Commercial Banking Company OF SYDNEY.

CAPITAL .. £500,000.
RESERVE FUND .. £250,000

MUDGEE BRANCH.

BILLS Discounted. Cash credits granted. Drafts issued on the various Branches and Agencies of the Bank in this Colony, Queensland, Victoria, Tasmania, New Zealand, and South Australia; also, Bills of Exchange issued on Ireland, England and Scotland. Advances made and

Interest allowed on Fixed Deposits. Rates upon application.

BEAUCHAMP STACY,
Manager

Australian Joint Stock Bank.

MUDGEE BRANCH

DRAFTS issued on England, Scotland, and Ireland, and on all the principal towns in New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland, South Australia, Tasmania, and New Zealand.

Interest allowed on Fixed Deposits, Bills Discounted, Gold purchased, and all usual Banking business transacted.

H. M. TODHUNTER,
Manager.

Bank of New South Wales,

ESTABLISHED, 1817.

CAPITAL .. £1000000
RESERVE FUND .. £393333

MUDGEE BRANCH.

DRAFTS issued on our London branch, and on our various agents in the principal towns in Great Britain and Ireland.

Intercolonial drafts issued on our numerous branches in all the chief towns in New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland, and New Zealand, and on our agents in the other colonies.

Interest allowed on fixed deposits at current rate.

Liens granted on Wool, Bills discounted, &c.

ROBERT H. D. WHITE,
Manager.

THE PARTNERSHIP hitherto existing between the undersigned as Attorneys, Solicitors, and Proctors, under the style and firm of "DUNN and CLARKE" has been this day DISSOLVED by mutual consent.

Dated this twelfth day of May, 1873.

GEO. M. DUNN,
EDW. CLARKE.

Witness—W. J. HENNINGHAM, Mudgee.

MR. EDWARD CLARKE,
SOLICITOR,
TEMPORARY OFFICE
SMITH'S CLUB HOUSE HOTEL,
MARKET STREET, MUDGEE

COMMERCIAL.

CROSSING & COX'S MITTAGONG AND GULGONG STOCK REPORT.

FAT CATTLE.—The supply yarded was about equal to requirements, quality ranging from medium to good. For a time the demand was brisk at quotations which are—Best 24s with others 21s to 23s per 100lbs. We sold 24 chiefly bullocks (Dentle, at £7 15s 6d; 16 young bullocks (M Donald's, £6 18s; 24 cows (M'Donald's, £5 4l bullocks, (Rouse's, £7 6s 6d; one bullock reaching £12 2s.

FAT SHEEP.—The market is best of really good quality sheep for which there is an active demand at quotations named; best wethers 15s to 16s; best ewes, 13s to 14s. We sold 150 ewes (R Rouse's, at £7 10s; 70 wethers, 70s 3d.

STORE CATTLE.—A brisk demand continues for bullocks at the Mart, with a fair amount of business doing. Quotations—bullocks, £4 15s to £5 5s; cows, £3 14s to £4 4s. We sold 8 bullocks (Rouse's, at £5 5s; 10 mixed sexes at quotation.

STORE SHEEP.—Under the wearing we have no change to note. Lambs being chiefly for wethers, and young ewes required after shearing. Wethers and young ewes to be inspected for forward delivery. Quotations are at present almost difficult to name.

MISCELLANEOUS.—A good demand still exists for young mares are ready for immediate use being readily sold. Quotations are—best mares £7 to £—; second quality £5 to £6. We sold 9 head (Price's, at £— to £—.

PIGS.—There is a fair demand for good porkers at prices that are sufficient to attract. We sold 68 head of all sizes from to

HORSES.—Alteration really serviceable animals, with for draught— saddle purposes being in fair request at recent quotations

Mudgee August 9, 1875.

We have reports during the week of the sale of fat cattle from £4 10s to £— per head; of 643 at £5 5s; 1,400 fat wethers at £1 17s 6d; 74 prime at a satisfactory price, and a shipment of cattle past week on account of C. C. Cox, at £5 5s; 12 at from £5 to £5 5s each; 30 at £5 10s; and 1 cow and a grand price. He has two stations in for offer, and being supported also two lots of ewes.

Mudgee Retail Prices Current

Flour—Fine—per ton ..	£14	0	0
Seconds ..	12	0	0
Bran, per 100 lbs ..	0	4	0
Pollard ..	0	5	0
Wheat, per bushel ..	0	6	0
Maize ..	0	5	0
Fresh Butter, per lb. ..	0	1	6
Colonial Cheese ..	0	1	6
Bacon ..	0	1	0
Eggs, per dozen ..	0	1	0
Bread, per 2lb. Loaf ..	0	0	4
Oaten Hay, per ton ..	5	0	0
Lucerne ..	4	0	0
Straw ..	3	10	0
Chaff	4	0	0
Beef, per lb. ..	0	0	4
Mutton, per lb. ..	0	0	4
Pork Veal &c., per lb. ..	0	0	6

DAILY ALMANAC FOR AUGUST.

Sunday	1	8	15	22	29
Monday	2	9	16	23	30
Tuesday	3	10	17	24	31
Wednesday	4	11	18	25	
Thursday	5	12	19	26	
Friday	6	13	20	27	
Saturday	7	14	21	28	

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

VIGILANT.—If you will re-write your letter in ink, and affix your name and address, we will insert it.

The Mudgee Times.

"Give to Ministers a corrupt House of Commons to give them a pliant and servile House of Commons to give them the keys of the Treasury and the patronage of the Crown, and give me the Liberty of the Press, and with this mighty engine I will overthrow the fabric of corruption, and establish upon its ruins the rights and privileges of the people."—*Sheridan*

TUESDAY, AUGUST 10, 1875.

MUDGEE AS IT IS.

SITUATION AND GENERAL DESCRIPTION

THE town of Mudgee (32 deg. 40 min. S. lat., 149 deg. 38 min. E. long.) in the county of Phillip is a postal and principal township in the electoral and police district of Mudgee. It is situated on the Cudgegong River, and on the road from Sydney to the north-western districts. Reedy Creek is distant twenty miles S.W., and Lawson's Creek one mile E.; Bocoblina mountain stands twenty miles distant, and several other peaks, the principal of which are Mounts Frome, Buckaroo, and Sugar Loaf, lie to the E.W. and S. The nearest towns, are—Gulgong, N.W., 18 miles; Cudgegong, E., 22 miles; Rylstone, S., 35 miles; Cassilis, N., 60 miles; Guntawang, N.W., 16 miles; Colobora, N.W., 50 miles; Munduorin, N.W., 70 miles; Dubbo, N.W., 90 miles; and Wellington, N.W., 60 miles. With Munduorain and the two rising towns beyond, Coonamble and Coonabarabran, distant 160 miles, and 135 miles respectively, there is communication by Cobb and Co.'s mail coach twice a week; and to the other places by horse or dray. With the metropolis, Sydney, 153 miles S.E., communication is by Cobb's daily mail coach to Wallerawang, 72 miles, the latter being the nearest point on the Great Western Railway line to the Mudgee Road. It may be noticed here that this district is separated from the metropolis by the Blue Mountain range, now crossed by the railway, constructed with considerable skill, in the face of what appeared to be an unsuperable difficulty. The "Zig Zag," by means of which the descent is made from a height of 3490 feet above the sea level to 1500 feet, the level of Mudgee, is a masterpiece of engineering, and is one of the "lions" which visitors to Sydney are taken to see. While referring to the railway we may add, that the importance of this rising district has been so fully recognised by the Government and Legislature, that a surveying party is now exploring, to discover a practicable *route* for the extension of the line into Mudgee, when there is no doubt that an impetus will be given to the whole of the north-western district, second only to that which the discovery of the gold-fields did. Mudgee has a well conducted public hospital, supported by a Government endowment equal in money to public subscriptions. The demands upon it, caused mainly by the adjacent gold-fields, have caused the erection of a new and more commodious building, situated in an admirable position, and capable of containing 33 beds, and to be fitted with every modern appliance. Two-thirds of the building, which in all will cost £6000, are nearly finished. There are in the town a Post and Money-order Office, which will shortly be removed from their temporary place to a new post-office being built adjoining the Telegraph Office. The Court-house, where the Assizes, Quarter, and Petty Sessions are held, has recently been enlarged and regovated, and from the central position of the town the calendars are generally heavy. The Assize Court is held every six months, presided over by one of the puisne judges; the Quarter Sessions and District Court, three times a year, are presided over by Alfred M'Farland, Esq., and the Police Court is held twice a week, the Police Magistrate, George Warburton, Esq., who has just been superannuated having presided, assisted occasionally by the Rev. J. C. Stack, M.A., Messrs. Rouse, C. C. Cox, Robert Lowe, N. P. Bayly, R. H. D. White, W. R. Blackman, Vivian Cox, S. S. Blackman, Hon. G. H. Cox, Francis Cox, J. D. Cox, C. W. Lawson, C. B. Lowe, Richard Rouse, James Keppie, and E. Lindale. The offices of Registrar, Clerk of Petty Sessions, and Land Agent, are filled by Mr. George Leary. The Sheriff's bailiff is Mr. Evan Richards, and the bailiff of the Small Debts Court is Mr. H. E. A. Wells. It will be seen by the foregoing that the district is well supplied with all the legal apparatus inseparable from the requirements of a large and populous town. Of course there is a gaol, now undergoing considerable enlargement, not rendered so much necessary by an increase in the percentage of crime in the district, as by the daily increasing population of the surrounding towns. The other officials in the town are:—Coroner, Mr. W. J. Henningham; Returning-Officer, Dr. Wilson Ramsay; Commissioners for Affidavits, Messrs. R. Johnson, G. Warburton, G. Leary, L. O. D. James, and H. N. P. Bayly. Licensed Surveyor, W. Anderson. Gaoler, J. Dick; Matron, Mrs. Dick; Visiting Justice, G. Warburton.

There are about twenty hotels and public-houses, the principal of which are—the Royal, the Imperial, the Post Office, the Sydney, the Belmore, and the Club House. The banks are represented by branches of the Bank of New South Wales, Commercial, and Australian Joint Stock banks, and there are two Savings banks, one of which is the Government one, connected with the Post Office. There are also agencies for the Mutual Provident Society, the Mutual Life Association of Australasia, and the Colonial, United, Norwich Union, Liverpool, and London, and Globe, and Victoria, Life and Fire Insurance Companies. The New South Wales Bible society has also a branch; and there is a Masonic (St. John's Lodge E.C.), and two Oddfellows Lodges, (The Loyal Sovereign, M.U.I.O.O., No. 4693, and the All Nations, G.U.O.O.F.) The martial ardour of the inhabitants is testified by the existence of a Volunteer Corps, commanded by Captain G. Davidson, and possessing a band. Temperance has its supporters in the lodges of the Good Templars; the Sons of Temperance, and the Cadets of Temperance. There are also several Benefit Societies, a Building Society, an Orange Lodge, and a branch of the Roman Catholic Guild. Two newspapers are published in Mudgee, each twice a week, the *Mudgee Times*, and the *Western Post*, and both are fairly supported.

Mudgee is a tolerably well built town, the principal one of the district, a mile square, with wide streets laid out at right angles, and, during the last five years a large number of brick buildings have been erected, some of which have superseded the primitive erections of timber and iron. It has a number of substantial stores and shops, and most of them appear to be doing well.

Mudgee proper is incorporated, and the Municipality was proclaimed on February 21st 1860. It has a Mayor, (Mr. G. Davidson) and eight Aldermen, Messrs. G. D. Lane, W. Sherry, M. J. Sheppard, H. Crossing, G. Arnold, F. Thdall, T. Clark, and E. Daly. The Town Clerk, and Clerk of Works is Mr. F. Lovejoy. There is also a rural Municipality, surrounding the town, called the Cudgegong Municipality, with a Mayor (Mr. W. Kellett, jun.), and five Aldermen, Messrs. W. Wilton, J. Newman, R. Lowe, G. H. Cox, and A. H. Cox. The Council Clerk and Clerk of Works is Mr. R. Hudson. This is the largest municipality in the Colony, extending over an area of nearly 200 square miles. Last year the estimated value of rateable property was about £15,000, from which an income of £750 was derived, exclusive of Government aid to the amount of £187.

There is a Pastoral and Agricultural Association, and its fifteenth annual show last month was considered a great success so far as the quality of the exhibits is concerned. It possesses about eighty members, and is governed by a President, Mr. R. Lowe; three Vice-Presidents, Messrs. G. H. Cox, C. C. Cox, and G. Rouse; and a committee of twenty members, and Mr. W. C. Reynolds is the Secretary and Treasurer. Its receipts prior to the last show were £251, the whole of which was expended in prizes; and during the past two years, some £500 has been expended in permanent improvements.

The School of Arts is admittedly one of the finest out of the metropolis; and has a large hall, the only fault of which is, that it's acoustic properties are not good, and that it is badly fitted up for musical or other entertainments. The library is an extensive one, comprising some 4000 volumes, of mostly standard works, which are continually being added to. In addition to which, the reading room is daily supplied with the metropolitan, intercolonial, local, and principal country papers, and by each mail with the leading English periodicals. The Librarian is Mr. D. Cassin, and the management is entrusted to a President, Vice-Presidents, and a Committee.

Mudgee possesses four steam flour mills constantly at work, viz., Chappell's, Dickson and Sons', Crossing and Co's, and Arnold's. Mudgee has also two tanneries, a soap and candle manufactory, two coach factories, and representatives of nearly every trade; while many of its stores and business places would not disgrace a city.

The Church of England is a large building, the want of architectural style of its exterior being made amends for by its interior. The congregation has, however, outgrown the accommodation it affords, and it has been proposed to dispose of it and er et a larger church on another site. The Venerable Archdeacon J. Gunther, who has been in the district about thirty three years, is the incumbent; and the Rev. E. W. Stretton, curate. The Roman Catholic "Presentation" Church is now being re-built of stone and enlarged, at a cost of £5050; and when it is completed will vie, for the beauty of design, with any edifice of the same description in the country districts. The Rev. John O'Donovon is the pastor. The Wesleyan Church is a very handsome building and the Rev. William Clarke is the present minister. A new Presbyterian Church (of which the Rev. A. McEwen is the minister) is being built, and the present church, which is now small for the congregation, will be converted into a schoolroom. Sunday schools are attached to all the churches we have mentioned. Of day schools, under the Council of Education, there are three, the Public School (Master—J. Dart; Mistress—Miss Sayers); the Church of England School (Master—Mr. Piper); and the Roman Catholic School (Master—Mr. Larkin). Some idea of the rapid increase in the population may be gained from the enlargement of the several buildings we have referred to, devoted to religious and educational purposes.

The surrounding country is flat to the N.W. and N., and ridgy in other directions abounding in rich iron ore, cannel coal, or bituminous shale. Gold can be obtained, more or less, in all parts of the district. There are also several quarries of stone nearly, if not quite, equal to the famed Hurlstey stone and extensively used for sharpening edged tools. The geological formation is probably Devonian, connected with serpentine, charged with chromate of iron affected by green-stone, diorite, and trappean porphyritic white-stone and lydspar. The population of Mudgee at the last census in 1871, was as follows—a total of males 7737, females 4164, made up as follows:—County of Wellington—Municipal town of Mudgee, 930 males, 856 females; Merrendee (village and gold-fields), 151 males, 83 females; Village of Hargraves, 149 males, 82 females; Part of Cudgegong municipality, 781 males, 635 females; Rural, including gold-fields, 1867 males, 782 females. County of Phillip—Part of Cudgegong municipality, 534 males, 392 females; Gulgong gold-field, 2452 males, 776 females; Rural, including gold-fields, 873 males, 528 females.

The Mudgee electoral district embraces the W. portion of the County of Phillip, and the N. portion of the County of Wellington, and is bounded on the N. from the confluence of Bylong Creek with the Goulburn River, by that river 40 its head in the Great Dividing range; by that range, and by Wialdra Creek to its confluence with the Cudgegong River; on the W. by the Cudgegong River to the confluence of the Meroo Creek; thence on the S. by the range forming the S. watershed of the Meroo Creek, to the head of Cudgegong Creek; thence on the E. by Cudgegong Creek to its confluence with the Cudgegong River; then in a line N. by compass, passing to the W. of the village of Dungaree, to the Great Dividing range, and by that range E. and the range forming the watershed of Bylong Creek, to the confluence of that creek with the Goulburn river. The district is represented in the Legislative Council by the Hon. G. H. Cox; and in the Legislative Assembly by Mr. Stephen S. Goold. A bill recently introduced into the Assembly, but not yet carried, contemplates the division of the electorate so as to permit of the return of two members to the Assembly, instead of one only as at present.

We, having glanced at the most prominent features of the town and district, may now refer to the more important industries, none of which is of greater prominence than

ITS PASTORAL INTEREST.

The principal breeders in the district are—Messrs. N. P. Bayly (Havilah), G. H. Cox (Burrundulla), G. Rouse (Beau Desert), C. C. Cox (Broombee), R. Rouse (Guntawang), E. and A. Cox (Wallinga), E. K. Cox (Rawdon), C. W Lawson (Buttabucca), C.B. Lowe (Goree), J. de V. Lamb (Herriwa), W. R. Blackman (Cullenbone), S. A. Blackman (Gooyal), R. W. Cox (Louee), and Mr. W.B. Cadell (Tonabutta). It is almost unnecessary to remind our readers that Mudgee wool always realizes the highest rates in the market, as compared with those obtained for clips from other parts of the colony. At the last London sales the highest price obtained for fleece was 42d per lb, the owner of it obtaining for 113 bales, an average of 36½d. per lb. For exceptional picked bales, still higher rates have been previously realised. The sheep of which the flocks of the breeders we have named are mainly composed are pure merinos; but certain portions of the district have been found well adapted for Southdowns, as some exhibited at the Show previously referred to conclusively proved. The latest statistics show, that the number of sheep depastured in this district, compared with the large numbers upon some runs in this, and the sister colonies of Victoria and Queensland, is insignificant, but it must be remembered that it is *quality* more than *quantity* for which the "Mudgee wools" have obtained their brilliant reputation all over the world.

Nor is it to sheep alone that the pastoral reputation of the district is due. We have amongst us some enthusiastic cattle breeders, and some of the best bred Durham cattle can be found in the paddocks of Messrs. R. Lowe, G. Rouse, J. D. Cox, and others. Neither is there a lack of "white-faced" cattle in the district, the Herefords of Messrs. G. H. Cox and G. Rouse, challenging the severest criticism. But recently, an imported bull costing £1000 was brought to the district, and it was only one of many highly bred animals which have rendered Mudgee nearly as famous for its cattle as its sheep.

This section of our remarks would be incomplete without reference to the equine race. For blood horses the district is noted, having produced as it has many racers which have proved their quality by the stakes they have won. And prominent amongst those who have been the means of enriching the blood of the local studs by expensive animals, may be mentioned Messrs. G. Rouse, G. H. Cox, R. Rouse, and Mr. C. Tindale. The last named gentleman recently gave what was equal to £2500 for the "Duke of Athol," (imported) whose sire was the celebrated English horse, Blair Athol; but we regret to add that a few weeks ago the animal was stolen, and brutally and maliciously destroyed. As a proof of the great interest taken in the breeding of horses in the district, a movement has been made to recoup Mr. Tindale for his great loss, and the subscriptions are so liberal, that it is expected that that gentleman will be placed in a position to bring to the district a still better horse, if such is possible. The above remarks will also apply to the draught horses in the district. Having briefly referred to the pastoral interest, the next that claims attention is that of

THE GOLD-FIELDS.

The year 1851 was a memorable one for the colony generally, but especially for the Mudgee district. The discovery of gold at the graves Turon and Meroo, and at Ophir, in the County of Wellington, depopulated not only Mudgee, but attracted thousands from all parts of the colony, as well as from the neighbouring colonies. Ophir is the oldest gold-field in New South Wales, the precious metal having been first discovered by Mr. Hargraves in the bed of the Summer Hill Creek, and only a few days ago the Legislature voted that gentleman a life annuity of £250 per annum, in addition to a considerable sum with which he was previously rewarded. Early in the year following Mr. Hargraves's discovery, the Government Geologist, Mr. S. Stutchbury, writing from Wialdra Creek, on the Cudgegong River, furnished the Government with an exhaustive report upon a survey he had made in the Mudgee district, and from the following extracts it will be seen that he actually indicated the existence of the great gold-fields which many years afterwards were discovered. The report is lengthy, and we can merely quote the following paragraphs:—

After reporting his explorations on the Cudgegong from Yamble to Pine-bone Creek, and on the Two Mile Flat and Creek, he says:—

"Having returned to Guntawang, I then examined the course of the Cudgegong upwards as far as Mudgee, and found that many fine samples of gold had been obtained by Mr. Henry Bayly, at Cloudy Bay, about 3 miles to the westward of the town; but only was it obtained of large size in the bed of the river, previous to the floods, but subsequently in the flats and small creeks of the neighbourhood. This is undoubtedly drift gold, the latter flats consist of coal measure sandstone. While has filled in the ancient gully or ravine, extending itself across the Cudgegong, and is again exhibited and quarried, for building purposes, on the line of Mr Donald's Creek, while in the parallel branch of Broombee, or Crooked Creek, limestone has been quarried.

"The ranges around being schistose and highly quartziferous, may account for the gold being found in considerable quantity; there is gold also in the Eurinderry or Pinedey Creek, the embouchure of which is at Wilbertree. Lawson's Creek, a considerable tributary of the Cudgegong, passes through a country which I have no doubt is highly auriferous, and upon trial in several places above where limestone is marked upon the map, gold was found in every dishfull of earth. It was informed by Mr. Nicholas Bayly, that he had obtained a considerable quantity from a hole in the granite rock which crosses the creek about twelve miles above its junction, and also that it occurred generally throughout the flat lands.

"I have again examined a considerable portion of the upper part of the Meroo River and its tributaries from the ranges on the north, having previously visited the lower part from the south. I saw abundant evidence of the riches of this river, now withstanding its high flooded state, especially at Hatchett's Old Point, Point Pure, and other places where it is crossed by the leaders. The tributaries, Long Creek, Devil's Hole, Campbell's Creek, Hungerty Gully, and other places now far famed, engaged my attention. Near to Campbell's Creek on the road from Sutton's old station to Nuggety Gully, close to some gold working lately discovered, there occur, scattered about, masses of decomposed quartz, rich in sulphuret of antimony, the variety called Jamesonite, with yellow oxide of antimony. I did not find the lode, but there can be no doubt but it may be found in considerable quantity—independently of its commercial value. It is interesting when being frequently accompanying metals with gold.

"Having carefully examined the Cudgegong River from its confluence with the Macquarie, I have no hesitation (notwithstanding its having been but slightly worked, and at distant points up to the present time) in stating my belief, that the whole course of it is replete with gold, but many of its smaller tributaries, together with the dry diggings of their accompanying flat lands and swamps, will supply room for thousands of adventurers for many years to come; and that, during the period of cessation which will ensue consequent upon the ill reared mode of working in this the infancy of Australian gold mining, in localities that have proved highly productive, but supposed by the majority to be worked out, will be returned to at a future time, and again yield large profits."

The gold mining around Mudgee is both alluvial and quartz, the nearest diggings being Pipeclay, six miles; Budgee Budgee, about the same distance; Frome's Creek and Ilat a Castle, from six to eight miles; Windeyer, fifteen miles; Aviaford, twenty miles; and Clarke's Creek (Devil's Hole), Long Creek, Nuggetty Gully, Merrendee, and Hargraves, all at about twenty miles distance. Most of the above-named diggings have, it is said, been in mining *parlance* "worked out" but the fact that a large number of miners are now profitably engaged upon them negatives the supposition, and gives force to the belief entertained by many old and experienced residents, that *rich* reefs exist in some of the localities. The brilliant results from the Guigong, Canadian, and Home Rule gold-fields, during the past five years has, undoubtedly, tended to divert attention from the older fields we have referred to, but there can be no doubt that a reaction will sooner or later set in, through which the auriferous deposits in the district will be more fully developed. The rewards recently offered by the Government for the discovery of gold-fields capable of employing 500 miners and upwards, cannot fail to have a most reviving effect upon this industry. Some idea may be formed of the value of the Guigong gold-field (which includes the Home Rule and Canadian) when we state that for the year ending 31st March, 1876, the gold forwarded thence by escort was 181,185 ozs., valued at £508,108. There have been several attempts to operate upon known auriferous lands on the banks of the Cudgegong by means of hydraulic sluicing, but the results have not been commensurate with the outlay of capital, but quite as great as the incapacity with which the works were managed would justify. Neither have the majority of the reefs yielded a fair return for the outlay upon them; one of the disturbing influences being the large per centage of silver, and consequently low value of the gold. Recently, however, some reefs have been worked which encourage the belief that the district does possess payable auriferous reefs, notably the British Lion reef, near Merrendee, which yields 2½ oz. of gold (worth 65s. per oz.) to the ton; and another reef near Gulgong has assisted in showing that quartz may yet be expected to play an important part in the history of the district. Second to neither of the two above named industries is

THE AGRICULTURAL INTEREST

and it is probable that in no part of the Colony is richer land to be found than upon the river flats of the Cudgegong River, and its tributaries. It is true that they are liable to be flooded, but as a rule the destruction of crops is nothing as compared with the devastating effects caused by the rising of the northern rivers, the Hawkesbury and Hunter. Indian corn (maise) grows luxuriantly, and in a good season eighty bushels to the acre, is not an uncommon harvest. The Mudgee lucerne has an high reputation in its way as the wool has, and recently we sold in Sydney, at £9 10s. per ton, thus enabling the grower who would have sold at 35s. per ton at the stack, to pay £6 or £7 per ton for carriage by bullock and horse teams to the railway station, and trainage, and yet make a profit. Wheat also yields a fair average crop, and the same may be said of almost every cereal, fruit, and vegetable. At the end of last year there were in the district of Mudgee 1867 land-holders, and the quantity of land under cultivation was 10,245 acres. The quantity of land enclosed, but not cultivated, was 59,222 acres, and the quantity of land not enclosed 101,082 acres. The quantity of land under crops was 10,245 acres, the produce being—wheat, maize, &c., 186,229 bushels; potatoes, 698 tons; hay, 3057 tons; wine, 1200 gallons. The horses, horned cattle, sheep, and pigs in the district numbered 100,773. In short, the resources of the district are unlimited, and it only needs to be connected by rail with Sydney to develope them.

Our task is ended. We have endeavoured to furnish a description of the Mudgee district which will stand now, and for aye, any test as to its truthfulness. Compiled in haste, it's only faults will be those of omission; but should some reader at the Great Exhibition in Philadelphia honor us by perusing it, he may rest assured that we have endeavoured to "nothing extenuate, nor set down aught in malice," but rather to convey a fair and impartial description (necessarily brief) of what we believe will, in time, be one of the finest centres of population and industry in this colony.

AN Act amending the law respecting the liability of innkeepers was assented to on the second instant. The first clause enacts that "No innkeeper shall after the passing of this Act be liable to make good to any guest or lodger of such innkeeper any loss of or injury to goods or property brought to his inn not being a horse or other live animal or any gear appertaining thereto or any carriage to a greater amount than the sum of twenty pounds" This fare, however two exceptions, the first being "Where such goods or property shall have been stolen lost or injured through the act default or neglect of such innkeeper or any servant in his employ," and the second "When such goods or property shall have been deposited expressly for safe custody with such innkeeper." In the latter case "it shall be lawful for such innkeeper if he think fit so to require as a condition to his liability that such goods or property shall be deposited in a box or other receptacle fastened and sealed by the person depositing the same," and "any innkeeper shall refuse to receive for safe custody as before mentioned any goods or property of his guest or lodger or if any such guest or lodger shall through any default of such innkeeper be unable to deposit such goods or property as aforesaid such innkeeper shall not be entitled to the benefit of this Act in respect of such goods or property," and in order that the liability of the innkeeper shall be made known to his customers it is stipulated that "he shall cause at least one copy of the first section of this Act printed in plain type to be exhibited in a conspicuous part of the hall or entrance to his inn and also in each bedroom thereof, and he shall be entitled to the benefit of this Act in respect of such goods or property only as shall be brought to his inn while such copy is so exhibited." The interpretation clause says that "The word "inn" shall mean any hotel inn tavern public-house or other place of refreshment the keeper of which is now by law responsible for the goods and property of his guest or lodger. And the word "innkeeper" shall mean the keeper of any such place."

LOCAL AND GENERAL NEWS.

THE VOLUNTEERS.—A meeting of the committee will be held at the Armoury, on Thursday evening next.

THE RAILWAY LEAGUE.—A meeting of the members of the committee will take place this evening, when we expect it will be announced that the exploring surveyors are about to commence their duties, starting from Wallerawang.

THE O'CONNELL CENTENARY.—The privilege of having a publican's booth upon the ground was sold, at auction by Mr. J. M. Cox, to Mrs. M. J. Hill for £16; and Mr. R. Milne purchased the two confectioners booths for £1 each.

GRATUITY TO MR. HARGRAVES.—On Thursday last the Legislative Assembly unanimously agreed to a resolution in favour of a gratuity of £300 a year to Mr E. H. Hargraves, the original discoverer of gold in Australia.

ODDFELLOWSHIP.—The great success which has attended the local branch of the I.O.O.F.M.U. in Mudgee, has caused the establishment of another lodge under the "Grand United Order," and the latter is evidently attracting members. As benefit societies, both institutions are deserving of support, and we think that there is ample room for the new one.

SITE OF OFFENCE.—We are in this issue compelled to leave out a number of interesting items, which however will appear in our next. Amongst them Mr. G. D. Lane's grievance, through the columns of the Railway Department; our District Court report, and other matters of scarcely less importance.

HOUSEHOLD DECORATIVE.—We are glad to perceive that Mr. Clark has taken a wise step, and opened a depot for his business as a painter and decorator, nearly opposite our office. It is to be regretted that he did not do so some years ago; for he has always had a good stock, but it has been inaccessible to the general public.

LIABILITY OF INNKEEPERS.—In another column we print a synopsis of an Act just assented to by the Governor, which defines the liability of innkeepers for property lost in their houses. It will be seen that they are required to exhibit a section of the Act in each bedroom in their inns, and we have printed a number of copies of the Act in a suitable form which can be obtained at the office of this paper.

THE POLICE MAGISTRATE.—In our issue of the 3rd instant we stated, upon what we considered good authority, that Mr. W. D. Meares J.P. of the Central Police Court, had been appointed a successor to Mr. G. Warburton, who is retiring, superannuated. We, however, believe we were wrongly informed, and in our next issue will have something to say about the matter.

OUR LEVEL.—Mudgee has, it appears, not found, but lost, its level. The Sydney *Morning Herald* used to include this town in its Meteorological report, but now, we are discarded. We ascertained the fact yesterday in compiling the present issue. Nonplussed for the moment, we applied to our local Telegraph Master, and he courteously replied "regret I cannot, Mr. G. H. Cox has an Aneroid." Of course that gentleman has one, and he is not the only person in possession of such an instrument in the district; but as he resides in Sydney at present, and it would take too much time to send to him, we would like to know why Mudgee has been lately omitted from the report we have alluded to. We may now add that we are living 1500 feet above the sea level.

AN INTELLIGENT JURYMAN.—The "intelligent gentleman of the jury," according to a Chicago paper, was discovered in that city, recently, by being brought before the city court as a juror. "Would you convict a man on circumstantial evidence?" queried his honor "I dunno what dat is," answered the jurryman. "Well, what do you think it is?" interrupted the judge. "Well, 'cordin to my judgement circumstanshall is 'bout dis. If one man shoots, anudder, an' kills him, he orter to be hung for it; of he don't kill him, he orter to be hung for it; of he don't kill him, he orter to go to the penitentiary."

A VISIT TO THE CLAIMANT.—As the prisoners at Darlinghurst are permitted to see three of their friends for about 20 minutes once every six months, Mr. Guildford Goodlet, Mr. Andrew Kidd, and Mr. East recently visited the Claimant. Mr. Biddulph was away.—Needless to add we were somewhat shocked at the diminished size and careworn expression of the Claimant, whom we last looked upon in Sydney; and the step was light and elastic, and altogether we were confirmed in the truth of the report that the Claimant was in good bodily health. He brightened up on seeing us as he asked after his family and friends, and if anything had been done or was likely to be done to enable him to free himself from prison. He, of course, was not allowed to touch on the discipline of the prison, but expressed his horror at the society of the felons with whom he was obliged to come in contact. Twenty minutes was soon spent in answering the questions with which three individuals had prepared for him; and he was again marched off to the monotony of the sewing machine which he works as a tailor."

Latest Intelligence.

[BY RESPONSE TELEGRAPH.]

[FROM OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT.]

SYDNEY.

Monday, 8 p.m.

AT a dinner given by the Lord Mayor, at the Mansion House, the Hon. D. Dalgety, M.P. remarked in his speech, said that he had confidence in the intelligence of persons in Europe, and that the policy of Foreign Powers would be conformed with prudence and firmness.

In Dublin, the O'Connell Centenary was opposed, the religious element being predominant.

A boat was upsetted in the harbor yesterday, and a man named John Mills was drowned.

Lennox Hinton, name unknown, (alias) a colored, man named Wilson, was found guilty of manslaughter, and sentenced to six years imprisonment.

The rates for cattle and sheep are unchanged.

The escort from the Palmer arrived at Brisbane with 40 thousand ounces.

Father O'Malley preached a sermon in Melbourne on the occasion of the O'Connell Centenary, in which he expressed the greatest hatred to England. Both Irish and native English men condemn his unmanly language.