

PAPERSPAST

THE WAIWAKAIHO BRIDGE.—We are informed that Mr. Kelly has been very successful in regard to his visit to Wellington, to procure iron cylinders for the piers of the Waiwakaiho Bridge, having succeeded in obtaining four lengths of four-foot cylinder of 25 feet each, at the low rate of £8 15s. per ton, which is little more than the colonial price of old iron. If no great difficulties are encountered in sinking the cylinder it is probable that the cost of the main piers will not exceed £600, which is little more than half the estimated cost of trustworthy wooden ones. The services of two experienced divers has been obtained to work the cylinders, and the work will be proceeded with as soon the necessary scaffolding is erected to enable the cylinders to be placed in position. As Mr. Kelly has obtained valuable information from Mr. Kennard's engineer at Wellington with regard to the difficulties likely to be encountered in sinking the cylinders, the Superintendent has appointed him to superintend the construction of the main piers of the bridge.

TARANAKI RIFLE ASSOCIATION.—The members of this Association having in June last fired in order to be classified, the second and third classes met on Monday and Wednesday last, the 29th and 31st ultimo, to compete for the prizes offered by the Association. We are unable to give the amount of the prizes. The following is the score :—

SECOND CLASS.

PARLIAMENTARY PAPERS.—We have to acknowledge the receipt, on the 27th ultimo, of copies of the *New Zealand Herald*, and of various papers which have been laid before the Assembly.

THE GOVERNOR'S SPEECH.—The *Nelson Examiner* in its comments on the Governor's speech makes the following remarks on the reticence of the Government, with respect to taxation :—
 "The taxation to which this colony submits by means of the indirect methods of Custom's imports, is preposterous in its nature, and in its amount far beyond the legitimate proportion against which the energy of commerce can bear up. The progress of the country is retarded, and prosperity will not again visit our shores until this oppressive burden is lightened. It is folly to talk of necessity. Experience, as well as common sense; proves that unfair and exorbitant imposts inevitably defeat their own purpose, by checking or destroying that commerce from which alone they can be derived. The revenue must be diminished, and not increased by excessive imposts, and the necessity of the case;