

the proprietors of all the important London and provincial daily and weekly newspapers, it was unanimously resolved that, owing to the large increase in the premiums charged by the English fire insurance companies, the question of establishing a company for mutual fire insurance of newspaper offices be referred to the Committee to consider and prepare a scheme.

In the cosmopolitan society of Paris Madame De Cespedes and Miss Gloriade Cespedes have been well-known figures during the past few years. Madame De Cespedes is the wife of the first President of the Cuban Republic, who lost his life in the former struggle for freedom from Spanish rule, and she is the mother of the young Carlos Manuel De Cespedes, who landed an expedition in Cuba a few months ago, and is—and will continue to be until he is shot or hanged by General Weyler—Governor of the so-called Oriental Province. Miss Gloriade is about to be married to Charles Abnon De Lima, a man of South American origin, in business in the States. Madame De Cespedes belong to the Quesado family, and the young lady about to be married is twin-sister to the brother now bearing arms against the Spaniards in Cuba. Their father fell before their birth; but in his will he directed that if a son should be born he should bear his burden of duty in Cuba. If that country were to be engaged in war to free herself from the rule of Spain after the son's attainment of manhood he was to forsake all less sacred duties and hasten to her assistance. It is in obedience to this command that young Cespedes is in the Antilles.

COMMERCIAL.

The amount of revenue collected at the Custom-house on goods cleared to-day for consumption was £70 9s 11d.

The 'Bruce Herald' reports that nearly 9,000 shares have already been taken up in the proposed Bruce Woollen Company.

An important judgment as to stamp duties has been given by Mr Martin, S.M., at Wellington, regarding the case of the Wellington Commercial Agency v. M. T. Everton and wife, which had already been decided on its merits, the question of assignment, however, being reserved for His Worship's opinion. Mr Martin held that the assignment made to the Commercial Agency was a proper assignment, and there should, therefore, have been affixed to it a stamp of 7s 6d, instead of the penny stamp which it had previously been the custom to affix. This decision will considerably affect the assignment of debts by tradespeople to similar agencies.—'Post.'

The following shows the amount of Customs collected at the Dunedin office for the past quarter:—April—Customs £28,503 18s 1d, beer £1,256 2s; May—Customs £26,129 16s 3d, beer £1,188 7s 5d; June—Customs £25,830 5s 2d, beer £1,108 19s 5d. For the corresponding quarter of last year the figures were:—April—Customs £24,932 14s 9d, beer £1,224 10s 7d; May—Customs £24,636 6s 11d; beer £1,163 12s 9d; June £25,844 17s 7d, beer £988 4s 11d.

MINING NOTES

The Moonlight Sluicing Company report having obtained 10oz 7dwt 20gr of gold in last washing up.—'Wakatip Mail.'

The Westport paper reports that a few days ago it was noticed that the small quantity of sand at the bottom of the bucket used in scrubbing out the bar of the Exchange Hotel contained gold. Since then the proprietor has panned off the sweepings of the bar, and can always get a nice prospect of fine gold. Probably other householders will have

