall deem it my duty to press the Government by every possible means to abandon the present disgraceful boycott of the excellent system to which the urban population owe their training in letters and morals. Mr John Dillon wrote—I have great pleasure in saying that I entirely concur in the view expressed in the Commissioners' resolution, and shall do everything in my power to press on the attention of Parliament the claims of the Christian Brothers.

The Government's impudent claim to sound finance and economy under the direction of the genius of Mr Goschen has opportunely met by a leaflet issued by the Financial Reform Association, and signed by its president, Mr E. R. Muspratt. The conclusions at which the leaflet arrives through the straight, plain road of incontrovertible figures is, indeed, startling after the vain-glorious boasts of the Government. It is proved that, so far from having reduced taxation, Mr Goschen has increased it from £90,772,758 in 1887 to £98,593,000 in 1892. While he has increased the amount of revenue raised, he had diminished the amount devoted to the reduction on the National Debt. Notwithstanding bad trade and expensive wars, the Gladstonian Government devoted out of the taxes 15½ millions more to the reduction of the National Debt than the present Government have devoted in a time of prosperity and peace. It is pointed out in the leaflet that Mr Goschen has endeavoured to confuse the issue by financial devices which only the vast magnitude of the sums involved distinguishes from trick-of-the-loop or thimble rigging. Local taxation and imperial taxation are deliberately confused, and the accounts of expenditure and income are so hopelessly entangled that it is impossible to unravel them. The leaflet ought to be an effective stopper to vain-glorious brags about the financial genius and brilliant success of Mr Goschen.

The tenants who have been refused the right to avail of the Land Purchase Act by Judge Monroe may well exclaim "Wonderful are the ways of the law." One of his lordship's grounds for refusing their bid was that £1,400 arrears were outstanding and should be reckoned in reduction of the offer made on their behalf by the Purchase Commissioners. On Monday, however, another Land Judge had to consider the question of £749 of these arrears, and upon the report of the receiver that the tenant, Mr Robinson, held at "impossible rent" (which he could not apply to the Land Court to reduce) Judge Boyd ordered that £326 10s be accepted in discharge of the debt of £749 5s. It is, therefore, evident that at least a fourth of the arrears which Judge Monroe calculated against the tenants in refusing to allow them to purchase were practically bogus. It would, of course, have been too much, where Irish tenants' rights were concerned, to have expected Judge Monroe to wait a week until his colleague, Judge Boyd, had time to consider how much of the arrears were justly owing and enforceable. How much of the remainder of the arrears stand on the same footing as Mr Robinson's? Apart altogether, from the purchase question involved in this case, the public will note with satisfaction the decision of Judge Boyd to act upon his receiver's recommendation, and sanctioning an abatement of arrears from £740 to £326. This approaches the reductions on arrears given in Scotland by the Crofters' Commission.

We have again pleasure in drawing attention to the advertisement of the Milburn Company's Cement Works. The company claims to have sold 63,000 bags of cement, which speaks most favourably of the quality, and now are further extending the works to turn out twice the present out-put, and adopting the most modern machinery. Such industries as the above must tend to the general prosperity of the Colony.

## Commercial.

THE NEW ZEALAND LOAN AND MERCANTILE AGENCY CO., LIMITED, report for week ending June 29, as follows:—

**Store Cattle**—A moderate amount of business is passing in these in small lots, but it would be difficult to place large mobs, except at prices exceedingly favourable to the buyers. Grown bullocks in forward condition fetch from L5 to L6; two and three year old steers from L2 15s to L4 17s 6d.

**Store Sheep**—For special lines suitable for topping off on turnips without much loss of time, prices are paid that are not likely to leave much of a margin to the buyer.

**Wool**—Scarcely any business being done locally.

**Sheepskins**—Large catalogue fairly well competed for. No improvement on last week's prices.

**Rabbitskins**—A keen demand; supply short of requirements. Last week's highest price being topped by ¼d lb.

**Hides**—All arriving are readily placed. No improvement in prices.

**Tallow**—Moderate quantity forward. Best rendered mutton, 19s to 20s; medium to good, 16s to 18s; inferior to medium 13s to 15s.

**Grain**—Wheat: No animation. Best red wheat and Tuscan, 3s 5d to 3s 8d; medium to good, 2s 9d to 3s; ex store, sacks weighed in, terms.—Oats: Supply exceedingly light. Very active demand experienced, and sales easily effected. Prime milling, 1s 9d to 1s 10d; medium to good, 1s 6d to 1s 8d; ex store, sacks extra, net. Barley: Market quiet. Best malting, 3s 6d to 3s 9d; medium to good, 3s to 3s 4d; feed and milling, 2s to 2s 8d; ex store, sacks extra, terms.

**Grass Seed**—Best machine dressed Ryegrass seed, 3s 9d to 4s 3d; medium, 3s 3d to 3s 6d; best cocksfoot, 3½d to 4½d; medium, 3d to 3½d per lb.

**Potatoes**—Supply still largely in excess of requirements, and sales difficult to effect. Best derwents, 3s 6d to 3s 8s; other sorts range from 17s 6d to 30s per ton; sacks weighed in.

**Chaff**—Market fully supplied, and prices with difficulty upheld. Best, 47s 6d to 52s 6d; inferior to medium, 30s to 45s per ton.

**Dairy Produce**—Prime potted butter is in short supply and in demand. For dairy made 1s per lb could be secured; no factory made offering. Demand for cheese less active; medium size, factory made, 5d; loaf shape, 5½d; dairy made sells at 2½d to 4d per lb.

MESSRS DONALD BEID AND Co. report as follows for week ending June 29:—

**Rabbitskins**—Winters sold at 11½d to 14½d; autumns, 7½d to 10½d; back and fawn, 8d to 10d; suckers, 3d to 4½d per lb.

**Sheepskins**—Green crossbreeds, 3s 4d to 4s 5d; do merinos, 2s 5d to 3s; dry cross-breeds, 2s 1d to 5s 5d; do merinos, 1s 6d to 3s 11d; do pelts and lambs, 4d to 2s 3d.

**Hides**—Prime heavies, 2½d to 3d; medium, 2½d to 2½d; light, 1½d to 2d; slippy and dirty, 1½d to 1½d per lb.

**Tallow**—A steady local demand continues to exist. There is no alteration to note in prices.

**Wheat**—A large business has been done in this cereal since last reporting. We quote—milling (prime extra), 3s 6d to 3s 10d; medium, 3s 3d to 3s 5d; inferior, 2s 9d to 3s 2d; fowls' wheat, 2s to 2s 8d.

**Oats**—Our auction sale on Monday showed a very decided advance on last week's quotations. Best milling, 1s 10d to 1s 11d; do bright feed, 1s 8½d to 1s 9½d; discoloured, 1s 6d to 1s 8d—sacks extra.

**Barley**—No business of any moment to report.

**Potatoes**—Heavy, prime, well-picked potatoes meet with ready sale at from 32s 6d to 35s, while inferior are very hard to quit.

**Chaff**—We quote—Best, L2 7s 6d to L2 12s 6d; medium, L2 to L2 5s; inferior, L1 10s to L1 17s 6d.

**Grass Seed**—There is a little inquiry for machine-dressed and superior farmers' lots, but no business of any moment is being done.

**Turnips**—Swedes, small, 14s to 16s; do large, 12s to 13s.

MESSRS FTRONACH BROS. AND MORRIS report as follows:—

**Fat Cattle**—Demand somewhat dull. We quote—Best bullocks, L7 to L8 17s 6d; medium to good, L5 10s to L6 15s; light weights, L4 5s to L5 2s 6d.

**Fat Sheep**—Fair demand. Best bred wethers, 16s to 17s 3d; ordinary, 13s 6d to 15s 9d; best do ewes, 14s 6d to 15s 9d; ordinary, 12s to 14s 3d.

**Figs**—130 were penned comprising all sorts, all of which met with a good demand. We sold a draft at 37s 6d.

**Rabbitskins**—Marked improvement in competition, and values ranging higher. Mixed winter skins, up to 15d.

**Sheepskins**—Country dry crossbreeds, inferior to medium, 1s 10d to 3s 4d; do merino, 1s 9d to 3s 2d; full-woolled crossbreeds, 4s 8d to 6s 9d; do merino, 3s 4d to 5s 11d; dry pelts, 3d to 1s 7d.

**Oats**—Market steady, without further improvement. Best milling, say 1s 9d; do feed, to 1s 8d.

**Wheat**—Market very dull, and no prospect of immediate improvement. Best samples, 3s 5d to 3s 8d.

**Chaff**—Good, heavy, well-cut chaff commands good attention, and sells readily at from 47s 6d to 52s 6d; inferior and medium, 30s to 45s per ton.

### DUNEDIN HORSE SALEYARDS.

MESSRS WRIGHT, STEPHENSON AND Co. report as follows:—A fairly large number of horses was entered for Saturday's sale, but as they consisted chiefly of town lots, comparatively few changed hands. We quote:—For first-class draughts (extra heavy), L25 to L30; good ordinary (young), L18 to L22; medium, L12 to L16; aged, L6 to L10; good hacks and harness horses, L12 to L16; medium, L7 to L9; light and inferior, L2 10s to L5.