



V. **NEW ZEALAND RAILWAYS.** R.  
**EXPORT GOODS-SHED.**

**TENDERS** are invited by the Colonial Government for the erection of Export Goods-shed at Dunedin.

Drawings and Specifications may be seen at this office, where Tenders will be received up till noon on Monday, 12th October, 1874.

The lowest or any tender not necessarily accepted.

By command,

W. N. BLAIR,

District Engineer.

Public Works Office,  
Dunedin, 24th September, 1874.

**NEW ZEALAND INSURANCE COMPANY.**

CAPITAL ... £1,000,000.

An issue of 50,000 SHARES in this Company is offered to the Public, at £4 10s. each. Prospectuses and forms of application for Shares to be had at the Office of the Company, High-st.

GEO. W. ELLIOTT,

Agent for Otago.

**NOTICE.**

**THE 'NEW ZEALAND TABLET' COMPANY (LIMITED)**

CAPITAL: £15,000,  
In Shares of £1 each, fully paid up.

**APPLICATION LISTS FOR SHARES ARE NOW OPEN**

At the Head Office, and the several Agencies throughout New Zealand.

**MOUNT IDA.**

**TO MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS.**

**THE** Services of a Duly Qualified Medical Man are required for the I.O.G.T., and the Hibernian A.C.B. Society, Naseby, Mount Ida. Applications, with testimonials, stating charge per member to be lodged at once with the Chairman of the Committee appointed of the joint societies, N. Brookes, Naseby.

The Mount Ida district is a large one, and there is no medical man within 60 miles of Naseby. The population of the district is large but scattered. The present opening is one rarely met with.

**NOTICE TO OUR AGENTS.**

**IT** is respectfully requested that Agents for the TABLET would advise the Secretary when any change—either of increase or decrease—occurs in the number to be forwarded. Those agents who may be receiving copies in excess of the demand, will kindly notify same.

**New Zealand Tablet.**

FIAT JUSTITIA.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3, 1874.

**THE STATE OF EUROPE.**

GREAT uneasiness is felt by all moderate men as to the prospects of the continuance of peace in Europe. Germany is prepared for war, and as is generally believed, even anxious for another invasion of France. It would appear that Prince BISMARCK, or at all events the German Government which derives its inspiration from him, is endeavouring to pick a quarrel with France, and that it is entirely due to the forbearance and good sense of Marshal MACMAHON, that an open rupture has not already taken place. This is most creditable to the French Government, particularly when the fiery nature of the French people, their martial ardour, and the many provocations and stinging insults to which they have been lately subjected, are borne in mind. It is clear that nothing but dishonour or intolerable injustice will drive France to the last resort of Nations; unless, indeed, madness seize the hour, and intestine feuds precipitate events.

This, however, is not improbable. The state of parties in this unhappy country is most alarming. Each one seems to be pursuing its own peculiar ends, almost regardless of the general welfare of the Nation as such. The spirit of compromise, so essential to all wise government, would appear to have fled the country; and it is to be

feared that another and still more terrible humiliation must come upon the people before they are in a proper frame of mind to take a rational view of the situation. Revolution may break out any day, and what then? Unfortunately for Europe, a commotion in France is never localised. That country is so placed geographically, and such is her influence in Europe, that an explosion even in the streets of Paris is felt everywhere.

But even though France should be able to maintain domestic peace, the elements of strife are not wanting. There is an universal conviction that France is preparing for a war of revenge, and that so soon as she feels herself sufficiently prepared, she will demand of Germany the restoration of Alsace and Lorraine at least. It is said that Germany shares in this conviction, that BISMARCK regrets he did not, when France was under his heel, inflict on her a much more severe chastisement than the cession of two provinces, and a war indemnity of two hundred millions of pounds sterling; and that he now contemplates a renewal of the war before his great enemy shall have completed the preparations now so actively on foot. All this seems very likely; it is in accordance with human nature, and derives confirmation from the unjustifiable interference of Germany with the French Press, and the internal government of the country. Germany, it would appear, is enacting the fable of the "Wolf and the Lamb," and whilst taking the Spanish revolutionists to her aristocratic arms, forbids Marshal MACMAHON's Government to erect or strengthen fortresses necessary for the defence and safety of the country. It is, then, pretty certain that Germany is doing everything in her power to provoke France to a declaration of war. But it is a perilous game even for Germany herself.

In that Empire the causes of strife are not wanting. Not to speak of the religious difficulty, it is well known that revolutionary and anti-social principles are making alarming progress amongst the masses, particularly in the great centres of population. The seeds of universal confusion seem to have been scattered far and wide, and the Government, as if labouring under some dreadful infatuation, is busily engaged in an elaborate effort to alienate the affections of the millions of Catholics who, in the coming struggle would be, were it not they are the victims of the grossest injustice, the best advocates of law and order, and the most loyal and staunch defenders of the Throne, and the integrity of the Nation. It is not to be supposed that German Catholics will permit any amount of ill treatment to drive them into disloyalty and rebellion. Like the Irish Catholics in the days of the worthless STUARTS, they will be loyal for conscience sake, even when cruelly treated: but somehow injustice and persecution always bring in their train their own chastisement. The German Government has at this moment three Bishops and 1100 Priests in various prisons, having deprived them of all their property and heaped on them every species of indignity; has banished the religious orders, and placed by force, heretical teachers in Catholic Schools. And for what? For no reason, except that these persecuted people are Catholics. It is well for Germany that these people so grievously persecuted are Catholics: no other people would remain peaceable and loyal one hour, under such gross injustice. But at the same time there is and must be a vast difference between the quality of the service rendered by enthusiastic and devoted partisans, and that which is extorted by a mere sense of duty demanding obedience under the most unfavorable and depressing circumstances. For Germany herself the prospect is not bright.

Again, Italy is a danger to herself and to the peace of the rest of Europe. In that unhappy country the revolutionary party which made the Kingdom of Italy, and intended it to be merely a stepping-stone to a Republic, thinks the time has come for realising its cherished idea. Without the support of this party, VICTOR EMMANUEL's Government cannot maintain itself long. Its only hope of prolonging its existence in the face of the disaffection of the Sects, lies in a foreign war. Here, also, there are not many grounds of hope, but the Italian Kingdom, like Mr MACAWBER, hopes that something may turn up. This helplessness, and this only hope, places Italy at the disposal of Prince BISMARCK, who may safely rely on her as an ally, should he attack France. These are not the only elements of strife to be found on the Continent of Europe. Spain endangers the general peace. The state of parties in Austria is far from reassuring; and it is well known