

KING ALFRED THE GREAT was, so far as history tells us, the first man to suggest the division of the calendar day into three equal parts; one for work, one for sleep, and one for study and devotion. The adherents of the eight hours' system as celebrated to-day, copy King ALFRED'S main divisions so far as regards the allotments for labor and for sleep, and, if they choose to interpret the obligations of the hours remaining somewhat largely, we must accept the situation, and apologise for it, if needs be by referring to the fact that, since the days of the great Saxon King, times have changed, and men have changed with them. The eight hours' system, as we know it in Victoria, represents the first practical protest against the barbaric feudalism which held that an employer, whether King, or Baron, or Lord, was fairly entitled to exact unlimited service for consideration which in many cases was very limited, and which might, at the convenience of the employer, be dispensed with altogether. Long before the Australian goldfields attracted a tide of emigration to these shores, the operative classes of Britain had come to regard their position with strong dissatisfaction. That they took no overt means to alter that position is to be explained by the knowledge that whether the relations of master and servant were fair or unfair, the power of capital was so great that any revolt against it was foredoomed to failure. This dissatisfaction with existing relations between employer and employed was imported to Victoria in the feeling of thousands of men who tried by emigration to a new world to escape the evils and the injustice of the old. When these men began to make their own way in a free country, they gradually awoke to the knowledge that, while the rights of the worker were as strong in Australia as in England, the combined forces which operated to prevent the enjoyment of those rights were so much weaker as to invite attack. The attack was made under circumstances and with results which we all know, and which, in a very practical form, are commemorated to-day. The demand of the operative masons who originated the

eight hours' movement in Victoria meant much more than the reduction of the hours of labor to a certain branch of tradesmen. It included or implied all the substance of the larger doctrines which have been since preached as to the rights of the working man. It included a full abrogation of the unwritten theory that the relations between employer and employed should be as those between master and slave. And it set up, dimly and imperfectly it may have been, the cardinal maxim that the best obtainable industrial results are to be looked for only under perfect and willing co-operation between employers and employed.

There is no doubt whatever that the adoption of the eight hour system in Victoria has done more than anything else has or could have done towards producing satisfactory relations between employer and employed. It is nothing to the purpose that we have labor strikes in Australia, because these strikes are usually a rough and ready means of bringing to an issue a dispute in which employer and employed stand on equal terms. The rights of the worker may be disputed, but, in Australia at least, the time has long since passed when they could be openly denied. There is all the difference in the world between a labor strike where, as is usually the case in Victoria, each party has to stand on the merits of the case, and no prescriptive domination is or would be tolerated, and such a revolt as that of the London dockers, where a horde of half-starved men, driven to desperate measures, at last adopted the courage of their opinions that willing workers had at least a right to bread. The Victorian workers who rally around the eight hours' flag to-day, may view with hearty satisfaction the privileges and the benefits which the limitation of working hours has brought them. And they may, if they will, take even higher satisfaction in the knowledge that the example which was set in Victoria nearly a quarter of a century ago, is being copied, painfully and slowly it may be, but still copied in the great hives of labor in the old world. A fortnight hence a meeting will be held in Hyde Park, Lon-

world. A fortnight hence a meeting will be held in Hyde Park, London, at which three or four hundred thousands of British working men are expected to be present, and they will, without doubt, resolve almost unanimously in favor of the eight hour system. The operative classes of America, Germany, and France are awaking to the knowledge that their grievances are not past redress, and that they can, by combined and constitutional action, achieve for themselves the industrial freedom which the Victorian working classes won for themselves so many years ago. In the ranks of Victorian working men who will follow the banners of industry to-day it should be a proud reflection that they commenced a crusade for equal rights, as between capital and labor, which is evidently predestined to culminate in a glorious victory, in which all the world will be the gainers. The natural rights of the working man are everywhere admitted, and now the only objection to their free enjoyment is that, from some cause or other, the concession of these rights is at present inexpedient. But the rights of a great mass of human workers will assuredly override any considerations of mere expediency.

THE only special feature of much consequence in the share market last week was the increase in the number of investment stocks traded in. Melbourne Trans, Mercantile Finance, Colonial Investment, McCracken's Brewery, and Ballarat Exchange all furnished a considerable number of transactions, and there seemed to be a feeling, on the part of many of the brokers that business in this class of stocks should be cultivated in the local Exchange. New Broken Hill Extended and one or two other silver stocks also had a little attention. In mining operations there were few fresh discoveries of any importance. Work, generally, is being carried on with energy, and the results in most instances are up to expectations. In the share market the quotations on the whole keep pretty steady, if a little allowance be made for the fluctuations produced by market influence. Earl Beaconsfield were in strong demand all the week, and sales were made as follows:

held were in strong demand all the week, and sales were made as follows:—On Monday the stock changed hands from 69s to 72s; on Tuesday shares opened at 72s 6d, and went up to 75s 6d; on Wednesday they changed hands at 75s, 76s 6d, and 75s 6d; on Thursday there were a few transactions in them at 74s; on Friday they were quiet, with buyers at 73s 6d; and on Saturday they changed hands at 74s and 73s 6d, closing with buyers at 72s 6d and sellers at 73s 6d. Berry Consols were marketable on Monday at £11 13s, and would have been taken next day at £11 14s; but on Wednesday they were easier, with buyers at £11 10s; on Thursday £11 12s would have been given; on Friday they were quiet; and on Saturday they were marketable at £11 10s, without inducing business. Berry No. 1 came into demand on Thursday, and opened with business at 62s, but declined to 60s 6d, after which, during the latter part of the week, they were only marketable at 59s, with sellers wide. Madame Berry on Monday were wanted at £5 3s, no shares offering; on Tuesday they sold from £5 5s to £5 2s; on Wednesday they changed hands at £5 1s, £5 3s, and £5 1s 6d; on Thursday they were taken at £5 2s and £5; on Friday there were buyers at £4 19s, sellers holding-out for £5 2s; and on Saturday they changed hands at 94s, ex div. Black Horse had a fair business at firm rates, and Egerton had a little attention. Kangaroo Extended were in good demand at pretty steady rates. Britannia United were a little easier at the close of the week, and Sulieman Pasha a trifle stronger. The rest of the other Ballarat East stocks had occasional sales at current rates. Last Chance on Saturday sold up to 8s 6d. Sir Henry Loch have kept in demand at firm rates, selling on Saturday at 28s and 28s 6d. North Band and Barton had a good deal of business during the week, and closed on Saturday with buyers at 2s, sellers wide. Star of the East were not so lively, and closed on Saturday with buyers at £5 18s. New Kohinoor were held for 18s. Band and Albion had increased attention in the middle part of the week, and closed on Saturday with buyers at 10s 6d, sellers

Saturday with buyers at 10s 6d, sellers 12s. Several other stocks had an occasional sale without any special features. During the past week the following dividends were declared:—Lennon's Freehold, £3; Madame Berry, 6s; Lord Clyde Estate, 2s 6d; Sir Henry Loch, 1s.

To-day the various trades and labor organizations will celebrate their Eight Hours' Day anniversary. The proceedings will commence at half-past 10, when the members of the different trades will assemble in the space near the Galloway monument. The procession, marshalled by Lieutenant-Colonel Smith, will then be formed, and proceed up the south side of Sturt street as far as Drummond street, then down the north side through Bridge, Main, East, and Victoria streets, and along Peel street to the Oval. The order of the procession will be as follows:—Fire Brigades, headed by the Sebastopol Brass Band; then the Bakers, Masons, Ironworkers' Assistants, Agricultural Implement Makers, Loco. Engine-drivers' and Firemen's Association, Saddlers, Bootmakers, Railway Association, Ironfounders' Trade Society, Laborers' Protective, Typographical, Bricklayers, Plumbers, Mining Engine-drivers' Association, Engineers, Tanners and Curriers, Ironmoulders' Friendly, Brewers, Amalgamated Miners, Billiardmakers, Painters' Union, Timmiths societies, followed by non-affiliated eight hours' workmen. The following bands will be placed by the deputy marshals:—City and Town Drum and File, City Brass, Bradley's Ballarat Fife and Drum, Prout's Brass, Buley's Brass, Railway Brass, Orphan Asylum Drum and Fife. It is expected that the celebration will be one of the best of the kind yet held. The majority of the trades will display emblems of their craft, for which the employes have been working assiduously during the past few weeks. There will be some splendid new banners unfurled. On the arrival of the procession at the Oval luncheon will be partaken of by the committee, after which they will proceed to carry out for the entertainment of the public a really excellent programme of 30 events. The president of the Eight Hours' Anniversary committee will at half-past 1 entertain at luncheon members of Parliament and other representative gentlemen.

We regret to have to report the death of Mr James Sampson, president of the Ballarat branch of the A.M.A., which occurred yesterday evening. Mr Sampson has been in ill-health for about five months, and unable to attend to his duties, which have been performed by Mr P. Lewis, senior vice-president. The deceased formerly worked in the North West Hawk mine, and was a shareholder in the now defunct Smith's Freehold Company, which raised a large quantity of gold. He was about 55 years of age, and leaves a widow, but no family. He was highly respected by all who knew him,

and was highly respected by all who knew him, and possessed the full confidence of the miners, for whose rights he was always a firm and determined advocate. The funeral will not take place until Wednesday, and will leave the deceased's late residence, at the corner of A'coat and Darling streets.

The building committee of the Australian Juvenile Industrial Exhibition met on the drill ground north of the Alfred Hall on Saturday, when Mr P. Matthews submitted a plan of the ground, showing the design of the building to be erected, which was approved of by the building committee, and recommended for adoption by the general meeting to be held on Thursday next. The proposed building is 100 feet by 80 feet, with four gable roofs, each having a span of 25 feet, fitted up with portable engine and shafting for driving model and other machinery. The track for locomotive of electric railway will run through the building and out on to the lawn, and four foundations are to be erected. There will be a large promenade provided with seats, two bridges crossing the railway for persons to enter the circle. The whole of the ground will be utilised, and ornamented with trees and ferns. Refreshment rooms will be erected, so that the wants of all can be supplied. The committee are fortunate in having so valuable a piece of ground, which will be quite refreshing after examining the different exhibits in the Alfred Hall.

Mr John Hardy, the well known solicitor, still lies in a critical condition.

The election of Government classifier under the Education Act takes place on the 7th of next month. Mr Nicholls, of Ballarat, is a candidate for re-election to the position.

The other evening a Mr Elliott, a clerk, of 302 Hubbard street south, was accosted by a man, slightly under the influence, who asked Mr Elliott to take charge of the sum of £3 (in notes). Mr Elliott did so, and afterwards escorted the stranger to a hotel, telling the landlord of what had occurred. Next day the man (who is believed to be of Scotch nationality) informed the publican that he had been robbed of £12. It is thought by the police that the man, who has not since been heard of, was robbed before he met Mr Elliott, and that this was the reason he asked him to take charge of the money remaining in his pockets. The £3 in Mr Elliott's possession appear as if they had received rough handling. If the man who reported that he was robbed will call on Sergeant Leverton, an effort will be made to trace the offender.

The "Orient" arrived at Albany from Colombo at 6 a.m. yesterday morning.

Mr J. Oddie, J.P., F.R.S., F.R.G.S., will be entertained at a banquet at the City Hall, at 7.30 to-morrow evening.

On Saturday night a report was made to Constable Serple, while doing duty in Bridge street, that a well-dressed young man was lying dead at the rear of the gasworks. The constable immediately proceeded to the locality indicated, and found a young



constable immediately proceeded to the locality indicated, and found a young man on the ground apparently dead, with his head in a hole. Serple, on placing his hand on the man's left breast, ascertained that life was not extinct, as he could feel heart pulsations. The unfortunate man was, however, in a moribund condition through a rush of blood to the head, caused by over indulgence in intoxicating liquor, and through the dropping of his head into the hole in the ground. Constable Serple released the inebriate, who hailed from the Echuca district, from his dangerous position, and after having recourse to the massage treatment, and rubbing the patient up and down as a trainer would an athlete, consciousness was restored. About 20 onlookers who witnessed the action of the policeman applauded him for the skilful work performed by him.

Mr Stone, locomotive foreman of the Ballarat sheds, who is about to leave on a trip for England, having obtained six months' leave of absence, was on Saturday night entertained by his fellow employes in the locomotive branch at Ballarat. The gathering took the form of a banquet, at the Pavilion hotel, Eastern Oval, and was attended by between 50 and 60. Mr John Williams, senior driver, occupied the chair, and amongst those present were—Mr Wills, stationmaster, Ballarat West; Mr Clark, district inspector; Mr Glenister, locomotive foreman, Stawell; and Mr M'Kenna, who will perform Mr Stone's duties during the latter's absence. Mr M'Kenna gave every satisfaction as caterer. After the usual loyal toasts had been disposed of, those of "The Commissioners of Railways" and "Our Officers" were honored. The chairman then proposed "Our Guest." He considered that, after 30 years' service in the department, Mr Stone well deserved his holiday, and was pleased to know that he was in a position to take a trip to England. He hoped Mr Stone would benefit in every way by his holiday, and would come back with renewed health. The toast having been received enthusiastically, Mr Stone briefly returned thanks, both for the opportunity afforded him of meeting his fellow-employes prior to his departure, and also for the kind manner in which the toast had been proposed and received. He hoped things would go on smoothly in his absence, and that he would be able at the end of six months to resume their pleasant relations. Several other toasts suitable to the occasion were honored, and the proceedings were pleasantly interspersed with songs by Messrs Williams, Fallow, Finch, and Glenister, Mr Saunders presiding efficiently at the piano. Mr Stone will leave by the express to-night for Adelaide, where he will embark on the Britannia.

A young woman named Jane Lawton, aged 19 years, gave birth to a still born child on Saturday at the residence of her parents, 69 Flank road, Ballarat East. Mrs Poole, a nurse, was in attendance. A medical man who was called in stated that the child might have lived for five minutes, notwith-

standing the statement of the nurse; and in view of the difference of opinion the police will probably order a *post mortem* examination and magisterial enquiry.

Rhody Lamb, a resident of Bungaree, against whom a prohibition order was recently issued at the request of his wife, again fell into the hands of the Ballarat East police on Saturday night. The order, it seems, has reference only to the publicans of Bungaree, and Rooney, finding that "the crater" is not obtainable in Bungaree, journeys to Ballarat to give the hotel-keepers in the city and town "a turn." On Saturday night Lamb, maddened by liquor, behaved in a very erratic manner in Bridge street. Standing in the centre of the road he endeavored to stop every passing vehicle by throwing up his arms, and almost jumping under the feet of the horse, and when the driver would whip him to one side, Lamb would race the horse along the street. The man at one time attempted to seize the reins of a pair of horses attached to a drag, and had it not been for the timely arrival of Constable Serple, who arrested Lamb, he would have been trampled under the feet of the horses.

Owing to several members being laid up with La Grippe, the fortnightly committee meeting of the Ballarat Miners' Association which was to have been held on Friday evening last was postponed until Saturday evening, but still no quorum could be obtained. The meeting has, therefore, been postponed indefinitely.

A young man named Dunn succumbed on Saturday to an attack of typhoid fever at the Ballarat Hospital. Reference was made to his death at the afternoon session of the Lydiard street Wesleyan Sunday school by Mr A. A. Buley, senior superintendent. The deceased was a member of Mr G. P. Bryant's Sunday school class, and was present in the school, yesterday week. Mr Buley stated that the deceased was one of three companions who went to Melbourne by a recent excursion, and two of them had been since removed by death. The superintendent made a few remarks on the brevity of life and the necessity for preparation for the future. An appropriate hymn was sung and prayer offered for the bereaved relatives. The scholars were requested to attend the funeral which takes place this afternoon.

The Prospecting Board will visit the mines in the Smythes Creek division to-day, including Mortensup and Linton.

Mr James Oddie was present in the congregation of the Lydiard street Wesleyan Church yesterday, and received a cordial welcome from the church officers and his numerous friends in the congregation. Mr Martin Hosking, who occupied the pulpit at the morning service, offered thanks to Almighty God for Mr Oddie's safe return, and prayed that he might be long spared to continue his labors as a benefactor to his fellow men.

The Rev. David Brown, the newly-

The Rev. David Brown, the newly-appointed minister, preached yesterday in Ballarat for the first time, to large and appreciative congregations. A public tea will be held in the Eyre street schoolroom this evening, when a large attendance is expected to give the rev. gentleman a hearty welcome. Addresses will be given afterwards, in the church, by several ministers and others.

Arrangements for celebrating an "Arbor Day" on 24th May are well forward, and the Mayor of the City (Cr Little) has invited all the representative bodies in Ballarat to assist at the occasion by planting a group of trees. The arrangements will be on a very extensive scale, and, weather permitting, "Arbor Day" should prove a charming and interesting festival. The corporate bodies are requested to send in their replies to the invitation on or before the 25th inst.

On Saturday night Mr Robert Chirnside, of Carranballac station, Skipton, received a telegram from his mother, stating that his father (Mr A. Chirnside, of Werribee) was worse, and immediately telegraphed to Ballarat, engaging a special train for Werribee. He arrived in Ballarat by the last train from Scarsdale, and found that though the stationmaster at Ballarat West (Mr Wills) had performed his part of the work the District Traffic Superintendent refused to grant the special. Mr Chirnside had accordingly to arrange with Messrs Vines and M'Phee to be driven to Werribee, which he would probably reach five or six hours later than he could have been conveyed by a special train. Of course there may be reasons for the refusal of the District Traffic Superintendent, but it certainly appears strange that a gentleman willing to pay all expenses cannot engage a special train at any hour of the night.

A four-oared boat race between crews representing the Ballarat Press and the *Evening Standard* took place on Saturday afternoon at Lake Wendouree, and created considerable interest. The crews were as follows:—Ballarat Press—Messrs S. Joy (stroke), A. Dorman, W. Lumsden, and W. Reynolds; *Evening Standard*—Messrs W. J. Jobson (stroke), G. Venables, A. E. Hayes, and W. Christie. Mr Gierck officiated as starter, and Mr Bibby as judge. The visitors, who were the favorites, went away with the lead at the start, but the crew were slightly in front after about a quarter of the distance had been covered. The latter's bow caught a crab at this position, causing them to drop back. The local men came with a spurt again near View Point, but were unable to get near the other crew, who were in excellent form, and won easily by a length. The visitors were subsequently entertained at a banquet at Gill's hotel, where a number of toasts were honored.

Vacancies for head teachers and assistants are announced as follow:—Birregurra, head teacher; Lower Homebush, head teacher; Darghoolin, head teacher; Greenland Dam, head teacher; Strathmerton, head teacher; Woorak West, head teacher; Strathfield, head

teacher; Woorak West, head teacher; Strathfield, head teacher; Langwarrin railway station, head teacher; Williamstown, 1st male assistant, 3rd class; Timor, 1st female assistant, 4th class; Footscray, female junior assistant, male relieving teacher; Sandringham, head teacher; Hamilton North, head teacher; Strathmore, head teacher; Gringgalgona, head teacher; Williamstown, 1st male assistant, 3rd class; Taibot, 1st female assistant, 4th class; Golden Point, Ballarat, 2nd female assistant, 5th class; Lower Homebush, 1st female assistant, 5th class; Colac, female junior assistant; Brighton, female junior assistant; Moreland, female junior assistant; Moonee Ponds West, female junior assistant.

Dr Green, of St. Paul's Church, Geelong, has been appointed to the vicarage and archdeaconry of Ballarat, rendered vacant by the resignation of Archdeacon Julius. A report in reference to the appointment appears in another column.

The following accident cases were treated at the Hospital on Saturday:—William Ryan, a young man living in Darling street, bruised head, caused by a fall from a cart; Isaac Bettridge, three years of age, son of parents living at Bolwarrah, crushed fingers, through being caught in a chaffcutting machine; David Tait, an elderly man residing at Soldiers Hill, injury to hip, caused by a fall from a fence. Tait was admitted to the casualty ward.

At St. Andrew's Kirk yesterday morning the Rev. T. R. Cairns delivered a most eloquent and practical sermon to a large congregation from 2 Timothy, iv., 8. Referring to the duties of politicians and literary and business men as Christian workers, he passed a high eulogium on our worthy citizen, Mr James Oldie.

The anniversary of the Eyre street Primitive Methodist Church was celebrated yesterday, when three excellent sermons were preached to large congregations. In the morning the Rev. W. E. Secomb conducted the service, and in the afternoon and evening the Rev. D. Brown, the newly appointed minister, preached. At the afternoon service he chose for his text Psalm cxxii, 1, and the evening St. Matthew vi., 23. This evening there will be a tea and public meeting, when addresses will be delivered by Revs. D. Brown, Hunt, Cameron, and Mr Kirton, M.L.A., and several other gentlemen. There will be some choice selections of music by the choir during the evening, and a large attendance is expected.

There were 114 patients in the Hospital yesterday—83 males and 31 females. During the week 241 outdoor patients were treated—71 new, 161 old, and 9 casualty cases. The majority of the new patients were suffering from the prevailing epidemic—influenza. Dr Salmon is the medical officer, and Dr Pincock the surgical, for the current week.

A pleasant hour was spent on Saturday evening by members of the Ballarat Imperial Football Club at M'Kenzie's Imperial hotel, Humphray street, where presentations were

Football Club at McKenzie's Imperial Hotel, Humphray street, where presentations were made to Messrs I. George and M. Kitts, two members of the team. Mr F. Paget, president of the club, occupied the chair. In a few appropriate remarks, the chairman presented Messrs George and Kitts each with a handsomely framed group of photos of the members of last season's team and members of committee. The recipients suitably responded. A number of toasts were honored. During the evening Mr Paget announced that if the Imperials were successful in gaining the local premiership this year, he would present a gold medal to each member of the team.

Mr D. Scott has been appointed second delegate for the South Ballarat Club on the Victorian Football Association.

The office for the admission of deaconesses into the Church of England was performed for the first time in the Australasian colonies on Friday afternoon, in St Peter's Church, by the Bishop of Melbourne, the candidates being Sisters Christina and Ellen. The sisters were presented by Canon Handfield. The candidates having answered the customary questions, the bishop laid his hands upon their heads and blessed them, at the same time admitting each to the office of deaconess. The sisters were handed over to sister Esther, the head of the mission.

Mr Martin Hosking preached an impressive sermon at the Lydiard street Wesleyan Church yesterday morning, from Psalm lxxxvii, 3—"Glorious things are spoken of thee, O City of God." The preacher gave an interesting account of his visit to Jerusalem. He urged the congregation to live so as to gain admittance after death to the New Jerusalem above. There was a large congregation, who enjoyed the service very much. Mr Hosking has consented to lecture on his Palestine experiences in the church early next month in aid of Christian Workers' Association.

There was a blank charge-sheet on Saturday morning at the City Police Court.

The boy Hugh Docherty, who was admitted to the Hospital last week suffering from fracture of the skull, is progressing satisfactorily at the institution.

It is announced that on account of the Operative Bakers having a holiday to-day, there will be no delivery of bread to-morrow.

The secretary of the Eight Hours' Fete requests by advertisement that all unsold tickets be returned to the Trades' Hall, not later than 11 a.m. to-day, or at the oval not later than 2 p.m.

The Ballarat Liedertafel announce that their seventy-third grand concert, for ladies and gentlemen, takes place in the Alfred Hall, on Wednesday evening, 30th April, commencing at 8 o'clock.

No fewer than 12 arrests were made in Ballarat East between Saturday night and Sunday night. George Staff was taken into custody by Constable Tolmie on a charge of using insulting words, and Jonas Jackson was placed in durance vile by Constable

using insulting words, and Jonas Jackson was placed in durance vile by Constable Montague on a presentment of obscene language. There are 47 previous convictions against Jonas. William Lang was locked up last night on a charge of insulting behavior, viz., jostling females in Bridge-street. Lang resisted the police when taken into custody, and it required the combined efforts of Senior-constable Love, Constables J. Stallard and Tolmie to secure the prisoner. Three jovial spirits from Melbourne also fell into the hands of Constables Barrett and Montague, while misconducting themselves in the Main road. Several tipplers were likewise among the incarcerated in Ballarat East yesterday.

Legal managers and secretaries are rejoiced that the meeting of the Victorian Incorporated Association of Legal Managers and Secretaries will be held at Scott's hotel, Melbourne, at 4 o'clock p.m. In view of the important business to be transacted, a full attendance is desirable.

The races under the auspices of the Allendale Turf Club will take place to-day. Athletic sports will also be held at intervals between the races. Good all-round sport is promised.

A sample of coal taken from a mine at Barongarook (says the *Reformer*), was despatched to Melbourne recently, and, on being tried, was pronounced to be of superior quality. What with coal, silver, and platinum, the prospectors have really an *embarras de richesses*.

The *Chronicle* learns that Mr H. Young, head teacher of the Camperdown State school, has been offered the head mastership of the Long Gully State school, near Sandhurst. The change would mean substantial promotion, but Mr Young has not yet replied to the departmental letter offering him the position.

The *Riponshire Advertiser* says:—"What we believe to be the first attempt at making ensilage in this district has proved a great success with Mr J. F. Watkin, of Main Lead. The system adopted by Mr Watkin is the simplest, and is greatly recommended to the farmers generally as the most inexpensive, viz., stack. About this method of preserving fodder for cattle, the Vegetable Products Commission have from time to time issued pamphlets giving complete instructions, and as a purely experimental effort, Mr Watkin in October last cut a quantity of natural grass, sorrell, and all species of weeds and stacked them. When the stack was complete, he made a covering of old timber, and paid very little further attention as regards pressure until the present month. So entirely satisfied is Mr Watkin with the result, that he intends to continue the process of preserving the grasses as the season comes round. A sample was shown us on Wednesday. Mr Watkin assures us that cows readily eat the ensilage, and after feeding them for a time on it they give more milk, which shows a larger percentage of cream. The samples of ensilage shown us is known as the 'sour' variety."



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A statement of the territorial revenue received from the 1st July, 1889, to the 7th of the present month (says the *Age*) has been prepared by Mr Wumble, Acting Secretary for Lands. The amount realised by the sale by auction of land was £70,240; progress payments in the shape of license and lease fees, £205,869; final repayments in regard to the same, £38,815; otherwise than by auction, license, or lease, £10,973; licenses and leases other than agricultural or pastoral, £39,826; pastoral occupation, £53,494; fees, £23,009; and sundries, £893. The net excess of the payments made over the amount receivable for the period mentioned is £22,062.

Mr Thomas Thomas, grocer, of Stawell, has been killed while rabbit shooting at his farm near Luke Lonsdale. Mr Thomas was found dead and quite cold in a kneeling posture, supporting himself with one hand on a fence, and the other clasping his gun, which lay on the ground.

The recent retirement from the Public Service of five inspectors connected with the Public Works Department consequent on having reached 65 years of age has rendered it necessary to promote a similar number of junior officers, trained in the department, to fill the vacancies. A competitive examination of officers eligible as candidates has been held, and the five who were most successful will be appointed by the Governor in Council at a meeting of the Executive to be held to-day.

Planting operations at Mildura promise to be on a most extensive scale this approaching season. W. Clason is just now engaged in the interests of the settlement in visiting the chief nurseries of all the colonies with a view to ascertain the condition of the stocks of the various fruit trees available. It is also his intention to extend his tour to Northern Queensland, with the intention of securing plants of various tropical fruit-yielding trees which it is thought will thrive in the Lower Murray region under irrigation.

Touching on the question of local option and the liquor traffic in his Budget statement, Mr Goschen said it was intended to

increase the duty on alcoholic spirits by 6d per gallon, the object being to provide a fund of £1,250,000, out of which compensation might be paid to publicans whose licenses had been confiscated. Meantime it was intended to introduce a Suspensory Bill forbidding the issue of new publicans' licenses except in new districts. The revenue derived during the past year from alcoholic spirits showed an increase of £1,800,000 over the amount received from the same source in the previous year. An extra subsidy of £350,000 is to be paid to the County Councils. Mr Goschen's speech was very well received by the House, and the proposals of the Government are generally applauded by the press.

The London Jockey Club held a meeting on Friday, at which a resolution, introduced

by the Earl of Durham, was unanimously adopted—"That in future a shorthand writer should be admitted to the meetings of the club, and that its proceedings should be published *in extenso* in the *Racing Calendar*."

The Duke of Argyll has written a letter in which he speaks favorably of the bill introduced by the Government in the House of Commons for the extension of the land purchase system in Ireland. The objection of the Parnellite party to the scheme is based, his Lordship says, on a fear that its adoption will destroy the present agitation, and lead to a feeling of contentment amongst the people.