

TELEGRAMS.

(From our Daily Contemporaries.)

LONDON, March 7.

The Porte objects to the demand of Montenegro for a cession of territory and a sea port.

Russia, still expectant, pending an answer to the circular, has issued a ukase ordering the organisation of nine army corps.

The Porte maintains the same confident attitude it assumed when the Conference was sitting, and is prepared to accept war in preference to a prolonged suspense. On the other hand, Russia objects to the suggestions of a year's grace.

Russia withdraws from the Treaty of 1856 unless other Powers co-operate to obtain the acceptance by the Porte of the original programme of the Conference.

In the Turkish Budget the estimate of expenditure for the present year of the Army is set down at fourteen and a half millions; of the Navy, at ten and three-quarter millions.

Hayes has nominated W. Maxwell Ewatts Secretary of State, and Sherman Secretary of Treasury.

COMMERCIAL.

MR. HENRY DRIVER (on behalf of the New Zealand Loan and Mercantile Agency Co.) reports for the week ending March 14, as follows:—

Fat Cattle—150 head were yarded, of which only a few pens were of good quality. Although the supply forward was a small one, prices did not advance as might have been expected. Best bullocks brought from £9 10s to £13; do cows, £6 10s to £9 15s, or equal to 27s per 100lbs for best quality. We have sold 80 head during the week.

Fat Calves—Only a few penned, which we sold at from 22s 6d to 50s.

Fat Sheep—2500 were penned, but the trade having been well supplied of late there was a difficulty in making sales at anything like satisfactory prices. We quote best cross-breeds 8s 6d to 11s; do merinos, 6s to 8s 6d, or equal to a little over 2d per lb. for prime mutton.

Fat Lambs—300 forwarded, and found buyers at late quotations say from 6s to 8s 6d.

Store Cattle—We have no alteration to report in the prices lately ruling for this description of stock. There is a fair demand for quiet steers and cows for winter feeding, principally for the northern part of the province.

Store Sheep—There still exists a very active inquiry for young merino sheep, of which there are but few offering. Cross-breeds are also wanted, but buyers will not submit to prices lately demanded by settlers. During the week we have sold 12,000 of various sorts, principally aged merinos, at quotations—merinos, two, four, and six tooth, 5s 6d; do, full-mouthed, 3s; merino ewes, two, four, and six tooth, 6s 6d to 7s; do, full-mouth, 2s 6d to 3s 6d; cross-breeds, four-tooth and over, 7s to 7s 6d; do, two-tooth, 6s to 6s 6d.

Wool—The latest cablegrams report the wool sales weak and prices irregular. The Victorian clip of last season (which wool preponderates at the present series) was very weak in staple and badly grown, owing to the drought, which may in some measure account for weak and irregular prices. There have been no public sales of wool this week, but we have good inquiries for any lots coming in. We shall hold a sale of wool on Monday next, at two o'clock.

Sheepskins—At our weekly sale on Monday last we sold every lot at full rates. Pelts sold at 1s 1d to 1s 7d; shearings, 1s 10d to 2s 4d; lambs, 20d to 2s 6d; full-wool merinos, 4s 11d; cross-breeds, 4s 10d.

Hides—A small supply. We sold heavy hides at 20s 6d; medium, 15s. Good demand both for shipment and local trade.

Tallow—Demand good; price unaltered. Fair quality brings 28s to 30s; in shipping order, 31s to 32s.

Grain—Wheat market is declining in value. Millers have supplied immediate wants, and will not increase stocks except at lower rates. Up to the present time the deliveries are in better condition than was expected; superior milling has been sold at 5s 6d to 5s fair sound grain; second class unsound parcels are nominal. For oats there is a fair demand, old corn mostly inquired for; good to heavy feed selling at 2s 6d to 2s 9d; new have been dealt in to some extent for forward delivery at 2s 2d to 2s 3d; milling, 2s 6d.

Barley—Malting samples are in good demand; bright new at 4s 9d to 5s; old, 4s to 4s 10d; grinding and feeding samples neglected.

MR. SKENE reports for the week ending March 14, 1877:—We are now experiencing the usual slackness between harvest and winter operations; neither masters nor men are inclined to enter into long engagements until the March Race Meeting is over. Couples, country-bred, are always welcome, but we have too many quite unfit for the country. Town work is pretty active, but it is very irregular. Carpenters are busy, but blacksmiths and the iron trade in general is far from active. Hotel servants are now in brisk demand. Female servants in all grades are short of the demand. Ordinary day labor is plentiful, but many who try it are utterly unfit for it. Inquiry for clerks and shopmen is very moderate. Wages—Couples, £65 to £80; ploughmen and shepherds, £52, £55, and £60; station cooks, 20s and 25s; waiters, barmen, gardeners, grooms, &c., 25s; carpenters, 10s to 13s; country blacksmiths about 50s per week; house and hotel females, 10s, 12s, 15s, 20s, and 30s; dairy hands, 15s to 25s; boys and girls, 6s, 8s, and 10s; storemen, clerks, &c., 30s to 60s.

MR. A. MACKENZIE reports as follows for the week ending March 14, 1877, retail prices only:—Fresh butter, in ½ and 1lb prints, 1s 3d to 1s 5d; fresh butter, in lumps, 1s 2d; powdered and salt butter, 1s 2d; fresh butter is still very plentiful, and several of the shops are salting down. Salt butter, in kegs, 1s 1d per lb; cheese of the best quality, 1s; English and American cheese, 1s 4d; side and rolled bacon, 10d to 11d; Colonial hams, 1s 2d; English hams, 1s 6d; eggs, although not very plentiful, are retailing at 2s per doz.

MR. M. C. FLEMING reports (wholesale prices) for the week ending March 14, 1877, as follows:—Oats (feed), per bushel 2s 3d; milling, 2s 6d. Wheat (chicks) 3s 6d to 4s. Barley, malt ing, 4s to 4s 6d; feed, 2s 6d to 3s. Pollard, scarce. Bran, £4 15s, bags included. Flour, large bags, £15; small, £15 10s. Oatmeal, £12. Potatoes, new, 4s per cwt. Hay (new), £3 15s; old hay, £5 per ton. Chaff, £4 10s per ton. Straw, £2 per ton.

MR. J. VEZEY reports for the week ending March 14, 1877:—Retail: Roast beef, 6d to 8d per lb.; boiling do., 4d to 5d per lb.; stewing do., 4d to 6d per lb.; steak, 6d to 9d per lb.; mutton, 3d to 6d per lb.; veal, 4d to 8d per lb.; pork, 6d to 8d per lb.; lamb, 2s 6d to 3s 6d per quarter.

MR. CARROLL'S HOTEL.

MR. JOHN CARROLL has just brought to a successful conclusion the first portion of extensive improvements which he has undertaken to carry out in the European Hotel, of which he is at present proprietor, and for whose actual title we believe it is his intention to substitute that borne by his late establishment in the Octagon. The wing now completed consists of three storeys. The foundation and basement being of bluestone, and the upper part of brick, neatly finished in cement, and occupying a frontage of 70 ft. to Bath-street, at an elevation of 34 ft. The basement contains a kitchen, 20ft. by 23ft., a dining-room, 30ft. by 23ft., store-rooms, and scullery; the first-named apartment being all that the heart of the most exacting *chef de cuisine* could desire, spacious, airy, and fitted with every requisite for perfecting the productions of the culinary art. The range is a study in itself, and besides the boiler directly attached to it, it has been so constructed that it communicates by pipes with a similar utensil fitted in the wall, and from which a constant supply of hot water passes to the upper storeys, and is available at all times and in unlimited quantity for the uses of a bath-room, of which we shall speak again further on. On the first floor are situated a fine billiard room and a dining-room, which we can only describe as magnificent; its dimensions being 40ft. by 23ft. Both of these apartments are scientifically ventilated, and so thoroughly has this been accomplished, that it is impossible that, under any circumstances, a breath of foul air can linger there. The billiard-room will shortly be provided with fittings of the most approved fashion, and the dining-room is already being furnished in a manner suited to its general construction. A set of substantial tables of highly polished cedar has been provided, which are capable of being used separately, or else of forming one board, as it may be desired; and over the mantel-pieces, of which there are two made of prettily-veined marble, are placed mirrors of large size, that at the end of the room in particular emulating the brilliancy of the famous Venetian glass, and framed in a new and singularly tasteful style, so that it constitutes a really splendid ornament; it is, we understand, valued at some £24. Through the centre of the second floor a long and roomy corridor extends, having bed-rooms on either side, and at the end a sitting-room. Each bed-chamber contains a large window, and is besides, supplied with a ventilator, cast in plaster of Paris and of ornamental form, an original and most excellent feature in apartments of the kind. Of the single chambers, each one is furnished in an extremely convenient manner; besides the ordinary furniture to be found in such apartments, and which is here especially good, it contains a chest of drawers in polished kauri, and which, with a neat carpet and general nicety of arrangement, combines to give an air of comfort not always to be found. The double-bedded chambers are positively luxurious, and no expense has been spared in fitting them up. The sitting-room at the end of the corridor, if one may judge by its finish and furnishing, may be regarded more as a lady's boudoir than anything else. It contains a set of furniture, upholstered in damask of rich dye and ornamental pattern, an inlaid walnut wood centre table, a handsome mirror, and a Brussels carpet of gay and beautiful colors and design. From this apartment a glass door opens upon a balcony, which runs along the end and front of the wing, and which commands a fine view of the harbor, as do also many of the windows of the building. Besides the chambers already mentioned, the second floor also possesses a bath-room, which, in addition to the ordinary bathing apparatus, is supplied with a shower and a douche bath, and where an abundance of hot and cold water is always to be found. In fact, nothing calculated to minister to the comfort or the pleasure of the inmates has been omitted from the plan of the building, and the establishment may well claim to rank as an hotel of the highest class. The improvements have all been carried out under the direct supervision of Mr. Carroll himself, and they do infinite credit to that gentleman's judgment and enterprise.

AN unsurpassed opportunity for the investment of capital is now offered, in the shares of the company projected to carry on the business hitherto conducted by the well-known and flourishing firm of Guthrie & Larnach. The study of the prospectus, which will be found in our advertising columns, will make it clear to all that an unprejudiced opening is thus afforded for depositing money so as to obtain all the advantages that judicious investment is capable of producing. The adventurous spirit required for starting a new company under ordinary circumstances is not here required, for no experiment in this case is proposed for trial. A business full of life and prosperity, and which, in addition to a past career of noted success, displays an undoubted prospect of increased activity in the future, is offered for sale on terms that are extremely favorable, and no far-sighted man will let slip the chance of securing a part in the profits that will certainly result for those who are fortunate enough to make timely application for the shares that are offered on such reasonable terms, and with such assurance of a speedy increase in value.

The Irish element in the British army is decreasing.