

SCOTCH! NOTCH! POTCH!

(Contributed by the "Groper.")

Dear John,—I do not wish to press my opinions about Mr McCabe upon you or be obliged to enter into a lengthy and perhaps unpopular discussion with every chap who has an ink pot. I would like, however, to state that you appear to be a young and inexperienced scribe, whatever your birthday is. You are inexact and pointless in your remarks. In the first place I made no comment on the merits of the Conan Doyle-McCabe debate. Jacques did and will doubtless satisfy you, if necessary. Jacques is evidently satisfied who had the best of it there. I am equally satisfied that McCabe is guilty of error and injustice in his remarks anent Christianity and slavery. Further, I amply disapproved his statement. Not a single syllable in the Bible condemns slavery! Repetition is needless. Theodore Parker was a minister. His vigorous campaign against slavery had Christ as its dynamic. Why didn't you mention this, John? If he lashed the tight-handed church-going slave owners with a cutting tongue is there in this any detraction from the inspiring force? No, John, you can't produce the goods. You don't go far enough with your scripture. I'll do it for you! The Jehovah of the Jews allowed his chosen people, because of their wrongdoing, to be sold into slavery, and yet the spirit of the Bible roundly and wholly condemns the institution. I do not propose, however, to elaborate this aspect here, otherwise I'll become a parson in place of the simple,

"GROPER."

That very comprehensive body, the Southland League has a couple of columns report in the dailies of this week. The tourist traffic and other secondary matters loom large on the horizon. I would ask Mr C. C. Campbell to draw the League's attention to the necessity of completing the railway. The settlers in Waikawa Valley and Waiau districts are worthy of prior attention surely!

Not being a Presbyterian "The Groper" went along to First Church on Sunday evening last. He noticed there genial J. R. Hamilton, M.P., our worthy Mayor, John Stead, M.O.B.E., chief Land Board inquisitor Jimmy Fleming, the efficient and ever-present Burwell, and that rugged Aberdonian, Andrew Bain, of Harbour Board notoriety and supreme architect of the Venue street cottage. Amongst the other city fathers were Mackrell, of tram car fame and butter-fat. The distinguished company had excellent fare. The choir singing was good, and there was quite a good display of spring costumes and hats in the ranks of femininity. The outstanding feature of the church in this, her Diamond Jubilee, is her minister, Mr Robinson. Robinson is a greatly gifted young man—fine voice, gesture and intellect—just an orator. We do not concur in all he said but admire his "service done carried the right of criticism" and thought the following scripture in point: "Woe unto them that join house to house and field to field till there be no place that they may be placed alone in the midst of the earth." More power to you and success to your kirk, Mr Robinson.

It's a horrible thing to be born
Endowed with a cynical scorn,
And eyes that are quicker to scan
The bad than the good in a man.
And a tongue that is rashly inclined
To keep on a par with the mind,
Instead of some seconds behind.

John Fiske, the historian, was informed by his wife that his son had been disrespectful to some neighbours. Fiske called young John into the study. "My boy, is it true that you called Mrs Jones a fool?" The boy hung his head, "Yes, father." "And did you call Mr Jones a worse fool?" "Yes, father!" Mr Fiske frowned and pondered for a moment. Then he said: "Well, my son, that is just about the distinction I should make."

Preparations are complete for the Felton-Barry race on the Paramatta River on Saturday. The race is timed to start at 3.30. The course is three and a-quarter miles. Both men have undergone a thorough course of training and though little information is available regarding the actual trials, the supporters of both, declare that they are satisfied with the condition and work of the rowers. The champion and ex-champion alike declare themselves fit and confident.

NORTH INVERCARGILL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.

The annual meeting and social of the North Invercargill Presbyterian Church was held recently, when Rev. A. Collie, M.A., presided over a large gathering.

The session report read by Mr A. Inglis, session clerk, showed that steady progress had been made throughout the year. The various organisations, P.W.M.A., Sunday School, and Bible Classes, were in a healthy condition, and the interest taken in these activities promises well for the future of the church.

The interest manifested in session work is an index of the spiritual life of the congregation, and it is pleasing to note that the amount contributed each year to missions by the congregation shows a steady increase.

The Deacons' Fund indicated a steady increase in each of the main items of revenue, collections, sustentation fund, and mission funds. Reference was made to the success of the envelope system of fixing up collections, and the hope was expressed that experience of the operation of the system would lead to more of the congregation joining the scheme. The sum of £247 14s 8d was raised for missions, £137 8s 10d being donated to the special funds for Home and Foreign Missions.

Business over, the meeting took the form of a social evening. Interesting addresses were given by Rev. A. Gow of Waikawa Valley, and Rev. H. Gilbert of St. Pauls. The choir under Mr Fyfe contributed a number of items, and solos were rendered by Miss Field, Miss Halliday and Mr Late Chen.

Refreshments were afterwards handed round.

The anniversary services on the following Sunday were conducted by Rev. A. Gow of Waikawa Valley.

A piglet with three snouts, two mouths, three eyes, and five legs has been born at Belfast. The baby, it is said, can squeal with all or any of its snouts and eat with any or all mouths. His eyes are all good ones.

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AT

TULLY'S DRAPERY SUPPLY SALE,

NEXT NEWS OFFICE, DEE STREET.

MARKET NOTES.

Messrs Bray Bros., Ltd., Auctioneers and Fruit Salesmen, Dee street, Invercargill, report as follows:—

Produce.—Table Potatoes.—We can now take further consignments—price to 1s per ton. Seed Potatoes.—There is a good enquiry for early seed varieties. Onions—Supplies exhausted. Oats, 5s to 6s 6d per bushel. Chaff, prime quality to 10s per ton; discoloured to 8s. Straw Chaff to 17 10s per ton, s.i. Baled Straw (wheaten) 15 10s per ton. Hay, 4s per ton, 4s 6d per bale. Meggitt's Linseed Meal, 30s per bag. Meggitt's Calf Food, 30s per bag. Oatmeal, 6s per bag. Bran, 11s per bag. Pollard, 13s per bag. Farm Food, 12s per bag. Molasses, 21s cwt, in tins 12s 6d.

Fruit.—Dessert Apples.—Delicious to 16s per case. Starmers to 10s per case. Jonathans 10s to 8s per case. Scarcia 10s to 8s per case—other varieties from 9s 6d to 7s per 40lb case. Cooking Apples, 5d per lb to 2½d per lb according to grade. Pears (dessert) to 5d per lb, for choice quality of best varieties. Pears (cooking) to 3d per lb.

Vegetables.—Cabbage to 8s per sack. Swedes 2s to 3s 6d per bag. Carrots 4s per bag, and 6s 6d per cwt. Parsnips to 2d per lb—supplies arriving shortly.

General.—Lepp Salt Lick (for keeping cattle in condition) 2s 3d per brick—whole sale 2s per brick. Cow Covers, 22s 6d to 390s each. Horse Covers, £2 15s to £3. Boots 35s. Tea (b.o.p.) 2s 6d to 3s 10s, in chests or half-chests. Motor Car in good condition £175. Posts and Stakes.—Totara to 1s 7d per post—others from 1s 6d to 1s per post—stakes 8d to 5d each.

Furniture.—We manufacture oak and rimu furniture of the latest design, and guarantee satisfaction. We also stock linoleum, kapok, pianos, sewing machines, carpets, and bedding. Our warehouse is situated in -pey street, and we invite your inspection.

Land Department.—1100 acres in the Western District at present carrying two sheep to the acre. Good dwelling of five-rooms, outhouses comprise implement shed, motor garage, blacksmith shop and an open shed on the back country. Price £7 10s per acre, £500 deposit to the right man.

In view of the Sein Fein threats of the transfer of terror to England if McSweeney dies, members of the Cabinet are specially guarded by police and their houses watched. Mr Lloyd George was also specially guarded during his recent visit to the Continent in view of threats against his life.



THERE ARE REVOLUTIONS! AND REVOLUTIONS!