

must be furnished with feeders which can be only supplied from centres of population like the Thames. This argument ought to be conclusive with any really colonial administration for the immediate construction of the whole line from Thames to Hamilton, for the sooner such a source of profit is opened the better for the country at large. This situation of affairs being understood, the opening of the navigation of the Upper Thames offered a convenient opportunity of leading the Premier to infer that if the Thames were navigable in its upper part of its course "a fortiori" it must be more fitted for the purposes of navigation lower down, "ergo" there cannot be any necessity for a continuation of the railway from Omaha to Thames. Q.E.D.

The Hon. Mr. Rolleston, Minister for Lands, had an interview with Tukukino on roads, and telegraph wires, but could make nothing of the old obstructionist. He wanted the hon. gentleman to fulfil a promise alleged to have been made by the ex-Native Minister to give him 1000 acres of the Komati block, after which he would graciously hand the Government back to say no consent to road and wire. The hon. Mr. Rolleston did not see this and the interview ended, after protestations from Mr. G. P. Mitchell, who protested against the district being kept back through the interference of one individual.

Mr. A. J. Allom, Registrar, notifies that forms of application to be placed on the roll may be obtained at his office. An instance of rapid telegraphic transmission and delivery was brought under our notice yesterday. A Thames gentleman despatched a message to his friends informing them that his wife and family had just left per Rotomahana and requesting that the steamer might be met on arrival. The message was for a locality within half-a-mile of the telegraph station to which it was forwarded, and was delivered when the lady and her family were sitting down to tea, some five or six hours after transmission.

The Hon Mr Rolleston, on his visit to Obinewari and Te Aroha, was surrounded by a host of persons interested in extolling the excellence of the land around, and he was not a little perplexed on arrival at Paeroa to be deputed by several would-be settlers who wanted something very much better for their money than the Waste Lands Board had yet opened. Mr Rolleston said a great difference of opinion seemed to exist upon the value of the lands at present offered. He had heard several men state the lands were very good, and now Mr Cornes would lead him to believe they were very bad. He would give them his opinion when he returned on Saturday evening.

We understand that the action County V. Moorecraft and party, tributaries of the Tooty Company, which was to come on this morning will be adjourned pending a settlement of all disputes in connection with the ground, the property having been purchased for the old shareholders.

The experiments which Mr John Brown has been conducting on the beach near the Kurauki Battery, for the purpose of testing an apparatus for lifting tallings, have been completed with very satisfactory results. The machine, which is the invention of Mr Brown, is very simple in its operation, and consists of a long pipe placed in an upright position. At its lower end there is a nozzle, and a little above it a flume runs into the column. A strong force of water is thrown up the pipe through the nozzle, and as the tallings and water from the flume run into the pipe they are thrown by the force of the water from the nozzle to the top of the column, where the gold-saving apparatus is situated. The little machine having worked so satisfactorily, the directors of the Blue Spur and Gabriel's Gulch Companies intend to construct two or three large ones, and believe that they will work quite as well as the model has done. The deposit of tallings at Gabriel's Gulch, we may mention, will be washed into the flumes of the machines by means of streams of water.

A little boy named Snowling narrowly escaped drowning a day or two ago. It appears he was standing on the Shortland Wharf when he was asked by the master of one of the river steamers to pull in his vessel to the wharf. He caught hold of the rope for the purpose of doing so, when the current caught her bows, and she swung out rapidly, jerking the boy into the water about 20 feet from the wharf. Being unable to swim he sank twice, and was going down for the third and last time when he was rescued by a fisherman named William Bolton, who pluckily jumped in after him, and was himself nearly squeezed between two of the boats at the wharf.

The examination for the two scholarships in connection with the High School was held yesterday in the institution, Ballie-street, commencing at 10 o'clock. Ten girls and nine boys—two or three of the latter being from the out-districts—competed, and Dr Kilgour superintended the examination. The results will be known in about ten days. The examination was not quite concluded yesterday, three-fifths of the entire course only being completed, namely, arithmetic, geography and composition. History and science will be proceeded with to-day, under the direction of Mr John Brown, one of the Governors. At the close of the examination the papers will be numbered from 1 to 19 inclusive, sealed up, and sent to Mr R. J. Sullivan, the inspector, who has kindly undertaken the task of judge. The names corresponding to each number will not be known by the inspector, but retained in sealed envelopes at the Thames.

Sunday last was the day set apart for making collections in the various churches in aid of the Hospital funds, but for some reason or other (probably for want of sufficient publicity) the custom was not observed in several places of worship. At the English Church, Tarara, a sum of £1 10s 6d was collected; at the Baptist Church, £7 3s 6d, and at the meeting of the Christian Brethren Church, £1. It is probable that collections will be made in the Wesleyan and Presbyterian Churches next Sunday. None will be taken up at St. George's, the church having decided by its annual meeting not to allow the collection to be made. This has set others a bad example, we fear, and the result will be a failure this year of the annual Hospital Sunday collections.

A Danish telegram says—One of the detectives has discovered, in the vicinity of the Northern Cemetery, a coat which has been identified as the one usually worn by the prisoner, Butler. In the same neighbourhood was found a salmon tin of the same brand as that purchased by the prisoner on the Monday of the murder.

A splendid specimen of tobacco-leaf, grown by Mr B. R. Graham, of Mercer, is on view, showing that both as respects climate and soil there need be no difficulty in the cultivation of the tobacco plant. Hitherto the methods of curing provincial-grown leaf adopted have not been all that could be desired, but in time it is anticipated that these obstacles to complete success will be removed.

A rich gumfield (says our Waikato contemporary) has been discovered at the back of the Aroha Mountain, within the last few weeks, and thither nearly all the natives of the vicinity have gone. The field is said to be of a highly payable nature, the gum not only being plentiful and easily obtained, but of excellent quality as well. We understand that the scene of operations is on Maori land, and if so we suppose it is only accessible to the natives.

We (Waikato Times) understand that the Nottingham Castle Hotel, built by Mr John Wood, at Waiata, and so ably carried on by himself and Mrs Wood since it was opened, is about to change hands, and that the new proprietor will be a widow lady from the T. news. [We learn that Mr B. S. Brown, of the All Nations Hotel, Grahamstown, is the purchaser of the Castle in question.]

Are there any philanthropists at the Thames—any benevolent ladies or gentlemen who will undertake a work of charity? If so, we crave their sympathy and assistance. The spectacle we wish to refer to is not a common one at the Thames, and we trust we shall not again be called upon to witness it. A human being in the form of one of Eve's daughters was being led or rather pulled along to the lock-up about midnight, and a little fellow about three years of age was walking by her side entreating on the constable to let his mamma go home. The two were shepherded by the officer of the law until they reached the drunkard's den. The woman may have been the worse for drink, but she was not excited, and was quite capable of taking care of herself and child. The little fellow wanted to stay with his mother, but the detective very kindly took him away and got lodgings for him with a friend of the woman's where there were other children. On inquiry we ascertained that the unfortunate man's name is Birdwood, that he has no lawful means of support, and is consequently a vagrant in the legal acceptance of the term. Will the ladies of the Benevolent Society or the 'Triumph Home' undertake the case? The spot itself was being read, and if there is a spark of benevolence or Christian charity left on the Thames, let it, for God's sake, be exercised in this case, that night may not be made hideous by such exhibitions.

The County authorities have sold the Tooty mine to Mr Stewart on behalf of the old shareholders for £700. It is satisfactory to find that the old shareholders will yet have an opportunity of testing the value of their property, which has lain dormant for a long time. A telegram from Werekio on Friday night says—Arumour, apparently well authenticated, has reached the camp that Major Kemp arrived to-day at Parikaha from Murimotu, and urged Te Whiti to join him against the Europeans. Te Whiti is said to have received Kemp favourably. I hope to have particulars to-morrow. A native returning from Parikaha to-day gave the above information to one of the Armed Constabulary.

At the banquet given to Sergeant Okey, the Rifle Champion, on his return to Tararaki, in response to the toast of his health, the Champion gave the following sensible advice:—"Perhaps it would not be out of place if I were to say a few words to what would tend to make a man a good shot. In the first place he must be steady. There is no use in him taking what is now in these days called a 'snipe' (hear, hear). I am one who can say that I have never drunk a glass of liquor in my life, and I consider that it is owing in a great measure to that fact that I am the winner of the belt. There is another thing that tends to make a man nervous, and that is smoking. If a man tries to win the belt he must not take anything that will make him nervous. He must be temperate in eating and everything else."

The Dunedin press cannot understand how a glass of beer can be obtained as far North as Auckland at 3d, while in Dunedin it is double that amount. One writer says he 'purses for a reply.' The Dunedin publishers say let him pass.

The Kapanga mine, Coromandel, is expected to start work this week. The manager, Captain Thomas, received instruction to get the mine ready, as twenty thousand pounds was subscribed in London for the further prospecting of the ground. It will give employment to over twenty men.

The Hamilton contingent of Waikato Cavalry held a meeting last week to receive communications of details as to the proposed march to the Thames, to take part in the Easter Review to be held at Tararua. Everything was arranged to a nicety, even the uniformity of nose-bags, horse tails, and troopers' hair was fully discussed and agreed upon; whilst the white gloves of the men for church parade were ordered to be sent on in advance by train, and the ladies by steamer, Trooper Henry being told off to take charge of the gloves, and Quarter-master Hunt to take special care of the ladies on the train. We quote as follows from the report of the meeting in the 'Waikato Times':—The Chairman, Lieut. F. A. Whitaker, stated that it had been arranged that on Friday each troop was to liberally take a start at what hour and by what route it chose, but they will all rendezvous at Paeroa before 6 o'clock on the evening of that day. This would leave about 25 miles to be done on the Saturday, which would enable them to arrive at Grahamstown about 3 o'clock on the afternoon of that day. Arrangements had been made for the supply of fodder for the horses, and for a steamer to arrive at the Thames loading to convey any ladies whose friends belonged to the Cavalry to proceed to Grahamstown and see the review. This steamer would be at the 'mahu landing at 1 p.m. on Friday, and any member of the Cavalry would then have the opportunity of taking his lady friends to the Thames. Lieutenant Whitaker then proceeded to nominate Sergt Hunt (the senior Sergeant) Quarter-master Sergeant and Sergt Coombes assistant Quarter-master Sergeant to attend to the commissariat of both men and horses on the road, and also that men were properly quartered. It would also be the duty of the Quarter-master Sergeant Hunt to take special care of the ladies on the train. There were certain matters of detail which it was very necessary every member of the troop should thoroughly understand and attend to. Each man must provide himself with a blanket of some dark colour which would be carried at the saddle top. These would be left at Paeroa so that they would not be encumbered with them at the review. Each trooper, too, would have to provide himself with a leather rope 10 yards long and a nose-bag. Either ropes and nose-bags up to the number of 50 would be provided for the contingent by Lieutenant Johnson, and Mr Peat had undertaken to supply them at a cost not exceeding 4s the set. A member asked if it would be necessary for troopers having nose-bags of their own to purchase fresh ones, and it was generally agreed that for the sake of uniformity, and in so small a matter they should do so. The Chairman said that as there would doubtless be some festivities at Grahamstown, he would recommend members to send on their neck-ties and other requirements, such as changes of linen. For this purpose Trooper Henry would proceed by way of Auckland to the Thames, taking with him a box for the carriage of these things. Each trooper would have to make his parcels sent to the charge of Trooper Henry, any time before 9 o'clock on Wednesday day evening, and would be left in charge of the landlubber between now and then. He recommended them to rub up every bit of metal about their harness or accoutrements, to get their horses into as good condition as possible in the meantime, and accustom them to hard feed, and above all to see to their feet and get their shoes removed and put in order, so that none of them might come to grief upon the road. Sergt Hunt suggested the trimming of the horses' tails to a uniform length. The tail should not be fully below the hock. The Chairman said he fully endorsed the suggestion. It was a most important matter. Nothing—not even the colour or size of the horse—conducted more to an appearance of uniformity than the one length of the horses' tails. These should not be cut off square, but pulled. Sub-Lieut Johnson proposed, "That the hair of the troopers should be cut in military style as well as the horses' tails." This was also agreed to. A telegram from Major Murray to Major Jackson was read, stating that food and attendance would be provided for the men at 4s each per day of 24 hours, and at the same rate for the horses. They would not even be troubled with the care of attending to and grooming their cattle. Before separating, the Chairman recommended them, amongst other things, to forward through Trooper Henry, to send their white gloves for church parade at the Thames.

The libel action Eracken (of the Saturday Advertiser) v. Derrell, the comedian, will be heard at Christchurch on the 7th proximo. Josh Billings' Philosophy.—"Mothers and grandmothers, when you want your friends to use McGowan's 3s Tea, 'just skim milk about on thine ownself.' One pound of his example is worth a cartload of precepts."

A NELSON ALLEGORY BY A THAMES REPRESENTATIVE: HOW THINGS ARE BUNGLED.

To the Moonshine of the Thames ADVERTISER.

March 20th 1880. To thee, O Moonshine, and to all friends in thy township and field of gold, I Hadji, son of Keilbar, send greeting: mayest thou all enjoy twelve moons of uninterrupted felicity, may Allah increase thy gold returns, may thy lands be speedily opened up, so that thy miners and husbandmen may smooke the khalian of prosperity, and dwell happily each beneath the shade of his own vine and his own fig tree. Truly, O my friend, thy people hath passed through the gloom of adversity, but the morn of hope will yet dawn upon thy portion of the extensive mountainous and quartz veined peninsula, so that we may all bask in the warmth of heaven's sunshine. Thy servant, O my friend, hath studied history and watcheth passing events, and in sorrow confesseth that the population of thy Northern clime hath been a neglected people, and that the Southerners have had heretofore the lion's share of the loaves and fishes, in studying the jurisprudence of thy country thy servant, hath observed that when, peradventure, some of the surveying staff or European pioneers have been shot at, wounded, or assassinated, the culprits often escape punishment. It is not so in the realm of the Padisah, for the Book sayeth, "a life for a life," "an eye for an eye," and "a tooth for a tooth." The Divani Turkey, the high court of justice in Turkey, sets upon this law, and the valis relax it not except on substantial grounds, and that thou mayest further understand the practice of our Turkish criminal law, I will, hereafter, relate unto thee the story of the baked turkey.

In many instances, O Moonshine, hath thy friend observed that people of the more southern clime are favoured to the detriment of thy more immediate neighbours, and some of the recent partiality has been exemplified during the late meeting of the New Zealand Life Association—a National Association—conducted with due order, regularity, and fairness, that should characterise each component part of the staff placed in control. Would that the conduct of the senior officers, who composed this staff, merited the same approval as did the conduct of the juniors—mean Captains Muir, Wildman, and Webb, who by their fairness, intelligence, and gentlemanly courtesies, endeared themselves to the competitors. But alas! the good they would have done was in too many cases over-ruled, and notwithstanding the fact that an officer in power stood at the end of the meeting, that everything passed off without a hitch, &c. &c, such was not the case, the real truth being that bad management, confusion, and consequently dissatisfaction, existed to an enormous extent.

The representatives who travelled from the North know, to their cost, the truthfulness of what thy servant sayeth, and let us for a moment reflect on what the local Press of Nelson says—in the 'Colonist' of March 2nd we find the following:—"I was much surprised in attending the church parade on Sunday to observe that the Officers of the staff with the exception of Old Paake appeared in undress uniform. More especially was it noticeable owing to the fact that the uniform should have been 'full dress.' Perhaps the Camp Adjutant has a later edition of the regulations bearing on the point, which will show that his action throughout the whole parade was correct." Again the same paper says when speaking of the targets and butts, "the former are twelve in number, with a butt between each pair of targets, pretending to afford shelter and protection for the markers, but a very slight glance was sufficient to show that the men would be subjected to a very great risk of receiving nasty cuts by splinters of bullets inasmuch as the man engaged in marking at one side of the butt, in stepping partially to the rear of the butt to make a shot, as was apparently compelled to do, was at one time to be struck by a splinter from the target at which his fellow occupant of the butt was marking."

This danger was pointed out on Monday morning (last inst.) and "Captain Webb as Camp Secretary at once gave orders to have additional views of protection erected," but at such a late hour, and owing to the determination of the staff to commence actual business some afternoon, instead of having everything correct and waiting till Tuesday, 2nd inst., the advertised time for shooting to commence, "it was impossible to effectually remedy the error that had been made, and that our fears for the safety of the markers were well grounded being shown by the fact that before the firing had been gone through an hour or one of them was compelled to leave the butts, having received a nasty cut on the arm from a splinter."

The 'Colonist' goes on to say that "this accident pointed out another piece of omission. There was no Staff surgeon on the ground, and no medical gentlemen amongst the visitors; had there been more serious occasion for surgical assistance somebody would have received 'serious' censure if a man had to be sent to town before he could receive professional attention."

Again, the 'Colonist' of March 4 says "the weather throughout the meeting so far has been perfect, but the same cannot be said of the arrangements for firing. Indeed on Tuesday it appeared almost hopeless that we should be able to lay any results of the scoring before our readers, for the firing squads were as much mixed up as "those children" in Pinaturo, and not a creature knew anything about them."

It is also found by reference to the Auckland Star of the 16th, that in reply to the toast of "The Representatives," one of the number "referred to various irregularities at the recent meeting of the Association, and characterised the marking as unfair, and said he had seen ball's eyes made by Northern men scored as ours, and centres made by Southern men marked as bull's-eyes, and he proceeded to state that one of the officers who had conducted the firing prefaced his orders with profane expressions."

And now, O Moonshine, so much for Press quotations, but I, Hadji, having accompanied the Northern representatives can personally vouch for the accuracy of the foregoing, and could also add a long detail of events showing the necessity of guarding against a repetition of matters so grievous.

I will just allude to another instance of judicial tyranny, in which 16, the Thames team scored one point more than the Wellington team, and were fairly entitled to third place in the match, but owing to a miss having been disputed by the Wellington team they got an outer which had been previously discarded marked a second time through a misapprehension on the part of the Staff Officer who went up to examine the target; the Thames team at once saw the mistake and lodged a protest, but the decision had already been given by one member of the staff, and

would not be revoked although in all justice no decision should then have been given, but the matter referred to the Executive Committee of which the Staff only form a part, for final adjudication, but no such thing; against all right and all propriety the third prize must go to Wellington, and the official who was the cause of this wrong in a casual manner afterwards soothes his conscience by saying the Thames team won third place and were correct in their protest, but owing to so much bounce by a member of the team he would not concede it to them. Thy servant in all he has said and quoted does not wish to make any specific charge against any particular individual in order that he may be arraigned, found guilty, and punished; he only wisheth that the Staff may be composed of officers who are themselves practical riflemen, and combine with it business capacity and courteous demeanour, officers in whose discretion competitors could place reliance, and who would not be too haughty and arbitrary to refer disputed points to a free, calm, and fair investigation of a full meeting of the Executive Committee.

Thy servant was present at the annual meeting of the Rifle Association held in Nelson on the 10th instant, and knows the reason why a hearty vote of thanks was not accorded the staff on that occasion, the majority being against it at the tail end of the meeting. A few, however, thought it wise as a matter of policy to place a vote of thanks to the staff, for fear their not doing so might cause the Government aid to be withdrawn. I do not believe in a policy of this sort. The Association is in its second year, and could not be expected to be perfect. Let its imperfections be made public and remedied, and it will eventually succeed, for I do believe that so long as Britons exist, in whatever colony they may be located, they will have miniature Wimbledon of their own, and thus it is that Governments of every hue will pause before they withhold their support from an association of national importance.

During the coming twelve months I trust the Northern members of the Association will agitate for and obtain an adequate representation on the Staff and Executive, as I verily believe if this be not done a disruption will next year take place, and a separate association be formed for each island, an event to be deplored, and which would deprive the contests of their nationality.

Altogether the management was bad, and the decisions re disputed points were worse—too much after the manner of the story of the baked turkey, which I promised to relate:—

"The inhabitants of a great city in the Ottoman Empire having complained to the authorities against the provision dealers who dealt in false weights and cheated in every possible manner, the Grand Vizier and the Sheikh ul Islam decided to investigate the matter personally; having disguised themselves, they strolled through the streets making purchases of articles of food in order to test the truth of the complaints. After several hours thus spent, and finding themselves at the door of a bakery from which a savoury smell proceeded, they entered the shop. It so happened at that moment a fine turkey was taken from the oven. The Grand Vizier asked the price of the turkey. 'I cannot sell it,' replied the owner, 'it belongs to a Jew, a customer who always employs me to bake for him, and he would never forgive me if I sold his turkey, for he is a man of violent temper, and full of revenge.' Upon this the Grand Vizier took aside and privately told him his own rank, and that of his friend, saying at the same time 'in case you get into trouble for having sold us the turkey, inform us in secret and no harm shall reach you.' Satisfied with this assurance, the baker laid the turkey before his two visitors, who satisfied their hunger and departed. A few minutes after the Jew called for his turkey. 'May Allah protect us,' cried the baker, who had been instructed how to reply. 'Your turkey flew away out of the oven.' 'Scoundrel,' cried the Jew; 'how could a dead turkey get wings?' 'Unbeliever,' mildly expostulated the baker; 'could not Allah, who made the turkey restore it to life again and give it wings?' Are you not ashamed to doubt the power of the Almighty. 'Scoundrel,' again cried the Jew. At this moment the handle of the wooden shovel, with which the baker drew bread from the oven, and in his terror pulled more vigorously than usual, struck the Jew on the eye, and destroyed it. The people hearing the cries would have seized and punished the baker had he not escaped. The mob pursued him, and he sought shelter in a house, the door of which was open, and ascending the staircase, entered an apartment occupied by a Turkish lady, who, alarmed at a stranger in male attire, fainted on the spot, and he had barely time to retrace his steps and quit the house through a back door, before the mob entered. No sooner had the lady recovered than the cries of the pursuers terrified her to such an extent that (she being in an interesting condition) premature confinement ensued, with the usual consequences—death of the infant, and loss of health to the mother. The baker, meantime, sought refuge in a mosque, but the mob pursued him thither. Finding escape impossible, he ascended to the top of the minaret, and thinking it preferable to destroy himself than to be torn to pieces, threw himself down, uttering the words, 'Allah, protect me,' and at that moment the priest was at court below, on whom the baker fell and killed him. The pursuit of the baker then ceased, and he delivered himself up to justice, and was brought before the Cadi. In this great city the law is administered with scrupulous justice, for it is not the law of the Prophet, 'An eye for an eye,' &c. &c. The Grand Vizier, informed of the facts, ordered the Cadi to see that justice was done. The Jew, the husband of the lady, and the brother of the priest, demanded justice, and why should they not have it? The Jew demanded compensation for his loss of an eye. 'According to the law,' said the Cadi, 'you must knock out one of the baker's eyes, but the Book says, 'If an unbeliever destroys the eye of one of the faithful, he shall lose both his eyes—(therefore, after you have taken the baker's eye, you will lose your remaining eye.' Then, I withdraw my claim, said the Jew. 'Allah be praised!' said the Cadi; 'the law is sacred, you cannot withdraw your claim; go home, come back to-morrow; justice must take its course.' The Jew went home, collected a large sum of money, and returning, placed it under the diran of Cadi, who, on the morrow, ordered the Jew to appear. 'There is but one God,' said he, 'and Mohammed is his Prophet. A way has been found to deliver you from this great trouble. Go in peace.' The husband of the lady now claimed damages for expenses to cure his wife. 'You shall have justice,' said the Cadi, the baker must take your wife to his house, maintain her, and restore her to you in due time in good health, and with another baby to supply the place of the one you have lost. 'I withdraw my

claim,' cried the man. 'That you cannot do,' replied the Cadi, 'but we will consult the Book. Return to-morrow.' Before the morrow the Cadi, having discovered a hog of money under the cushions of his divan, informed the husband that, the Prophet be praised, a way had been found to permit him to withdraw his claim. The priest's brother now claimed damages and it was adjudged that he should now ascend the minaret, throw himself down upon the baker, and kill him. In this case also the plaintiff petitioned to withdraw his claim, but his request was refused in deference to the majesty of the law. Next evening, however, he paid a visit to the Cadi, and before leaving placed a purse of 5000 piasters behind the door upon which he sat. The Book was again consulted, and, the Prophet be praised, a way was found to withdraw the claim. Thus by the mercy of God and the will of the prophets, the baker was delivered from his troubles, and thus, O Moonshine, justice is sometimes vindicated in the realm of time Imperial mistress, where judges and all the powers that are incorruptible, when the staff is infallible, and where the suitors and competitors are always satisfied and everything passeth off without a hitch. And now, sitting by the table and smoking the pipe of thoughtfulness, thy servant thus reflecteth:—"The year that's gone, a doleful year, of sorrows was a weighty one; may we see neither from nor tear in eighteen hundred and eighty-one."—Thine, HAMI DADA.

MINING MATTERS.

MOANATAIRI.—There appears to be an improved change in the quality of the reef in the creek level Point Russell section, as yesterday the dirt coming from that part of the mine was shaping better than it has been doing of late. There is no change in any of the other workings. The manager's weekly report, dated March 30th, is as follows:—"Point Russell section: In driving creek level east we have had a hard well-defined ledge, 2 feet thick, containing a mixture of minerals with a little copper, but there is no improvement in quality of stuff. The Moanatairi creek is diverted and flumed for a length of four chains to make room for a mullock tip. This work will be completed in a day or two. Tunnel level: There is no change in driving east on big reef, and little progress is being made in extension of Nonpariel cross-cut. The rock is now more jointy, and I am daily expecting to go through this bar. There is 120 feet more to drive in Morning Star section.—80-foot level: Nothing has yet been met with in driving on No. 1 reef west of No. slide. Three stopes are being worked on No. 3 reef above this level. The stuff here shows colours of gold, and is payable. Intermediate level: The drive east on hanging wall branch has been looking well during the past week, and 80 pounds specimens were obtained. This leader, though much split up, yields nice pockets of golden stone. The foot-wall branch in drive east on tunnel level is much split up and looks poor. Our stopes are still looking very well, and the general crushing is showing up for a good payable return. Pumping Association: Pumping was resumed on the 5th instant, since which 60 feet of water has been forked, including stoppages for changing buckets and repairing the set off from one of the 12-inch pumps. Everything is now working very well.—ROBERT COXER.

NEW WAHU.—The final retorting from the specimens and picked stone crushed at the Moanatairi battery last week took place yesterday, when an additional 6000 lbs of gold were obtained. This makes the total yield from the parcel crushed 84000 lbs. The gold will not be melted until the end of the month, before which time there will probably be another crushing sent to the battery. At the mine good progress is being made in putting down the winze. A shot put into the hanging wall yesterday, near the eastern end, broke down a portion of the reef from which between 40 and 50 pounds of specimens were obtained—revealing a nice band of gold coming into the lode from the Alburnia end. The quartz is heavily charged with good gold-bearing minerals, and the general dirt when crushed is likely to give a handsome return. The Herald yesterday contains the following relative to this mine:—The retorting of 10000 lbs of specimens and 6000 picked stuff was completed this afternoon, and yielded 83000 retorted gold, with 20 or 30000 more to come. The amalgam placed on the fire was 160000 lbs, which gave the above amount of gold, showing that the precious metal is coarse and strong. This yield is the result of eight days' sinking in the winze, and had the general dirt now in the hoppers been crushed along with it, the yield would have been, at the very least, 100000 lbs. There are only 13 feet in depth of reef broken out, and such a yield from so small a space, experts state, is unprecedented in any run of gold discovered on the Alburnia line of reef. This winze will open out a block of ground 250 feet in length, by 80 feet in depth, and the yield speaks well for the prospects of the ground to be developed by this winze, as the run of gold is, apparently, dipping westward. The bottom of the winze to-day looks exceedingly well, gold showing freely, and a strong leader has come in from the hanging wall side, about 6 inches thick, full of minerals, and showing good dabs of gold. This new leader will junction with the main reef, 8 to 10 feet below the present bottom of the winze. In stripping the reef to-day, there are indications that the break down on Monday, mid-day, will be a satisfactory one. The Alburnia has commenced an underhand stope in the bottom of their 70 feet level, to take out the gold discovered by the What in sinking their winze. The Wahu winze is boxed up, and a man left in charge over Sunday.

KURAUKI TRIBUTES.—James and party crushed 23 tons of general dirt at the company's battery, for the good payable yield of 49000 9dwt melted gold. Schofield and party obtained 4000 9dwt from 5 tons. QUEEN OF BEAUTY BATTERY.—The following parties are at present putting through crushings at this battery:—Teasdale and party, Imperial Crown, 14 loads; Gilmore and party, Red Queen, 6 loads; Clarkson and party, Manukau, 6 loads. WAITAKAURI.—Since the return of Mr Corbett, the mine manager, from Sydney, the company's battery has been started crushing for the various tributes in the districts. Hollis and party, tributaries of the Waitakauri mine, are putting through a parcel of about 40 tons of good stone, which is anticipated will give a return of something like 2000 per cent. The other tribute parties in the same mine have also got considerable parcels of quartz on hand ready for putting through.

WELCOME EXTENDED.—Ralph and party, who have the Young New Zealand section of the mine on tribute, have just

finished crushing a parcel of 10 tons of general stuff for the payable return of 18000 16dwt of melted gold. Icitman and party, who have the Welcome section of the mine on tribute, have about 50 tons of general stuff on hand, which they will be crushing shortly. This parcel promises to be very good stone, and a large return is expected. Heitman's party have been fortunate lately, and have had several good crushings.

SPECIAL TELEGRAMS

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT).

AUCKLAND, Monday. The Hikuurangi natives attending the Otakei Parliament do not believe there will be war in Waikato unless the Constabulary attack Parikaha. They interpret Te Whiti's reference to a measure of ground to mean Parikaha and its environs. Tawhiao is said to have no sympathy whatever with Te Whiti. He does not recognise him, and is rather jealous of his influence. He thinks if he expressed approval of Te Whiti's action it would be interpreted by turbulent leaders into a promise of support, and involve war. Tawhiao desires peace.

A race for £50 a side, between J. B. Friar, of Dunedin, and J. R. Hutton, champion Auckland runner, is to come off on Easter Monday.

Frank Foxton, teller of the Bank of New South Wales, has been committed for trial.

The annual examination of school teachers, under the Board of Education, was commenced this morning. There were 109 candidates for Class E, 33 for Class D, 46 for junior pupil teachers' examination, and 58 for senior.

THE POSITION OF TE WHITI.

A CORRESPONDENT of the Herald supplies the following:—Very great uncertainty prevails in well-informed circles as to what will be the outcome of the native crisis, owing to the varying interpretations placed upon Te Whiti's latest deliverances. Considerable stress has been laid on the report that Te Whiti had resigned his authority in favour of Tohu, which is looked upon as indicative of war, especially taken in connection with Te Whiti's declaration that the two roads across the Waikato Plains would never meet. The best Maori authorities are at variance, however, as to the interpretation. Mr Carrington and Mr Parris, both entitled to very great weight, believe that Te Whiti only meant that it would be opposed by his supernatural influence. On the other hand, the interpreter to the Armed Constabulary (Mr Thompson) takes a more gloomy view, and believes that physical resistance is intended. It seems hardly credible, however, that the Maoris would attempt the latter course, when the Government occupy such an irresistibly strong military position as they do at the present time. Assuming that the declaration referred to is an absolute threat of physical resistance, it is suggested that it is probably merely a piece of bluff, resorted to at the last moment by a chief claiming supernatural power, who finds himself 'cornered' as it were, and rendered desperate by the thought that the weakness of his pretensions and his utter powerlessness must soon be exposed. Nothing, of course, can be said definitely either way or the other while everything is so uncertain, but the Government appears to have every confidence that the affair will be peaceably settled. In any case, the result will be probably known in a few days. The Armed Constabulary, at the present rate of working, will cross over the Waiwaruanui, a small stream bounding the country, which Te Whiti regards as being peculiarly under his mana, on or about Friday next. When they proceed to carry the road across that boundary we shall probably know what the intentions of Te Whiti and those associated with him really are. The opinion of those best competent to judge is that the prophet will, at the most, send a few women to interrupt the work, but that no armed resistance will be offered. In all probability, however, he will confine himself to another oracular declaration that everything is working out exactly as he prophesied it would.

POLICE COURT.—MONDAY

Before HARRY KEMMICK, Esq., R.M. LALCENY.—Pene Te Maipai, a young native, was charged with having stolen a vest from a house at Parawai, the property of James Hughes, of the value of £1.—He pleaded not guilty. Prosecutor deposed that he was in the employ of a Chinaman at Parawai. On Saturday evening he saw the accused. He was washing in the garden when he saw the prisoner come up to the house, open the door, and walk in. Witness ran up and dragged the Maori outside. A bus-driver gave information to the police, and accused was conveyed to the lock-up by Constable Stapleton. He was present when the Maori was searched. A vest belonging to witness was found on him. He missed it on the 17th inst. When he last saw it it was hanging behind the door in witness's room. He never authorised the native to take it. The vest was worth £1.—Constable Stapleton gave evidence as to the arrest. When asked where he had got the article, prisoner said the Chinaman had sold it to him for £1.—James Kay, who was sworn by blowing out a match, deposed that he lived at Parawai, and was a gardener. Hughes was his mate. On St. Patrick's day his mate went to Ohinemuri; and witness to the Parawai races. He locked the front door and bolted the back. He returned at half-past 4. The house was then all right. At 7 o'clock he went into town, and on returning at 11 o'clock the back door was open. He missed 3 10d neck morning. He never sold the waistcoat. He did not see prisoner on the day of the races, and ask him 25s for the vest. On one occasion he missed half-a-pound of tobacco, on another some matches, pipe-mellons, and onions, and on another some water-mellons, and some tobacco.—Prisoner made a statement to the effect that the Chinaman offered him the vest for £1 5s. He demurred to the price, and ultimately the Chinaman gave him it for a pound. On Saturday he went to buy some candles from Hughes, as he was his partner in the deuce, and whilst looking for Hughes he went into the house. Hughes came in after him, and struck him several blows on the face.—His Worship said he did not believe prisoner's statement. He would hold him guilty, and sentence him to six month imprisonment with hard labour.

CORRESPONDENCE.

STOPPAGE OF RAILWAY WORKS: THE RIGHT HORSE SADDLED.

To the Editor of the THAMES ADVERTISER. Sir,—Your leading article of yesterday is deserving of great praise, and every elector of the Thames and Ohinemuri should carefully consider it, and clip out and keep that portion which refers to our late Mayor and the railway works, so that they may use it against him should he at any future time seek political or local honours for us. The question has been repeatedly asked, who was the cause of the dereliction from the original plan of the railway engineers re-reclamation works, but no one seemed inclined to father it, not even those gentlemen your leader refers to. Now, Sir, I am inclined to think that any man holding the office of Mayor, and using the influence which that position gives him, for good or evil, at the hands of the burgesses, on a very questionable object, without first having the consent of his Council, would be a hot member to represent us in higher quarters.—I am, &c., Thames, March 22. NAHANT.

LIBERAL ASSOCIATION v. "BANG."

(To the Editor of the THAMES ADVERTISER.) Sir,—We may gather from the remarks of "Bang" that he is incapable of appreciating, or even understanding, the principles which governed the Thames Liberal Association in the action it has taken relative to the report of the Committee of the House of Representatives on the Christchurch election. Like Esau of old he is one of those who are willing to sell his birthright for the meanness of a potato. Form a foothold leading to his dwelling, and it is a matter of indifference to him whether the constitutional rights of the people of this colony are invaded and wrested from them. Such writers teach subservience to "the powers that be." They belong to the class that cling to the coat-tails of people in office, and are, unconsciously perhaps, enemies of freedom. That "Bang" is of this order his own words compel me to believe. He says:—"In view of our own local wants, the Thames Liberal Association may, with becoming prudence, leave such a matter with those immediately interested. We have enemies and enough to spare without seeking to comport (P) a fresh election for Christchurch, for whatever the result it would increase the number of our opponents and do injury to the district." Unable to comprehend that members of the Association may consider the preservation of the constitution of a local culture, he effects, in a few obscure sentences, to define the motives which induced them to consider the question, and tells us that "they care not a rap for the disfranchised (!) in Christchurch precedents to support a case against the legality of Mr Richardson's seat in the House. That, and its continuation after consequences, are the motives," &c. "That," I presume, refers to the case he supposes, but how in the name of common sense the "contingent after consequences" could have anything to do with the motives I cannot understand, even supposing he were right as to the "case." It fortunately happens that the Liberal Association numbers among its members many not likely to become converts to the pernicious teachings of "Bang," who are determined to resist any encroachment, however slight, upon the constitutional privileges of the people. They believe that the electors of Christchurch were disfranchised illegally and unconstitutionally, that the wrong done should be remedied in the next session of Parliament, and that the record of the proceedings of the Committee should be erased from the journals of the House. Even had the people of Christchurch taken no action in the matter, it would have been the duty of the Association, and of all who desire to preserve our constitutional rights, to have done so; but to their honour be it recorded, they resent the injustice done them, and are determined to obtain justice. They may love the loaves and fishes, they may "have out their eyes teeth," and secured "the lion's share of loans and revenue," but they belong not to the family of Esau. To the Thames Liberal Association I would say: "becoming prudence" on your part means slavish submission.