

ists. The heavy expenses attending operations of harvesting in previous years—the difficulty of procuring labour even at high wages—and the extremely low price which corn has realized, all tended to discourage the farmer; and, consequently we have not only less land under crop this season, but many sections were only harrowed and left to take their chance. On the whole, however, our accounts from the country districts are good; the grain is generally fine, and the average produce likely to be greater than last year. Several extensive purchases have lately been made, and unless too much is thrown on the market immediately after harvest we do not anticipate any material alteration from the present prices.—*A. Observer, Dec. 21.*

TWO PUBLIC LAND SALES.—The following are the official descriptions of the mineral lands referred to in our last, and advertised for sale on the 19th April next. The precise spots on which the minerals were found are indicated on the respective maps in the Land Office, where mineral specimens, broken from the rocks, may also be seen. The several sites of the minerals will also be pointed out upon the sections by conspicuous marks erected thereon.

Lot 1756, section 5541, County Adelaide, 84 acres, price per acre £1.—Bounded to the north by section 5529, which adjoins the Montacute Copper-mine; No. of plan 149.

Lot 1757, section 5542, Adelaide, 84 acres, £1.—South-east and adjoining section 5529; No. of plan 149.

Lot 1758, section 5543, Adelaide, 84 acres, £1.—Bounded to the west by section 5529, which adjoins the Montacute copper-mine; a running stream passes through this section; No. of plan 149.

Lot 1759, section 5544, Adelaide, 84 acres, £1.—Bounded to the west by section 5543; a running stream passes through this section; No. of plan 149.

Lot 1760, section 5545, Adelaide, 84 acres, £1.—Bounded to the north by section 5544, and to the west by section 5542; a running stream passes through this section; No. of plan 149.

These sections are in the neighbourhood of the Montacute copper-mine, in a district known to contain minerals; copper-pyrites have been discovered upon section No. 5543. Four acres in each of these sections have been reserved for public purposes.

Lot 1761, section 5608, Adelaide, 82 acres, £1.—Bounded to the north by section 5549; a tea-tree swamp on this section, also indications of copper on the surface; No. of plan 149.

Lot 1762, section 5549, Adelaide, 74 acres, £1.—Bounded to the north by a creek, which has permanent water, and to the south by section 5608, on which are indications of copper; No. of plan 149.

These sections are in a district known to contain minerals; copper has been discovered upon section 5608, and iron on section 5549.

Lot 1763, section 1284, Light, 100 acres, £1.—Situating to the south of, and adjoining section 1271, the Kapunda or Captain Bagot's copper-mine; rich specimens of copper have been found on the surface of this section; No. of plan 242.—*Ad. Ob., Feb. 1.*

MINING COMPANIES.—It gives us much pleasure to announce, that whilst South Australian Mining Companies are forming in England, the acts of the colonists themselves are decisive of their confidence in the mineral resources of the province. The existing mines have been chiefly prosecuted by individual enterprise; but the advantages of combination being too apparent to be overlooked, the original proprietors of the Mukerta Mine (commonly known as Mr. Anstey's) have wisely determined to form an association for the effectual prosecution of the adventure. The shares are 128 in number, and so

general is the impression of the large intrinsic value of the mine, that the current price is already quoted at £15. per share. More than forty shares were distributed in one day.—*A. Observer, Jan. 11.*

COAL.—The fact of a seam of coal having been found within seven miles of Adelaide is no longer matter of doubt. We have seen a specimen of the treasure, and may just venture to say, that being on unsurveyed land the secret of its locality is guarded, in hope of the eventual introduction of some legalized mode through which discoverers may be encouraged by the possibility of fairly acquiring their own reward. A respectable colonist, well known to us, has ascertained the existence of coal thirty miles distant.—*A. Observer, Dec. 21.*

SILVER.—We have very great pleasure in announcing that Mr. Bean has succeeded in extracting silver from the lead previously smelted; so that it appears every part of the process can be accomplished in the colony. This is certainly a great triumph, and much credit is due to Mr. Rollason, the ingenious superintendent of the smelting operations. Specimens of the silver may be seen on application to Mr. Bean. The exact proportion of silver extracted from the lead is at present kept secret. We may mention, however, that the result in this respect also is extremely satisfactory.—*S. A.*

ORES, &c.—Specimens of copper and lead ores, Porcelain clay, &c. have arrived from Port Lincoln. The first is so much like the produce of our nearest mine, the Montacute, as to have occasioned some incredulity. The lead is very fine galena, and the clay will bear comparison with the Kaolin clay of the celestial empire, the resemblance in texture and colour being complete.—*A. Observer, Jan. 4.*

HOCK.—Some cases of South Australian hock, the growth of the vineyard at Echunga, are ready to be shipped to England on special consignment. We have been gratified by a taste of the hock, and do not hesitate to pronounce it a sound and admirable wine, which will bear the voyage well, and do the colony credit in England. The price is not so high, or the quantity on hand so very limited, but that many of our readers may treat themselves with a taste of home-grown wine, if they participate in what we would fain call our laudable curiosity and love of country.—*A. Observer, Jan. 4.*

We understand that Mr. Jecks, who arrived here in the 'Brankenmoor,' became a colonist of Western Australia in 1828, and possesses in the Swan River settlement 900 acres of land, on a portion of which the vine and banana have succeeded admirably. Mr. Jecks's intention was to return to the Swan with a cargo of flour as soon as he should have disposed of his merchandise, but he is so highly pleased with this colony, that he purposes to remain here. This gentleman is anxious to establish a fresh water fishery, and for which he has an ample supply of all the necessary gear; if he can purchase a suitable cutter, he will supply the market regularly; but he is still an ardent cultivator, and intends to have 400 acres under vine cultivation in this province.—*A. Observer, Jan. 25.*

COLONIAL ARRIVALS.—The 'Governor Gawler,' from Portland Bay, arrived on Thursday, with eight passengers; and just as we were going to press, we had the 'Jane' and 'Emma,' an unexpected arrival from Launceston and Sircular Head, with seventeen passengers, so that within one little week, our numbers have increased to the extent of forty-one persons from the neighbouring colonies.

MR. GEORGE FRENCH ANGAS, the artist, has unexpectedly returned from New Zealand, having prudently relinquished his once-intended Polynesian voyage.—*A. Observer, Jan. 25.*

ADVERTISEMENTS.

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