

## PASSING NOTES.

Hemare tells the story. "Honi an' Pita, they get to the plume, an' I go Riection an' see Doctor Trotter, an' tell him. He say to get to parameter to see what Honi an' Pita temper like, an' if it too hot to give 'em plenty whisky. So I pay to parameter an' two bottle or whisky. First I go to Honi, an' put to parameter in he mout, like to Doctor say. Then I look at the parameter an' to parameter say 'werry dry.' So I give it Honi to whisky, an' he drink nearly all to pottle, an' he smile an' say, 'Py crapes, tat te stuff. Gimme some more.' So I know he alright 'en, an' I go over to Pita. Pita werry bad; kick about a lot. So I say to te two or three wahine 'ere, 'You hol' 'im tight while I try te parameter on 'im.' Te wahine hol' he arm an' he leg, an' I poke te parameter in he mout. P'raps I poke 'im in too far; I dunno. Anyway, Pita he kick out pretty quick an' knock all te wahine over on te floor, an' sen' me flyin' troo to window. As I fallon te road outside I look at te parameter, an' I see it mark 'Werry stormy.' O, py crapes, te parameter orri; he tell him true efery time."

"In view of the higher cost of living, etc.," our M.L.A.'s are demanding an increase in their "screws." I don't know who it was (probably Harry Holland, or some other Labour agitator) who first preached the "glorious gospel of discontent," to them, but it is clear that his labour has not been in vain. There will be no strike, for since they are their own paymasters, the matter will, of course, be settled to the satisfaction of all concerned. Well, nobody grudges them a fair thing; the labourer is (sometimes) worthy of his hire. But a glance at the various division lists of late leads one to think that payment on a daily, instead of the present yearly, basis might be adopted with advantage. I do not know of any other industry than law-making in which an employee can absent himself practically as often as he pleases, and at the most critical times, without having his "screw" doctored. It is safe to say that if our "honourable gentlemen" were paid at so much per day of eight hours—with short time deducted and overtime paid for at "rate and a-half"—the Parliamentary division lists would not show such a woeful paucity of names as is so often the case at present.

I must confess to a certain amount of fog over the Ne Temere business, and our recent legislation thereon. To my misty intelligence it seems that the R.C. Church wants to call me, whose parents were not joined together with its peculiar knot, a bastard, and that our legislation says that it really mustn't. Then (still according to my limited intelligence) it would appear that the R.C. Church only uses the term bastard in a sort of Pickwickian sense, but will insist on its right to call me that, in that way, even if Cardinal Cleary and Pope Brodie and the rest of the crew have to go to quod in vindication thereof. Well, it seems a pity to deny them their coveted martyrdom. For myself, I am inclined to think, with that fellow Shakespeare, whom I have mentioned once or twice before, that there is not much in a name. Still, there is much of inconsistent human nature in myself, as well as others; and if I hear anyone, whether he be pope, cardinal, bishop, or priest, who calls me or my children (we were all born outside the R.C. fold) bastards (Pickwickian or otherwise), then I will strike him as hard as I can over his filthy mouth. That, I think, is the simplest and most natural way to settle these little things.

If the request of the Tokatoha settlers for the freehold of their present National Endowment leaseholds is conceded Mr Massey will start a ball rolling which will never stop until our cherished National Endowments are nothing but a memory. For, such a precedent once set up, the same privilege must, in all logic and equity, be granted to every leaseholder under the Crown. And the present voracious appetite for land values would ensure the speedy mopping up of the whole nine or ten million acres of land held in trust by the Government for the aged and helpless of this and future generations. The only two arguments put forward in favour of the proposal by the Lands Committee were the proceeds of such sales would, if invested, yield a greater revenue than that at present obtained from the lands, and, secondly, that the settlers would be better able to finance their undertakings. Both are weak and unsatisfactory. In reply to the first, it may be pointed out that money has a more or less stationary value; the revenue derivable from a given sum will be, broadly speaking, the same fifty or a

hundred years hence as it is to-day, even assuming that it is safely earmarked. Land, on the other hand, will increase in value with the increase in population, and so yield a revenue more commensurate with the larger demands of that increased population. The plain answer to the argument is that the leasehold leaves the settler's initial capital free for development purposes, while the freehold absorbs it, and so almost invariably throws the settler into the arms of the mortgagee. The leasehold system has placed many a man on the land who would certainly never have got there under a single freehold system. But it is notorious that the man who has prospered under the leasehold almost always covets and demands the freehold, usually for no other reason than that the latter gives him greater opportunity to traffic in land values.

## KINGS AND PRINCES I HAVE MET.

## H.R.H. PRINCE FUOHY.

As his name denotes, Prince Fuohy is of French extraction. He proudly traces his lineage back through a long list of warriors to that illustrious somebody who marched an army somewhere and did something a good many years ago. His ancestors were, for the most part, fairly respectable; very few were outlawed, and fewer still were executed—which says much when we consider the strenuous times in which they lived. In his own person the Prince represents the best qualities and the loftiest traditions of his race. True, it must be sorrowfully admitted that comparison of his features with the old ancestral portraits is not altogether flattering to His Highness, but he thinks that a possible explanation of this fact is that he may have been changed in his cradle. What he lacks in physical beauty, however, is more than compensated for in his manifold virtues. Foremost among these is his boundless and indiscriminating hospitality. As is well known, the doors of his palace stand open day and night for friend and stranger alike. All are welcome; never once has he been known to turn anyone away. Rich and poor, old and young, gay and wretched, sober and drunk, all find shelter and repose beneath his roof. All night his light shines brightly to guide the weary and tangled wayfarer to that sweet haven of rest. Nor is his large benevolence content merely with this, but by day and night he sends forth his servants to search the highways and by-ways, and doorways, and taxi stands, to gather them in. "Bring 'em in—rope 'em in," he says, in his hearty, cheery way, "and I will look after 'em when they come." And his servants go out and bring in the halt and the lame and the blind drunk to the Prince, who receives them with open arms, and feasts them royally, and lays them on soft couches between lavendered sheets, so that the crows won't be able to peck them before morning. He guards them carefully from straying and all evil, and next day presents them at the Court of H.M. King Cruickshank, that they may be comforted.

Incredible as it may seem, there are many who show a coy reluctance to accept of the Prince's bounty, and it takes all their guide's persuasive powers to win them to the palace. Still others, of the baser sort, proclaim their strange perversity and black ingratitude by violently resisting the Prince's servants, blackening their eyes, kicking in their brisquets, rending their raiment, and expressing a fervent and ferocious desire to tear their livers out. Some are even so depraved as to open the vials of their wrath within the very precincts of the palace itself, and to "talk to Fuohy like a Dutch uncle," as they afterwards irreverently boast. But the Prince is not easily discouraged in his philanthropic work, and so does not turn even those away from his hospitable doors. May the saints reward him.

I have mentioned the Prince's military servants—a word or two of description of these faithful fellows may not be out of place. They are familiarly and affectionately designated "slops," "cops," or "John Hops," and are distinguishable from ordinary men by their inordinate love of truth and the curious shape and large size of their feet. This latter peculiarity attracted the attention of Huxley and other scientists, whose investigations revealed the fact that the good Lord or Nature had bent their legs up abruptly at a point midway between the knee and the ankle, thereby providing a strong understanding. This strange physiological fact serves to prove that John Hops, like poets, are born and not made. They are usually attired in blue, and have certain mysterious passwords, such as "Move ahn, now," "I've got me eye on ye," "Ye'd better come along wid

me, me bboy," etc. Their chief duty, besides roping in guests for their royal master, is finding clues. They get quite a lot of these at times. In fact, the Prince has three rooms chock-full of them. These clues are almost invariably circular in shape, so that, whatever point one starts from, one, by following them, always gets back to the same place. They are very useful, as they provide copy for the newspapers, and keep the public satisfied until they have forgotten the case. They are also handy in enabling the "wanted" person to get safely away. Many a fleeing malefactor has had reason to thank God for the John Hop's clue. Another remarkable peculiarity of the John Hop is an infinite capacity for being anywhere but where he is wanted. This faculty is common to all of them, though it varies in degree; some, by dint of long and constant practice, have developed it to a point bordering on actual genius.

But, to return to our muton—that is, the genial and distinguished Prince. I shall never forget my first—and last—experience of his hospitality. I had been participating in that common, but extremely pleasant, form of entertainment popularly known as "a night out." I had somehow lost my friends, and would, no doubt, have lost myself too, but that I encountered an angel in the blue uniform, who affectionately smell my breath and then tendered me a cordial invitation to accompany him to his masters palace. I demurred, but he would not be denied, and, owing to the difference of opinion between us, in a moment we were engaged in a more or less friendly wrestling bout all over the footpath and roadway, and occasionally in the gutter. But the direction of the struggle somehow tended always towards those portals above which shone the aforementioned lamp, and presently a breathless John Hop and an equally breathless myself stood in the presence of His Highness. His greeting was all, and more, than I could desire, and after hearing the testimony of his servant to my excellent character and the circumstances under which he had met me, the Prince ignoring my requests to be excused, insisted on my acceptance of shelter for the night. (The happenings of the following morning have already been recounted in an earlier article of this series.) I am grateful to Prince Fuohy for his kindness, but I am always loth to trespass too far on good nature, and so trust that I shall never again become the object of his overflowing charity. One can have too much of even the best of things.

## "CRIMINAL NEGLIGENCE."

## JURIES AND THE WORD "MAN-SLAUGHTER."

At the Supreme Court in Hamilton Mr Justice Stringer congratulated the district on the absence of crime during the past three months. There was only one criminal case on the list, a charge of manslaughter against J. C. Johnstone arising out of a motor accident. His Honour added that it was a matter for regret that these cases of death caused by negligence, in such circumstances as the present, should be designated "manslaughter." Manslaughter, in the minds of people generally, was regarded as a mitigated form of murder, and that being the case, there was, unquestionably, extreme reluctance to convict on a charge of manslaughter when no intentional injury was done. His Honour also said that it was imperative that persons driving motors should have a full sense of responsibility, and there was some danger that they did not appreciate this responsibility. If juries failed to convict in even cases where the evidence of negligence was very clear, His Honour expressed the opinion that the law should be altered in such cases and a charge of this nature should be designated "criminal negligence." The crime of manslaughter included a wide range of offences, which might be punishable by a mere fine, or a short term of imprisonment, or may be even difficult to distinguish from actual murder. Where cases of death were caused by the neglect of another person, called "criminal neglect," juries would not have the same reluctance to convict and the punishment should be adjusted in such a way as to deprive the convicted person of the right to control in future the particular instrument which caused the accident, or, at any rate, for a definite time.

Sing up those ragtime melodies  
They make me feel so gay.  
I'm in no mood for rhapsodies  
And sentiment to-day.  
Cut out those "Songs of Araby!"  
Sad strains I can't endure—  
Make me rejoice and clear your voice  
With Woods' Great Peppermint Cure.

## THE SOUTHLAND ELECTRIC POWER BOARD.

## SUMMARY OF THE CORRESPONDENCE TO BE PLACED BEFORE BOARD.

SEPTEMBER, 14, 1920.

Correspondence Inward.—

Wallace County Council, Otautau, 23rd August: Asking for particulars of the position on the roads the Board proposes to erect the poles for its transmission and distribution lines.

J. and W. Faulkner, Dunedin, 26th August: Intimating that they would be unable to tender for the bolts and nuts, etc., required by the Board in the time specified.

Jas. Macalister, Ltd., 27th August: To the effect that they had put in a quotation for road scoops, etc., as requested, but that they had received a reply from the Board stating that the orders for the various machines had already been placed. Intimated that, in their opinion, Southland manufacturers should have preference, and asked to be advised why the matter was dealt with so hurriedly when no date was specified in the specification submitted to them.

Town Clerk, Mataura, 27th August: Advising that the Mataura Borough Council pays 1d per unit for power and 2½d per unit for lighting, and that they incur no expense in respect to wages for Engineer to look after the switchboard, as all this work is included in the above charges.

Post and Telegraph Department, Invercargill, 30th August: Re charges for telephone service between Tuatapere and Monowai, and stating that as the charges were computed under the Electric Lines Act the local office had no power to alter them, but that the Board's letter would be forwarded to the Head Office with a recommendation that under the circumstances the suggestion made therein be given favourable consideration.

Board of Trade, Wellington, 30th August: Advising that the application for a permit to erect a store shed had now been considered and authority had been issued for the granting of the necessary permit.

Hay and Vickerman, Wellington, 1st September: Enclosing copy of letter received by them from Jas. Macalister, Ltd. regarding the purchase of road plant, etc. and also a copy of the letter in reply thereto.

J. A. Redpath and Sons, Christchurch, 2nd September: Intimating that they were willing to supply the Board with insulators only, as they were experiencing great difficulty in securing stems, the prices of which were increasing considerably.

State Fire Insurance Office, 2nd September: Giving information re the Fire Insurance covers on goods in store; goods in transit and on travelling buses.

Hay and Vickerman, Wellington, 3rd September: Enclosing list of firms to whom the plan and specifications for hydraulic machinery had been sent, and asking them to tender in connection with same.

State Fire Insurance Office, 6th September: Advising that they have obtained the builders' risk covers in connection with the Board's new offices from the Yorkshire Co., and the Liverpool, London and Globe Insurance Co., Ltd.

Town Clerk, Bluff, 8th September: Stating that the Bluff Borough Council will purchase the power in bulk from the Board, and will also order all material required through the Board.

Town Clerk, Riverton, 7th September: Stating that the Riverton Borough Council desires the Power Board to reticulate the energy within the Borough boundary provided that the Council has the right at any time to acquire the installation at valuation if so desired.

Taparui Borough Council, 8th September: To the effect that the Borough will purchase the power in bulk, the Board to supply all material, etc.

Hay and Vickerman, Invercargill, 8th September: Requesting the Board to furnish the Construction Office with an Underwood Typewriter as soon as possible. Decided.

Hay and Vickerman, 6th September: Regarding tender for hardwood poles from Messrs Cumming and Burnie, Tasmania.

Hay and Vickerman, Wellington, 6th September: Stating that they had forwarded copy of specification, etc., for hydraulic machinery to Jno. Burns and Co., Auckland.

Hay and Vickerman, 6th September: Enclosing copy of cable received from International Earth Boring Machine Corporation as follows:—"Credit has been entered. Have begun the execution of order. Consider it advisable to make forward contracts, price exclusive of packing. Do you wish us to send some one competent to take charge at your expense."—Recommended that the matter of placing further contracts be deferred until receipt of the machine at present on order,

and also that it was not necessary for someone to come over to take charge of the machine.

Cory-Wright and Salmon, Wellington, 7th September: Asking that they be allowed until the end of December to submit their detailed tender for Turbines and pipes, etc., for the Monowai Plant, as it would be necessary for them to forward the drawings and specifications to their principals abroad.

Leyland Motors Ltd., Wellington, 7th September: Asking that they be allowed land Lorries in the event of the Board requiring motor lorries for the purpose of carrying machinery, etc.

British General Electric Co., Wellington, 7th September: Requesting that copies of all specifications be sent to them in order that they might submit tenders.

Jas. Lumsden, Chairman, Railway League, Invercargill, 8th September: Asking that the Board press upon the Government the desirability of keeping faith with the petitioners and favourably considering the petition for the proposed Wright's Bush to Drummond Railway Line, such petition having been forwarded to the Government General about two months ago—Received.

Wright, Stephenson and Co., 9th September: Advising that they could supply the Board with three or four tons of good chaff at present being cut, at the price of 27 15s, sacks extra—Accepted.

Hay and Vickerman, 10th September: Enclosing a letter received from Jno. Chambers and Son, re tender for Monowai Turbines, in which they ask to be advised of the limit of time the Board can allow for receipt of tenders, as they estimate that it will probably be three months before they can get a mailed quotation from their principals in America.

Hay and Vickerman: Enclosing copy of letter received from Jno. Burns and Co., Auckland, to the effect that they would be unable to submit a quotation for Turbines, etc., before two or three months.

Hay and Vickerman, Invercargill, 11th September: Advising that the rails, fastenings, points and crossings for Siding at Tuatapere could now be sent forward to Tuatapere.—Rails not now available but other negotiations being made.

Hay and Vickerman, Invercargill, 11th September: Requesting that the 250 bags of cement at present stored in Invercargill be sent forward to tuatapere.

National Bank of New Zealand, 27th August: Regarding the purchase of the International Earth Boring Machine, and asking them to dispatch a cable to their agents in Chicago through whom the transaction would be made.

Huon Timber Co., Ltd., Hobart, 26th August: Thanking them for their attention to the Board's request for samples of timber.

Queensland Forest Service, Brisbane, 28th August: Same as above.

Right-Hon. W. F. Massey, Wellington, 28th August: Informing him that the Chairman would visit Wellington on the 2nd September in order to go more fully into the question of finance.

Forests Department, Perth, 28th August: Informing them that in view of the fact that the duty on sawn timber coming into this country would probably make the cost of Jarrah poles prohibitive, the matter of forwarding samples of Jarrah may remain in abeyance.

Forestry Commission, Sydney, 28th August: Advising them that owing to the cost at which they could supply samples of timber to the Board, it had been decided that until the tenders had been received and the contract for poles arranged, it would be unnecessary to incur this expense.

Jas. Macalister, Ltd., 3th August: To the effect that the matter of dealing with the quotes for road plant, etc., had been placed in the Engineers' hands.

A. Walker, Tuatapere, 30th August: Enclosing agreement, special conditions of contract, etc. in connection with Gorrill's undertaking to be signed by Mr. Gorrill.

Jno. Merrilees, Orepuki, 30th August: Advising him that his tender for construction of tramline had been declined.

H. C. Guildford and W. Herricks, Orepuki, 30th August: To the effect that they altered charges for laying tramway and for culverts had been accepted.

R. Donnelly, Ohai Railway Board, Wai, 30th August: Notifying him that six cases of petrol had been consigned to him on behalf of the Power Board for the use of the surveyors on the transmission line.

W. Macalister, 1st September: To the effect that the special committee of the Board set up to interview him regarding the legal charges would meet him on the 14th inst.

Right-Hon. W. F. Massey, 2nd September: Stating that the Chairman would be in Wellington on the 7th inst. to go

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