

viduality has seized upon those in whose hands the social prosperity of the country is placed by law. Ireland is no longer a land of pleasant farms in which the fruits of the earth grow up, as in "a garden of the Lord," for the sustenance of a brave and easily contented people. The curse upon him who removes his neighbor's landmarks has no terrors for the monopolising soul of the Irish landlord. He does not want the people, he wants the land, and the rent which will come to him whether it is occupied by beasts or men. Were we addressing a Government which did not concur with him in the political expediency of lessening, as far as possible, the number of Irishmen on Irish soil, we might, with some hope, speak in tones of warning against a policy which, though it pleases the landlord, will prove, unless arrested in its course, the ruin of the thousands in whom a just ruler would find his surest and best support.—'Dublin Irishman.'

WONDERFUL SALT MOUNTAINS OF NEVADA.

ONE mile from the ferry the Virgin river comes in from the north, and on and near it is, perhaps, the most wonderful and extensive salt formation on the continent. The formation is, in fact, one of mountains of salt—hard rock-salt, which is blasted and quarried out like quarries of granite and marble. Commencing six miles up the Virgin river, these mountains of salt extend for thirty or more miles up the Virgin or Muddy rivers. There are openings now made from six to twenty miles up the Virgin river at different places. From six to twelve miles up, these openings uncover a species of dark gray salt, ninety-two per cent. pure, presenting to the casual observer the appearance of common coarse gray granite. The openings are all on the eastern side of the Virgin river, from one-fourth to one-half mile from its banks. At a point twenty miles up the river and on the western side, is a mountain of pure white crystalized salt, white as the driven snow, and transparent almost as glass. It is at once a pleasing and interesting spectacle to see the great masses of crystal-like salt, as thrown out by a three or four-foot blast. These pure and beautiful blocks resemble somewhat blocks of the purest ice when prepared from the ice house. Upon placing a mass of six inches thick over a column of a newspaper, the fine print could be easily read.

The formation of the salt deposit is, no doubt very ancient dating back in years beyond computation. Long since the deposits were made, the great upheaval and earthquake eras have occurred, which have changed the whole appearance of the country for great distances around. These salt bluffs or mountains can be identified for a long distance by the peculiar color of the surface, which is of a reddish orange color. Underneath this formation, as well as in it is a kind of micaceous sedimentary granite. I found sufficient evidence to warrant assumption that veins of valuable mica will yet be discovered in or near the salt formation. The whole country is deserving of thorough investigation by the miner, prospector and the student.

Another very interesting natural curiosity visited and examined here is a natural salt well, a mile northwest of the ferry. It is on a mesa which extends up and down the river on its northern bank. This mesa is a drift formation of small pebbles and boulders mixed with earthy matter. The well is a large circular opening in the mesa some three hundred feet in circumference, with abrupt descent to the surface of the well, which is fifty feet below the surface. The water is exceedingly salty, far more so than any salt spring, and has been sounded to a depth of one hundred and thirty-nine feet. It is a splendid natural salt bath, in which the bather floats almost as buoyantly as a cork upon a pool of water. From a careful examination of all the surroundings, I feel confident that this interesting salt well is all that is left of a once great salt lake, which, in the lapse of time, has been filled in by the drift formation, only leaving the present opening as an evidence of its former existence.—'Exchange.'

The nuns are rapidly getting charge of the hospitals in the union workhouses in Ireland, thus causing great saving of rates, and improvement in the health and the moral condition of the afflicted.

A 'Tribune's' Washington correspondent says:—An interesting incident which has never been printed has just transpired. On the day when Lincoln was inaugurated the second time in 1865, and just at the east portico, a man, recognised by several to be John Wilkes Booth, pushed hurriedly through the passage leading from the Senate chamber to the rotunda, and in an excited and determined manner broke through the line of policemen which kept the crowd back from the procession, and made a desperate effort to reach the eastern door of the capitol. He was discovered by a member of the capitol police force who seized the excited stranger, and after a severe struggle succeeded in forcing him back into the crowd. Booth had already been noticed by at least two persons who knew him, and saw him pass hurriedly from the direction of the Senate chamber towards the rotunda, and some idea of his determination to reach the inaugural may be formed from the fact that he broke away from the man who first seized him, and but for the closing of the side door would probably have accomplished his purpose, whatever it was. Those who stopped Booth, and who, in all probability, preserved the President's life, were not aware who the excited stranger was, but the importance of their action can hardly be over-estimated. The man who stopped Booth is named Westfall, and was made commissioner of public buildings and grounds, and was recently discharged by the House.

HISTORICAL! Vide "Jurors Reports and Awards, New Zealand Exhibition." Jurors: J. A. Ewen, J. Butterworth, T. C. Skinner. "So far as the Colony is concerned, the dyeing of materials is almost entirely confined to the re-dyeing of Articles of Dress and Upholstery, a most useful art, for there are many kinds of material that lose their

colour before the texture is half worn. G. HIRSCH, of Dunedin (DUNEDIN DYE WORKS, George street, opposite Royal George Hotel) exhibits a case of specimens of Dyed Wools, Silks, and Feathers, and dyed Sheepskins. The colors on the whole are very fair; and reflect considerable credit on the Exhibitor, to whom the Jurors recommended an Honorary Certificate should be awarded." Honorary Certificate, 629: Gustav Hirsch Dunedin, for specimens of Dyeing in Silk Feathers, &c.

"DUKE OF EDINBURGH."—The old wooden structure that did duty as the Duke of Edinburgh Hotel, in Russell-street for so many years, has, we are pleased to observe, given place to a new brick building, erected at considerable cost, in order to meet the rapidly increasing requirements of this popular and important part of the city. The present proprietor, Mr D. HARRIS, has spared no reasonable expense in furnishing and fitting the building with every modern comfort and convenience. The situation is extremely healthy, and commands splendid views of the ocean and harbour, and is within easy reach of the business part of the city. Persons in pursuit of a respectable and comfortable residence will do well to go to the "Duke of Edinburgh" Hotel, Russell-street, Dunedin.—[Advt.]

INLAND MAIL SERVICE.

SEALED TENDERS will be received at the Chief Post-Office, Dunedin, until SATURDAY, the 7th of October, proximo, for the conveyance of Mails between the undermentioned places, for a period of Two Years, from 1st January, 1877, to the 31st December, 1873, both days inclusive:—

1. Dunedin and Portobello (via North-East Harbor and Broad Bay) ...	Daily
2. Portobello and the Kaik ...	Twice weekly
*3. Milton and Lawrence ...	Daily
*4. Dunedin and Oamaru ...	Daily
5. Palmerston and Naseby ...	Twice weekly
6. Palmerston and Macraes and Hyde ...	Once weekly
7. Naseby and Clyde ...	Twice weekly
8. Lawrence and Cromwell ...	Thrice weekly
9. Lawrence and Cromwell ...	Daily
10. Cromwell and Queenstown ...	Thrice weekly
11. Cromwell and Queenstown ...	Daily
12. Lawrence and Queenstown ...	Daily
13. Lawrence and Queenstown ...	Thrice weekly
13. Mosgiel Railway Station and West Taieri (via North Taieri) ...	Daily
14. North Taieri and Hindon ...	Once weekly
15. West Taieri and Waipori ...	Twice weekly
16. West Taieri and Waipori Lake ...	Twice weekly
17. Waihola and Taieri Beach ...	Once weekly
18. Kaitangata and Wangaloa ...	Twice weekly
*19. Balclutha and Maitara ...	Daily
20. Balclutha and Port Molyneux (via Warepa) ...	Twice weekly
21. Port Molyneux and Owahe ...	Twice weekly
22. Lawrence and Wetherstones (via Bluespur) ...	Daily
23. Lawrence and Tuapeka Mouth ...	Once weekly
24. Lawrence and Waipori ...	Once weekly
25. Switzers and Gore ...	Thrice weekly
26. Beaumont and Switzers ...	Thrice weekly
27. Clinton and Tapanui ...	Thrice weekly
28. Tapanui and Dunrobin ...	Once weekly
29. Switzers and Waikaka ...	Once weekly
30. Maheno and Kakanui ...	Daily
31. Duntroon and Omarama ...	Once weekly
32. Duntroon and Marewhenua ...	Once weekly
33. Waihero and Macraes ...	Once weekly
34. Kyeburn and Hyde (via Hamiltons) ...	Once weekly
35. Hamiltons and Linburn ...	Once weekly
*36. Linburn and Serpentine ...	Once weekly
37. Blackstone Hill and St. Bathans ...	Twice weekly
38. St. Bathans and Cambrian ...	Twice weekly
39. Naseby and Kyeburn Diggings ...	Once weekly
40. Ophir, Drybread, and Tinkers ...	Once weekly
41. Cromwell and Nevis (via Carrickton) ...	Once weekly
42. Cromwell and Bendigo ...	Twice weekly
43. Bendigo and Cardrona (via Albertain and Pembroke) ...	Once weekly
44. Arrow River and Macetown ...	Twice weekly
45. Queenstown and Skippers ...	Once weekly
46. Queenstown and Moke Creek ...	Once weekly
47. Port Chalmers and Purakanui ...	Twice weekly
48. Teviot and Upper Waikaka ...	Fortnightly
49. Dunedin and Sandymount ...	Twice weekly
50. Balclutha Railway Station and Post Office ...	Daily
51. Naseby and Blackstone Hill ...	Twice weekly
52. Manuhierika and Ophir ...	Twice weekly

Tenderers must state the rate per annum for the services tendered for.

Contractors whose tenders are accepted must be prepared to carry out the services for which they tender according to the time tables arranged by the Department, and which may be seen at the Post Offices from which the services start.

The Services marked thus * may be terminated by the Postmaster-General on giving one month's notice in writing.

Forms of tender, with the terms and conditions of contract may be procured at any Post Office.

No tender will be considered unless made on the printed form. Tenders to be indorsed "Tenders for Mail Service No.," and addressed to the Postmaster-General, Wellington.

ARCH. BARR,

Chief Postmaster.

Chief Post Office,
Dunedin, 14th September, 1876.