

THE BROKEN HILL WATER SUPPLY.

DISORDERLY SCENES.

BROKEN HILL, December 28.

The first train for supplying the town with water from South Australia arrived on Saturday, and contained 10,000 gal. This is quite insignificant compared with the demand. To-day another train arrived with a similar quantity. No proper arrangements were made for its distribution, and as Saturday's water had been handed over to one man on account of the tanks for its reception not being ready the people feared similar arrangements to-day, hence there was much disorder, and even violence. The police will protect the distribution of future supplies. Twelve or fourteen thousand gallons are expected to-morrow, and a daily increase until 25,000 are reached.

December 29.

His Excellency the Governor entertained 300 of the newsboys of Sydney and the members of the Boys' Brigade at a picnic in the Government-house grounds to-day. During the afternoon the prizes won at the Boys' Brigade night school were distributed, and the Boys' Brigade band played at intervals during the afternoon.

From estimates prepared by leading brokers in the city, it is certain that the quantity of wool to be offered here next week will be very large indeed. One firm estimates that each day's catalogue will comprise 10,000 bales, and, as the sales are to extend over four days, this gives a total of 40,000 bales to be disposed of during the week.

December 30.

The following are the estimated numbers of Christmas cards posted at the General Post Office, Sydney:—On December 23, 1890, 34,388; December 24, 1890, 101,720; December 23, 1891, 48,080; December 24, 1891, 101,468. The grand total for the two days in December, 1891, was 149,548, showing an increase this year over the two days of the preceding Christmas of 13,434.

The necessary alterations to the Nightingale wing of the Sydney Hospital, in order to render it suitable for the accommodation of patients are almost completed. As soon as they are finished the patients will be removed from the old weatherboard buildings they now occupy, and these buildings, which are totally unfit for hospital work, will be demolished.

An agreeable change took place in the weather during the afternoon, and to-night it is cool and pleasant. The change has, however, not been general, and intense heat, with bush fires, is still reported from many parts of the country.

One of the ponies taken from Felt's Circus, because of the outbreak of glanders, was detained on Redd Island, by instructions from the Board of Health, for the purpose of obtaining a further diagnosis. This animal was killed on the 20th November, and sections of the diseased lymphatic glands, and of the lung tissues showing glandular tubercles, were forwarded to the Board of Health, and by that authority transmitted to Professor J. T. Wilson, of the Sydney University, and to Dr. John Gibson, of Windsor. These specimens were most carefully examined by microscopical and other tests, and both the experts, acting independently, have arrived at the decision that the pony in question was suffering from true glanders. Microscopical slides containing specimens of the diseased parts have been

glanders. Microscopical slides containing specimens of the diseased parts, have been forwarded to Mr. Stanley, the Government veterinary, whose original diagnosis has been confirmed.

The fire which started at Kirndern yesterday afternoon and narrowly escaped burning Culcairn township has travelled northwards, doing immense damage to the crops and grass on the road. It is now raging furiously in the vicinity of Doodie Cooma and Benty. Fires are also burning fiercely on Munyabba, on the other side of Yerong Creek. A thousand acres of crops, which were just ready for harvesting, have been burnt, and many farmers have lost everything and are rendered homeless. The fire is still raging and travelling with great speed. It is expected that if the weather continues like the conflagration in the north will meet the Kirndern fire. Strenuous efforts are being made to extinguish the fire.

Very severe heat prevails throughout the

colony, and bush fires are working great destruction in many districts. From Narandera it is reported that many miles of grass and fencing have been swept away. On the Argoon, Yanko Yanko Creek, North Yanko, Goovel, Rockinbung, Barrellan, Midgeon, and Goolumbia, stations, several farmers have had their crops and houses burnt. On McCaughey's Goolumbia station the overseer was escaping from the fire when the horse fell, and he was burnt to such an extent that he died shortly after.

Tremendous fires are raging on some stations in the Albury district. Colman reports several fires about the town, and some crops destroyed. At Murwillumbah a fire destroyed 100 acres of cane on Robb and Co.'s plantation. At Temora the crops and houses of the settlers and the sheep are stated to have been burnt up. In the Wagga district many miles of grass and fencing have been destroyed, and many selectors have lost their all.

The adjourned inquiry into the circumstances connected with the death of William Donaldson, who was found in an unconscious condition on the vacant piece of land at the corner of Smith and Monash streets, Balmain, on the morning of December 20, and died the following day from fracture of the skull, was held at Balmain to-day. Four young men named Samuel Doyle, Walter Riley, William Read, and Patrick Hogan, were present in the custody of the police, charged with being concerned in Donaldson's death. The evidence showed that the accused had met the deceased in an hotel and asked him to "shoot." He refused to do so, and some of them assaulted him. After a great number of witnesses had been examined, the jury returned a verdict of manslaughter against Doyle and Riley, who were committed for trial. The other two men were acquitted.

Mr. Cahill's residence at Yanko has been completely destroyed by a fire supposed to have been caused by the bursting of a kerosene lamp. The building was partly insured in the London and Lancashire office, Melbourne, but the loss is not nearly covered. The inmates barely escaped with their lives.