

GENERAL NEWS.

PAY DAY.—Last Saturday being pay-day on the Railway line, there was a large batch of navvies brought up at the local police Court on Monday morning. The principal charges brought against these horny handed sons of toil were drunkenness, disorderly conduct, and assaulting the police in the execution of their duty, and as there is apparently a navvies' sinking fund from the general coffers of which all fines are paid, the Government and the Police Funds receive a fortnightly enrichment at the hands of the offenders, and it is only under exceptional circumstances that the alternative imprisonment has to be resorted to. All this may be satisfactory enough both to the prisoner and Her Majesty in minor cases of drunkenness, but, as the infliction of a fine even of £10 involves little or no hardship on the free and independent navvy who amuses himself in his hours of ease and wealth by creating a disturbance, and follows up his disorderliness by violently assaulting the constable whose duty it is to arrest him, perhaps it would be as well to refuse the option of a fine to one or two of the ringleaders in this respect. A more or less lengthened incarceration would have a more salutary effect and would prove a greater deterrent both to the individual offender and his admiring mates, than any number of subscription-paid fines. We commend this suggestion to our local justices, knowing that a "word to the wise is enough."

ACCIDENT.—A serious and painful accident occurred on Monday afternoon to a young man named Preston, a stone-mason employed by Messrs. Baillie, Davis, & Wishart, on the works in connection with the railway bridge over Cox's Creek. It appears that he was playing football at Bridgewater, and in jumping up to catch the ball he so severely strained his leg that the knee-cap was entirely split. Dr. Renner, of Hahndorf, was immediately called to attend to the sufferer, and by his direction Preston was removed to the Adelaide Hospital. The unfortunate young man, who is about twenty years old, will be incapacitated from work for many months, while it is doubtful whether he will ever thoroughly recover from the effects of the accident.

JUSTICE IN DANGER.—If the Local Court House at Mount Barker were the property of a private individual, he would at once acknowledge the advisability of expending a reasonable sum of money in such repairs and renovation as are absolutely necessary to ensure the safety and respectability of the premises, but as it belongs to the Government—to whom money is no object—it is likely that the building will be allowed to fall to pieces without any attempt being made to re-instate those portions of it which have been damaged by exposure or which are falling to

pieces under the decaying influence of Time. Internally the appearance of the Court House and Offices is positively unsafe; the plaster on walls and ceiling being cracked in all directions, while the general characteristic of such works as should be painted or otherwise rendered neat or attractive, is definite and pronounced shabbiness. The Court House, externally,—in common with the other public buildings of the township, is dingy and dirty in the extreme, and it is in fact in every way a thorough disgrace to the Public Works department. When our worthy Stipendiary Magistrate or a member of the Great Unpaid has been offered up as a martyr on the altar of official neglect the necessary repairs will be undertaken by the Government, but is there any necessity to wait for a rider from a Coroner's jury?

NATIONAL BUILDING SOCIETY.—Mr. W. A. Cawthorne, the Secretary of the National Building Society, has paid a visit of inspection to the Mount Barker Branch in connection with the Society. It appears it is the practice of the Society from time to time to inspect their Branches and hold meetings of the local shareholders. Mr. Cawthorne has already inspected several agencies and will before the Society's half-year closes inspect the remaining number. A public meeting of the shareholders was called to be held in the Institute, but owing to counter engagements of a public character the attendance was very small. It is to be regretted that the promised Lecture was not delivered owing to the paucity of attendance. The next series of Branches to be visited will be Port Wakefield, Kadina, and Moonta.

MARINE BOARD.—At the meeting of the Marine Board held on Thursday, February 8th, the harbourmaster at Port Victor called attention to the fact that there were no lights either on the end of the screw-pile jetty or on the breakwater. The board had previously recommended a small lighthouse for the latter structure, and referring to it the Engineer-in-Chief asked what sort of light would be advisable. At the same time he thought a permanent lighthouse should not be fixed until the question of extension was settled. In answer to Mr. Glyde the President said the Breakwater was not under the control of the board, though it would be so when the light was fixed. Mr. Muecke did not agree with a temporary lighthouse. They might very well put up a permanent structure, which could be removed if necessary with comparatively little trouble. This was approved of, and it was decided to recommend it.—The master of the Murray steamer Queen asked permission to erect a shed on the banks of the lake at Milang. Referred to secretary to report as to precedents.

CRICKET.—A cricket match will be played at Macclesfield on Saturday between the first elevens of the Mount Barker and Macclesfield Clubs. A start will be made from Wiedemann's Hotel at 1 o'clock, and the match will begin at 2 o'clock sharp. The

WIEGEMANN'S HOTEL AT 1 O'CLOCK, and the match will begin at 2 o'clock sharp. The following players have been chosen to represent Mount Barker:—Messrs. S. Cope, H. Cope, J. P. Horne, H. A. Howison, T. S. O'Halloran, G. Milna, J. Cook, J. S. King, A. von Doussa, P. W. Jones, and H. H. O. Hopkins. Emergencies—W. Atkinson and J. R. Tait.

THE COMING MAN.—A writer in the *Port Adelaide News* gives the following description of the Wesleyan Minister who, according to the list issued by the last Conference, is to succeed Mr. Stubbs in the charge of the Mount Barker Circuit:—"The Rev. P. C. Thomas appears to me to be burly physique and solid, of medium height, and vigorous in intellect, vivacious; strong in his hold of life, grasp of his work, and general purpose. Black hair, full rounded forehead, black quick eyes, oval face; He looks as if he could hold his own anywhere. No perceptible sign of weakness; good as a preacher and as a pastor; fairly self-reliant, and at all times under excellent control. He will make his way, and keep it, and by and by become an ecclesiastical pillar to be strongly trusted."

WATER SUPPLY.—It is rumoured, and we believe with good authority, that the engineer—who was despatched by the Government to make an examination of the watersheds in the vicinity of Mount Barker, with a view of ascertaining whether there was any feasibility in the recent request for a permanent water supply in connection with the Railway reservoir—has succeeded in his endeavour, and that a satisfactory report has been forwarded to the Commissioner of Public works. The location is not mentioned but if the rumour is correct there need be small doubt concerning the soon concession of the desiderated boon of a permanent and plentiful water supply. The public meeting which was held on December 1st, has evidently borne good fruit, which we hope will soon be available for the use and benefit of the residents.

MRS. BAEYERTZ.—The services held by this lady in the Oddfellows' Hall, Nairne, during the last week have proved so successful that she has been induced to conduct additional meetings during the next seven days, and in our advertising columns the forthcoming series is announced. On Sunday, February 25th, Mrs. Baeyertz will conduct one of the anniversary services in connection with the Mount Barker Primitive Methodist Chapel, and in the evening of the same day will preach the last of the sermons of the Evangelical Mission at Nairne.

DEATH FROM SCALDING.—A boy between two and three years of age, a son of Mr. Bell, who is engaged on the railway works near Wistow, met with a fatal accident on Monday last. He and an older child were playing together near one of the camp fires, and a shawl which was wrapped round him catching a kettle of boiling water it was suddenly overturned and its contents were emptied over his head and neck and part of his body. Dr. Weld, of Mount Barker, was at once called to attend to the little sufferer, and

once called to attend to the little sufferer, and found the scalds so severe that despite his care and attention the child gradually sank and died at 6 o'clock on Wednesday evening. As the occurrence was purely accidental, no inquest was considered necessary.

BELLRINGERS.—We are requested to state that the Lynch Family of Bellringers, who are well and favorably known throughout the length and breadth of South Australia, will open in the Mt. Barker Institute on Monday evening next (February 19th). They will be assisted by an English Specialty Combination, so that there will be both variety and attractiveness about the entertainment, which should draw a good house, especially as the prices of admission are very reasonable.

WANTS OF MONARTO.—A public meeting, convened by the Chairman of the Monarto District Council, was held at the Council Office on Tuesday, February 6th. There was a large attendance, and Mr. S. Tilbrook occupied the chair. In opening the proceedings the Chairman said that the object of the meeting was to secure the destruction of wallabies, and also to petition the Government for a water supply in the district, either by boring or sinking a large dam on the travelling stock reserve. He was of opinion that a good supply of water could be obtained at a moderate depth by sinking, and such a supply would be of immense benefit to the ratepayers of the district, and also to the squatters travelling their stock to market. At present there was not a drop of water to be obtained from the Murray bridge to Callington, which was a great drawback in the case of stock travelling to market. After the matter had been discussed at some length it was decided to lay poisoned wheat for the wallabies and to write to the members of the district (Messrs. Carr and Rees) concerning the supply of water.

THE VICTORIAN ELECTIONS.—The nominations for the Victorian Legislative Assembly were received on Wednesday last. The following candidates have been returned unopposed:—The Minister of Railways (T. Bent), Brighton; the Minister of Public Works (C. Young), Kyneton; and Messrs. E. H. Cameron (Evelyn), McIntyre (Maldon), Gibb (Mornington), Wallace (Benambra), Harper (East Bourke), Officer (Dundas), Mason (South Gippsland), Hunt (Kilmore), and Wrixon (Portland). For the other 75 seats there are 165 candidates. The irrepressible David Gaunson again contests Ararat, notwithstanding his threat of a permanent retirement on the occasion of his last defeat. The members re-elected may be classified as follows:—Ministerialists, 3; Conservatives, 5; Independent, 3.

PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED.—We have received a copy of the Victorian Year Book for 1881-2 from its author (Mr. Henry Heylyn Hayter, C.M.G. Government Statist). The wonderful amount of carefully compiled and scrupulously accurate information contained in this volume can only be rightly appreciated by one who has had occasion to have recourse to its pages.

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Law and Crime, Accumulation, Production, Religious and Moral progress, and other cognate subjects are all exhaustively treated and the result is a thoroughly reliable compendium of all needful information relating to the sister Colony. Appendices are added giving the last Census returns for Victoria, a statistical account of the Japanese Empire (by Torao Kido), the tariffs of the Australasian Colonies and of Great Britain, and the statistics of Australasia and Fiji. We have also received the *Australasian Sketcher* for February, which contains a portrait of Dr. Kennion, some sketches at Bundoora park stud farm (Mr. S. Gardiner's), a representation of the chess match with living figures at the Adelaide Town Hall, and other engravings of interest. The reading matter is up to the usual standard. The report of a special meeting of the members of the Australian Mutual Provident Society, held in Sydney, on November 22nd, 1882, and the *Rough Ashlar* for February, are also to hand.

STRANGER THAN FICTION!—The following little anecdote was related by "the curly-headed boy who never *sever*, NEVER, told a lie," at the Irish Land League meeting held in the Adelaide Town Hall, on Friday evening last. Of course it is strictly true in every particular. Just as true in fact as the report circulated by certain patriots to the effect that the same British soldiers stabbed and otherwise murdered the Egyptian wounded after the recent battle of Tel el Kebir. However, thus and thus saith Mr. J. E. Redmond—"Do you remember the story of Ellen McDonough? I will tell it. Away in the far west of Ireland an army had assembled to carry out some evictions among a number of poor people who were absolutely unable to pay the accumulation of arrears of rack rent, which had been the result of a succession of bad harvests. The people were thoroughly hopeless and helpless; they would not, even if they could, resist. But a crowd, composed principally of women and children, collected near the home of one of the tenants, and began to groan the police and the soldiers. This of course was a fault against law and order, and the officer of the police ordered his men to fix bayonets. This not over-awing the crowd a further order was given to charge. Well, at the first sight of that phalanx of steel advancing against them the crowd broke and ran; but the faster they ran the more fiercely charged the policemen. In the confusion which ensued a young girl stumbled and fell. She was about 18 or 19 years old. She was the daughter of one of the tenants about to be evicted. The police came up to her as she lay face downwards on the ground. A cry of madness broke from the people as they saw these ruffians lift their weapons and stab her fiercely and madly until life was extinct.

as they saw these ruffians lift their weapons and stab her fiercely and madly until life was extinct. Then they carried her back to her poor home, where her mother was waiting for the decree to make them outcasts. As they crossed the threshold a young man with the fury of a demon sprung across it and attacked the police. He was knocked down. He was the brother, and he soon had the gyves upon his wrists. Picture that scene to yourselves. The poor cabin half-filled with policemen. On one side the widowed mother; on the other her only son about to be led away as a criminal because he had proved that he had the heart of a man in his breast. Picture that scene to yourselves, Irish men and women, and tell me can you wonder if that aged mother lifted her hands to heaven and cursed the Government which committed such enormities. Picture that scene to yourselves, you stern moralists, and rail against Irish crime, but know nothing of English provocation. Picture that misery, you fireside philosophers, who would reform humanity on a theory, but make no allowance for human feeling and passion, and tell me can you wonder that the people of that country, deprived of the advice and help of their leaders, were driven to desolation, to rebellion, to outrage, and to murder. Let no man misunderstand me. I deplore Irish crime. I detest it. I denounce it."