

STORE SHEEP—The few store sheep were all hoggets or ewes and lambs, and there was a very good sale. Hoggets realised from 16s to 16s 9d; ewes and lambs (all counted), 10s to 11s.

PIGS—Pigs of all sorts were well represented, and met with a very good sale. Baconers brought from 30s to 38s, equal to 3d to 3½d per lb; porkers, 20s to 31s 6d, equal to from 3½d to 4d; stores 12s to 21s; suckers and weaners, 5s to 12s.

DUNEDIN HORSE SALEYARDS.

Messrs. Wright, Stephenson and Co. report as follows:—

For Saturday's sale only some eight or nine draught mares and geldings and about a score of hacks and light harness horses came forward. The draughts included a consignment of three good mares, but aged, from a northern client, and these were sold at from L45 to L55 a piece. The principal entry in the light horses was a pair of useful bay gelding- (seven years old), buggy horses, station bred, and these changed hands at L30 the pair. A few other useful hacks and harness horses, most of them aged, changed hands at from L7 to L14 10s, and one good buggy mare brought L19 10s. The demand for first-class heavy cart horses is very strong, and powerful shafters readily bring from L52 to L60, according to class. Useful farm horses are also asked for, and there is strong inquiry for upstanding hacks and harness horses. We quote—Superior young draught geldings, L45 to L55 extra good prize horses, L56 to L62; medium draught mares and geldings, L34 to L44; aged do, L25 to L32; upstanding carriage horses, L30 to L35; well-matched carriage pairs, L70 to L90; strong spring-van horses, L28 to L35; milk-cart and butchers' ord-r cart horse, L18 to L24; tram horses, L12 to L16; light hacks, L7 to L11; extra good hacks, L18 to L25; weedy and aged hacks and harness horses, L2 to L5.

THE WEEK'S DREDGING RETURNS.

During the week ended Monday, October 29 (says the *Otago Daily Times*), returns were reported from the following 40 dredges, the total yield being 1633oz ldwt 16gr, or an average of 40oz per dredge:—

Electric (Cromwell), 254oz; Junction Electric (Cromwell), 204oz 14dwt; Meg and Annie (Kawarau River), 127 hours, 120oz 10dwt; Hartley and Riley (Cromwell), 136 hours, 98oz 5dwt; Earnscleugh No. 2 (Alexandra), 120 hours, 72oz 12dwt; Manuherikia (Alexandra), 133 hours, 69oz 12dwt 12gr; Charlton Creek (near Gore), 136 hours, 51oz; Empire (Waipori), 2 dredges, 50oz 13dwt; Perseverance (Alexandra), 45oz 18dwt 6gr; Earnscleugh No. 1 (Alexandra), 44oz 1dwt; Golden Beach (Alexandra), 133 hours, 41oz 14dwt; Cromwell (Cromwell), 126 hours, 41oz 13dwt 19gr; Enterprise No. 1 (Alexandra), 37oz 2dwt; Alexandra Eureka (Alexandra), 37oz; Clyde (Alexandra), 34oz; Molyneux Hydraulic (Alexandra), 31oz 11dwt 9gr; Olriz (Manuherikia River), 178 hours, 27oz 14dwt; Upper Waipori (Waipori), 134 hours, 26oz 14dwt; Waimumu Queen (near Gore), 114 hours, 25oz 19dwt; Chicago (Alexandra) 125 hours, 25oz; Ngapara No 2 (Nevis River), 24oz; Golden Treasure (Miller's Flat) 22oz 9dwt; Gold Queen (Dumbarton Rock), 118 hours, 22oz; Success (Waipori), 21oz 4dwt; Electric Extended (Cromwell), 130 hours, 21oz; Waimumu (near Gore), 130 hours, 21oz; Woolshed (Glenora), 133 hours, 20oz 13dwt; Waimumu Central (near Gore), 126 hours 17oz 12dwt; Morning Star (Manuherikia, 120 hours, 16oz; Manorburn (Manuherikia), 120 hours, 10oz 11dwt; Jutland Flat (Waipori), 112 hours, 15oz 4dwt; Tuapeka (Tuapeka Flat), 127 hours, 15oz; Waimumu Extended (near Gore), 97 hours, 11oz 2dwt; Lawrence (Tuapeka Flat), 11oz; Evans Flat (Tuapeka), 118 hours, 9oz 1dwt; Waikaka Forks (Waikaka), 93 hours, 9oz 0dwt 18gr; Nevis (Nevis River), 5oz 19dwt; Ngapara No. 3 (Nevis River), 90 hours, 5oz; Inch-holme (near Palmerston), 4oz 12dwt. Total, 1633oz ldwt 16gr.

BE GENTLE.

BE gentle in your manners. The heavy footfall is not necessary, and by it you shock the nervous and waken the baby. The loud, shrill tone is not so easily understood as the nicely modulated. Perhaps you are always knocking over a vase or a book, tipping over a glass of water, or such like mishaps. You may not think so, but such things show a lack of consideration for others, for with a little care and forethought such disasters might almost always be avoided. Learn to walk quietly. Keep your eyes open that you may not trip over rugs and cushions or chairs and small tables. Don't make your friends dread to have you come in, as do the friends of one young lady in a certain town, 'for she always breaks something before she leaves,' they say. 'And she is so good-natured about it, too,' remarked one, 'and penitent, but says she always creates a breeze and she really cannot help it.' Such gentle zephyrs are not desirable.

AN INCIDENT IN THE LIFE OF PIUS THE NINTH.

A WRITER in the *Glasgow Evening Citizen* mentioned the following incident of which he was an eye witness:—When I was a young man Pio Nono was riding through the Corso in his coach. There was a mob blocking his horses. A Jew had taken a fit, and the people shrunk from the afflicted one, calling out 'A Jew! a Jew!' The Pope took in the position, alighted, and went up to see whether he could be of use. He answered the popular cry by crying out 'A man! a man!'

Witches Oil cures pains and aches, neuralgia, headache, sciatica rheumatism. Price, 2s 6d. Try it.—

THE THISTLE OF SCOTLAND.

Once upon a time many hundred years ago the Danes made war upon the Scots and invaded their country. One dark night, as they were marching upon an encampment of sleeping Scots, one of their number trod upon a thistle. The pain was so sudden and intense that the man gave a loud cry. This awakened the slumbering Scots, who sprang to arms and defeated the assailants. In gratitude for the deliverance the Scots made the thistle their national emblem.

WEDDING CAKE.

THE wedding cake is the remains of a custom whereby a Roman bride held in her left hand three wheat ears, and many centuries later an English bride wore a chaplet of wheat. The bridesmaids throw grains of corn or small bits of cake upon the heads of the newly-married and the guests picked up the pieces and ate them. The wedding cake did not come into general use until the last century, and was then composed of solid blocks laid together, iced all over, so that when the outer crust was broken over the bride's head, the cakes inside fell on the floor and were distributed among the guests.

THE POSTAGE STAMPS OF THE WORLD.

THE postage stamps issued by the different countries of the world amount, according to the latest reports, to 13,811 different kinds. Of this number 131 varieties are credited to England and 3,843 to her colonies and dependencies. The greatest variety of postage stamps are issued in America. Taking the entire American continent there are no less than 4,556. The United States has 268, San Salvador has 272, Uruguay 215. The Chinese city of Shanghai has for its own use solely 211 kinds of postage stamps. Only Poland and Patagonia are satisfied with one single kind of stamp.

A NEWSPAPER CANARD.

WE say it is a 'canard' when we read something highly improbable in the columns of any of the daily journals. Why 'canard'? Canard is the French for 'duck.' Why call an improbable story a newspaper 'duck'? The following explanation was recently given; it may be true or not; it may be itself a canard. A gentleman in France once told a story to the effect that 20 ducks were ravenous with hunger. Thereupon, 19 of them tore the twentieth into bits and gobbled it up. There were now only 19 left. Eighteen of these ate up the nineteenth, and so on, and so on, until only one was left alive, with, of course, the other 19 inside him. The story got into the newspapers, was widely circulated, and as it was felt to be slightly improbable, any unlikely statement thereafter in a newspaper recalled the duck story and was labelled a 'canard.'

THE CHINESE ARMY.

From carefully prepared information on file in the Bureau of Military Information at the War Department, Washington, the strength of the Chinese army is shown to comprise eight banners, nominally containing about 300,000 men, descendants of the Manchu conquerors and their allies. The number maintained on a war footing is from 80,000 to 100,000. The whole force is subdivided into three groups, consisting respectively of Manchus, Mongols, and Chinese. It forms a sort of hereditary profession, within which intermarriage is compulsory. About 37,000 are stationed in garrisons in Manchuria; the imperial guard at Peking contains from 6000 to 7000. These are the troops that were expected to defend the foreign legations, and to protect foreign interests from the mobs. The Ying-Ping or National army is also called the Green Flags and the Five Camps. This army consists of 18 corps, one for each province under the governor or governor-general. The nominal strength is from 340,000 to 600,000 men, of whom about 200,000 are available for war, never more than one-third being called out. The most important contingent is the Tientsin Army Corps, nominally 100,000 strong, really about 35,000, with modern organisation, drill, and arms. They are employed in garrison duty at Tientsin and at Taku and other forts. Besides these forces there are mercenary troops raised in emergencies, and Mongolian and other irregular cavalry, nominally 200,000 strong, really about 20,000, but said to be of no military value. The total land army on peace footing is about 300,000 men, and on war footing at about 1,000,000. The army as a whole, it is said, has no unity or cohesion. There is no proper discipline. The drill is mere physical exercise. The weapons are long since obsolete. There is no transport, commissariat, or medical service.

Prince Alonzo of Bourbon, brother of Don Carlos, has congratulated those Austrian officers who declined to fight duels, even at the cost of their commissions. The futility of these 'affairs of honor' is shown by the account of the latest duel in Italy. The mortality for 10 years only averages three per cent.

A Home paper recently informed its readers that the famous Boer fighter, General Botha, is married to a grand-daughter of the immortal Robert Emmet. Inasmuch as Emmet was never married, and so left no 'hostages to fortune,' it is not a little puzzling to find such relationship claimed for anybody.