From a local in our issue of yesterday it would be seen that the sum of one guinea was paid by Mr McCaul to the credit of the Ensor Fund. On reading the same it would appear as if that amount had only just been received. This arises from the fact that the gentleman to whom the amount was paid has been absent from New Zealand, and has only just returned to the Thames.

The Scottish battalion and band are requested to parade in uniform on Monday evening at seven o'clock.

At the election for seats at the Auckland Board of Education yesterday, Dr Campbell and Messrs Luke and Prime were re-elected.

The appeal made by the Irish Relief Fund Committee of this place to the people of Mercury Bay for the meritorious movement inaugurated by them, has been most nobly responded to. Last night the hon. secretary, Mr Landers, received a letter covering a draft for £20 8s, being the amount collected by Mr P. Quinn, of that place Another list is to come in from Coromandel, and a further sum of three or four pounds sterling is expected from Tairua. The remittance just received, with the money in hand (close upon £80), will enable the treasurer to forward £100 by next mail steamer to the Mansion House, Dublin, and leave a small balance to defray the expenses incidental to the affair.

The starting of the Pumps last evening was followed by a jollification on a small scale amongst a number of those more immediately interested in the work. A party of mine managers and others assembled at the Governor Bowen Hotel, and toasted the the health of Mr Comer, the purchaser of the pumps from the County, drinking success to the start and to the Caledonian company, which had received a new lease of existence through the action of Mr Stone in securing the ground from the County. Mr Comer ackowledged the compliment paid him and trusted the action taken would prove beneficial to the entire district. He had every faith in the field himself, and felt satisfied that this would be the beginning of better times for the Thames.

We are glad to learn that the Blue Spur and Gabriel's Sluicing Company, Tuapeka, has lost no time in getting to work. Information was yesterday received by Mr J. R. Perry of this town that the 30-inch pipes are now ready for laying down, and instructions have been given to call for tenders for laying the same. The large number of Chinamen who are at work in the neighbourhood will render labour very cheap in the district, and the company will reap the advantage of this in calling for tenders for the work. Mr Wm. Adams, who went from the Thames to superintend the erection of machinery on the claim, and who took his working machinery from Judd and Co.'s foundry, will commence work in earnest when the 30-inch pipes are laid, and the sluicing apparatus is further advanced towards completion.

A narrow escape from a serious conflagration occurred in Shortland at an early hour yesterday morning. It appears that as Constable McManus was on his beat about half-past 1 a.m. he noticed an unusual glare of light in the bakehouse window at the rear of Mr Grant's premises, known it was an unusually early hour for lighting, and thinking the glare was too great for an ordinary light he proceeded to the premises, and found to his amazement that a quantity of light wood left near the oven to dry was in flames, the latter nearly ascending to the roof of the building. He at once aroused Mr Grant, and water being at hand the burning wood was soon quenched and all danger averted owing to the timely discovery of the constable on duty.

We are glad to learn that there is no truth in the "sacrilegious burglary," reported by our contemporary. The communion service alleged to have been stolen was never lost.

There is a great scarcity of blasting powder at the present time, both here and in Auckland, and in consequence operations in those mines the proprietors of which were not fortunate enough to lay in a stock of the explosive, are being greatly retarded. Only a short time ago a firm of merchants in Auckland having a greater quantity of powder on hand than they thought would be used for many months to come, shipped a large portion of it South, and it had hardly reached its destination when they discovered that the material was scarcer than they were aware of, and before long they had run out of it altogether. Shipments are daily expected from the sister colonies, which will be more than sufficient to meet the demand.

It will be seen from our telegrams that A Thomas, of the Thames Naval Brigade, is almost certain to carry off the Carbine Champion Belt and Medal, his score being five points ahead of the nearest shot, with only one range (500 yards) to fire at. The last range will be fired at this afternoon, when we expect to be able to announce that the Thames is once more the winner of the Carbine championship of the colony. Our riflemen seem sadly behind this season.

Mr Gwynneth, C.E., estimates the cost of the Cambridge branch line, 13¾ miles, at £31,000. Mr Gwynneth offered to undertake, at the sum named, to give security for its due completion. After some consideration a subcommittee was appointed to wait upon the Minister for Public Works during his approaching visit and to report to a future meeting.

The Hon Mr Rolleston arrived at Napier yesterday en route to Auckland. Mr Bryce accompanied him in order to settle a long-standing dispute between Mr Sutton, M.H.R., and a party of natives. Mr Bryce afterwards returns to the West Coast.

The following tenders were received at Wellington yesterday for the Whangarei contract of the Whangarei-Kamo railway:—Accepted: Pierce Lanigan, Auckland, £12,050. Declined: J. Brett and Bridge, Auckland, £12,073; Darur and Foughey, £14,427; A. Reese, Whangarei, £14,669; Thomas Farrell and Co., Grahamstown, £14,723; Robert Farrell, Auckland, £14,875; W. C. Breakall, Auckland, £17,126; J. S. Smith, £21,919.

A man was killed and another seriously injured by a fall of gravel in the ballast pit at Featherston.

Edward Francis Ward, jun., solicitor, was charged at the Gisborne Police Court on Thursday with forging the name of the late W. R. Nesbitt, Frauds Commissioner, to a deed of the Matawhero Block. This was the deed which the plaintiffs refused to produce before the Supreme Court in the case lately tried in Wellington—McFarland v. Rees, slander of title.

The rumoured abandonment of the bi-weekly calls at this port by the Union Company's steamers trading between Auckland and the South is now placed beyond doubt by the time-table just issued from the Company's head office in Dunedin. The Wanaka, Hawea, and Penguin will make their final calls here on their Southward trips on the 23rd and 30th instant and 6th proximo respectively, and the two former their final calls on the Northward trip on the 18th and 25th instant respectively. The Wanaka and Hawea, and probably also the Penguin, are to be removed to the Western Coast, to ply between Manukau and the South, while the service on the East Coast will be performed entirely by the Rotomahana, the Te Anau, the Arawata, the Ringarooma, the Tararua, and the Rotorua. To compensate for the removal of the three steamers from the East Coast service, the Waitaki, which now plies between Wellington and Manukau, will be transferred to the East Coast, and will run between Russell, Auckland, and Tauranga, thus forming a connecting link between Tauranga and the Southern ports.—*B.P. Times.*

We learn from an exchange that on Saturday afternoon, on the farm of a Mr Barnett, Waikouaiti district, a Chinaman employed in the harvest field had both legs cut off by a reaping machine.

Josh Billings' Philosophy.—Mothers and grandmothers, when you want your friends to use McGowan's 3s Tea, 'just skirmish ahead on that line yourself.' One pound of his example is worth a cartload of precepts.

The s.s. Hawea arrived in Auckland on Thursday night from East Coast and Southern ports with the following passengers:—Judge Wilson, Rev E. N. Bree, Mrs Bree and child, Sergeant McMahon, Halvorsen, McMahon, Ryan, Kebbel, Misses Snodgrass, Andrew, Smith, Berne, Messrs Robertson, Nugent, Oliver, Jones, McFarlane, Jones, Macpherson, Cunningham, Stone, Brookfield, Coistein, Cohen, Dewood, McLaren, Docherty, Karmes, Weir, Ballingham, Oliver, Vercoe, Churton, Ogilvie, Cunningham, Thompson, Wyles, Masters Vercoe and Kebbe (2), Captain Cain, and Madame Harrison.

Vincent, the deaf and dumb man who was remanded a few days ago to Dunedin on a charge of obtaining money by false pretences, appears to have had a pretty good time of it while in Auckland. A subscription list, which he attempted to destroy, was found in his possession. It set out that he had been induced to come to New Zealand from England under the belief that there was a deaf and dumb institution here. Understanding that there was one in Sydney, he solicited subscriptions to pay his passage to that place. Appended to the petition was a long list of names and subscriptions, including those of His Worship the Mayor, and many of our leading merchants, who were victimised by this fellow.

The *N. Z. Times* of the 1st notices the arrest of this notorious housebreaker and thief as follows:—A notorious character was arrested early yesterday morning by Detective Warren on a charge of vagrancy, he having been found by the detective in an unoccupied house in Mowbray street. The man's name is Fred. Plummer, but he also rejoices in a variety of aliases. Plummer has had rather an extensive experience of the interior of gaols, one of his sentences having been for sixteen years, for highway robbery. While undergoing this sentence he broke out of gaol, but was retaken. He received a sentence of six months' imprisonment about eight months ago for robbing a meat safe, and since his release the complaints which have been made to the police by residents of the Terrace concerning numerous meat-safe robberies have led to the suspicion that Plummer was at his old games again. Detective Warren was consequently on the alert, and if he has not succeeded in actually connecting his prisoner with the robberies complained of, the victims will at least have the comforting assurance that their meat-safes will not be troubled by the prisoner in question for some months to come."

We learn that the Hon Mr Oliver is at present engaged settling arrears of departmental work in Wellington, but is likely to come to Auckland as soon as possible to consult with the Hon Mr Whitaker and Hon Mr Rolleston on local matters.

A commercial traveller, who prides himself upon a capacity for 'having' people, as he does upon a proficiency in the grocery business in which he is engaged, says the Rangitikei *Advocate* had the tables turned upon him by a Rangitikei storekeeper, also a well-known 'jokist,' from whom he was soliciting an order for cheese. The traveller was rather indignant that our joker should doubt his ability to detect any difference between Canterbury and Rangitikei cheese, and asked for samples of each. He tasted one and said it came from Canterbury, then the other, and said it came from—well, some sultry climate. He frothed at the mouth, and spoke as one bereft of reason. The joker had cut it from a bar of 'household,' and properly 'had' his man!

The *Morning Herald* in its leading article on Monday gives the Government a broad hint that it is time they should meet their constituents and say their say upon the events of the past session, and also give an inkling of what they intend to do in the next. The article concludes as follows:—"We confess we are curious to hear what they have to say about their District Railways proposal. We have been blamed for calling it a job, and we should be only too glad to find that we were mistaken; but how can we know whether it be our duty to repent till we are convinced that we have sinned. It would be also interesting to know if any change is to be made in the Property Tax or in the tariff, and even to get a glimpse of their general policy. They have in a word kept their own counsels quite long enough, and ought to make no longer delay in taking the country into their confidence.

After Mass on Sunday, we learn from the Palmerston *Times*, the Rev. Father Moreau made reference to the death of Mr Thomas M'Mahon, in order to indignantly deny a most wicked invention which had been circulated about him. It had been stated that the sick man shortly before his death, had sent for the priest, but on account of his having refused, upon a former visit, to renounce Masonry, the priest refused to make a second call. This Father Moreau denied in the most unqualified manner, intimating that although Mr M'Mahon had refused to renounce the society at one time, had he evinced a desire to see the clergyman, he (Father Moreau) would have gone any distance to attend him; but so far from receiving a message to that effect, the only intimation he received about the patient was on Friday night, after the poor fellow had been buried. In making the explanation (adds the *Times*) the poor old gentleman was visibly effected at the false accusation, and with difficulty refrained from shedding tears.

Messrs E Pritchard and Co., contractors for the reclamation works, Dunedin, have just imported from America one of Otto's steam excavators, with Chapman's improvements. The machine, which has somewhat the appearance of a very massive and powerful steam crane, weighs no less than thirty-seven tons. It arrived in the Elinor Vernon, and will be fitted up and put to work at the Sandhills without delay. It is constructed principally of iron. It will excavate five yards, or equal to one truck, in two minutes, or fill twenty waggons, containing four yards each, in forty minutes. It will work in clay as well as in sand or loose earth, and it can be worked with five different motions, according to the material in which operations are being carried on. This is the first machine of the kind imported into the Australian Colonies.

The Sydney correspondent of the Melbourne *Argus* remarks:—'The Strathleven experiment has been the subject of a good deal of discussion. Some of the squatters are already grumbling that the price obtained is not high enough, while people who are not squatters think that the bucolics ought to be very well contented. The average price was from 5d to 5½d, although some of the fore-quarters did not fetch more than 4½d. The freight of 2d a pound is said not to be sufficient to pay the ship, and that nothing less than 3d will be a remunerative rate at present. This would not give the squatters more than 2d, but that means £7 or £7 10s for an average fat beast, and that is not an absolutely ruinous price at which to quit surplus stock.'

Emma Jutau, an extraordinary gymnast, will shortly make her first appearance in England, at the Oxford Music Hall, in a performance which will totally eclipse the startling feats of the wonderful Leona Dare, who appeared at this popular place of amusement twelve months ago. After going through various feats of great danger, she hangs by her feet on a trapeze suspended from the roof of the building and twirls round a male attendent with incredible speed as he clings to a cord which she holds in her teeth. Having dislodged him from his perilous position, Emma Jutau afterwards suspends herself by her teeth from a wire more than 100ft in length, stretched from one end of the hall to the other at an angle of 45 degrees. In this position she decends, or rather falls, from top to bottom. We are told that the graceful ease with which the gymnast accomplishes this fear convinces the spectator that she is a cautious and safe though exceedingly daring performer. Emma Jutau is handsome, with a graceful figure, and her strength and agility have not yet been equalled.

Why is beet sugar as good as cane sugar?—Because the difference between beating and caning is merely nominal.

When the girl who has encouraged a young man for about two years suddenly turns around and tells him that she can never be any more than a sister to him, he can for the first time see the freckles on her nose.

CABLE MESSAGES.

(Reuter's Special.)

GERMANY AND FRANCE—THE MOST CORDIAL RELATIONS.

Berlin, March 4.

The Emperor of Germany dined today at the French Embassy in this city. In the course of conversation with the ambassador, His Majesty expressed most cordial feelings towards France.

GENERAL MELIKOFF FIRED AT.

St. Petersburgh, March 3.

General Melikoff, who was recently appointed head of the Supreme Commission for the Suppression of Disorder in this city, had been fired at by Nihilists, but none of the shots took effect. One of the Nihilists has been arrested.

London, March 3.

Grisselo, who was committed for breach of the privileges of the House of Commons last year, has been re-arrested on the same charge.

Constantinople, March 3.

Counroff, one of the attaches to the Russian Embassy, recently wounded at Stamboul by the shot of an assassin, has died of the injuries received.

AUSTRALIAN.

THE VICTORIAN NEW MINISTRY.

Melbourne, March 4.

The new Ministry has been formed, Mr Service, Premier and Treasurer; Mr Ramsay, Col.-Secretary and Minister of Education; Mr Kereford, Attorney-General; Mr Madden, Minister of Justice; Mr Gillie, Minister of Railways; Mr Duffy, Minister of Lands; Mr R. Clark, Minister of Mines; Mr R. Bent, Minister of Public Works; Mr Cuthbert, Postmaster-General and Commissioner of Customs, and Mr Francis and Mr Anderson Cabinet Ministers without office.

The House will meet again on May 12th.

Melbourne, March 5.

The new Ministry has been sworn in by His Excellency the Governor.

The Hon. W. J. Clark has resolved on selling his fine stud of horses and retiring altogether from the turf.

Melbourne, Friday.

The Hon. James Service, the new Premier, has intimated that he will adhere to his reform proposals, as set forth in his address last month to the electors of Maldon, namely, to maintain intact his former scheme of reform, including a joint sitting on the Norwegian plan. It is expected Mr Service will address his constituents in a few days.

David Elder succeeds Mr Murray Smith, member for Borronda, as manager of the New Zealand Loan and Mercantile Agency Company in this city.

COMMERCIAL.

Sydney, March 5.

Hennessy's case brandy, 35s to 35s 6d; Hennessy's brandy, bulk, quarters, 11s 3d to 11s 6d; Devoe's kerosene, 1s 9d to 1s 9½d per gallon; Patna rice, £22; New Zealand wheat, 4s 6d per bushel; New Zealand oats, 2s 6d per 40 lbs; maize, 2s to 2s 5d per 60 lbs; Raven's twist tobacco, 1s 5d per lb; candles, DRJ, 8d to 8½d per lb.

Adelaide, Friday.

The ship Devon has been chartered to load wheat for the United Kingdom at 5 per cent.

New Zealand oats quoted at 2s 6d.

SPECIAL TELEGRAMS

(From our own correspondents.)

Auckland, Friday.

The Captain of the American whaleship at Russell, Bay of Islands, is in a fix, two parties claiming the American Consular Agency, and both parties producing credentials.

A ministerial communication has been received by the Education Board, warning them not to anticipate in future Government grants.

The Education Board refused to sanction the establishment of cadet corps in connection with the Thames Public Schools.

At the Waste Lands Board a letter was read from the Thames County Council requesting that 700 acres of land might be at once thrown open under the Homestead Act.—Mr Tole said that the Hon Mr Whitaker had recommended the Board to meet the wishes of the Council as far as possible. It was agreed to open the 700 acres at once, under the Homestead Act, and write to the lessees of the other lands as to the surrender of their leases of those lands which were denuded of timber.

At the Police Court to-day Lucretia Jacobs was charged with the larceny of several articles of wearing apparel on the 3rd inst., the property of James Rae. As Mr Tyler was engaged to appear for prisoner, and could not be present, the case was adjourned until Monday. Prisoner, a respectable looking person, was admitted to bail.

The Waikato Cavalry Volunteers meet to-day to consider an invitation from Major Murray to be present at the review which takes place at the Thames in Easter week.

Referring to the appointment of General Davidson to command the Militia and Volunteers in the South Island, a contemporary says we only now require an admiral to take charge of the Rhinemos, and then we may laugh to scorn any enemy that would be insane enough to threaten our coasts.

Wellington, Friday.

The man who was killed by falling gravel, at Featherston, was John Woodfield, aged 37.

Mr Dick, M.H.R., the recently appointed Colonial Secretary, arrived to-day, and was sworn in.

Napier, Thursday.

The Rev David Sidey and the Rev R. Fraser leave for Auckland, as representatives of the Hawke's Bay Presbytery at the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of New Zealand.

Mary Stafford, a little girl six years of age, daughter of an employee on the railway, died on Tuesday evening from lockjaw, caused by a cut in the hand, the result of a fall. The wound was but slight, and no serious consequences were at the time of the accident anticipated.

The Municipal Corporation's overdraft is £5000.

Hawera, Thursday.

Colonel Roberts stayed at Opunake last night, and went to Stoney River this morning. A large number of drays also went through to carry the baggage. The Armed Constabulary have nearly reached the camp at Otakeo. With the formation of the road, natives are moving towards Parihaka. Those in Normanby are selling all the grass seed to raise money to buy provisions, clothing, &c., for Parihaka.

A very large meeting is anticipated on the 17th. Many natives express themselves confident that Te Whiti will make some move this month, which will tend to bring matters to a crisis, but no blood will be shed. When we take it into consideration that it is just one year ago this month since Te Whiti turned the surveyors off the Plains, and the importance he always attached to this March meeting as a starting point for some fresh line of action, there appears to be some season to believe that the natives are right in their anticipations.

Mr Hursthouse, with his party of surveyors is ordered to commence work on the mountain road at Mangawhoro Stream, and it is thought that a railway here is to be started thence towards Opunake.

Waitara, Friday.

The commission commenced sitting here this morning. Between 60 and 70 natives were present, amongst whom were several of influence, including a brother of the celebrated William King. Mrs Simeon, an intelligent looking half-caste, has also attended to give evidence. It appears that a good many natives in this district are staunch believers in Te Whiti, and contribute very liberally towards his support, and in providing for his monthly meeting at Parihaka. Some natives present are anxious to have their titles to land individually, but others also interested in the same land, and who preside at Parihaka, object to this. The commission will probably take all the evidence to be given here by to-morrow afternoon, but will probable hold one or two sittings. At Wrenui, some few miles from here, the Maoris were loud and cordial in their greetings to Sir W. Fox when he arrived.

Timaru, Friday.

At the District Court, Frederick Arthur Sims, formerly wholesale merchant, was sentenced to three months' imprisonment for larceny. The prisoner had sold goods out of bond, which he previously conveyed to the National Bank, and, acting on the advice of his friends, he refused to hand the proceeds over to the bank manager. He received an excellent character from a number of merchants, including the Mayor of Timaru, some of whom had known him for 13 years.

Duncan Cruickshank, for fraudulent insolvency, received nine months' imprisonment.

Dunedin, Friday.

Arrived: The s.s. Wellington, from the North.

Sailed: The s.s. Penguin, for North; Te Anau, for Melbourne.

THE NELSON PRIZE FIRING.

[By Electric Telegraph.]

(From our own correspondent.)

Rifle Camp, Nelson, Friday.

The four highest scorers for the Champion Rifle Belt are: Okey (Taranaki), 253; Purnell (Wanganui), 250; Rogers (Blenheim), 246; Webster (Dunedin), 245. The remaining seven shots to decide the Championship will be fired tomorrow.

THE RIFLE BELT.

Firing in Match 7th, the last to count for the Rifle Belt, has been gone through. Up to the 500 yards range the top scores are:—

Okey, Taranaki	...	254
Purnell, Wanganui	...	251

Webster and Richardson (Dunedin) close up.

The scores of the Thames men are:—McKee, TRB, 233; Fenton, TSV, 228; Downie, TSV, 226; Price, TSV, 220; Weir, TSV, 217; Cochrane, TSV, 210; Penk, TSV, 200.

THE CARBINE BELT: THOMAS LEADING BY 5 POINTS.

The principal scores for the Carbine Championship up to the 400 yards of the last match are:—

A. Thomas, TNB	...	250
Weimsett, Nelson	...	246
Burr, Wellington ...	...	245
Parslow, TNB. ...	...	243
Lieut. Gordon, TNB	...	240

Match 16 and 17 will be fired in the morning, and afterwards the Ladies' Prize.

The remaining range for which the Belt will be taken will be fired in the afternoon. The Thames has no show for Rifle Belt.

Thomas is shooting splendidly. In the last range he fired one short of the possible.

The first three ranges in match 8 (the last for the Carbine Belt) have been completed, but the 500 yards range will be fired to-morrow afternoon. The six highest now are:—A. Thomas, T.N.B., 250; T. Winsett, 245; Burr, Wellington, 244; J. Parslow, T.N.B., Thames, 243; Lieut. Gordon, Thames, 243; Gordon, Thames, 241; Somerville, Wanganui, 240. [Owing to a telegraphic blunder the name of Gordon is repeated, probably for that of Armstrong, T.N.B.]

THE RANGE TOTALS.

The totals of the range at the 8th Match are:—A Thomas and T Winsett, each 73; Lieut Gordon, 72; Lieut Bennett and Somerville, each 71; Jamieson, Barribal, and Henderson, each 70; Parslow and C Bird, each 69; Moore, Rowlings, Dixon, J Thomas, and Fathers, each 68; Keller, Burr, Armstrong, and Woolers, each 67; Frearson, Clorston, Lieut Johnson, Monson, Laird, C France, Shore, each 66; Bennett, Coleman, Sert Ross, Lieut Hunter, Atken, 65; W Rose, D Thurston, H Rose, Mc Lean, Jno Gridge, Sinclair, each 64; D Hood, Mapp, Smith, McElro, 63; Clarke, Sergeant Thompson, Howse, each 62; Fox, Lees, Lieut Strange, Morrison, Sergt Hill, each 61; P Smith, 59; Holmes, 53; Lieut Black, McCredie, J. Moore, each 57; Robinson, J Thurston, each 56; Sergt Scott, Turner, each 55; H Winsett, 53; Currie, 41.

THE TENTH MATCH.

The Tenth Match was completed this evening. The winners are:—Fowler, 43; Prowse, 41; Hunter, 41; McKee, 43; Ellis, 40. The other scores are—Strachan, 40; F N Jones and Jessop, each 39; Price, Harding, each 35; Carkeek, 31; Haycock, 26; Hutchinson, 20.

The following threatening notice was found posted up near Warrenpoint, Newry:—"Please take notice, any man that comes into this country to give more than £1 an acre for land may bring his sheet and coffin with him, for we will not encourage extortionate landlords like Brady. The night they come their houses will be reduced to ashes.'

MINING MATTERS.

New Whau.—The manager of this mine, Mr Daykin, is making ready as quickly as possible the workings at the bottom of the winze sunk by the tributers previous to commencing sinking on the lode near the boundary of the Alburnia. A chamber has been cut out at the bottom, and yesterday he was preparing to secure the ground by putting in some strong timbers. An air-box and grating have been put in where the western drive on the 70-feet level of the Alburnia broke through so as to secure good ventilation. Where the proposed winze is to be sunk is the footwall of the bottom of the present winze about 10 feet, and where the tributers made a small hole in the bottom of the drive on the lode, and obtained specimens The manager thinks that by Monday he will be in a position to commence sinking on the lode to connect with the drive to be brought in from the Alburnia 160-feet level.

Alburnia.—During the past week the western drive on the bottom of the 160-foot level has been rapidly pushed ahead on the footwall side of the reef, and yesterday it was within 14 inches of the New Whau boundary. The lode, which is about 7 or 8 feet in width, is left standing for about 20 feet back, and will be broken down when the "dig" is up to the boundary. The class of country is very favourable for carrying a gold bearing lode, but whether the portion of the lode now stripped will prove payable or not remains to be seen. Since stoping operations were commenced on the lode in the back of this level, a block of ground over 40 feet in length and 10 feet in height has been broken out, but the quartz obtained did not prove to be as remunerative as was hoped for, so that stoping has been suspended and a start made to rise upwards to meet the winze coming down from above. The ground, however, is very hard and difficult to break, so that but slow progress can be made. At the 70-feet level the eastern drive is now within 13 or 14 feet of the Devon boundary. The reef is 5 feet thick and has a very promising appearance, especially the footwall portion, which contains excellent mineral indications. A trial lot of 4 or 5 loads is now being put through the battery to enable the manager to test its worth. In the stope above the back of the drive the lode has much the same appearance. The reef met with in the cross-cut near No. 1 winze has been driven on a distance of 24 feet. When first met with it was over 2 feet in width and was composed of hard white quartz, but in the face yesterday it was much smaller, and looked more promising for carrying gold. Driving on the footwall leader is still continued with fair prospects. The leader is 2½ feet thick, but the footwall portion of it only is being saved for crushing dirt, and in this colours of gold are freely seen. The winze on the main lode is now down a depth of 46 feet. There is much more mullock in the bottom than there was higher up, so that better progress is made in sinking. The lode, however, although smaller, contains strong minerals, and colours of gold are seen in the quartz at every breaking down. In the stopes above the lode there is not much being done at present, as the quartz from here seems to be of a lower grade the nearer it gets to the bottom of the Whau level. Crushing operations are still being carried on at the Herald battery, but with 10 head of stampers instead of 15 as hitherto. The manager reports as follows to his directors on the workings carried on during the past month:—160-feet level, west: Driving has been carried on during the last month, the first half of which period the reef was composed of very hard white quartz About 8 or 9 days since a change occurred which I hoped would be for the better, but I regret to say such did not prove to be the case, so that I was obliged to discontinue sending the quartz to the battery. On the footwall of the reef we are now within 6 feet of the Whau boundary, and on the hanging-wall 25 feet from the same. The reef is 8 feet wide, but, I am sorry to say, there is none of it payable. Stoping: A leading stope has been carried on for the last 3 weeks, but this not proving payable after being carried a length of 40 feet and a height of 10 feet I have now discontinued, and purpose pushing on with the rise until we reach a better class of country 70-feet level, west: No. 2 winze west is now down to a depth of 45 feet. During the last few days a change has taken place in the reef, it being now of a more mullocky nature, so that better progress can be made. We can still see colours of gold as the sinking progresses. Stoping has been carried on during the month, but as we approach the Whau level the quartz appears to reduce in quality. From this cause and from our being obliged to use dynamite (on account of the present scarcity of powder on the Thames), which is much more expensive, I have decided to cease work here until the company's battery will be ready to crush, when I trust the total expenses will be much reduced. Footwall leader: Driving has been carried on here. The reef is about 2½ feet wide, and colours of gold are frequently seen in a small stringer on the footwall side, which is the only portion saved. Cross-cut: This reef is being driven on by 2 men by contract. The drive is now in a distance of 22 feet, and is from 2 to 3 feet wide, but does not as yet show any gold. 70 feet level, east: This drive has been carried on to within about 15 feet of N. N. Devon boundary. The reef is about 5 feet through, and during the last 8 or 9 days has greatly improved in quality, and having much the same appearance as that in the N. N. Devon ground. I have been saving a trial crushing which I purpose sending to the battery in a day or two, when I will be able to test its value. Battery: 15 heads of stampers have been kept constantly employed during the month, and 450 tons of quartz have been crushed for a return of 300ozs 15dws melted gold. I have now discontinued 5 heads, as I purpose only crushing such dirt as I consider payable until I get the new block of ground opened up.—Thomas Radford. March 3rd."—Graham and party, tributers, have finished a crushing for a return of 1½ozs gold.

Bendigo United.—Work in this mine has lately been confined to driving for the Alburnia battery level, to intersect the Carpenter's lode, from which some wonderful crushings have been taken in former days. The lode has just been intersected and is looking well, especially on the hanging wall, where some nice quartz is visible, some two or three feet in thickness. The specimen vein is expected to be in hand after a feet of driving. This lode was always good on the upper levels, but work has stopped in consequence of the water until the battery level carried it off. A rise of 50 feet will enable the shaft to be connected, when opening out in both places will commence, and some good crushing stuff will no doubt be the result. Mr Crawford, one of the directors of the mine, is at present looking after the workings for the company, but a manager will no doubt shortly be appointed, as opening out advances.

add Mining

The Big Pump.—Steam was got up in the three boilers yesterday afternoon, and operations commenced, under the direction of Mr Comer.

The Week.—In the mining world, during the past week, little of interest has transpired. In the Alburnia, the leaders and reefs have not shown any change. Very little of the low level has yet been tested, but a few days will tell its real value, as breaking down must soon take place. In a few days work will be commenced in real earnest in the adjoining mine, the New Whau, which appears to have a bright future before it. A start has been made to cut out a chamber in the bottom of the winze which the tributers sunk, and when this work has been finished operations will be commenced on the reef by sinking on it in order to connect with the drive the Alburnia company is bringing along in their low level. The work of erecting the pumping machinery on the Queen of Beauty mine is progressing rapidly, and it is anticipated that within a fortnight a start will have been made to fork the water, which has now maintained its present level for over two months. Should there be a hard bar of country between the Queen of Beauty and Big Pump shafts, as competent persons tell us, the water can be pumped up and the men enabled to resume work in the low level within six weeks. But should their conjecture prove incorrect, much more time will be occupied in draining the mine, as owing to stoppage of the Big Pump a large volume of water from the mines surrounding it would soak through to the Piako flat, and require to be forked before work in the Queen of Beauty could be resumed. During the week the County Council have arrived at an important decision in regard to the pumping securities, viz., to withdraw the offer of the Caledonian mine made to Mr Wm. Rowe, one of its former managers, and to consider his deposit money (£275) forfeited in terms of the agreement. Mr Rowe is still sanguine that he will be able to float a company to work the property if he is only granted a further extension of time, which the County Council has declined to give, as they have already acceded to similar requests, and do not consider they would be doing justice to others interested by allowing him further time. Negotiations have been pending between the Council and Mr C. J. Stone, of Auckland, in reference to the purchase of the mine, and, as will be seen elsewhere, these have been brought to a successful issue on behalf of the old shareholders. The mine will again be worked in a systematic manner. A large portion of the ground is quite intact, and should the company again obtain possession of it, there is no doubt they would set to work to test it thoroughly. But apart from the good the resumption of operations in the mine will do the field, it will enable the important pumping question to be placed on a proper basis, for as the purchase was completed, pumping, which was stopped owing to the approaching sale of the County securities, was at once resumed. With the exception of the Tookey, all the mines owned by the Council have passed out of its hands, or are about to do so, and the new proprietors, knowing the benefit accruing from such arrangements, will not hesitate to assist by their contributions to keep the machinery going.

ARRIVAL OF THE EARL GRANVILLE.—THE VESSEL QUARANTINED.

On Friday night the barque Earl Granville, from London, arrived in Auckland. The Customs launch, with Dr Philson and Mr Brophy, left the wharf about dusk and reached the barque in the channel an hour later. She was ordered by the pilot to keep off some distance. Capt. Campbell then informed the Health Officer that ten days after leaving Plymouth measles broke out among the children. There were in all between thirty and forty cases, but no deaths occurred. There were also twelve cases of whooping-cough, and one infant succumbed. Two other children had died from consumption and general debility. Four births had taken place. The captain also stated that at the present time there are five or six cases of low fever, Dr Fox being one of the victims. The vessel was then ordered into quarantine by the Health Officer, and she proceeded down to Motuihi and anchored there. The Earl Granville is a fine iron barque about 900 tons register, commanded by Captain Campbell. She comes consigned to Messrs L. D. Nathan, Auckland, agents of Messrs Shaw, Saville and Co. In addition to a general cargo valued at £44,100, she brings 318 Government immigrants.

CORRESPONDENCE.

VACCINATION.

To the Editor of the Thames Advertiser.

Sir,—As a correspondent over the pseudonym "Paterfamilias," asserts "that it is very problematical whether it (vaccination) has the effects which its advocates claim for it," perhaps you will be kind enough to reprint the enclosed letter, which bears upon the subject. The united testimony of the "men of the very highest professional repute and scientific attainments," who most certainly could not have been influenced by "monetary considerations," may possibly be deemed nearly equal in value to that of the learned "Paterfamilias." In Germany no unvaccinated person is permitted to enter army, navy, or any other public employment, and no unvaccinated child is admitted into any school; thus making vaccination absolutely compulsory. The consequence is that an outbreak of small-pox is unknown in that country.—Yours, &c.,

Common Sense.

[We append an extract from the letter enclosed:—Some time ago the English Parliament directed a commission of inquiry to be held by men of the very highest professional repute and scientific attainments. The Commission gave their almost uninterrupted attention to the investigation for a period extending over four years before they tendered their report, which was as follows:—"After a careful consideration of the evidence, your committee are of opinion that the cow-pox affords, if not an absolute, yet a very great protection against an attack of small-pox, and an almost absolute protection against death from that disease; that if the operation be performed with due regard to the health of the person vaccinated, and with proper precautions in obtaining and using lymph, there need be no apprehensions that vaccination will injure health or communicate disease; that small-pox, unchecked by vaccination, is one of the most terrible and infectious diseases as regards the danger of infection, the proportion of death among those attacked, and the permanent injury to the survivors; and therefore it is the duty of the State to endeavour to secure the careful vaccination of the whole population."]

FLYING SHOTS.

The majority of men have singular notions of the duties and responsibilities of Governments. The prevailing idea is, they are instituted to be robbed with impunity, and I furnish an example. The United Pumping Association becoming "fly-blown," applied for, and received, a grant from the Government, of £50,000, and were supposed to have mortgaged their mines and plant as security. Whether this were done or not, a little time will prove. In less than three years this sum was merrily and recklessly spent, and then the companies appeared to be in the same chronic state of helplessness and poverty. Again, the Government was solicited to subsidise this mining venture, but as the result of a large expenditure had proved utterly barren, and the companies had not even paid the interest upon the loan, the second appeal was very promptly refused, and the "White Elephant" was ultimately handed over to the tender care of the County Council, for another two years' nursing. During that time a further sum of £15,000 was spent in pumping and driving. The Chairman and his council were then declared by the public to be "jolly fine fellows," "Clear headed dogs," "Saviours of our mining industry," &c., &c. But what is said now? Gratitude is not a lasting virtue, and benefits conferred are soon forgotten, if we may judge from the Auckland *Herald*, and the little rag which nightly flutters about these townships. Instead of being thanked for their plucky undertaking—in the interests of a private spec, be it remembered—these same men are abused and vilified by all and sundry, and the right of the companies to pay a shilling of their indebtedness repudiated. Every effort which cunning and sharp practice could devise, has been exerted to compromise the value of these securities, and ruin the finance of the County Council, and the character of the councillors. A professing friend jumps the Big Pump, and gives notice of appeal upon an adverse decision of our respected Warden; one McMuddle enters an impudent protest on the day of sale "on behalf of the Borough Council and this community," without the shadow of an authority to do so. The pump is stopped by its present owner to assist the representative of an erstwhile fashionable mine, to buy the property for an old song, and the Council having waited nearly twelve months before exercising the power vested under the mortgage deeds, are met with a storm of invective and abuse as undeserved as it is mendacious. Each of the companies has had ample time to compromise this matter with advantage, but so far as I can learn a sporting offer of £3,000 or £4,000, *for the whole concern* was the only effort made.

The Thames to Waikato railway will stop half-way. The expenditure voted for this end of the line would have completed 13 miles of permanent way, but in an evil moment the Minister for Public Works listened to the representations of a few of the Borough busy-bodies who, to serve their own selfish ends, insisted on the necessity of starting from the Goods Wharf, instead of from a temporary station on the south side of the Kauaeranga. The evil of this advice is now apparent. We have reclamation works which you have correctly stigmatised as a job, and every sensible man agrees with you; and our opponents without any stated objection to the entire line as a railway, have a very tangible one to the ill-advised expenditure on this notorious work for which no immediate necessity existed, and for which we have incurred the indefinite suspension of the works and the sacrifice of 13 miles of permanent way. I trust this action will be remembered against these parties, should any of them seek our suffrages for the vacant seat which may possibly occur in the House of Representatives.

Some Native Commissioners possess infinite cheek, and have, on more than one occasion, seriously compromised the Government with the Natives. It appears this Waimate difficulty originated from promises made to them by a Mr Parris, which the Government find it difficult to fulfil without establishing a dangerous precedent in dealing with the confiscated lands. His presumption received no adequate punishment. True, the man was suspended, but he was permitted to retire upon a handsome superannuation. There has been too much sentimental humbug and culpable procrastination in dealing with these lands. They were confiscated to punish murder and rebellion, and were supposed to realise by sale and occupation something towards the four millions of debt the war imposed upon the colony, and if this policy of confiscation had been strictly enforced it would have done more to preserve the peace of this country than a maudlin philo-Maori policy will effect in a century. The Natives are utterly demoralised by it. They have been coaxed, petted, and fed to satiety, and now they are unmanageable, and laugh to scorn our attempts to intrude upon their isolation. How many thousands did it cost to coax old Rewi out of his shell, and what has been the result? Why, the old savage says he was nearly killed with pakeha kindness, and his stomach so yearned for corn pirau and dried shark, and other dainties of a like nature, that he broke up the encampment at Kuiti, and retired with all his people to Hikurangi and his king. Notwithstanding all this, I rather admire the cool bravado of these people. They commit agrarian outrages with impunity, and demand the restitution of large blocks of land, when they