

tions, sent by the Health officer from Port Chalmers on the arrival of the Gloucester with small-pox on board. Delay in such a matter is intolerable, and the officials, through whose fault it occurred, are deserving of the heaviest and most loudly expressed censure that it is possible to visit them with.

THERE can be no doubt but that the decision of the medical men of Dunedin, as to the necessity of having an hospital for patients suffering from infectious diseases, is a just one. The want of such an institution is simply disgraceful; but it is no less to be insisted upon, that such an hospital should be liberally and, in every respect, thoroughly well managed, otherwise it were better dispensed with.

THE new church of St. Patrick at Kumara, was opened on the Festival of the Saint by the Right Rev. the Bishop of Wellington, assisted by the Rev. Father McCaughey. In the course of the sermon, which was preached by the Bishop, referring to the subject of secular education, and the hardship of Catholics being obliged to provide their own schools, in addition to the taxes levied on them in support of the Government system, his Lordship took occasion to say: "A most crying injustice and very great grievance it is, but it must be borne. It is by forming a Catholic opinion and by uniting for elections, that we may perhaps have this state of things changed, but if we cannot do that we are bound to have our own schools. This is what the Catholic Church has decided throughout the entire world." On the conclusion of the ceremonies, the Bishop was entertained at dinner by the Catholics of the district, and afterwards returned to Hokitika.

THE proposal of his Worship the Mayor of Dunedin to purchase an old ship, which might serve as an hospital hulk at the Quarantine Station, is undoubtedly a good one. The only thing to surprise is that so common an expedient had not been employed long since.

THE Rev. Father Paul, of Orehunga, continues to afford an example of firm adherence to principles. He still refuses to pay the education rates, and in consequence his goods have again been seized.

THE Dunedin Catholic Young Men's Society held their usual weekly meeting on Wednesday evening last in St. Joseph's School-room. One of the members favoured the Society with an excellent essay, entitled "The Steam Engine," and was loudly applauded. Other members gave recitations, readings, &c, after which the meeting terminated. Members are particularly requested to attend a special meeting to be held on Wednesday evening next at half-past seven sharp.

TELEGRAMS.

(From our Daily Contemporaries.)

WELLINGTON, March 27.

5.50 p.m.

Mr. Travers has been elected for the City of Wellington by a majority of 13. The voting was—Travers, 573; Hutchinson, 560.

7.50 p.m.

There has been great excitement in the city to-day over the election. Throughout the day, the betting was decidedly in favor of Hutchinson, but Travers's supporters, although quiet, were confident, and his Committee worked in an admirably systematic manner. The result was very close, Travers having a majority of 8. It is said a further scrutiny increases this to 14. The official declaration will take place on Thursday. There is no doubt Mr. Travers is in, and Mr. Hutchinson, who had looked on the matter as an absolute certainty, is of course very crestfallen. The election was fought admirably on both sides. When the result was known, Mr. Travers was carried round shoulder high.

LONDON, March 19.

Sir H. Elliott has received instructions to return to Stamboul. General Ignatieff is a guest of Earl Salisbury at Oxford. The Queen has received General Ignatieff at Windsor Castle.

March 20.

Russia proposes still further amendments in the protocol, and England is considering her answer.

In speeches on Turkish affairs in Parliament it was admitted that the Empire was gradually declining owing to internal disorganisation, but the Porte promises more vigorous administration.

It is asserted that Russia's promise to demobilise the army is absolute if England signs the protocol.

Vengeful fighting has been renewed in Bosnia.

Warlike preparations are being made in Asiatic Turkey.

March 22.

It is generally reported that Russia refuses to enter into any positive engagements, but promises to demobilise her army when the protocol has been signed, when the Turkish army has been disarmed, and when the peace of Montenegro has been secured.

The English Cabinet, before its consideration of the amendment proposed by Russia, requires a distinct pledge that Russia will demobilise in the event of the protocol being signed.

The Porte refuses the conditions submitted by Montenegro.

March 25.

The stock market is agitated owing to political suspense. During the week consols were at 96½. Australian securities are firm. The Bank rate of discount is 2 per cent. The money market is stronger. Wheat is inactive.

The armistice between Turkey and Montenegro has been prolonged.

It is believed that the negotiations between England and Russia, have failed.

General Ignatieff has arrived at Vienna.

March 26.

The Russian Press accuses England of leaving Russia no other choice than dishonor or war.

Th Softas are agitating for the recall of Midhat Pasha.

COMMERCIAL.

MR. HENRY DRIVER (on behalf of the New Zealand Loan and Mercantile Agency Company) reports for the week ending March 28, as follows:—

Fat Cattle.—310 were yarded at the market to-day, and although this was rather a large supply, fully last week's quotations were obtained. Best pens of bullocks brought from £9 10s to £14; do cows, at from £10 to £10 10s—or equal to 27s 6d per 100lb for prime quality. We sold 90 head at the yards, and have placed 50 privately.

Fat Calves.—20 came forward, and were sold at 20s to 65s.

Fat Sheep.—2,300 were penned, chiefly good cross-breeds. Prices were equal to last week's rates, or about 2d per lb for best quality. At the yards we sold 600.

Fat Lambs.—200 came forward, and sold readily at an advance in price of 1s to 1s 6d each.

Store Cattle.—No transactions of importance have taken place during the week.

Store Sheep.—The demand still continues for young merino ewes and wethers. We have during the week sold, of various sorts, 6000 at the following quotations, say: Merino wethers, two, four, and six-tooth, 5s 6d; do full-mouthed, 3s; merino ewes, two, four, and six-tooth, 6s 6d to 7s; do full-mouthed, 2s 6d to 3s 6d; cross-breeds, four-tooth and over, 7s to 7s 6d; do two-tooth, 6s to 6s 6d.

Sheepskins.—At our sales yesterday we catalogued 1000 skins, all of which sold at very full prices. Full-woolled merinos, 4s 9d each; green shearlings, 1s 11d to 2s 7d; pelts, 9d to 1s 9d; lambs, 1s 6d to 2s 4d.

Hides.—Good demand at late rates. Inferior condition, 5s to 13s 9d; shipping order, 15s to 17s—or equal to 4d per lb.

Tallow.—We sold several parcels medium quality at 28s 6d to 29s; rough fat, 22s per cwt. Demand good, specially in shipping orders.

Grain.—Wheat is very slow of sale, at lower rates. Millers careless in buying, except top samples, at 5s to 5s 3d; secondary, 4s 6d to 4s 9d; inferior, 3s to 3s 6d. Oats.—Few offering. Good shipping parcels wanted, and saleable at 2s 3d to 2s 4d for feed, 2s 6d milling; old are held for 2s 7d to 2s 9d. Barley.—Samples are much discoloured and inferior; very little good malting coming forward. Fine, 4s 6d to 5s; secondary, 4s to 4s 3d; grinding and feed, 2s 6d to 2s 9d.

MR. SKENE reports for the week ending March 28, 1877:—Every one is now settling down to work after the holidays and racing dissipations. Enquiry has begun for ploughmen, and such as are bred to farm work. It can be safely asserted that there will be no lack of work, and fair pay for such. So many additional acres are getting yearly added to the arable land, that ploughmen can never be too plentiful. Couples are rather plentiful at present; as usual, those without families are picked. Town work is pretty brisk, and we have good prospects of plenty work during the winter. The building trade is healthy. Ironworkers still growl at the dullness in their line. Female servants are short of the demand. Hotel people (male and female) are constantly needed. Storemen and clerks are more asked for. Wages.—Shepherds, £60; couples, £65 to £80; ploughmen, £52, £55, and £60; cooks, groomers, waiters, &c., 20s, 25s, 30s, and 50s; female servants (private houses), 10s, 12s, and 15s; hotel do., 12s, 15s, 20s, and 30s; dairy hands, 15s, 20s, and 25s; day labor, 7s, 8s, and 9s; carpenters, 10s, 12s, and 13s; storemen and clerks, 30s to 60s; boys and girls, 5s, 6s, and 10s.

MR. A. MERCER reports as follows for the week ending March 28, 1877, retail prices only:—Fresh butter, in ½ and 1lb prints, 1s 3d to 1s 6d; fresh butter, in lumps, 1s 2d; powdered and salt butter, 1s 2d. 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, 2s 3d per dozen.

MR. M. C. FLEMING reports (wholesale prices) for the week ending March 28, 1877, as follows:—Oats (feed), per bushel, 2s 3d; milling, 2s 6d. Wheat (chicks), 3s 6d to 4s. Barley, malting, 4s to 4s 6d; feed, 2s 6d to 3s. Pollard, scarce. Bran, 2½ 5s, bags included. Flour, large bags, £14; small, £15. Oatmeal, £12. Potatoes, new, 4s per cwt. Hay, new, £3 15s; old hay, £4 per ton. Chaff, £4 per ton. Straw, £2 per ton.

MR. J. VREXY reports for the week ending March 28, 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 to 3s 6d per quarter.

The Brussels correspondent of the 'Pall Mall Gazette' writes:—No sentence of death has been executed in Belgium since 1863. Commutation to penal servitude for life, of which part may subsequently be remitted, has been the course invariably followed. A recent great increase in crimes of violence of the worst kind has given occasion for bringing the subject again before the Chamber. The Minister of Justice, however, made the declaration that he would rather resign office than permit a single sentence of death to be executed. Murderers in Belgium have therefore still a good time before them.

The census of Paris is looked forward to with much interest. In 1700 the population numbered 720,000 inhabitants. Toward the end of the eighteenth century it had diminished to 620,000, and continued to decrease until 1801, when it numbered 546,000. From that time it has steadily risen. In 1831 it was 774,338; in 1839, 909,126. Twenty years later it reached 1,538,613. In 1860 the annexation of all the districts comprised between the old Octroi boundary and the fortifications had the effect of swelling the numbers to 1,700,000, and to 1,825,000 in 1866. These additions nearly doubled the area of the capital. In 1872 the population showed a slight falling off compared with 1870, being 1,851,792, against 1,900,000 in the latter year.