

NEWS IN BRIEF.

Another section of the Oamaru breakwater has been completed, making an increase in length of seventeen feet.

Dr Cole of this city, has lately removed the whole of the breast of a woman affected with a cancer. We are told the patient is now in a fair way to recovery.

Paris contains at present 1,851,792 inhabitants. In 1869 the number was only 1,825,271. In 1866 the males exceeded the females by 84,648, whilst in 1874 that difference was reduced to 12,656.

During the year 1870 there were 1,384 twin births and nine triplet births, indicating that one in every eighty-two mothers bore twins, and that one in every 12,665 mothers bore triplets. In one of the cases of triplet births the mother had been married nineteen years and seven months, before she bore children, and then three came at a birth.

The 'Daily Telegraph' recently devoted more than a column of its space to an article on the death of a monkey in the Zoological Gardens.

Miss Elizabeth Morgan M.D., one of the physicians at the Hospital for Women, Marylebone, is about to follow the example of her colleague, Mrs Anderson, M.D., by entering into the bonds of matrimony. Her future husband is a physician, by name Dr Hoggan.

The 'Standard's' Calcutta correspondent telegraphs that hidden stores of grain have been discovered. Nearly half a million labourers are on the relief works. Most of the reported starvation deaths are considered doubtful.

The total quantity of sugar consumed in breweries for the year ending last September was—England, 56,576,259 lbs; Scotland, 574,303 lbs; and Ireland, 3,960,667 lbs.

According to a return to Parliament, on the 31st of December last, the bank notes of the Bank of England held by the public amounted to £25,807,000, and on that day the total amount of bullion was £22,519,000.

The rateable property in London was assessed in 1871 as being of the annual value of very nearly twenty millions sterling. The Registrar-General in his Annual Summary for London, observes that it is impossible to tell what the income of the inhabitants amounts to, but, taking seven times the above amount as a rough approximation it would be 140 millions a year.

Presumably through the influence of England, a stop has been put to the Peruvian Coolie trade. A plenipotentiary has been accredited to Peru from Buenos Ayres on a special and confidential mission.

A Parliamentary return, containing a register of the owners of lands and heritages in Scotland, has been published. It is shown that there are 131,530 such owners; that the estimated extent of their property is 18,946,694 acres, the gross annual value of which is £18,698,804.

The native leader of the little rebellion at Natal has been sentenced to imprisonment for life, and his sons and the head men to punishments ranging from six months' imprisonment to four years' transportation.

A St. Petersburg telegram states that the Neva became free of ice throughout its whole course; and that the whole of the ice near Cronstadt is in motion.

The authorities of the mint are about to coin a large quantity of half crowns, none of which have been made since 1848, when they were abolished by royal proclamation, and all those then existing were as they got worn ordered to be called in and gradually converted into florins.

In the island of Jersey there are two currencies—native and English—and the inconvenience thus caused has been long felt, though it has not been remedied. As a step towards its removal the St. Helier's and St. Aubin Railway Company state that they will neither take nor give Jersey coppers.

Sixty immigrant ships sailed from the United Kingdom, for New Zealand, between February 1, 1873, and February 25, 1874. The three quickest passages made were by the James Nicol Fleming in seventy-three days, by the Scimitar in seventy days, and by the s. s. Mongol in fifty-one.

Several Maoris write to a Wespport paper, complaining that the female telegraphists at Nelson "muddle" their messages in transmission.

The Maoris of the Upper Wanganui district appear to be an enterprising race. The 'N. Z. Times' says they have just imported from the old country a flour mill, complete in all its parts, including an iron water-wheel.

An inquest was held at the Royal Hotel, Timaru, on Wednesday, last, upon the body of Eliza Catterick, alias Eliza Shipley, before B. Woolcombe, Esq., Coroner. It was proved that the deceased, who was of intemperate habits, had died while in an epileptic fit, brought on by excessive drinking. A verdict to that effect was returned.

A quicksilver mine is said to have been accidentally discovered by some boys on the bank of the river at Head Weir, near Exeter.

A vocal phenomenon has recently appeared in Vienna—a tenor who from some eccentric formation of the larynx causing two notes at once.

It is said that the Duchess of Edinburgh's influence on the Court is already very marked. Her joyous and affectionate ways have done much to enliven everyone, and have had a very marked effect upon the Queen herself, who is caressed and chided by turns by the young girl, who is as autocratic in her ways as her sovereign papa.

A new movement has been started in London. It is nothing less than a parliament of working men. A conference of the most advanced amongst the leaders of the working class in London was held lately, when the organisation was formed, and a large committee appointed.

The mania for old china, so amusingly characterised by Punch, has extended even to the Sultan of Turkey. His Majesty has begun to form a collection of blue and white ware, and is sending all over Europe to secure specimens for his museum, which he ambitiously intends to be the most complete in the world.

ESSENCE OF PARLIAMENT.

THURSDAY, JULY 9.

In the Legislative Council Mr Waterhouse moved: "That in the opinion of this Council the mode of selling and disposing of lands under the New Zealand Settlements Act be regulated by an Act of the General Assembly, and not, as at present, by regulations made at the will of the Government of the day." The motion was agreed to.

Mr Waterhouse moved, without remark, that copies of all correspondence and telegrams which passed between the Government and Judge Ward, and in reference to Judge Chapman, be laid on the table.

The Colonial Secretary said the Government had no objection.

The following Bills were introduced and read a first time:—A Bill to Amend the Conveyancing Ordinance; Bill to Amend the Canterbury Domains Act, 1872; Bill to extend the time for registration of births in certain cases; Bill to Amend the Marlborough Waste Lands Act, 1867.

Mr Wakefield's motion for a return of the cost of producing the Handbook of New Zealand, was lost by a majority of 18. During the debate Mr Vogel explained that the trouble and labor entailed by the production of the work was such, that had he been aware of it beforehand, he should not have undertaken it.

On the motion of Mr Gillies for the production of correspondence relating to Judges Chapman and Ward, the Premier hoped the matter would be allowed to pass into oblivion, and did not think it advisable it should be printed. He would, however, lay the necessary papers upon the table for the use of members only.

The Nelson Loan Bill was read a first time.

The Imprest Supply Bill for £250,000 went through the first stage.

Drafts of the following Bills were sent down by message from the Governor and reported to the House:—A Bill to amend the Supreme Court Judges Act, 1858; a Bill to make provision for the establishment of State forests, and the application of the revenue derivable therefrom; a Bill to amend the law relating to the Civil Service Act, 1873; an Act for amending the Post Office Savings Banks Act, 1867; an Act to repeal the New Zealand University Act, 1870. The House then adjourned.

FRIDAY, JULY 10.

The House went into Committee to consider a resolution for an Imprest Supply of £250,000, payment of salaries for carrying on the work of the Government.

In moving the second reading of the Electric Telegraph Bill, the Premier said, "The most important part of the Bill was in regard to calling for telegrams for the purpose of inspection. The Act provides that telegrams should be producible only on the consent of the sender or receiver, with the exception of general cases, where telegrams shall be producible on the decision of the Commissioner of Telegraphs." There was great difficulty in bringing forward such a measure, because it had been found unnecessary to do so in other countries. Unfortunately a practice had been indulged in this Colony of attempting to make the Telegraph Office a medium for hunting up legal evidence, and but a short time since a Judge of the Supreme Court had given an order to inspect all telegrams, without the particular ones being specified. The judges in the Home country had determinedly set their faces against such a course of procedure. He considered it unsafe to allow the matter to rest in its present unsatisfactory state.

Mr Fox would move an amendment with a view to preserve the inviolability of telegrams, "that the Government should endeavor to devise some means by which the primary offender, in divulging telegrams, should be forced even to indemnify the party giving such information, as was done by the commissioners appointed to inquire into the trade union affairs at Sheffield."

The House then adjourned.

TUESDAY, JULY 14TH.

Mr Waterhouse, in speaking to the motion of which he had given notice, regretted the increase in the indebtedness of the Colony. When the Premier initiated the public works of the Colony, he announced that £8,500,000 were to be spent in ten years, or, including immigration, something like £9,500,000. This was to have been met, however, by the sale of land to the amount of £3,500,000. In the face of these promises, expenditure to the amount of £9,816,000 had been authorised, with only 1000 miles of railway to show for it. This would make the total liability of the Colony equal to £17,000,000. We were apt at the present time to under estimate the extent of our liabilities, and the feeling arose from three causes: 1. The unprecedented prosperity prevailing. 2. The full burden of interest was not yet felt, in consequence of the interest charge being deferred till railway lines were completed. 3. We were not paying the first burden imposed upon the Colony in consequence of native troubles.

Dr. Pollen said that if he were to follow Mr Waterhouse through his arguments, he would be obliged to disclose the financial policy of the Government, which would be more properly done in the other House in a day or two.—Colonel Kenny opposed, and Mr Campbell supported the amendment for the previous question, which was put and carried.

Dr. Pollen laid on the table all papers relating to Judges Ward and Chapman.

The Regulation of Machinery Bill, Offences Against Amendment Bill, and Justices of the Peace Amendment Bill were read a second time. The Council adjourned.

In the House of Representatives, the Premier moved the second reading of the Westland Loan Bill. He said it need cause no apprehension among hon. members, as it was of a very harmless character. The Bill was ordered to be committed the following day.

Mr Vogel, in moving the second reading of the Supreme Court Judges Bill, said it had been introduced chiefly through the projected retirement of the present Chief Justice. He then referred to the highly satisfactory manner in which he had, through a long series of years, performed his duties, and the very great estimation in which he was held. Bill read a second time.