

solely to blame for the breakdown of the immigration scheme. From the result attained by the slipshod method in force to obtain a steady flow of immigration, the conviction is forced upon us that a radical change has become necessary, and the sooner the abuse of Dr Featherston is abandoned, and his successor appointed, the better will it be for the colony and the policy it has adopted."

SOME time ago a telegram appeared in the New Zealand papers stating that Bishop Goold, of Melbourne, had condemned benefit societies. It was evidently taken from a statement in the 'Age'—a statement inserted for electioneering purposes, and which was authoritatively contradicted in the Melbourne papers. Now we ask why has not the Association the honesty to telegraph the correction? Why does it not circulate the contradiction as widely as it has circulated the mis-statement. The 'Thames Advertiser' published a contradiction by request; no other paper has done so. This message and the one in which Bishop Goold was represented—or rather misrepresented—as inciting his flock to the shedding of blood, would lead one to suppose that the compiler of the Australasian news is not particular as to facts when Catholic matters are concerned.

MR DUNCAN, the newly-appointed Emigration Agent for the Province of Canterbury, when speaking at the public dinner given to him last week, is reported by the Press to have said:—"I may say that the letter inserted by me in the local newspapers has produced over 100 letters from all parts of the Province addressed to every corner of Britain—from John O'Groats' House to Penzance—and from Norwich to Galway. [Mr Duncan here read some extracts from letters received by him.] I have other letters which show in the clearest possible manner that the working classes here wish to see the working classes in England coming out here amongst them. I am glad to say that the Provincial Government have agreed to give me power to grant free passages, and for this reason—in many cases the working man has just sufficient to find sufficient clothing for his passage out." We will watch with interest to see whether Mr Duncan who has received letters of introduction to persons in Ireland, will do more for immigration from that country to New Zealand, than Dr Featherston and Mr Mason have done.

MR D. R. HAY, writing to the 'Daily Times,' nicely describes Dr Featherston's promises in the following words:—"We are continually hearing of large numbers who are about to be sent out to the different ports, but precious few of them have ever sailed as yet." The same writer says, "I have spoken to many working men on the subject, and they are all of opinion that the tendency of increased population is to raise instead of to lower the rate of wages. Work would be more plentiful, and consequently good hands would have a much better chance of obtaining constant employment. The immigration policy of the General Government has up to this time been a most decided failure." He also thinks "The Otago Provincial Government would be acting wisely were they to appoint agents of their own, as the Canterbury Government has done."

NOTICE in our contemporary the 'Guardian' that the practice of agricultural tenants in Victoria is to exhaust the soil by means of rude and unskilful husbandry, for which a Tenants Right Bill is proposed as a remedy, it has occurred to us ('Tuapeka Times,') that not only tenants, but even proprietors in our own neighbourhood are pursuing the same short-sighted and suicidal policy.

MR VOORZ lately said it was not for the interests of the Colony that the population should be without religious instruction. He thought that the tendency of the present age was to infidelity. He did not speak of this Colony, but of the disposition of the age in general—a disposition which prompted everyone to disbelieve in anything as a matter of faith purely, and to demand for each individual a power of judgment without the knowledge on which to form a judgment. Such a disposition was fatal to any religious belief. And Mr Vogel, having said so much, then proceeded to move the second reading of the Education Bill!

A CORRESPONDENT gives the 'Wanganui Chronicle' a description of the manner in which lads, "hardly old enough to be out at night without some one to take care of them," spend their evenings. He says:—"I went to an inn in the town, and to my surprise upon entering a room, I found a lot of the small boys of the place gambling at cards, and a tallow dip on the table, together with pewters of beer and glasses containing something much stronger."

THE 'Taranaki Herald' announces that on the 4th of August it attained its majority, the first number having made its appearance on that day of the month, in the year 1852. It now stands fifth on the list of the oldest journals in New Zealand—the 'Nelson Examiner,' the 'Southern Cross,' the 'Wellington Independent,' and the 'Lyttelton Times' being the only papers now in existence which were being published when the 'Taranaki Herald' was first printed.

THE Tauranga paper lately omitted publishing the names of the drunkards "on this occasion only," as it was their "first appearance" on the judicial stage. This is a very good excuse for the dailies to adopt whenever an influential resident, who has imbibed overnight to excess, falls into the hands of the Philistines and awakes to find himself suffering a recovery, and is still more horrified at being advertised as a "drunk."

MR JOHNSON, who said in the House of Representatives that to deprive Roman Catholics of aid for their schools while compelling them to pay for schools they would not use, was robbery, is stated by the Wellington correspondent of the 'Auckland Star' to be "one of the most rising men and effective speakers in the House."

LIEUT. HOSKINS, the champion shot, has been making some splendid shooting at the Thames. At the 400, 500, and 600 ranges, without sighting shots—twenty-one shots gave seventy-one points. He again commenced, but only fired five shots at each range, with a total of fifty points.

THE Maoris formerly confined as political prisoners in Dunedin Gaol, are now re-established on their land. The Government rationed them at 6½d per day, until they could put in crops for their own support.

THE news has spread, and expectation is on tip-toe, exclaims the 'Westport Times' joyfully, that Westport is actually to be saved from

destruction, and will become by the expenditure of public money on harbor and railway works the centre of a flourishing community, a standing and profitable testimony of the good that may accrue from the development of the Public Works Scheme. Anticipating this, a demand has set in for sections, and inhabitants of other townships where dulness reigns supreme, are on the *qui vive* to obtain eligible stands for business. The same journal says—In a few days, the state of the river favoring the venture, the first despatch of timber logs down stream will be made for exportation. The only wonder is that the experiment has not been tried before. An abundance of suitable trees can be obtained on the banks of the river, and the demand in Melbourne for West Coast timber is only limited by the supply.

MR BURWELL, architect, Queenstown, has just let a contract for the erection of a Roman Catholic Church at Arrowtown, the foundation-stone of which is to be laid by Bishop Moran sometime next month.

THE last Northern Escort that arrived in town brought the following quantities of gold:—Queenstown, 905ozs 9dwts; Arrowtown, 612ozs; Cardrona, 400ozs 1dwts; Cromwell, 1506ozs 2dwts; Alexandra, 534ozs 10dwts; Teviot, 501ozs 17dwts; Blacks, 1000ozs; St Bathans, 550ozs; Mount Ida, 756ozs 18dwts; Macraes, 83ozs 15dwts; Palmerston, 26ozs 9dwts. Total, 6877ozs 1dwts.

WE (Dunedin 'Evening Star') learn from a private source that Mr Vogel, in the course of his speech on the Provincial Loans Bill, gave a most emphatic denial to the report that was made on the authority of the 'Evening Post,' that Messrs Reynolds and O'Rorke intended, at the end of the session, to retire from the Ministry and accept permanent appointments.

IN a previous issue we noticed that one Dapp at Switzers was fined £30 for sly dog selling. A rehearing was afterwards granted, and this Warden, Mr Wood, dismissed the case, observing that the evidence for the defence was overwhelming, but expressed a very strong doubt as to the credibility of the witnesses.

ONE who has been meditating for an hour at Arthur's point says, that "Sitting on the precipice overlooking the Shotover River, the mind is irresistibly drawn to the rugged grandeur of the landscape which is here perhaps more extensive for the elevation than in any other part of the district. A more extensive sweep of mountains, nor a more majestic peak than the Crown Range, can be seen in few countries. But what has most effect on the mind, is the vast extent of terrace formation."

ON Saturday afternoon, an accident which very nearly had a fatal termination, occurred to two lads who were watching a ponderous beam being hoisted at the new premises in course of erection by the Messrs Dunning, in Princes street. A part of the gear gave way, and one end of the beam came down on the pathway where the boys were standing, felling them to the ground. Had it not been that something happened to break the fall of the beam, they would have been killed instantly. As it was one was only much frightened, and the other was not severely injured.

WHO won't be a Justice of the Peace in New Zealand soon? One issue of the New Zealand 'Gazette' announces the appointment of no less than twenty-eight new J.P.s.

CAPT. BALDWIN, one of the Directors of the National Marine and Fire Insurance Company of New Zealand, has proceeded North in connection with the Company's business. Capt. Baldwin has resigned the office which for some years he so efficiently filled as Deputy Commissioner of the General Government Insurance and Annuities Scheme.

CORRESPONDENTS, letters unanimously point to a reconstruction of the Ministry. A correspondent of the Auckland 'Herald' describes matters thus:—"Members begin to really pity Vogel, who has to conduct everything himself. He answers questions on law bills, Customs matters, public works, gold mining, rivers, and in fact everything but native affairs. He evidently cannot trust his colleagues to do anything, unless they are either making a mess or a muddle of it." The provision made for the colleagues who will probably retire is told by a correspondent of the 'Lyttelton Times' in the following words:—"Dr Bennett, the Registrar-General, is entitled to retire on his pension, and is anxious to do so. Mr O'Rorke would, it is thought, make a most excellent successor. Since Mr Batkin became Secretary to the Treasury, there has been no secretary in the Stamp department, the Ministerial Commissioner having no intermediate buffer between himself and the chief clerk. It is said this arrangement does not work well, and that the office of Secretary of Stamps needs revival. Who, then, is so fit to occupy it as the present Minister of Justice, Mr Bathgate, if he will but consent to sacrifice his Ministerial dignity and accept the permanency? It is of course premature yet to speculate on the probable successors in the Cabinet, if Messrs Bathgate and O'Rorke retire. Mr Vogel, however, will require to get good men if it be true, as another rumor has it, that he intends to go home himself to float the new Public Works Loan."

TELEGRAMS.

(From the daily papers.)

INTERPROVINCIAL NEWS.

AUCKLAND, August 28th.—Henry Brown, a seaman, belonging to the Southern Belle, was found dead, floating in the harbor. It is supposed that when returning drunk to his vessel at night, he lost his balance and fell over the wharf. An inquest was held, and a verdict returned of "found drowned."

CHRISTCHURCH, August 28th.—A heavy S.E. gale blew yesterday, accompanied with the largest fall of rain known for some years. The rivers rose rapidly. They are now subsiding, and the weather is very fine.

The dinner to Mr Andrew Duncan, Immigration Agent, was a great success. The Deputy-Superintendent was in the chair.

AUCKLAND, August 29th.—The Star of the South has arrived from Fiji. The expedition against Viti Levu resulted in favor of the Government. Three thousand prisoners were taken. John Underwood, a planter at the New Hebrides, was smoking in his house, when a spark from his pipe fell into a barrel of gunpowder, which blew him to pieces, and destroyed the house and the trees in the orchard.