

mode of doing his business (says the 'Independent'). Many a visitor to Wellington has been astonished and amused to see him ride smartly up to a post, jump on the saddle, and light the lamp, then sliding into his seat and cantering away on his round. In this way he must be able to do as much work as several men on foot carrying ladders. The whole arrangement is highly ludicrous, but one cannot help admiring the man's ingenuity, while laughing at the grotesque character of the performance. This is not news to dwellers in the city, but it will be most assuredly to other folks.

The offertories at St. Patrick's Roman Catholic Church, Oamaru, on Christmas Day, amounted, the local paper states, to about £80.

The Catholic Chapel, at Reefton, narrowly escaped destruction by fire on a Sunday lately, together with the buildings in the vicinity, owing to a quantity of brush and fallen timber having become ignited. When the former building became endangered, owing to the wind suddenly shifting, great efforts were exerted and relays of men came forward, who, by dint of great exertions, succeeded in partially subduing the conflagration. The wind also changed suddenly, and in a very short time the chapel was secured from danger.

A STABLE, the property of Mr Dennis Maloney, of the Junction Hotel, Queenstown, was burnt down on the 24th ultimo. At the time of the fire there were three horses in the stable, severally the property of three men named Magee, Devine, and Henderson, who were staying at the hotel on their way to the Arrowtown races. Mr Maloney estimates his loss at £120, Mr Magee £20, and Devine and Henderson £10 each, none of which were covered by insurance.

A CORRESPONDENT of the 'Daily Times' says, of the recent appointment of Mr Adam as Otago Emigration Agent:—There is an impression abroad that before advertising the Government had fixed upon the man, and that his two chief recommendations were his being a Scotchman and a Presbyterian. I cannot credit this. It would be the very essence of dishonor, and I believe them to be honorable men. Nor do I object to Mr Adam, if he is, as the phrase goes, the right man in the right place. What I do object to is, that he is appointed solely for Scotland, which is unfair and unjust towards the people of England, Ireland, and Wales. This sort of class exclusiveness cannot and will not be submitted to; therefore the sooner the Government changes the orders to Mr Adam the better.

The Wellington which sailed from Wellington for the Manukau on Jan. 3rd, was detained till the last moment through the men refusing, on the very eve of her departure, to sign articles, without a clause being inscribed enabling them to leave at any time with 24 hours' notice. The wages of firemen have been raised to £12 per month.

The last Northern Escort which arrived in Dunedin brought down the following quantities of gold:—Queenstown, 1421 oz 17 dwt; Cardrona, 539 oz 6 dwt; Arrow, 1165 oz 3 dwt; Cromwell, 4134 oz 19 dwt; Clyde, 350 oz; Alexandra, 663 oz 13 dwt; Teviot, 517 oz; Blacks, 2517 oz; St. Bathans, 1100 oz; Mount Ida, 3083 oz 8 dwt; Palmerston, 135 oz 10 dwt; Macraes, 151 oz 11 dwt. Total, 16,129 oz 7 dwt.

The Criminal Sessions of the Supreme Court were opened in Dunedin on Monday last. His Honor Mr Justice Chapman's charge to the Grand Jury contained no points of special interest.

The Victorian Eighteen won the cricket match against the English Eleven in one innings, with 21 runs to spare. The match, which caused a considerable amount of excitement amongst all classes of the community, commenced on the Melbourne Club's ground on Boxing Day, in the presence of about 20,000 spectators.

WRECK OF THE SURAT IMMIGRANT SHIP.

On the morning of Friday, the 2nd inst., telegrams were published in Dunedin, announcing that the ship Surat, with 276 immigrants on board, had gone ashore at Catlin's River. The news created considerable excitement in town, as the ship carried a valuable cargo, and is the second to this port of the New Zealand Shipping Company's fleet. The statement that the passengers were safe allayed all apprehension for the lives of those on board. A few hours after the receipt of the telegrams, the French war ship Vire sailed from Port Chalmers for the scene of the wreck, having Captain Thomson, Harbour-master, and other gentlemen interested in the ship, on board. Captain Jacquemart deserves the greatest credit for the prompt offer of his ship to the Provincial Government for the conveyance to Port of the immigrants. It appears that about ten o'clock on New Year's eve, the Surat struck on a submerged rock some miles from Catlin's river, her speed carrying her over. When the Surat first struck, there was the most intense excitement on board. One of the passengers says that when the vessel bumped on the rocks a considerable shock was felt, and as the ship went over the rock a noise was heard resembling the rumbling of iron tanks being moved about. Some of the passengers state that the pumps were never sounded, in order to ascertain whether the ship was taking any water or not, until long after she passed over the rocks. The little bay in which the vessel anchored on the following morning is called Bloody Jack's Bay.

Nearly all the passengers' statements are to the effect that, after the Surat struck, and before she was beached, there was considerable confusion and disorder on board. Attempts on the part of the passengers to signal the passing steamer Wanganui were stopped, revolvers were produced, and violence threatened. The water gained, notwithstanding the working of the pumps incessantly by the crew and passengers, including the married women and girls, all of whom took their turn at the work. When it was determined to beach the vessel, and the boats were lowered, the men behaved most creditably, according to the accounts we have heard. The women, children, and old men were put in boats before the oiler men followed; there were no accidents. Pilot Hayward, who is also Harbour Master at Port Molyneux and Catlin's river, was of great assistance in pointing out the best place to beach the ship, and in landing the passengers and getting them together. The passengers also speak well of the ship's carpenter, whose name is Lodge, the sailmaker, and a seaman named Donovan. Dr Tighe also made himself most useful, both on board, during the time when great confusion and excitement prevailed, and

after the passengers were landed. At one time some of the women are said to have been almost frantic with excitement, waving their shawls and handkerchiefs, and making all the efforts in their power to attract the attention of those on board the Wanganui; and a few of the male passengers had a great deal of trouble to endeavor to calm them and get them below. The excitement did not last long, and when it was over all the passengers are reported to have become remarkably calm. There was no moonlight, and rain was falling nearly all the time. The passengers appear to have suffered a great deal of hardship. Very few of them managed to get ashore with more than the clothes they had on, and the majority of them were in bed when the vessel struck, and when the confusion began, a few had barely clothes to cover them. In landing, some of them ran a great risk of losing their lives, and most of them reached the shore cold, wet, and miserable. The scene on board the Vire, on her arrival at Port, was a curious one. The decks were crowded with men, women, and children, who all bore some evidence of the hardships they had lately gone through. The women and children were dressed in anything that could keep them warm, and most of the youngsters had pieces of grey blanket wrapped about them. Some of the girls had no covering for their heads, and a few of the men appeared to be wearing nothing but oilskins. On the passage up, every attention was shown to the passengers by the officers and men of the Vire. The Surat has been valued at about £25,000, and it is rumoured that an insurance had been effected over her for £15,000 before she left London. Her cargo has been valued at £100,000. The ship and cargo have been purchased at auction by Messrs Guthrie and Larnach, Dunedin, for £7050, and that firm with the fleet of steamers and lighters at its disposal, and having the advantage of a sawmilling establishment in the neighborhood from which labor, material and machinery, is procurable, is taking most energetic measures for the discharge of the cargo, and, if possible to get off the vessel. Large numbers of men and supplies of provisions have also been sent down from Dunedin.

The Mayor of Dunedin, Mr A. Mercer, promptly inaugurated a Surat Relief Fund, and a committee of which he and Mr S. Reeves, are chairman and treasurers, was appointed at a public meeting called by him.

Mr Paul has been appointed collector for Dunedin, and the up-country Mayors have been asked to co-operate with the city in the matter. The following subscriptions have been acknowledged:—Hon. J. Vogel, £20; Kennedy Family, £10 10s; Bishop Moran, £5; Rev. W. Coleman, £5; Messrs Conzell & Moodie, £5 5s; Rev. Dr Stuart, £2 2s; Mr D. Pains (Christchurch), £5 5s; his Worship the Mayor (A. Mercer, Esq.), £5 5s.

The Sub-Committee which made the necessary inquiries reported they "did not think it necessary to include in their report the losses sustained by the single men and women, though they regret to say very heavy losses have accrued to most of them. The Sub-Committee had an interview with the heads of thirty-seven families, who have each sustained heavy losses, more or less;—in short, it may be said these people have lost everything they possessed. The loss by the married people we compute roughly to amount to £1800, and adding to this amount the loss of property of the unmarried immigrants of, say, £700, the total loss would amount to upwards of £2500. Your Sub-Committee cannot conclude their report without expressing their admiration of the prompt and straightforward statements made to them by the several persons examined. So far from desiring to exaggerate their losses, there was evinced a manly independence of spirit, and in one or two instances, a disinclination to accept assistance.

It is reported that at the official inquiry some strange revelations will be made.

THE BANQUET TO THE HON. MR VOGEL.

A BANQUET was given to the Hon. Mr Vogel, in Dunedin, on Monday evening last, and a sum of £500 presented to him. The Superintendent occupied the chair.

His Excellency, in responding to the toast of his health, showed the shortcomings of the Provincial Institutions of Otago, and hoped his remarks would be taken in a candid spirit.

The Hon. J. Vogel, in the course of the speech in which he responded to the toast of his health, said:—It is quite true, and it has been said twice already this evening, and no one feels it more than I do myself, that whatever success I may meet with in political life can never be dissociated from my connection with this Province and with this City. . . . The Native question is no longer the one absorbing question which takes up all the care and attention of those in whose charge the Government of the Colony is placed. It means that there is now time to look to other questions than that of the Native question—that there is time to look to those questions which really concern most those who have cast in their lots as colonists in New Zealand—that there is time to look to questions which affect their moral, their social and their material progress and prosperity. . . . I think we have cause to be very grateful to His Excellency in coming here not to utter flowery speeches, but to give the expression of his mature opinion upon your institutions as he finds them. You, Sir, have said that you cannot disguise from yourself the feeling that there may be a reaction from the splendid prosperity now prevailing in the Province and in the Colony. And I think you have very wisely said that such a reaction is likely to take the form of individual suffering rather than suffering by the Colony as a whole. I agree with you. Some may, from want of wisdom or over speculation, or from misfortune, have to go to the wall. But the material wealth created in the Province cannot and will not be destroyed. . . . I feel very much gratified to know that there are present, on this occasion, many of those gentlemen who at other times have not found themselves upon the same side in politics as myself, and who, politically, I may number as my opponents. Personally, I do not think I can say they are my opponents. Personally, I am not conscious of any reason why I should have occasioned any personal antagonism to myself; and personally, I am unconscious of this, that even in cases of political opposition I rarely found occasion to complain of want of personal consideration. . .