

paid as follows—United Devonshire, 4s., £560; New Chum United, Is., £1475; Garden Gully United, Is., £1675; New St. Mungo, Is., £1200; Shenandoah, 6d., £800; total, £10,750 17s.

Ballarat mining matters are looking brighter. The general market is more active, and all dividend-paying stocks are remarkably firm. Hobart Pasha and Waterloo have now got into more payable country. In the immediate vicinity of Ballarat attention has been directed to the continuation of the Temperance and Band of Hope line of reef at Little Bendigo, where the Temperance No. 1 struck good stone last week, from which a trial crushing of 30 tons will be made.

An important development has occurred at Castlemaine, which will help to infuse new life into the district. The Forest Creek Wattle Gully Company crushed 19 tons of quartz obtained from the 650ft. level, for 17oz. gold, which is the best prospect yet obtained from such a depth in that locality.

Favourable reports from Buninyong of the Desoza, Dolcoath, Democrat, and Imperial companies.

At Maryborough a good prospect has been obtained in No. 4 tribute of the Golden Stream, and No. 4 tribute of the Duke Consols have picked up the lead lost by the Old Bismarck Company, one machine yielding 15oz. 5dwt. of gold.

At Tarnagulla, a Ballarat speculator has purchased the whole of the leases on the Poverty Reef, which comprise over a mile in length and 83 acres in area. The purchase includes four engines, with boilers, pumps, and winding gear, two complete crushing plants, and other sundries.

At Kilmore, the reef in winze from 260ft. level of the Langridge Company shows gold freely. The Langridge Company, at Beedy Creek, paid a dividend of 6d. per share, or £800.

A prospecting association has been formed at Sandhurst to give the Dark River district a trial.

The chief yields in the Castlemaine, Daylesford, Dunolly, and Reedy Creek districts were as follows:—Rising Star, 20oz.; Langridge, 185oz.; New Bendigo, 130oz.; Cornish, 116oz.; New Era, 112oz.

At Mount Victoria, in the Gumsucker mine, on breaking down stone in the shaft, gold was visible throughout the reef. The reef is widening under foot, and there is a straight and well-defined wall.

Things appear to be improving at Beaconsfield. At the New Providence, a drive has been commenced north-west on a small leader, from which a little gold has been obtained. At the Olive Branch 134 tons of quartz yielded 174oz. retorted gold. At the little Wonder, the stopes are all looking well, showing good gold. The cleaning-up resulted in 1179oz. amalgam not yet retorted.

From Lefroy there comes satisfactory news. The eastern level of the New Chum is improving in appearance every foot driven on it. The Morning Star are getting on well in sinking the new shaft; and a crushing of 150 tons stone has yielded 31oz. gold. At the New Native South 60oz. retorted gold has been obtained from 400 tons stone. At the Land of Cakes a crushing of 545 tons has resulted in 466oz. amalgam not yet retorted; whilst at the West New Chum, in a crushing of 286 tons quartz, 223oz. amalgam has been obtained from the plates and ripples.

The total quantities of tin sent out during the fortnight ending 28th July were as follows:—North-west coast, 147 tons 14 cwt.; north-east coast, 2836 bags. The only dividend declared was by the Mount Bischoff Company, whose shareholders are about to receive another 10s. per share. The dividend amounts to £8000, and makes a total of £408,000 declared by this company. The mining manager of Brisbane No. 1 (Cascade River) reports a grand show of tin. In the Full Moon (Blue Tier) excellent prospects both from the hanging-wall site and the foot-wall. Carn Brea (West Coast) lode in the tunnel greatly improved in appearance, size, and tin-bearing quality.

A small quantity of the Fingal coal was tested recently on board one of the T.S.N. Company's steamers, with very satisfactory results, and a thorough test of 60 or 70 tons is to be made shortly. The coal tested caught alight rapidly, burnt brightly, but at the same time was not consumed too quickly, and appeared to contain a large quantity of gas. The Fingal coal is bituminous, and very closely resembles the best English. It has been analysed by Mr. Ward, the Government analyst of Tasmania, with the following results:—Carbon 82.3, volatile gases 31.2, ash (buff-coloured) 18.5, water test at 212 deg., 8.0.

Reducing Ores by Electricity.

An improved method of extracting gold and silver from their ores by the combined action of electricity and mercury specially applied in special apparatus has been invented by Richard Barker, of Seacombe, Cheshire. He provides a table, insulated or not, in which he places two or more riffles, or baths, containing mercury, at convenient distances from one another, and fitted or not with the ordinary agitators. Over this table the quartz, alluvial deposit, or other matter containing gold, silver, or both these metals, is washed by the ordinary method. A current of electricity is then passed through the apparatus by one or more suitable conductors in the following manner:—The negative pole (or cathode) of the battery or other

source of electricity is connected with the mercury in the riffles, or the positive pole (or anode) is introduced into the water immediately above the mercury, and sufficiently close to it to cause an energetic action, the electric current being allowed to pass through the water by placing in it, at convenient distances, plates or wires of copper or other good conductors of electricity. It is necessary to keep the mercury covered with a stratum of water, as the action of the mercury is thereby properly maintained. The introduction of an electrical current into the water causes continual agitation at the surface of the mercury, prevents it from what is technically termed "sickening" in the presence of arsenic, sulphur, oil, or any other substance known to act in like manner, and which are deleterious to the action of mercury in amalgamating with gold or silver, and also prevents titanite sand or other heavy mineral deposits from remaining on the surface. The surface of the mercury immediately under and around the copper plates, wires, or the like, is kept thoroughly bright and capable of amalgamating readily with gold and silver, despite the presence of foreign substances. The conducting plates, wires, or the like, he makes either stationary or movable, and attached to the riffles, taking care, however, that if revolving, or otherwise in motion, the plates or wires shall never come into contact with the mercury.—London Mining Journal.

By the courtesy of Mr. W. C. Smith, manager of the Queensland National Bank, we (Cairns Post) have seen a fine ingot of gold dredged there brought from the Lower Camp, Mulgrave goldfield. This ingot, which is of fine quality, weighs 203oz., and is the result of a crushing of 65 tons of stone from Grant's reef, giving the grand yield of 3oz. 2dwt. per ton, with very defective machinery to extract it. This, with 50oz. recently received from the same field, will make a parcel of 253oz. to forward by the next steamer going south.

GOLD to the value of £200,000,000 sterling has been produced in Victoria up to the end of last year.

General News.

Polynesian Labour in Queensland.

The following return shows the number of South Sea Islanders introduced into the colony, the number returned to their native islands, the number of deaths reported to the Immigration Agent, and the estimated number remaining in the colony, 1868 to 1883:—

Table with columns: Date, Number Arrivals, Deaths, Number Departures, Estimated Number in Colony, and Remarks. Rows show data from 1868 to 1883.

\* Number of deaths reported to this office to the year 1876. † This number is most likely excessive, as many deaths and departures have taken place of which we have no record. The correct number is probably about 10,000.

ST. G. RALPH GORE, Immigration Agent, Immigration Office, Brisbane, 1st August, 1883.

The Case of Roxburg v. Tully.

AN application was made on Monday to the Acting Chief Justice, in the Supreme Court, in connection with the case of Roxburg v. Tully, in which judgment was given by his Honour on the 30th July. The action, it will be remembered, was brought to compel the Government to issue a deed of grant for a selection on Westbrook, Darling Downs, taken up in 1868. The case was tried without a jury, and the Acting Chief Justice gave judgment in favour of the Government, saying nothing as to costs. On Monday Mr. Garrick, with Mr. Real, instructed by the Crown Solicitor, applied, upon motion, on behalf of the defendant, that the plaintiff be ordered to pay the defendant's costs of the action. Mr. Griffith, Q.C., with Mr. Feez, instructed by Messrs. Hart, Mein, and Flower, appeared to oppose the application. On behalf of the Crown it was contended that, nothing having been said at the trial about costs, they would follow the event; while, on the other side it was argued that, the Judge having been silent on the subject, he had by so doing exercised the discretion given to him by the Judicature Act, and granted no costs. Order 50, rule 1, of the Judicature Act was quoted, which provides that "the costs of and incidental to all proceedings in the court shall be in the discretion of the court," and that "where any action or issue is tried by a jury the costs shall follow the event unless upon application made at the trial for good cause shown the Judge before whom such action or issue is tried or the court shall otherwise order." Mr. Garrick said his side had not asked for costs at the trial because Chief Justice Lilely had let it be understood that when nothing was said by the Judge about costs in a case tried without a jury, they would follow the event as in cases tried with juries. His Honour said this was not the universal practice. The latter part of the rule quoted

applied only to jury cases, and he thought that in cases tried without juries it was necessary to obtain an order before costs would be granted. If the Judge did not dispose of the matter in his judgment, he thought it was open to either party to apply for costs, and when it was not so disposed of, it was an intimation to the parties that the question was open to argument. In this case he considered he had exercised a proper discretion. The judgment was complete as it stood, and he had no power to alter it. The present motion would therefore be dismissed, with costs. The result of the application, therefore, is that each party has to pay his own costs of action.

Queensland National Association.

THE ordinary weekly meeting of the council of the National Association took place in the Central Chambers on Monday afternoon at 3 o'clock. Present: Messrs. J. Fenwick (in the chair), P. R. Ricardo, J. Petrie, A. Radcliffe, C. F. Gerler, P. R. Gordon, and R. D. Neilson.

CORRESPONDENCE.

A letter was read from Mr. J. Little, stating that he had reconsidered his decision in the matter of resigning his seat at the council, but saw no reason for altering his determination. He thanked the deputation that waited on him for their kindness and courtesy, but had no intention of retracing his steps. The members present were unanimous in expressing their regrets at his leaving, and hoped to see him once more among them.

GRAND STAND.

MR. P. R. RICARDO submitted the plans of a proposed permanent grand stand, which would accommodate 160 persons. It would all be constructed of hardwood, except the seats, at the cost of £80. He moved that it be adopted, as they were now spending £35 from year to year to no purpose, whereas if a beginning was made in the direction of a permanent stand it could be added to from time to time, and would become a source of revenue to the association. The motion was seconded by Mr. A. RADCLIFFE; but on the suggestion of Mr. P. R. GORDON the motion was withdrawn, with the intention of soon after the exhibition taking into consideration the erection of a larger one, to accommodate 1000 people. For present purposes it was decided to erect a temporary stand as on former occasions, the cost not to exceed £35.

ELECTIONS.

MR. P. R. GORDON was elected member of the Finance Committee in place of Mr. J. Little (resigned). Mr. Charles Chauvel was also elected member of the council to fill the vacancy caused by Mr. Little's resignation.

EXHIBITION FARES.

The subject of cabmen's fares was talked over by members of the council, and a practical suggestion was thrown out, although not embodied in a resolution, namely, that cabmen would do well to consider that they are now in competition with the railway, and that it would not be advisable for them to double their fares on these occasions, as has been the rule formerly.

SPECIAL PRIZES.

Some surprise being expressed at the slowness of the general public, especially the hotelkeepers and cabmen, in not helping the special prize list, although, as a class, they are more benefited than any others, it was decided to suggest to them the advisableness of doing so immediately by making subscriptions among themselves and offering it for competition in any way they think fit. If the hint be taken there is no time to lose.

MISCELLANEOUS.

MR. BRAMSTON suggested that the show be kept open on Saturday, but it was decided to the contrary, as past experience only showed loss to the society as the result.

It was announced that schools, accompanied with their teachers, would be admitted free to the exhibition on Friday.

The members of council present at the meeting were appointed stewards for the Juvenile Exhibition, three to form a quorum.

With reference to the draymen's prize it was announced that the special prize offered was, at the wish of the donors, to be for the best kept drayman's horse and harness working from the wharves. MR. NEILSON was sorry that the prize did not excite more competition last year, but as it was a matter requiring time to work it up, he hoped it would be more attractive this year, and that in the future the council would see its way to continue it and to increase the amount of prize money.

The meeting closed with a progress report from the secretary, to the effect that 1341 entries had been received for the Annual Exhibition, which was 222 beyond the number last year. There are also over 1000 entries for the Juvenile Exhibition.

Divisional Boards.

BOOROODABIN.

THE usual fortnightly meeting of the Booroodabin Divisional Board was held yesterday week at the office of the board, in Wickham-street, when the following gentlemen were present—Mr. F. Beattie, in the chair, and Messrs. Longland, Beal, Cowlishaw, Mallon, Down, and Dath. The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed, after which the clerk read the following inward correspondence:—From the secretary of the Queensland Agricultural Association, asking if the board was taking any steps towards repairing the Gregory-terrace bridge; from E. Hynes, Wickham-street, asking permission to have an outlet or drain to his property. Two memorandums were also read from Messrs. Collidge Bros. and Co., in relation to a supply of road metal. The outward correspondence contained nothing of importance to the general public, with the exception of a letter to the Municipal Council, calling attention to the dangerous condition of the bridge on the municipal boundary at the lower end of Gregory-terrace. The report of the Finance Committee, recommending payments to the amount of £385 16s. 9d., was read and adopted. The board then proceeded to discuss the tenders received for the cutting down of Bowen Bridge-road near the hospital. After some discussion it was resolved that the tenders be not entertained, and the question was left open for the present. Further discussion on this subject ensued, and it was finally resolved that tenders be called for cutting down the road opposite the gates of the Acclimatisation Society about 4ft. and 42ft. wide; the work to be completed within three months. With respect to the Gregory-terrace bridge and its approaches, it was moved and seconded that the chairman be authorised to spend a sum not exceeding £100 in repairing and improving the same, before the forthcoming

exhibition. It was proposed and seconded that the chairman be empowered to employ the necessary counsel to defend the case of Dennis, in connection with 'busses passing through the division on holidays, &c., without the necessary permits enjoined by the by-laws. On the motion of Mr. Mallon, who withdrew his motion on the same subject, it was resolved that Campbell-street, from the railway crossing to Hamilton-place be put in a passable state of repair, at a cost not exceeding £50.

NUNDAH.

THE usual monthly meeting of the Nundah Divisional Board was held at their office, Protestant Hall, on Saturday last. Present—Messrs. Thomas Ridley, William Hawkins, D. F. Longland, James Handford, J. W. Lee, C. Fisher, D. J. Childs, A. Rodé, the chairman (John F. Buckland), and the secretary (Thomas J. Ballinger). Minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed. Correspondence read from Indooroopilly board, asking co-operation in defending a test case, in which the board had assessed sixty-five allotments at £2 10s. each. It was decided that no action could be taken in the matter. From the clerk of petty sessions, Sandgate, re Stuckey's slaughter license; from Lands Department, forwarding documents in connection with the conveyance for signature of a part of Mr. W. J. Forth's land on the Hamilton-road; from clerk of petty sessions, Brisbane, asking if there were any objections to the granting to Mr. W. Gray of a slaughter license; from Mr. P. Fraser, asking for improvements to his property. A memorandum of agreement with J. E. Brown, granting the permission to erect a jetty, was confirmed. Tender from E. Rogers, for the erection of fencing on the Sandgate-road, was also confirmed. The committee appointed to investigate Mr. Henry Jones's claim, arising out of an accident on the Nudgee-road, tabled the evidence taken on the matter, and recommended that no compensation be allowed; adopted. A petition from Carl Fischer and seven others, asking for certain improvements to a road near their properties, was read the second time, and referred to the inspector for his report. The inspector was also ordered to report on the Albion-road by the Grove, the Nudgee station roads, and the north and south roads on the east of the Albion-road. £100 was granted for Boggy Creek-roads, £25 for the Nudgee-road, £30 for Granby's road, and a sum for the new culvert, Cabbage-tree Creek, Gympie-road; tenders to be called for the last-named work and Bumbaling's road. A notice of motion in Mr. Hawkins's name, that the inspector be absent from the office three days a week, was withdrawn. The Finance Committee's reports were received, read, and adopted, recommending payment of £284 9s. 10d.

The Great Gold Robbery at Charters Towers.

[FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.] July 28.

AN unusually long sitting of the Northern District Court here, lasting over a fortnight, was brought to a close yesterday. Judge Noel presided, and Mr. R. C. Ringrose acted as Crown Prosecutor. The first case was that of Alfred Lewis, charged with obtaining money under false pretences, but Mr. Ringrose stating that he was not prepared at present to go on with the case, Lewis was remanded until the next sittings—bail allowed on his own recognisances, £30. John George Wilson, who was charged with attempting to commit suicide at the Cloncurry in March last, pleaded guilty, and was sentenced to be imprisoned until the rising of the court. John King, alias John Cooper, charged with obtaining £16 19s. 6d. by false pretences from Henry Gough, pleaded guilty, and was sentenced to six months' imprisonment. Benjamin Hurst Taylor, charged with embezzling the sum of £25 (price of a piano), the property of Beale and Co. pleaded not guilty. The jury, on hearing the evidence, upheld the plea, and the prisoner was discharged. William Shorthall, on remand, charged with larceny of £260 from Edmund Holden O'Connor, pleaded not guilty. In this case, at the previous sittings of the court, the jury disagreed, and the prisoner was now again put on his trial. The jury in the present instance, after hearing the evidence, had no difficulty in bringing in a verdict of not guilty. The most important case on the list was next called—that is, the Day Dawn gold robbery. Samuel Cowan M'Connell, Benjamin Mills, and Jessie M'Connell were put forward, charged with the larceny of 600oz. of gold, the property of the Day Dawn Gold Mining Company, Limited, on the 16th of June, 1882. The prisoners pleaded not guilty, and were defended by Mr. Rutledge (who was specially retained on this case), instructed by Mr. Cooper. The case commenced on Friday morning, 20th July. The court sat until 11.30 p.m., and adjourned till next morning, the jury being locked up for the night. The whole evidence for the prosecution was concluded early on Saturday. There were twenty-nine witnesses in all, including the chief steward of the Elamang, Mr. Timothy Jones, goldsmith, Sydney; and Detective Wigg, who arrested prisoner M'Connell in Sydney. There were no witnesses called for the defence, and the Crown prosecutor having addressed the jury, Mr. Rutledge entered on his address for the defence, which he had not concluded at 11.30 p.m. on Saturday. On Monday morning he resumed his address, which he concluded about half-past 11. The Judge then summed up, and the jury retired to consider their verdict. It was generally supposed they would disagree, but the hour of midnight approaching, and those who were standing out for a conviction being in a small minority (so it is whispered), and probably not caring to spend the fourth night in the jury-room, gave way. The Judge was sent for, and on the jury being called in the foreman, in answer to the usual question, said they had agreed to a verdict of not guilty. This concluded the criminal business, and the remainder of the week until Friday evening was occupied in hearing civil cases.

The Presbyterian Church.

A MEETING of the Brisbane Presbytery of the Queensland Presbyterian Church was held in the Ann-street Church on Monday, the Rev. C. M'ulloch, Moderator, presiding. The clerk (Rev. C. Ogg) was instructed to forward to the Toowoomba Presbytery a certificate for the transfer of the Rev. W. Patterson from the Brisbane to the Toowoomba Presbytery, that minister having been called to take charge of the Laidley and Murphy's Creek Church. The Rev. Hugh Smith, formerly of the Congregational Church, Victoria, having satisfied the