

new, which may be of great service in securing the advancement of this province, and we are glad that an effort is being made in this direction.

ARRIVAL OF THE GOVERNOR.

H.M.S.S. Brisk, which arrived yesterday from Wellington, left his Excellency at the Kawa, where he will remain for the present. The Rev. Mr. Thatcher, his private Secretary, and Major Grey his *aide-de-camp*, came on to Auckland.

We understand that his Excellency is somewhat fatigued with his protracted journey through the Southern Provinces, and will gladly avail himself of a fortnight's repose at the Kawa. He intends, we repose at the Kawa on the 20th inst., if there be no urgent reason for his coming sooner.

SURPLUS LABOR.

It seems a great pity that we should have men unemployed in a new country like this. But it is nevertheless the fact at present, and it has become of considerable importance that what has been done, not only to improve the laborer in want, but to utilize his labor. Auckland is by no means singular in having more persons than she has work for at the present time. Distress seems to have lunged over most parts of the world like a black cloud.

Those who think therefore that distress or want of employment in Auckland is an exceptional state of things very greatly err. In the United Kingdom, for instance, in 1866, the number of paupers only, without reckoning criminals, without including tramps and vagrants, was 1,190,217 persons. That is one person in every 22 in the United Kingdom in 1866, was not only suffering from want of work, but was an absolute pauper, being supported on the public earnings.

But what a vast number of men and women must be in addition to the above, who are in very necessary circumstances, but whose public and self-reliance, will not permit them to apply for the parish assistance. Yet the number of paupers in the United Kingdom was in round numbers six times the European population of New Zealand. The number receiving parochial relief in the town of Liverpool alone, was about 24,000, exclusive of numbers aided by private charity and public subscriptions.

Hard therefore as it is to many in Auckland, they must bear these things in mind. With the honest man who will work but who cannot get it, we have the greatest sympathy, with the loafer and idler, and drunkard, we have none.

To lessen the hardships which those out of work have to suffer, we are glad to learn that the Superintendent is devising plans by which he can give labor instead of rations to those requiring relief. Several thousand pounds were voted for the relief of the destitute. Given in rations it will soon melt away, but if that sum could be made largely reproductive, by finding labor for the people, and paying them for that labor a great gain would be effected.

Arrangements are now in progress for finding a certain amount of labour in connection with the New Zealand flax. One place will be fitted up in Auckland, and one in Ouehanga, we believe, and if men could be put to such work, and even earn a bare maintenance at it, this would relieve the fund for assisting the sick and destitute very considerably.

It is possible to put a number of men at work to cultivate any government land in the neighbourhood of Auckland. We of course mean by spade husbandry. If this could be done a considerable quantity of produce might be raised, and the men would thus undoubtedly earn their own living and something more. It has often seemed to us a pity that the Barrack-hill, for instance, was not cultivated as cottage gardens.

Returning to the New Zealand flax, however, would it not be possible to start a new rope-making concern? The labour requires no great skill, the machinery is inexpensive, the raw material we have in abundance, and a ready market for the rope and twine. Sacking may also be thus made. We must of necessity go out of our usual routine. The men are here; they must have food. It is evidently better in all points of view that they should earn the whole or part of that food, rather than that it should be entirely paid for by the public.

OUR PRESENT POSITION.

This Province is passing through a period of depression which may be traced mainly, if not entirely, to three causes. First overtrading, stimulated by a large war expenditure; our trading interests—(that is to say, that portion of our population employed in the labour of circulation as distinguished from that of production) have outgrown their natural proportions, and now that the artificial stimulus is withdrawn begin like all other hasty growths to languish. The proper proportions between production and circulation have been lost, and must be restored, in order to restore health to the body politic. And concomitantly with hot-house growth of trade, the agricultural and producing interests have been arrested in their progress by the same cause—war—which brought about the undue increase of circulation of labor, so that the latter evil was intensified to an enormous extent, by the impossibility of any counterbalancing extension of country settlement. Lastly, the premature importation of agricultural labour has, like all other injudicious interference on the part of Government with the natural course of social development, only aggravated the evils which it was intended to remedy. At the present time the country was totally unprepared for the absorption of a large addition to its supply of agricultural labour, in the shape of some thousands of immigrants, who have thus been betrayed in this manner as much as the public interests have been injured.

If, however, there be much to cause anxiety in this view of our present position, we may also extract from it no small measure of consolation, inasmuch as it suggests the remedy for the evil which it indicates, and that remedy is Peace. Like Falkland in his day, every wise politician in New Zealand will find himself compelled, as the result of his deliberations on public affairs, to echo the cry of Peace! Let us have peace, and the ills which afflict us will right themselves. Trade will immediately shrink to its proper proportions, and agricultural industry, retiring in the same ratio, will quickly change our complaints of a plethora in the labor market into a demand for additional supplies.

But how is this inestimable blessing of peace to be secured? "That is the question" which must at present take precedence of all others whatsoever, in the counsels of our statesmen, for it is one of life and death,—to be, or not to be? We think Mr. Williamson has, in part answered this important query, when he addressed this to our Maori fellow-subjects—a willingness to let them come within our institutions. By all means let them be placed, as speedily as may be, on a perfect equality with the Anglo Saxon in all political privileges, and let us, "holding out to them the right hand of fellowship" commercially, and socially, remove the last remnant of suspicion and distrust from minds which are not naturally prone to either. Of course we must not throw our pearls before swine—we must not make the first advance towards conciliation to those who are in open hostility. The strong hand must put forth its strength to crush armed opposition, at the same time that the clasp of brotherhood is offered to those who are willing to receive it, for energy in restraining disturbers of the public peace is only kindness under another name. Much may, perhaps remain to be determined as to whether the political emancipation

of the Maori race should be immediate and complete, or gradual, but whatever different opinions may exist on this point, we think all wise men will agree on the main question.

Were we allowed the management of our own affairs, the application of the proper remedy for the present state of things amongst us would be comparatively free from difficulty. But hampered as we are by the control of a General Assembly, composed, in a great measure, of those who are too much absorbed in their own interests to pay much attention to ours (the latter being not coincident with the former) it would almost appear as if the means of getting rid of that control were among the first things to be considered on our part. The question of the extension of our self-government, therefore, in as far as the necessary complement of that which we have just been discussing. Why should the principle adopted with regard to the colonies on the Australian Continent be departed from in our case? From Sydney as a nucleus, colonization has extended northward and southward, and as the outlying districts have exhibited signs of political vitality sufficient to warrant the conclusion of their fitness for self-government, they have been allowed to separate from the parent colony. This is the system which has worked successfully in that part of the empire, and why should the very opposite—that of centralization be forced upon us? It would seem as if the Imperial Government regarded its policy, in this matter on the principle which is said to rule the filament of dreams—that of contrast. Now South Wales grumbles at the subdivision of her territory, and that measure is enforced upon her. Auckland desires localization, and she is compelled to be the victim of centralization. Where is the excuse for this, at least apparent inconsistency and injustice? we see none. We hold that whatever course Queensland or Victoria could show why they should be allowed a local government, Auckland can adduce equally strong claims to a similar principle.

NORTHERN DIVISION ELECTION.

The nomination for Mr. Cadman's vacant seat in the Provincial Council will take place on Tuesday, and the poll will be taken on the 14th. The two candidates are Mr. Hugh Morrow and Mr. Allan O'Neill. The former gentleman, who understands a very heavy support throughout the country districts. Mr. Morrow has shown himself anxious on every occasion to support the too-much neglected interests of the country, and if returned will, we believe, endeavour to secure for the North that due share of attention in the Council which since 1863 it cannot be said to have received.

Mr. Allan O'Neill has occupied a seat in the Provincial Council before now, and has been a candidate for their suffrages on more than one occasion. We have, therefore, no need to refer to his qualifications to fill the position of their representative.

THE NATHAN TROUPE.

There was a very excellent attendance yesterday evening, despite the counter attraction of the Bazaar in the Odd Fellows' Hall. As usual, little Marian was the favourite of the evening, and really the precocious talent of this child is something wonderful. We have seen nothing like it since the Bateman children made their appearance at Drury Lane. A young Mr. Murphy, the landlord of the house, our old friend, Mr. Small, received his usual welcome; but even he came second best when "The Girl from Tipperary" was upon the boards.

On Monday evening next will be performed the Hibernian comedy, entitled "Andy Blake," one of Dion Boucicault's pieces,—the Little Marian as Andy Blake.

SALES BY AUCTION.—THIS DAY.

MESSRS. C. ARTHUR AND SON will sell to-day, two tons flour, potatoes, onions, fish, vinegar, oats, barley, corrugated iron, glassware, &c.

MR. ALFRED BECKETL will sell to-day, at the Haymarket, at 11 o'clock, an allotment at Otahuhu, cottage, stable, the property of Mr. H. Sneger; also, 8 superior draught horses, harness, drays, chaff-cutter, &c.; also, 40 acres of land at Raglan, a handsome Timor pony, 3 heavy draught colts, bean crusher, rye grass.

MR. G. DENNET AND CO. will sell to-day, at the Durham Sale Yards, 25 hacks, 20 light harness horses, 15 medium horses, 10 heavy draught horses, hacks.

MESSRS. JONES AND CO. will sell to-day, at their mart, at 11 o'clock, 20 barrels beef, maize, potatoes, onions, hams, sundries, furniture, &c.; also tea, ex Regina, 3 superior double-barrelled guns, household furniture.

MR. H. RIDINGS will sell to-day, potatoes, onions, turkeys, porter, vinegar, furniture, &c.

MR. GEORGE SIBBIN will sell to-day, at the produce stores, corner of Wyndham street, potatoes, flour, hams, wines, groceries, &c.

MR. C. DENNET will sell to-day, beef, potatoes, groceries, wine, porter, furniture, watches, &c., at 11 o'clock.

MESSRS. TURBELL AND TONES will hold to-day, their usual sale of sundries, comprising fruit trees, potatoes, tinware, groceries, drapery, &c., at 11 o'clock.

SERIOUS ACCIDENT.—A man named Gillespie was brought to town yesterday, from the Bay of Islands, by the schooner General Cameron, suffering from a severe compound fracture of the leg. He had been engaged upon a saving station, and met with the accident through an immense heavy log rolling on him. The sufferer was brought on shore by the water police, and conveyed to the hospital for surgical treatment.

KAWAU COALS.—The first shipment of coals (5 tons) from these mines at the Bay of Islands, was brought up from Russell yesterday by the schooner General Cameron; they are consigned to Mr. John McLeod.

DEATH OF MR. JOHN DWYER.—We regret to notice in our obituary column the name of Mr. John Dwyer, of Albert-street, and late of Wanganui. Mr. Dwyer had been settled in this province since 1840, and was well known and highly respected.

AUCKLAND NAVAL VOLUNTEERS.—About twenty-four members of this company paraded yesterday morning, for the purpose of going through their first practice at the big-gun drill at Fort Britomart. An able instructor was in attendance, and the men acquitted themselves very creditably during their two hours and a half practice.

THE TAIRA SAW MILLS.—Mr. T. W. Brown having resigned the agency of these mills, it is notified that Mr. T. Baird will attend to all orders.

PARNELL HALL.—Sermons will be preached in this building to-morrow; the subject for the morning being "The Christian Duty of Fasting," and for the evening, "Christ, the Interpreter of all Things." A conversational meeting will be held on Monday evening, and a lecture will be delivered on Thursday evening, at seven o'clock.

AUCKLAND NAVAL VOLUNTEERS.—This Company is ordered to muster every Tuesday and Friday morning at 6:30 a.m., at the battery, Fort Britomart, for gun drill.

DISSOLUTION OF PARTNERSHIP.—The partnership hitherto existing between Messrs. William Hunter and George Dunnet, is dissolved by mutual consent.

CHEAP CARTES DE VISITE.—Mr. Crombie announces that as it has been found impossible to wait on all those parties who intended forwarding carte de visites via Panama, he will extend the half-price process for ten days longer, thus enabling the public to avail themselves of the mail via Suva on the 12th inst.

H. M. ROE'S ESTATE.—It is announced by advertisement that a dividend on this estate is now payable at the office of Owen and Graham, Queen-street.

PRINCE OF WALES THEATRE.—The Nathan Juvenile Troupe will repeat the performance, consisting of "A Kiss in the Dark," "The Colonial Servant," and the burlesque extravaganza "Codadad," at the Prince of Wales Theatre this evening, when a new break-down will be executed by the Giant Gobbell and Little Marian.

MR. YANDLE, the naturalist, announces that he is about to leave the colony, and requests that all parties desirous of having birds stuffed will bring them in without delay.

A. R. V., No. 3 COMPANY.—A meeting of this company is called for Monday evening next, at 7:30 p.m., in the British Hotel, Queen-street, on urgent and important business. The band of the corps will be in attendance.

MR. S. B. HARRIS' ESTATE.—A meeting of creditors in this estate will be held at 2 p.m. on Monday afternoon, at the stores of Mr. W. C. Hill, Fort-street.

WELLINGTON-STREET LITERARY ASSOCIATION. The usual meeting of the above Association took place on Thursday last, when a debate took place on the question—"Would Insular Separation promote the prosperity of New Zealand?" The debate was opened by Mr. Stewart, in the affirmative; and by Mr. G. Bullock, in the negative. The debate was adjourned until Friday next, when it will be resumed by Mr. J. M. Clark.

POLICE.—At the Police Court yesterday three persons were punished for drunkenness; Edward Crook and John Campbell, each by a fine of 10 shillings and the costs for breaches of the Impounding Act, 1867. John Hannigan was fined forty shillings and costs, and in default of payment sentenced to fourteen days imprisonment with hard labor for using obscene language; John McGuire and William Shields were sentenced to six months imprisonment for larceny; and Jesse Cole charged with embezzlement was remanded until Monday next with enlarged bail, Messrs. Joy and Macdonald for the prosecutor, Mr. Wynn on behalf of the prisoner.

THE BAZAAR.—This bazaar was opened yesterday to past eleven at night, and was moderately patronized, considering the counter attractions presented elsewhere. By the kindness of Colonel Hamilton and the officers, the fine band of the 12th Regiment was in attendance, and played some choice selections of music. The thanks of the promoters of the affair are due to Major Hamley, of the Military Store Department, for his courtesy in supplying several requisites for the stalls. The exact amount realised has not yet been ascertained, but we believe, that considering the state of the times, the affair will be found to have been moderately successful.

THE LATE BOAT ACCIDENT AT MANGAWA.—By advices received last night from Mangawai we learn that the body of the youth, William Seymour, recovered and buried last week, was found about nine miles off the bar, near the spot where he was drowned. The body was entirely destitute of clothing, which is generally accounted for from the fact that deceased was a very strong and expert swimmer, and several times practised divesting himself of his clothing whilst swimming in the river.

AN ENTERTAINMENT of a novel and amusing character was given on Thursday evening in the Edwards-street school-room, for the benefit of the Band of Hope meeting in that place, and was well attended, the chair being occupied by Mr. D. Goldie who after singing and prayer, opened the proceedings of the meeting in a lengthy address, showing the need of such institutions for the young, and in the paths of solemnity rising race, that they may be led to shun the evils and dangers attendant upon the demoralizing practices that obtain in the present day, and to caution them against the results flowing from intemperance. "Now is the month of Maying," by choir. Mr. Wilkes exhibited his magic lantern much to the pleasure and delight of the young and older children present, and many of the droll and amusing sketches took and pleased the audience amazingly. Mr. Claving incurred considerable expense to bring out several sketches of General G. E. Lee's "Whiskey Demon," the length of the programme did not allow full scope to explain and exhibit them. "Come fairies trip it lightly," by choir; a series of recitations by several members of the Band of Hope. We cannot recommend too highly this system of early training up the young mind with what may be profitable to them in after life, instead of the trash and nonsense which abounded in days of yore. "Lightly Tread," by choir. After which a short descriptive lecture was given in illustration of 7 colossal plates of the human stomach in health, and under alcoholic excitement and disease, from the dissections of Thomas Sewall, Esq., M.D., President of the American Institute; and the mammoth plates of the liver, kidneys, and brain, by F. Lees, F.S.A., Edinburgh, by Mr. J. Graham, who gave a very prevalent, the often repeated idea that alcoholic drinks are in any way suitable for the human system, and that they are only injurious and that continually; proving by several instances of sudden death that alcohol is a deadly poison; and by its use even in small quantities irritates the stomach, and by its continued use produces inflammation, ulceration and cancers in the vital parts, as exhibited in these plates. It is a great acquisition to the well-being of society, that men of science as the gentlemen of the above standing should expose the fallacies of the age in which we live. The lecture concluded by an earnest appeal to all, both old and young, to avoid the evils of the drinking system so very prevalent, especially after its fatal consequences had been shown. After the singing of the National Anthem the meeting dispersed, well pleased with the proceedings.—Communicated.

ENCROACHMENTS OF THE GENERAL GOVERNMENT.—The *Grey River Argus* of the 20th April says:—"Several circumstances have occurred recently which seem to indicate the withdrawal from the Provincial Governments of the delegated powers under the Gold-fields Act, and that the General Government intends to assume the direct administration of the various gold-fields in the colony. Not the least significant in the history of the colony is the fact that the late Governor, Mr. J. B. Seddon, in his last, preshew, as Minister of Mines, at a salary of £1000 a year, which appointment although not officially announced is given credence to by too many authorities to be far removed from the truth. Another symptom of an impending change is the withdrawal of the delegation from the new Superintendent of Otago—a circumstance that cannot be accounted for simply as an affront to Mr. Macandrew, because the Ministry had already sanctioned his election as Superintendent, and thus merged his identity into his official character. Besides, the delegated powers of the Governor under the Gold-fields Act are not conferred on the Superintendents personally but in conjunction with the Executive and the Provincial Councils. The new General of the powers held by Mr. Macandrew's predecessor is a step which deprives both the Provincial Government and Council of all authority in the administration of the gold-fields, and would hardly have been ventured on had there not been an intention on the part of the General Government to assume the full control. The election of Mr. Macandrew may have presented the opportunity of initiating the centralisation of gold-fields administration perhaps a little earlier than was intended, but that is all. We are not aware whether the same course has been followed with regard to the new Superintendent of Nelson two circumstances to which we have alluded. But the action taken at Otago, taken in conjunction with the other steps towards centralisation which have been taken, and the General Government's avowed purpose to think that it intends assuming the full powers which it already possesses under the Gold-fields Act."

MR. S. O'DELL, through us thankfully acknowledges the receipt of £2 from J. Edwards defraying the expenses of Tuesday's lecture.

THE CUTTER JESSIE.—This vessel is advertised for sale or charter, application to be made to Mr. Weymouth, Wyndham-street.

NEWTON HALL.—An interesting lecture was delivered in the Newton Hall at 8 o'clock last evening, by his Lordship the Bishop of New Zealand, the subject being "The Western Islands of the Pacific." His Honor the Superintendent occupied the chair, and there was a numerous and influential audience present, who were not disappointed in their expectations of a most interesting and instructive lecture. His Lordship displayed an intimate knowledge of his subject, and raised gifts as speaker, his extensive personal experience and acute observation, no less than his varied and highly cultivated scholarly attainments enabled him to treat the lecture in a most comprehensive, instructive, and entertaining manner. The lecturer showed an intimate acquaintance with the diversified habits and customs of the inhabitants of the numerous islands of the Pacific.

FUNERAL OF THE LATE J. H. ROBERTS.—The funeral of the late J. H. Roberts took place yesterday, and was attended by members of the A.R.V., and the brethren of the various Courts of the Ancient Order of Foresters, to both of which the deceased belonged. The funeral cortege left his late residence in Wellesley-street, at 4 p.m., being composed as follows:—The first party, Mr. J. H. Roberts, was followed by the members of the various companies under Capt. Derron, next the corpse, preceded by the Band playing the Dead March in Saul, followed by a large number of the deceased's personal relatives and friends, and the brethren of the A.O.F.

The pall-bearers were Brothers Rawdon, C.R.; A. Windsor, S.C.R.; T. J. Jones, S.B.; and P. F. Finlay, J.W. A large concourse of people accompanied the funeral cortege to the Church of England Cemetery, Symonds-street, where the body was interred, His Lordship the Bishop of New Zealand reading the burial service in a most impressive manner, after which the usual three volleys were fired by the deceased's late comrades. The deceased was much respected and esteemed by a large circle of friends.

AUCKLAND NAVAL VOLUNTEERS.

A MEETING OF THE CLOTHING COMMITTEE was held last Monday evening when they decided on a neat blue uniform with silver lace; they also invited tenders for supply of work, &c.

The newly formed Band, belonging to this corps, held their first meeting in Mr. Cochrane's store on the same evening, when considering there was a fair attendance of members who received their first lesson in the theory of music under the able instruction of their talented master, Mr. John Chilmann, whose abilities are well known amongst us, he having instructed several bands in England. The first he taught was the Hackney Military Band of drums and fifes (afterward attached to the 2nd Tower Hamlets, R.V.), which he did when only seventeen, and for whose proficiency he received high commendations from C. S. Butler, M.P., and others; he afterward taught and brought out the bands of the 13th London Rifle Brigade, which was said to be the most proficient of any volunteer drums and fifes at the first Volunteer Review and Drill in the theory of music at the Royal Military School of Music, Kneller Hall, England, from where he has certificates from Professor Mandel and others.

The second meeting of the members of the Band was again held in Mr. Cochrane's store on Wednesday evening when there was a better attendance. We may state there are a few more vacancies, and for the information of intending members we may add that they will (through the kindness of the commanding officer, Captain Guiding) be supplied with their clothing, instruments and instructions free of cost. So early as they may each one the theory of music, and we feel assured that this being his first effort in this colony, he will leave no stone unturned that may tend to the advancement of the Band.—Communicated.

WELLINGTON.

ARRIVAL OF THE GOVERNOR AT THE KAWAU.

H.M.S. BRISK arrived in harbour yesterday evening, and through the courtesy of the officers we have been put in possession of Wellington papers to the 20th ult.

The Brisk brought his Excellency Sir George Grey, Major Grey (*aide-de-camp*), and his Private Secretary, the Rev. Mr. Thatcher. Sir George Grey remains at the Kawa until the 20th, when he will come to Auckland. Of Wellington news there is little. Mr. Stafford is determined to snub Otago. The *New Zealand Gazette*, published by Mr. Seddon, contains a proclamation of his Excellency the Governor revoking the proclamations and regulations concerning the depasturing of stock on the Otago gold-fields issued by the late Superintendent of Otago under powers delegated to him by the Governor, and instituting in lieu thereof certain other regulations for the depasturing of stock on the Otago gold-fields; a notice to holders of miners' rights and others, warning them against committing any breach of the aforesaid regulations; a proclamation by the Governor revoking the regulations published in the *Gazette* on the 11th January last, prescribing the mode in which applications may be made for leases of land for agricultural purposes, &c., and establishing a new code in lieu thereof; a proclamation from the Governor vesting in the Hon. E. W. Stafford, President of the Executive Council, all the powers vested in the Governor by the Gold Fields Act, 1866, except the powers conferred by sections 27, 47, 48, 60, 96, and 107, to be exercised within the province of Otago; a notice of the appointment of Vincent Pyke, Esq., to be Secretary of the Otago Gold Fields.

The *Advertiser* says a meeting of the shareholders in the N.Z.S.N. Company, opposite to the directors' resolution to wind up the Company, will be held this evening at eight o'clock, in Barrett's Hotel.

CHRISTCHURCH.

The Superintendent is expected from Wellington to-morrow.

Mr. Hanneves, member of the House of Representatives for Lyttelton, has resigned his seat.

The Secretary of Public Works has resigned his office.

What riches are those that certainly make themselves wings and fly away? Ost-riches.

THE LATE MURDER AT MONGONUI.

By the arrival of the cutter Rob Roy last night from Mongonui, we learn that a bushman (but whose name we were unable to find out), had been arrested there on suspicion of being the perpetrator of the late diabolical murder of Mr. Smith. The man resided near the spot where the murder was committed, and was taken into custody upon information received from the natives, who found some of his clothes spotted with blood.

The prisoner had been brought before the Magistrate and remanded for a week for further evidence.

At the date of last advices detective Glick was actively employed ferreting out and clearing information on the subject.

GREAT FIRE IN WYNDHAM STREET.

This morning an alarm of fire was given, and in a few minutes the whole of the bells gave warning of another fearful conflagration. The fire originated in a back kitchen of the Shakespeare (Mr. Clarke's) Hotel, Wyndham-street, and in less than ten minutes the flames had reached the upper rooms, and were burning through the roof, and it soon became evident that it would be impossible to save any portion of the building from the devouring element. At the time we write the fire is raging with fearful rapidity, and the members of the Auckland Fire Brigade, under Mr. Asher, are strenuously exerting themselves in endeavoring to check the progress of the flames. A plentiful supply of water is being obtained from the stand pipe opposite Vaile's new building, and two hoses are playing on the burning premises. The whole of the main buildings and several small out-houses behind it are in flames, and the premises called the Melbourne boarding-house are in imminent danger. A third hose is stationed at the back of the adjoining premises and is playing on these, and the building in which the fire originated—the supply of water being obtained from a well.

An immense concourse of people is gathered on the spot, and the police are actively engaged in maintaining order.

The Melbourne boarding house and all the outbuildings near are now completely destroyed, and the house occupied by a broker's shop, occupied by Mr. Mills, has caught and is beyond all chance of escape from total destruction. There now seems little chance of arresting the progress of the fire until it has reached the brick premises used as a coffee warehouse by Messrs. Gregg and Co., where the dead wall will, in all probability, stay its further progress. Most unfortunately the supply of water has at this stage suddenly met with some impediment, and the hoses in front have ceased to play. One of the hoses is still, however, playing on the back of the block of buildings. Several of the houses on the north side of Wyndham-street, and opposite the spot where the fire originated, have caught slightly, but are fortunately out of danger. A large quantity of furniture has been removed from the burning houses, and now lies strewn in most admired disorder on the north side of the street. The premises of Mr. Neilson, bookbinder, on the western side, are totally destroyed, but the books and all the materials have been safely removed, with the exception of a bookbinding press, which was too heavy to be carried out. The next house, on the same side, a hairdresser's shop is also consumed, and the spread of the fire in that direction has been impeded by the brick premises occupied by Mr. Cater, boot-maker, and owned by Mr. Lawson.

Mr. Neilson's premises and stock were insured in the New Zealand Insurance Company in the same office for £150. On the eastern side the premises in the occupation of Mr. Murphy, bootmaker, and those of Mr. Foggard, wood turner, are totally destroyed. A number of men are engaged on the roof of Messrs. Gregg and Co.'s warehouse, but its safety is becoming every moment more and more precarious. Mr. P. Martin's premises and stock were insured in the New Zealand Insurance Company for £150, but the whole of the stock and furniture have been saved. Messrs. Gregg and Co. are insured in the Australasian. Mr. Cater's premises and stock, which so fortunately retarded the progress of the fire to the westward, were insured in the New Zealand and other offices for £2,000.

The progress of the fire is now apparently stayed. Every effort has been made to save the premises of Messrs. Gregg and Co., men being busily engaged on the roof in throwing on buckets of water. The wall on the side adjoining the fire is almost red hot, and to add to the difficulty of saving the building, the supply of water from the hose has altogether ceased.

At a quarter to five the fire was eventually got under, Mr. Gregg's premises being saved unimpaired.

SUPREME COURT.—FRIDAY.

(Before his Honor Mr. Justice Moore.)
SITTINGS IN BANKRUPTCY.
YESTERDAY was held an adjourned sitting in bankruptcy. Seven cases were set down for hearing, but they were devoid of public interest, the examinations being confined entirely to matters of account.

MR. DONALD, NEWTON.
Mr. Macdonald presented the petition of this insolvent. The petitioner is in custody. The liabilities were stated at £205 16s 6d, the assets £183 s 6d. The learned counsel applied for the petitioner's discharge from custody. Application granted.

MR. JOSEPH PAUL WALKER.
Mr. Beveridge applied for an order of sequestration in this case. It was stated that the insolvent had absconded. The Inspector in bankruptcy was appointed trustee to the insolvent's estate.

MR. GEORGE GINGELL.
Mr. Macdonald appeared for the insolvent. The liabilities were stated as £135 10s., assets nil. The bankrupt had been a clerk to Mr. J. Hurst, the opposing creditor, to whom the insolvent had formerly stood in the relation of clerk and manager.

The insolvent was examined at great length, also the opposing creditor, in relation to the manner in which the books were kept. The insolvent received his discharge.

HENRY JOHN WADHAM.
Mr. Macdonald appeared for the petitioner, Mr. Brookfield appeared for Mr. Vernon the sequestrator, not, as the learned counsel stated, for the purpose of opposing the insolvent, as for examining Mr. David Nathan, who had come into possession of a portion of the estate. The further hearing of this case was adjourned to the 23rd inst., for the production of books and papers.

MR. W. F. BLAKE.
Mr. Wynn asked for an adjournment of this case to the 22nd inst. Application granted.

CHAS. CRESY CLAYWORTH.
This case was adjourned for six months, as it was considered by the creditors the petitioner might at that time be in receipt of moneys to satisfy his debts—in the event of the petitioner giving evidence of his intention to leave the jurisdiction of the Court protection to cease.

The Court adjourned to the 22nd of May.

POLICE COURT.—FRIDAY.

(Before Thomas Beckham, Esq., R.M.)
BREACH OF THE IMPOUNDING ACT.
Edward Gouch was charged with this offence, by allowing a mule to stray about Mount-street. He pleaded guilty, and was fined 5s, and the costs.

Richard Farrer, was fined 6s and the costs, for a similar offence.

OBSCENE LANGUAGE.
John Hannigan, pleaded not guilty to a breach of the 48th clause of the 5th section of the Auckland Municipal Police Act, by using obscene language in High-street.

Fined 40s and costs, or in default, 14 days imprisonment with hard labor.

The defendant was in a most lamentable state of physical prostration from intemperance, and was scarcely able to walk without assistance.

LARCENY.
McGuire (*alias*) Dillon, John and William Shields were charged with having stolen from the store of Samuel Hague Smith, on or about the 28th April, eight hand saws, value, £2 8s.

They pleaded not guilty.

Alexander Blair, deposed: I am foreman in Mr. Hague Smith's ironmongery establishment. On Saturday, the 27th, I left the store between eight and nine o'clock in the evening, it was then all safe. On returning on Monday morning, I found that the store door had been opened, opposite the window were a number of parcels of saws. From the appearance of these parcels, I should think five or six parcels had been taken away. The parcels now produced are similar to those in the store. The saws are valued at 6s 6d each.

John Amiel, a dealer residing in Albert-street, deposed, the prisoner McGuire came to my house on Monday evening to sell a hand saw. I gave him 3s for it. He came about a quarter-of-an-hour later with another saw. My suspicions were aroused, and I informed Detective Ternahan. There was another man outside, but I cannot swear to him.

George Akers, proprietor of the Red Lion Hotel, Drake