

NEWS AND NOTES.

To-day being Good Friday, in accordance with our usual custom, the *Star* will not be published to-morrow (Saturday). In the event, however, of the mail from Europe arriving either to-day or to-morrow, we shall issue an Extraordinary containing the news telegraphed from Adelaide. The following arrangements as to the Post-offices have been notified:—Good Friday, offices closed, no mails despatched; Saturday, offices open as usual; Monday, delivery windows open from nine a.m. until ten a.m., delivery by letter carrier at eight a.m. only, mails despatched as usual; Tuesday, offices open as usual. Should the mail from Europe arrive the offices will be open for its delivery on Monday.

Yesterday morning, shortly after nine o'clock, the body of a man was observed in a water-hole in Ballarat East, and the police being informed of the circumstance Sergeant Larnier and a constable repaired to the place at once and succeeded in bringing the man out of the hole in a half-drowned state. Proper measures being immediately afterwards resorted to animation was at length restored through the exertions of the police. The man is said to be a blacksmith by trade, and it is reported that he was intoxicated when he fell into the hole.

A young man named George Hollingworth, in the employ of Mr Unwin, butcher, Main road, was seriously injured on Wednesday evening whilst in the act of unloading some trusses of hay and placing them in a loft above the slaughter-house. One of the trusses fell against him causing him to fall into the yard, and as he was falling his arm came in contact with a hook used for the suspension of sheep, which tore a frightful wound from the region of the biceps muscle extending to the wrist. The unfortunate youth remained suspended for a few seconds until by powerful exertion he freed himself. He was taken to the Hospital, where the wound having been attended to he returned home.

The Ballarat Industrial League will hold a public meeting on Saturday evening, in the Eastern Police Court. The advertisement states that on that occasion "the name, constitution, objects, and means of operation of the League will be fully explained."

We are requested to state that special juries of twelve, summoned to attend the ensuing Circuit

then out of gear, he was carried down with such velocity to the bottom of the shaft that the skip went through the well-board, but the jerk on striking fortunately threw the man off the skip into the plat uninjured.

Mr Angus Gilchrist is the only candidate who has been duly nominated for the existing extraordinary vacancy in the Council of Ballaratshire; and as the period for sending in nominations has elapsed, that gentleman will, in accordance with the Local Government Act, be declared duly elected as a councillor of the shire, at the Court-house at Learmonth, on Tuesday next, at 8 a.m. It is expected that the councillor elect will address his constituents on the day of election.

A robbery of a bold and impudent character occurred at Smythesdale on Wednesday. It appears that on the mantelpiece of the sitting-room of Senior-Constable Buck (situate immediately within the police reserve) was a small tin box, containing about 25s in silver, the proceeds of the sale of tickets for the demonstration in aid of the District Orphan Asylum. About five o'clock the Senior-Constable had the box in his hand, and later in the evening, when he went to place other money in it, discovered that it had been removed, and could nowhere be found. The thief must have been some one who had watched Mr Buck from time to time drop the shillings into the box, and have taken advantage of the officer's temporary absence to abstract the deposit. This (observes our local correspondent) is one of a number of illustrations that could be brought forward of there not being a sufficient police force to protect this large and important district. On Wednesday there was not a single constable in the barracks to cry the opening of the Warden's Court, all the members of the force being out on important duties.

A woman named Sarah Harradge, a resident of Browns, was charged before Mr J. P. Hamilton, P.M., at Smythesdale, on Thursday, with having threatened to commit suicide by cutting her throat. Her husband stated that she had on several occasions threatened self-destruction while in fits of ill-temper. As he was willing to take her home again she was discharged with a caution.

A girl seven years of age, and named Anne Maher, died in the Ballarat District Hospital, on Wednesday, having been admitted but a few minutes previously in a dying state. Harry Smith, M.D., acting resident surgeon, would have declined receiving her as a patient, but that he was sure she would expire on the way to Bungaree, the residence of her parents, John and Margaret Maher. She had taken ill on the night of the 7th inst, and had been variously treated without success up to Wednesday when death occurred as described. At the

nesday when death occurred as described. At the inquest, held on the ensuing day, the jury found a verdict that death had arisen from suffocation by obstruction in the windpipe and bronchia: caused by the purulent matter of an abscess which burst into the trachea. The child was aged seven years and a native of Duck Ponds, near Geelong.

The Lextonshire Council has just purchased one of Enoch Chambers' patent stone-breaking machines at a cost of over £500, this local body being the first in this part of the colony to introduce steam machinery on its road works. The machine in question arrived from Melbourne last week, and will in the course of a few days be set to work at a spot on the main Avoca road, about two miles from the Springs township. At this place a large quantity of blue-stone in blocks of suitable size has been stacked for the purpose of reduction. If the machine proves a success, we shall be glad to find the spirited example set by Lextonshire followed by its more wealthy neighbors.

Our Stockyard Hill correspondent writes on Saturday last as follows:—A clever capture was made here to-day by Sergeant Smith of Buninyong. The prisoner's name is M'Donald, and the sergeant has traced him from Ross' Creek, and came upon his man at the Horseshoe Swamp. The charge against him is three cases of cattle stealing. The prisoner was forwarded to Beaufort. This has been a week of accidents in this district. Mr D. M'Donald, farmer of this place, while watering a mob of horses, received a kick which broke his leg. Dr Ridley, Beaufort, was quickly in attendance; his leg has been set, and Mr M'Donald is doing well. A son of Mr H. Exel was riding in a mob of cattle, and somehow or other the horse threw him and his foot caught in the stirrup. The horse must have dragged him for a considerable distance and then fallen upon him. He was taken up insensible and very much bruised. I believe there is hope of his recovery.

As will be seen from an advertisement in another column, the Hon. Treasurer to the Ballarat Branch of the Free Trade and Financial Reform League of Victoria, Mr Joseph Jones, of Bridge street, is prepared to issue tickets of membership to those who may desire to join the League. This announcement will be a sufficient reply to some correspondents who have expressed a desire to aid in the free trade agitation and did not know how to set about it.

The *Riverina Herald* says:—"The most extraordinary bushranging narrative we have heard we have on most undoubted authority. It seems that Mr William Sinclair, late of Wyuna, accompanied by another gentleman, both well armed, were journeying between Wagga Wagga and Deniliquin, when one of them remarked to Beveridge, the driver, and