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neant well (hear). But per-

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Franklin (House of Assem.

Lascelles, Mr. Wallace, Mr.

Burnaby, Mr. Alston, Mr.

col, Mr. McKean, Mr. J. J.

of Assembly), Mr. Beeton,

fr. J. Hill, Mr. C. McNab.

he Hon. C. N. Fitzwilliam,

acFie, Sir Minto Farquhar,

oldsworth, Esq. (Director Jorth America), Robert C.

the 6th December have

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The Kingston journals

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Another bill provides zed drilling, and ad-

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Legislative Chamber,

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PORTLAND-We fear that

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AMAICA.

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GOVERNOR KENNEDY AND THE SSEMBLY.

It is not a very pleasant thing to be almost perpetually reading homilies to the Executive of Vancouver Island. We would much rather be its eulogiser than its censor: but public interests demand that the Governor and his acts should be subjected to the most careful scrutiny, and that His Excellency should be told in unmistakable language when he departs from the well-defined region of a governor's power and a governor's duty. It is justice not only to the public but to the Governor himself; for more than one-half the blunders or misdeeds of rulers are due to the absence of honest censorship or straightforward advice. Insidious counsel and a servile deference to the opinions of those in power have oftentimes led to a ruler's destruction. The misfortune is that many men when elevated to position lose their balance, and fall into the dangerous vanity of fancying they have nothing to learn-of believing that they know everything, and that their actions are above human criticism. We hope Governor Kennedy will not prove a ruler of this description, but will weigh advice well, no matter from what quarter it may emanate.

by the Lower House last session were read by the Speaker in the Assembly. These despatches consisted of letters from the Colonial Office in London to the Postmaster General's department, and replies to communications from Governor Kennedy. Strange to say, although we have Mr. Cardwell's reply to His Excellency, and letters from the Postmaster General's department to Mr. Cardwell. the source of all the correspondence—the despatch of the Governor-is wanting. Now, to keep so important a document as this out of the Speaker's hands is a breach of faith, if not indeed of courtesy, with the House of Assembly, and the more so as we perceive certain allusions made, in the letter from the Postmaster General's department, reflecting on the character of the Lower House: After approving of the bill which was thrown out by the Assembly, the Postmaster General says: "As it [the bill] was rejected, and as the Governor states he has no reason to expect that the Assembly will take steps to remedy the evil, His Lordship does not see that he can offer any suggestions which will be of service to the Governor in his emergency." Now we would ask His Excellency calmly on what ground did he make so sweeping an assertion as to say he made arrangements to proceed to the Sandhad no reason to expect the House to take wich Islands. Due notice of her appearance steps to remedy the evils of our present here will be given through our columns. The postal system. All he could have said truly Dramatic Chronicle, in commenting on one of was that he had forwarded a cumbrous bill to the House and it was summarily rejected. fore the close of the season of opera, thus But did that imply the fact that the As- speaks of her in flattering though not very sembly would take no steps to remedy the elegant language :- "Madame Anna Bishop, existing evils? Surely no man of ordinary reasoning powers, and not carried away by the Governor's position, is as much to be Madame Anna Bishop may take a trip to condemned as the feelings which prompted Victoria, V.I.; if so, we shall again see and fact that after His Excellency has declared his opinion in such strong terms against the grown-up young lady who has quite come out Assembly taking any steps to remedy the postal evils, he is at this present moment

attention of the Assembly. only been indulged in for the first time we of the metropolis. After his fight with the might make some allowance: but in a des- Benicia Boy, an annuity was purchased for patch forwarded some months previously to him by some gentlemen who admired his Mr. Cardwell in connection with the Crown pluck, and he obtained besides the whole or lands, His Excellency takes the opportunity part proprietorship of Howe & Cushing's of informing the Secretary for the Colonies American circus. This speculation is said that he had no official in the Assembly to not to have been a fortunate one, and it berepresent the real interests of the country, sides involved a roving life, and led Tom thereby implying that the House collectively undermined his constitution. He gave it up or individually did not represent the people and came to London, but his health was gone or promote the welfare of the inhabitants, beyond restoration and he sank into the Assembly, but were thrown out by his Ex- Dead March in Saul, and foremost among cellency's official Council, the lamentations of the mourning equipages was a mail phaeton, the sole occupant of which, as chief mourner, the House must be taken rather ironically. was a very large brown dog, having black crape twined about his collar, and forming, I is to receive \$30,000 in gold if he blows Independent, however, of the question am told, the most respectable looking figure whether these declarations of His Excellency in the cortege. Surrounding and following could be borne out by facts, there is, in their the calvacade was a dense mass of "roughs, general tenor, a degree of discourtesy towards sembles to witness an execution or the outer the House which we are only astonished has circles of spectators at a prize fight. There not ere this met with a signal rebuke from was a strong force of police at the gates of the Colonial Office. We here only speak of the scraps of despatches which have accidentally as it were come to light—what may dentally as it were come to light—what may in, and profaned the scene of the grave by be the nature of the official communications riotous conduct and foul language. Such a which are so studiously kept out of the disgraceful scene was probably never enacted House of Assembly it would be difficult to in a cemetery before. - Cor. Bulletin. say, but the presumption is that they are much worse than those which are allowed to meet the public eyes.

having a postal measure hurried through the

Council in order to bring it again under the

prudent, to put the mildest construction upon it, in all this. No Governor can afford to disparage either activities and the state occurred near that city by which 800 out of 2000 head of cattle which were being driven to town, and had

Columnia portion of Governor Kennedy's political difficulties bear testimony to this fact. If His Excellency wishes to avoid a bed of thorns, he will adopt a very different policy. He must know that he can never by such a course command either the respect or assistance of the Assembly, and he must know by the answer of the Postmaster General that without that assistance, even on postal reform, he is powerless. The fact is Governor Kennedy appears to have been led into some visionary idea of governing the country without the aid of an Assembly or representative body at all, and his application to Mr. Cardwell on postal affairs looks as if he anticipated some Imperial interference, that would enable him to carry out a scheme in the Government of the country independent of the Lower House. To those who are acquainted with constitutional Government it may seem incredible that any Governor would attempt so quixotic and preposterous an undertaking; but if ramor be correct, His Excellency not only fancied the Colonial office had some power to usurp the raised, and in what manner it shall be exfunctions of the Assembly here, but on very recent occasions held to the idea that the constitution could be suspended at any time by his commission or by Orders in Council, and that our representative institutions would have to give way to a Governor and official advisers. If such an extraordinary vision ever fitted before His Excellency's mind we would advise him to banish it for ever. We would advise him to look for no author-On Friday last certain despatches in relaity on financial matters in this colony beyond tion to the postal bill which was thrown out the Assembly, and to show that confidence in the House and in its actions that is demanded of an official in his position. It really is of no consequence to the House or to the people of Vancouver Island who is Governor, so long as the views of the inhabitants are carried out; a good Governor is at the best but a machine for administering the Government according to popular opinion; a bad or unwise Governor is a man who wants to carry on things according to his whim or caprice, and whose idea is to make the interest of the country subordinate to his policy. It rests with Governor Kennedy to say to which class he is determined to belong; whether he is going to take his £3000 salary quietly, and leave the people to work out what is constitutionally and equitably their own peculiar province of saying how much money shall be raised and in what manner it shall be spent; or whether he will allow himself to be carried away with the idea that he knows better than the people themselves their capacity and inclination.

WEEKLY

MADAME ANNA BISHEP (Schultz) writes to inform us that she has postponed her contemplated professional visit to this city for about six weeks, in consequence of her having the last appearances of Madame Bishop bepersonal antipathy, could put such a con- that this talented artiste does not seriously struction on the circumstance? The impru- intend to bid a final adieu to California withdence of the declaration, when we think of out letting the lovers of music once more it. What makes the statement in the hear her here. California cries to Madame despatch even more unwarrantable is the Anna Bishop, who knew her when she was nothing but a dirty, untidy little girl making mud-pies-now she returns and finds her a - Come when you will, I've a welcome for thee.'"

FUNERAL OF TOM SAYERS .- Tom Sayers, the antagonist of Heenan, died last week, and was buried three days ago in the ceme-If the above style of official composition had tery at Highgate, a pleasant northern suburb Considering that most of the measures which grave at the early age of 39. His funeral the public interest demanded passed the ed. A brass band led the way, playing the

STRANGE CATASTROPHE—The Buenos Ayres Standard, of Nov. 2d. mentions an extraor-Now there is something exceedingly im- dinary coincidence that occurred near that

MONEY GRANTS.

To THE EDITOR OF THE BRITISH COLONIST. Sir,-The recent debate in the House of Assembly on the Estimates, I confess, has been to me more a matter of surprise than of interest. One may always expect to find in any legislative body a class of men yeleped ob-structives, who may be considered useful, just as the brake is necessary to check the engine on a down grade, except with this difference—the brake is only applied when new cessary—but the obstructive is perpetually clogging the wheels of progress. It certainly becomes a matter of painful surprise to see a man laying such high claims to states manship as the hon. Speaker of the House advocating such obsolete ideas as those so persistently and tenaciously contended for by him during the discussion of the initiation of money grants. Does not the hon. Speaker know that this question has been thoroughly discussed and absolutely cettled in every other British North American Colony? All the dispatches from the Colonial office in regard to this matter confirm in the most unequivocal language the right of the Legislature of each colony to control their own finances, and order what amount of revenue shall be pended, until they, by express enactment, surrender that right to the Executive, nor has that right in a single instance been given up until after Responsible Government had been acceded. Until then neither Canada, Nova Scotia nor New Brunswick confided to the Executive the duty of initiating the supplies.

How can any sensible man fail to see the desirableness of such a rule? or what can appear more unreasonable than to place in the hands of an irresponsible Governor, surrounded by a set of irresponsible officials and advisers of his own creating, the power to exact an unlimited revenue, and to expend that revenue in such manner as may suit the pleasure of himself and his coadintors, allowing the people's representatives the simple right to object to the measures of the Government, without the power to enforce that

But let the Executive Government become responsible to the people, by placing ministers in the House, and then the danger ceases, the interests of the Government and that of the people become identified. Statesmen are then influenced and trained to seek the country's best interest. This view of the case, Mr. Editor, seems to me so clear that I cannot refrain from repeating the expression of my surprise that any man having the slightest claim to the qualification of a statesman should attempt to controvert it, and more particularly as the principle has become so indisputably settled in the Legislative experience of the British provinces, ignorance of which alone should disquality any person from aspiring to legislative hon-

COMMON SENSE.

EUROPEAN.

Indications increase that the Russell Ministry intend to introduce a reform bill in Parliament.

The weekly returns of the cattle disease in England shows continued increase. An official letter from the Consul-General at Odessa, states that the cattle plague exists permanently in the Steppes of Kherson and is cured by sodorifics. The Royal Agricultural Society have resolved that its usual annual meeting shall not take place until next year, on account of the

In the Swedish House of Nobles the Government bill for reform in the Constitution was adopted by 361 against The Chamber of the Clergy unanimously passed the bill, which has thus gone through all the four Chambers. There was great rejoicing throughout the country over the event, and a great public festivity and illumination at Stockholm was preparing in honor of it.

It is said that Austria and Mexico are negotiating for the more speedy enrollment of the 10,000 Austrians which were to be furnished Mexico during five years,

Mr. Cardwell, the Colonial Secretary, had promised the anti-Slavery Society that a searching inquiry should be made into the late proceedings in Jamaica.

THE CHILEAN WAR.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 6 .- It is said that there is an American enterprise on foot for the destruction of the Spanish blockading fleets off the Chile ports by torpedoes. The order for the construction of torpedoes was given to a prominent manufacturer in New York. A steamer sold by the Government at public auction, and subsequently purchased by the Chilean agents has been fitted out for the purpose. She will have a tender. The torpedoes were delivered aboard, and regular clearances for Chilean ports obtained, carrying the Chilean flag, and carrying crews selected for the purpose. The vessel sailed several weeks since, and in a short time the news of her success or failure up the Admirals ship, and proportionately for the destruction of the others.

NEW ZEALAND.

By Australian dates of Oct. 28th, the S. F. Bulletin learns that the war in New Zealand still continues, and is being vigorously prosecuted by the colonists. The volunteers have commenced operations simultaneously on three points of the East coast, at all of which they defeated the natives, who have adopted the Fabian policy and are retreating in and before their energetic assailants, which will cause much delay in prosecuting the campaign. A strong attack was made on the tribe who murdered the Rev. Mr. Volkner, and the Sydney Herald says disparage, either publicly or privately, the halted during a fearful storm on the banks more non-combattants fell victime to the representatives of the people, and no small lite. desirable.

(RECEIVED PER LAST ENGLISH MAIL.) PROPOSED TELEGRAPH LINE TO AMER-

COPENHAGEN, November 17th. The King granted to-day to Messrs. Jas: Wyld, Capmann & Co., a concession for laysing a telegraph line between England, Nor-

way, and North America by way of Green-POLAND.

VICE.

WARSAW, November 18th. An Imperial Ukase has been sent to the Governor of Warsaw for promulgation by which the term of military service in Poland is reduced to 10 years, six of which are to be served in the line and four years in the

GERMANY.

VIENNA, November 17th. The Russian assent to the alterations proposed by Austria in the wording of the Austro-Russian declaration to be delivered at to-morrow's sitting of the Federal Diet, arrived here to day. This declaration opcoses the proposition of Saxony, Bavaria and incorporated with the Germanic Confederation, and that the costs of the Danish war should be borne by all the German States. Instructions in conformity with the agree-

ment thus arrived at by Austria and Prussia were immediately despatched to their representatives at the Federal Diet. GERMANY AND ITALY, BERLIN, November 17th.

It is stated on good authority that Saxony and Bavaria will shortly recognise the Italian Kingdom.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

BILLS OF SALE ACT. The bill to amend the Bills of Sales Act of 1861 was read a second time, and motion for its committal agreed to. JURISDICTION OF INFERIOR COURTS.

The Attorney General introduced a bill to increase the jurisdiction of the Inferior Courts of Civil Justice in Vancouver Island and explained the purport of the bill, which was to enable inferior courts to be held in other districts than Victoria, and to increase the jurisdiction from \$250 to \$500.

The Hon. Colonial Secretary drew atention to a bill to facilitate the recovery of small debts sent up from the House below, and upon the suggestion of the Hon. Donald Fraser the second reading of the bill was agreed to and it was ordered to come up in Committee with the other bill.

POSTAL SERVICE BILL. This bill came up for second reading which after some discussion was agreed to and the bill ordered to be committed.

HOMESTEAD BILL.

The Attorney General moved the second reading of the bill sent up by the Assembly and stated that he purposed introducing some amendments to the bill which would not affect the principle, as he would be sorry to alter it materially. He thought that when a man gave reasonable public notice that he reserved certain property from all liability his creditors could have no reasonable cause of complaint. In England the law was virtually in existence so far as married men were concerned who could either by antenuptial or post-nuptial contracts settle property upon their wives, and the courts would always protect them as much as possible. With single men the case was different. Hon. Mr. Fraser-Does the bill apply only to married men?

Hon. Attorney General-Oh no! to all. Hon. Mr. Fraser explained the working of the bill first passed in California, which was framed with the object of providing for families, but opened the way to all kinds of fraud. He approved of the principle of the bill so far as it protected heads of families, and would be prepared in committee with some amendments.

The Hon. Mr. Watson was not experienced in the working of the system, but thought that as the Euglish Bankruptcy Law exempted £20 worth of property from liability, they might go a little farther and exempt \$400 or \$500, which was sufficient for the immediate wants of a bankrupt's family, and the rest should be left in the hands of the creditors; but reserving any sum like \$5000 from liability he thought would be injurious

The Hon. Mr. Fraser replied to the last speaker, particularly on the point of relief, which by the bill was not intended to be temporary but permanent. He would not commit himself at present to the sum of \$5000 or any other sum.

The Chairman—It is \$2500, not \$5000. Hon, Mr. Fraser-However, we must not agree to a sum that will impair credit or

The bill was read the second time and committed.

BILLS SENT UP. On motion of the Hon. Attorney General, the following bills received from the House below passed the first reading:
Barristers and Attorney's Bill; To Amend

the Law of Partnership; Descent of Real Property; To Amend the Franchise Act, 1859; Comox and Cowichan Representation. RECOVERY OF SMALL DEBTS. The Council went into committee on this

bill, the Hon. Mr. Finlayson in the chair. The Hon. Attorney General, in answer to Hon. Donald Fraser, said that he had framed the bill for the purpose of applying a County Court system to the colony.

The Council was occupied for some time in

discussing and passing the clauses, when it rose and reported progress.

SHIPPING ON THE BERTH-The barks Mustang, Captain Tobey, and W. A. Banks, Captain White, and the brig Sheet Anchor, Captain Pike, were on the berth at San Francisco for this port. At Liverpool, the Mackay expected would die. was loading for this port; at London, the

REUTER'S LATEST TELEGRAMS SUBSCRIPTION LIST FOR THE BENEFIT OF MRS. MAURICE CAREY AND PAMILY.

[COLLECTED BY MESSRS, STOREY AND CLEAL.]

Friend, 50c; Friend, 50c; Friend, 50c; Cash, \$1; J H Turner, 500; C Reid, 100; Cash, \$1; J H Turner, 500; C Reid, 100; Charity, 100; Cash, 100; Cash, 50; A Neely, 100; Friend, 100; Cash, 100; A Lebraco, 250; San Franciaco, Baths, 100; A Johnson, 25c; San Francisco Baths, 1 00 Mr Brown; 1 00; Mr Redfern 1 00; Shoe-maker, 50c; Friend, 50c; Friend, 50c; Mr Turner, 50c; Cash, 50c; Mr Steel, 2 50; Cash, 50c; Mr Litture, 50c; Cash, 50c; Mr Steel, 2 50; REDUCTION OF THE TERM OF MILITARY SER-Cash, 50c; Mr Litture, 50c; Dr Zelner, \$1; Samuel Nesbitt, 2 50; Mr Crossen, 1 00 Miss Blanche, 2 00; Cash, 1 00; Pierce & Seymour, \$1 (0; Henry Steel, \$1 00; S Wilcox, 1 00; Miss S Wright, 1 50; David B Reid, 1 00; D, 50c; A F Keyser, 2 50; Edward McCaffrey, 2 50; E Duckinson, 50c; Cash, 25c; JJ Cochrane, 1 00; Mr Theobold, 1 00; S J Spencer, 1 00; W J Perozeso, 1 00; John G Cassey, 1 00; W M Sears zo, 1 00; John G Cassey, 1 00; W M Searby, 1 00; Sympathiser, 2 50; Cash, 50c; Adamson & Hurd, 2 00; Mr Fawcett, 50c; Mr Kaufman, 50c; Cash, 50c; Cash, 50c; Ben Lichenstein, 50c; Sam Millitish, 1 00; J W, 1 00; Friend, 50c; Professor Deffis, 1 00; Mr Mason, 50c; Hibben & Carswell, 5 00; M Moore, 5 00: Barkeeper, 2 50; B Hesse Darmstadt that Schleswig should be Brodrick, 5 00; Ben Griffin, 2 50; H Rushton, 1 00; A J Langley, 2 50: J L Junger-man, 2 50; Cash, 1 00; Cash, 1 00; Frankell, 50c; Mr Brooks, 1 00; Guy Huston, \$1; M Tait, 1 00; N Jacob, 2 50; Mr Sellick, 25c; Cash, 50c; Mr Campbell, 1 00; Hickin & Cline, 1 00; Cash, 50c; T P Freeman, 1 00; Cash, 50c; Miles Dillon, 1 00; Cash, 1 00; Cash, 50c; P McTernan, 2 00; C Adorne, 50c; Cash, 25c; Cash, 50c; Mrs Coppermann, 1 00; Cash, 50c; Cash, 50c; Cash, 50c; Astrico & Co, 2 00; M Sand-Council met at 2:15 p.m. Present—The Hon. Colonial Secretary (in the chair) and the Hons. Attorney General, Treasurer, Surveyor General, R. Finlayson, Donald Fraser and H. Rhodes. over, 1 00; Mr Duck, 1 00; Cash, 50c; Cash, 20c; Cash, 50c; Vigelius, 25c; A H Guild, 50c; E Watson, 1 00; F & Co, 1 00: J Heywood, 1 00; Mr Keiser, 1 00; N C Bailey, 1 00; W Denny, 1 00; Cash, 25c; F W Gibbs, 1 00; A & W W Cash, 1 00; Cash, 1 00; Cash, 1 00; Mr. Goldstone, 1 00; Cash, 1 00; Cash Cash, 1 00; Mr Lenevue, 1 00; Mr Stewart, 1 00; Cash, 50c; Mr Edgar, 1 00; Mr Lovett, 1 00; Mr Hall Richard, 1 00; Cash, Lovett, 1 00; Mr Hall Elchard, 1 00; Cash, 50c; Cash, 50c; Cash, 1 00; Cash, 1 00; Cash, 50c; Cash, 50c; Cash, 1 00; Mr Work, 1 00; S & W, 5 00; W G, 1 00; Cash, 1 00; P McQuade, 2 50; Cash, 1 00; Jas Strahan, 2 50; Cash, 1 00; LB Davice, 2 60; Mr Hibbard, 1 50; M J P Davies, 2 00; Mr Hibbard, 1 50; M H Myers, 1 00; Thos Phyperbs, 1 00; John Harris, 50c; Lowe Bros, 2 50; A Juryman, 2 50; A Cassamayou, 5 00; Cash, 1 00; Mr Lyon, 2 50; Spence & Tracy, 2 50; Cash 50c; Thos Barry, 50c; Cash, 1 00; Taylor, 50c; Cash, 2 50; Jas Larman, 1 00; B P Dillon, 2 50; Cash, 1 00; Jesse Cowper (bill) 2 50; Cash, 1 00; Cash, 2 00; Cash, 50; Mr Vereydhen, 1 00; Cash, 1 00; Cash 50c; Cash, 50c; A Gilmore, 1 00; J J Brown, 1 00; Mr McWhinnie, 1 00; J Mc-Whinnie, 1 00; George Howet, 1 00; J H Brown, 50c; Mr Braverman, 1 00; Mr Harchner, 1 00; Cash, 1 00; Cash, 50c; Miller, 1 00; Buler, 50c; Cash, 1 50c; Mr Laumeister 1 50; Mr Maynard 50 c; Mr McTeague 50c; Mr Hammond 1 00; J Murray 1 00; Friend 50c; Thos Williams 1 00; Mrs Layton 1 50; Mrs Wallace 2 50: Paris Carter 1 00, LJ Shapard 1 00; Cash 00 ; J T Pidwell 1 00 : Y Gerritsen 1 00 Mrs Bacon 1 50; D Fraser 5 00; Friend 1 00; Mr Kinsman 1 00; Friend 5 00; Mrs Lowen 1 00; Mr B - 50c; Cash 50c; Alexander Phillips 1 50; Mr Shaine 1 00; Cash 50c; Cash 50c; Shultz & Trickey 1 00; Thomas Cameron 2 00; Richard Lewis 1 50; Cash 50c; James Dougherty 3 00; C Kent 2 50; T Swannick 1 00; The Acting Attorney General 5 00; Thos Burns 2 50; St Louis College 5 00; Friend 1 00; Mr McFarlane 50c; John Stafford 2 50; Noah Shakespeare 1 00; Mr Williams 50c; Cash 2 50; Harries & Co 2 50; Cash 1 00: Cash 25c; E Thomas 1 00; Henry 1 00; Mr Baker 1 00; Cash 1 00; G Sutro 2 50; S Zinn 2 50; Cash 50c; W B Smith 50c; Waller & Co (Grotto Saloon) 5 00; Cash 25c. Total \$301 371/2. VICTORIA, V. I., January 17th, 1866. TO THE PUBLIC-

I beg to return my most sincere thanks to the generous people of Victoria fer their liberality in behalf of my unfortunate children and mayself, in making so large a subscription as (\$300) three hundred dollars, and also to the gentlemen who voluntarily collected the same.

MRS. M. CAREY. AUSTRALIA.

The S. F. Bulletin has dates from Sydney to October 28th: The New South Wales Parliament was

opened on the 24th of October by His Excellency Sir John Young, who delivered the opening speech. The Sydney Herald sharply criticises it.

The Government dead-lock at Melbourne still continued. The Chamber of Commerce at a special meeting adopted a memorial to the Queen, calling attention to the fact that the civil and general interest of the colony is imperilled by the illegal and unconstitutional action of the

Ministry. A reconstruction of the Cabinet at Sydney has taken place. Mr. Arnolds succeeds Mr. Robertson as Secretary for Lands; Mr. Smerts takes the Works Department, and Mr. Samuel becomes Colonial Treasurer.

Justice Weir died at Melbourne, Oct.

There was much excitement over reported gold discoveries in New Zealand. The boiler of the steamer Agnes Irving exploded on October 20th, terribly scalding six persons, most of whom it was

The country about Melbourne was suffering greatly for want of rain.