

Joseph's and the TABLET with impunity; and now forsooth, because he tries to score a point off the TABLET again, he is treated in a manner that well nigh staggers him. No wonder he is angry and disgusted. I don't think 'Civis' will offend again. Indeed, I am sure he won't; but if by any chance he should, please be more gentle with him for the sake of those who love him. He is getting on in years now, as you may have gathered from some of his more recent 'Notes.' Don't mistake me: he is not in his dotage yet, for has he not lately demonstrated with amazing clearness that the year 1900 is not finished till it is ended? One of his readers wanted him to believe otherwise, but 'Civis' proved him to be wrong in a 'note' of about a quarter of a column. His intellect is, therefore, as you see, quite unimpaired, but excitement is not good for him; and he doesn't like to be contradicted; and he has corns, too, though he pretends he hasn't; and nobody likes corns trodden upon—his own. Of course we don't mind 'Civis' treading on our corns occasionally, and heavily, too; but his corns—that is quite another matter.—I am, etc.,

'SUA VITER IN MODO.'

THE GENERAL ELECTION.

THE General Election takes place on Wednesday, December 6. Not for many years has there been so little interest taken in this political event as on the present occasion. The South African war or even the dredging boom in Otago has more interest for numbers of people than politics. The Colony is admitted to be in a very prosperous condition, and this may account in some measure for the apathy of the people. There are no burning questions to excite the enthusiasm of the electors, and the politicians at both sides have failed to put forward any programme which would appeal directly to the classes or the masses. The stalest item of war news has more interest for the average newspaper reader than the speeches of Mr. Seddon or Captain Russell. Notwithstanding the natural increase in population, and the increased facilities for enrolment, it is expected the number of votes cast on this occasion will be less than in 1896.

There is one aspect of the present electoral campaign which ought to be highly gratifying to the people of this Colony, and it is this that despite the fact that we have sent away over two hundred of the flower of our manhood to fight the Boers, still there is no lack of good men and true ready to place their services at the disposal of the constituencies for the next three years, and fight the battles of the people in the more peaceful arena in Parliament House. As we cannot elect all our political aspirants the next best thing we can do is to select those whom we consider most worthy. There ought to be no great difficulty in making a selection, as the number of candidates for each constituency, except in a few instances, runs from two to ten. Several of these have only come forward at the earnest solicitation of friends to whom their worth is well known, but it must not be forgotten that this disinclination to woo the suffrages of the electors has not been due to any lack of patriotism but rather to that innate modesty which is a kind of hall mark of the average politician.

Leaving out the Maori electorates there have been close on 190 candidates 'feeling' their way during the past few months. Captain Russell, Mr. John McKeezie, Mr. Ward, and Major Steward are the only candidates who are not opposed. There are seven candidates for Dunedin City, ten for Christchurch, eleven for Wellington, and twelve for Auckland, three members being required in each case. Of the constituencies requiring one member Ohinemuri seems to be the most popular with ten candidates, whilst Selwyn comes next with six. There are four candidates each for Manukau, Palmerston North, Wellington Suburbs, Lyttelton, Ashburton, and Clutha. There have been about 90 Ministerialists, 65 Oppositionists, and the balance composed of Left Wingers and Independents offering their services to the electors, but it is not likely this number will go to the Polls.

The following were the candidates announced up to the beginning of the week:—O indicating Opposition, M Ministerial, I Independent, L W Left Wing, L Labour.

AUCKLAND.

Eden.—J. Bolland (O), M. Niccol (M).
Ohinemuri.—J. M. Shera (M), E. B. Moss (I), J. Palmer (M), W. Deeble (O), L. De Bakker (M), M. J. Stewart (M), W. McCullough (M).—Ross.—Drummond Colclough.
Waipatu.—J. Carroll (M), J. C. Dunlop (M), H. J. Finn (I).
Auckland City.—W. Crowther (O), R. Hobbs (O), J. J. Holland (M), W. J. Napier (M), F. E. Baume (M), J. Regan (M), A. Rosser (M), P. Quinlan (M), G. Fowlds (I), R. French (I), W. Peacock (O), S. Vaile (O).
Bay of Plenty.—W. H. Herries (O), J. Lundon (M).
Bay of Islands.—R. M. Houston (M), N. McLeod (O).
Waikato.—F. W. Lang (O), Rev. Dr. Hosking (M).
Parnell.—F. Lawry (M), H. Campbell (O), J. C. Allen (O).
Thames.—J. McGowan (M), E. H. Taylor (I), H. J. Greenslade (M).
Franklin.—W. E. Massey (O), W. F. Wilson (M).
Waitemata.—R. Monk (O), C. Newman (M), E. Ford (M).
Manukau.—Sir G. M. O'Rorke (M), F. Hull (O), W. F. Buckland (O), J. E. Taylor (I).
Marsden.—R. Thompson (M), H. Simson (O), G. E. Alderton (M).

TARANAKI.

Taranaki.—H. Brown (O), E. M. Smith (M).
Hawera.—F. McGuire (O), C. E. Major (M), D. L. Astbury (M).
Egmont.—W. Symes (M), W. Monkhouse (O).

HAWKE'S BAY.

Waipawa.—G. Hunter (O), C. Hall (M).
Napier.—R. D. D. McLean (O), A. L. D. Fraser (M).
Hawke's Bay.—W. R. Russell (O).

WELLINGTON.

Wairarapa.—W. C. Buchanan (O), C. Phillips (I), J. T. M. Hornsby (M).
Wanganui.—G. Carson (O), A. D. Willis (M), J. M. Murphy (M).
Wellington City.—G. Fisher (M), J. Hutcheson (O), A. R. Atkinson (O), T. K. Macdonald (M), E. G. Jellicoe (M), W. H. Stewart (M), W. Earnshaw (I), T. W. Hislop (O), C. M. Luke (M), R. E. Hornblow (M), T. Carmichael.
Otaki.—H. A. Field (M), C. B. Morison (O).
Masterton.—A. W. Hogg (M), T. Parsons (O).
Patea.—G. Hutcheson (O), A. E. Remington (M).
Rangitikei.—F. Lethbridge (O), T. R. Taylor (M).
Pahiatua.—J. O'Meara (M), G. H. Smith (O), J. Vile (I).
Palmerston.—F. Pirani (L W), D. Grant (M), D. Buick (O), W. Wood (M).
Manawatu.—J. Stevens (M), R. C. Bruce (O).
Wellington Suburbs.—A. K. Newman (O), T. M. Wilford (M), R. C. Kirk (M), R. G. Knight (I).

NELSON.

Nelson City.—J. Graham (M), R. Hursthouse (O).
Motueka.—B. McKenzie (M), W. J. Moffatt (O).
Buller.—P. J. O'Regan (M), J. Colvin (M).
Wairau.—C. H. Mills (M), W. Clifford (O).

CANTERBURY.

Geraldine.—F. R. Flatman (M), C. N. Macintosh (I), S. Buxton (M), J. Fraser (O).
Timaru.—W. Hall-Jones (M), F. H. Smith (O).
Lyttelton.—J. Joyce (M), — Jackson (O), G. Laurenson (M) W. Jacques (O).
Christchurch City.—O. Lewis (O), G. J. Smith (L W), T. E. Taylor (L W), W. W. Collins (M), J. Greig (O), R. Green (O), H. G. Eli (M), Charles Taylor (L), A. H. Turnbull (M), M. Donnelly (O).
Ashley.—R. Meredith (M), T. H. Caverhill (O).
Ellesmere.—W. H. Montgomery (M), B. H. Rhodes (O).
Kaiaipoi.—R. Moore (O), D. Buddo (M), J. M. Verrall (I).
Riccarton.—W. Rolleston (O), G. W. Russell (M).
Waitaki.—W. J. Steward (M).
Avon.—W. W. Tanner (M), A. E. G. Rhodes (O).
Selwyn.—J. Barrett (M), J. Rennie (I), — Holmes (O), Kenneth Wilson (M), C. A. C. Hardy (O), J. Woodward (M).
Ashburton.—J. McLauchlan (M), W. Maslin (I), J. McKeague (M), C. J. Harper (O).

WESTLAND.

Grey.—A. R. Guinness (M), M. Hannen (M).
Westland.—R. J. Seddon (M), L. Northcroft (O).

OTAGO.

Oamaru.—T. Y. Duncan (M), J. A. Macpherson (M).
Waikouaiti.—E. G. Allen (M), J. White (O).
Taieri.—W. C. F. Carncross (M), A. C. Begg (O).
Wakatipu.—W. Fraser (O), J. Kelly (M).
Wallace.—M. Gilfedder (M), A. Carmichael (O).
Invercargill.—J. W. Kelly (L W), J. A. Hanan (M).
Dunedin City.—M. J. S. Mackenzie (O), J. A. Millar (M), A. Sligo (O), A. R. Barclay (M), J. F. Arnold (M), C. R. Chapman (I), C. Haynes (O).
Caversham.—A. Morrison (M), W. H. Warren (I).
Waihemo.—J. McKenzie (M).
Bruce.—J. Allen (O), J. C. Anderson (M).
Tnapuka.—C. C. Rawlins (O), J. Bennett (M), A. Fraser (M).
Clutha.—J. W. Thomson (O), J. McNeil (O), Finlay McLeod (M), A. S. Malcolm (I).
Awarua.—J. G. Ward (M).

THE BOER WAR.

LADYSMITH.

The following description of Ladysmith will be of interest at the present time. Ladysmith is situated on the eastern side of a range of low hills which run in a northerly direction towards Glencoe and the northerly towns. This range does not carry any other vegetation than grass and low thorn bushes; excellent cover, however, is afforded skirmishers by large boulders of a kind of ironstone which are liberally strewn about the hillsides and crests. A gorge through the hills just above Ladysmith gives passage to the Klip River, which flows between the town and the hills in a southward direction, until it crosses the road which leads from Ladysmith south and west, when it turns sharply and runs north to a point about opposite the gorge before mentioned, whence its course is eastward. This has the effect of giving the town a horseshoe form, the railway line passing on the east side of the river, and the station being situated at the N.E. end of the town, immediately beyond the bridge by which the river is crossed.

The town is laid off in squares, but there is really one street only of any importance, running north and south, and this crosses the river at the bend of the horseshoe, and the road then trends westward and crosses the hills, after which it branches southward towards Colenso and westward towards Van Reenan's and other passes. After crossing the hills, which are three-quarters of a mile to a mile across, the country to the westward, extending towards the Drakenberg mountains, is of a rolling nature, the isolated hills (found all over South Africa), termed 'kopjes,' being dotted about.

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