

pretence of settling people on the land will suffice no longer. The electors, above all the working men, will be satisfied with nothing less than the reality. When Mr REID was in power there was no settlement, and the excuse was the state of the law. To remedy what he conceived to be defects, he introduced a new land bill, which in its main features is now law. But the settlement seems to be as far off as ever. For this, however, Mr REID can hardly be blamed, the administration of the laws carried by his party has been confided to different hands. But even Mr REID was not an advocate for any very extensive settlement. He and his party wanted the land for their children, at least he said so in the House of Representatives. And as to Mr MACANDREW and the party now in power, it appears to us that they are not really desirous to dispose of the land to small proprietors. So far from there being any proof of a sincere desire on their part to promote the settlement of such, there is abundant evidence of the contrary. The people can see this and are indignant.

It is well for Mr MACANDREW and the members of his Executive that they have not now to seek re-election. The people look upon them as shams, and had they an opportunity they would treat them as such. As we have often said before, we do not think that any of our statesmen, whether in the General Government or in the Provincial Council, are really anxious for the *bona fide* settlement of the land. It has been often said that the land laws of the Province of Otago are not bad, and that all that is required is an honest administration of them. Mr CARGILL said as much the other day, when canvassing the constituency of Dunedin, and other high authorities are of the same opinion. Who is to blame then? When Mr REID was in office, the misunderstanding between him and the SUPERINTENDENT was assigned as a reason for the do-nothing-policy at that time. Nothing of the sort exists now to thwart the SUPERINTENDENT. His HONOR has now an Executive to his own heart; still the people who are clamouring for the land, and who are ready and willing to settle down on it and cultivate it on any reasonable terms, can not in many places get an acre. A general election of Representatives is at hand, the next session will be the last of the present Parliament, and no doubt the people will mark their sense of the treatment they have received from many politicians by consigning them to domestic duties and the peace of private life.

### THE PRUSSIAN CATHOLICS.

ALL the world knows how cruelly the German Government is persecuting the Prussian Catholics. The ultimate object of this persecution, as we pointed out before, is the destruction of the Catholic Church in the new empire. Never was there a persecution more unjustifiable. The Catholics of Prussia gave no cause and afforded no pretext whatever that could even excuse or palliate the injustice of which they are the victims. None were more loyal, none more zealous for the unification of Germany and the establishment of the Empire than the Prussian Catholics. In fact, it was their devotion to the Prussian Government that rendered the triumph of Prussia possible, and secured the Imperial crown for the King of Prussia.

On these points we shall quote a passage from the 'London Tablet,' of the 3rd January:—"Another important passage in the speech of HERR REICHENSBERGER, to which we called attention the week before last, has been pointed out in a letter to the 'Spectator.' Speaking of the imputation of disloyalty to United Germany, which is the stock argument in defence of the Falck laws, HERR REICHENSBERGER declared that the electoral agitation of 1870 received the support of all German Catholics, which enabled Germany to unite and put forth all her strength, and thus prepared the way for glorious victory. The Left laughed, but the speaker went on:—'Yes, Gentlemen, thereby was the resolution of the majority in the Bavarian Diet and the mobilization of the Bavarian army rendered possible. The majority of the Bavarian Diet had to decide on this point, and the efforts of my friends contributed to this important decision.' And as the Radicals still laughed—(this speech was delivered in the Parliament House in Berlin)—HERR REICHENSBERGER appealed to the Chief of the National Liberals. 'I have a witness,' he said, 'to what I affirm—ask HERR LASKER.' And HERR LASKER replied, 'Perfectly true.' The revelation has made no little sensation; and the 'Allgemeine Zeitung,' itself a Bavarian paper, and therefore a peculiarly competent witness, though it prefers to ascribe the act of the Bavarian Landtag to the irresistible impulse of the moment, 'does not

affect to deny that the Catholic leaders in Prussia did use their influence in the sense indicated by HERR REICHENSBERGER,' and HERR JOERG, the leader of the Bavarian majority, in a letter which he has just published, though he does not recollect that the mobilization of the Bavarian army was promoted by any representations from Prussian Catholics, admits it to be a certain fact that the latter were favourable to the unification of Germany and the institution of the Empire, and asserts that their influence was used to obtain the adherence of Bavaria to the offer of the Imperial Crown to the King of Prussia, at Versailles. We have thus two perfectly independent testimonies to the truth of what we have so persistently asserted—namely, that previously to the recent anti-Catholic legislation, the Prussian dynasty and the new Empire had no more faithful and attached supporters than the Prussian Catholics."

And now behold the reward of their zeal and loyalty. The Emperor, whom they contributed so powerfully to exalt, turns round on them like a viper, and calumniates them before the world; and the nation and government to whose conquests and glory they helped at the expense of their blood and treasure, cruelly persecutes them, and as an excuse for horrid injustice vilely slanders them. The German Government has become an aggressor on the character, rights, liberties, and consciences of its own subjects, and best friends and benefactors. Were it not that the German Catholics are a long-suffering and in principle a loyal people, they would long since have risen in arms to repel the aggression of despotic power on their rights as men. It is well for the peace of Prussia and the security of its Government that its subjects whom it treats so barbarously belong to the Catholic Church; for were it not that they are Catholics, there would be an end of their loyalty to Prussia.

### WEEKLY EPITOME.

THE *déjeuner* to His Excellency Governor Weld at Wellington was a success. The Superintendent proposed his health in a long speech. Governor Weld, in response, spoke of New Zealand being his and his children's home. He said he made his first speech here as a young man, and he held the same views still. He remarked that his heart was ever with New Zealand, where he had been a pioneer settler and politician. He said that Western Australia was in state of coma. Sir James and Lady Fergusson were present. The Superintendent was in the chair, and about 100 guests were present, including ladies.

THE Wellington 'Tribune' says that the health of the Hon. John Hall, now in London, has quite given way.

A SURLY philosopher in the Timaru paper gives it as his deliberate opinion that Mr Vogel's propensity for dining in public and making long twaddling speeches afterwards is becoming a perfect nuisance. "The telegraphists throughout the colony are kept hanging about the office more than half the night, and some hundreds of over-worked people are kept out of their beds for three or four extra hours, merely that the newspapers, much against their will, may be compelled to publish a lot of post prandial bosh, which no one cares a rap to read. This dinner at the Thames is the last straw that breaks the camel's back; we positively will not in future risk losing the mails, and submit to crowd out important matter because Mr Vogel finds that his platitudes and tomfoolery go down better by lamplight, and after a liberal allowance of indifferent liquor, than they do in sober daylight before the sun is over the fore-yard arm."

THE 'Bruce Herald,' referring to the visit of Mr Holloway, remarks:—"We have little doubt Mr Holloway will, during his trip, both see and hear much to recommend Otago as a desirable field for colonisation, and have as little doubt that he will also see and hear as much as will show him that the greatest hindrance to the development of the resources of the country lies in the Government maladministration of our waste lands. In every district he visits, whether agricultural or mining, we venture to predict the burden of complaint will be the same, viz., the hindrances and want of sincerity in the mode of administering our waste lands with a view to settlement. We trust that Mr Holloway, before leaving our shores, will take an opportunity of giving the people of Dunedin, especially the working classes there, the benefit of his observations. We believe the expression of the opinions he may form during his trip of seeing things for himself would be invaluable to a large class in our cities, who know but little of the real battle which a few have consistently for years been endeavouring to fight against the monopoly of capital."

A MINING correspondent of the 'Daily Times' writes:—"It is really a pleasure to see some of the pretty little gardens—I was going to say owned by the miners, but this is not the case—the only tenure they can get is under the miner's right. Some of these gardens are well stocked with fruit trees and vines—all of which are the most luxuriant in growth, and the fruit of excellent quality. The Government profess a desire to attach the people to the soil, and are willing to give land to parties who will plant forest trees—would it not be good policy to sell these men who have made the desert blossom like a rose their little patches—not exceeding an acre—for a nominal thing, such as a shilling a lot. Of course the consent of the runholder would have to be obtained. I do not see why men who have paid their passages to the colony, and many of them the pioneers of these goldfields, should not receive something in return for their skill and perseverance."

During the hearing of the case, the Water Works Company v. Fish, in the Resident Magistrate's Court, Dunedin, a few days ago,