

That Voucher Inquiry

The 'Tablet' does not fly, as a knot in the tail of any political party kite. It sees beyond and above the bickerings and wranglings of mere party strife. It exercises its citizen rights to stand for clean administration and honorable methods in public life, and it uses the knout, on occasion, with strict impartiality, upon legislators, no matter what their political hue may be. In regard to the Auditor-General's recent report, we adopt the only course that is possible—a full and frank acceptance of his finding that no improper payment was made out of the public funds to Captain Seddon. The evidence tendered at the inquiry placed any other verdict beyond the furthest bounds of possibility. And it is now abundantly clear that the charge alleged with such vociferous emphasis by Mr. Fisher and his New Liberal friends was based on nothing more substantial than an over-hasty perusal of two vouchers that were duly drawn, for proper and legal payments, to a contractor's agent, Mr. R. Sneddon. Messrs. Fisher and Taylor declared their intention of abiding by the Auditor-General's report. Yet they are not satisfied. The Christchurch Member seems to think that a disproven assertion deserves attention merely because it is repeated in a shriller key. He talks in torrents around the subject and calls for a fresh inquiry, without having taken the sane precaution of advancing, in support of his demand, so much as a scrap of fresh evidence vital to the issue that he and his friends have raised. His action reminds us of a long-winded Massachusetts legislator who was delivering a political address to his constituents in a village some miles from Boston. The speaker was one of those pump-handle orators, of the Viscount Castlereagh order, who rise

'And coolly spout, and spout, and spout away,
In one weak, washy, everlasting flood.'

An old Scotsman in the audience bore the hosing of the dreary oratorical flood for a solid hour. Then he arose and conspicuously left the hall. Outside, he met a brither Scot who was waiting with a buggy to drive the legislator to the station. 'Is he done yet, Sandy?' the driver queried. 'Aye,' replied the wearied listener, 'he's done lang ago, but he will na stop.' That is about what is the matter with Mr. Taylor. For all useful purposes, his last word has been said. Yet he 'will na stop.' And the last word to have come from the accusers upon this wretched theme ought to have been a frank withdrawal from the humiliating position in which they have placed themselves before the country.

(Since the preceding paragraph was set up in type Mr. Fisher has made a frank and free apology to Mr. and Captain Seddon).

Diocesan News

ARCHDIOCESE OF WELLINGTON

(From our own correspondent.)

September 2.

The many friends of the Rev. Father Holley, S.M., will be pleased to hear that the condition of his father has considerably improved.

Mr. M. Sheehan, who came in charge of the Auckland football team, took advantage of his short stay here to renew acquaintance with his many friends, who were pleased to find him looking so well.

The general public will be pleased to learn that there is to be an organ recital at the Sacred Heart Basilica on Monday, September 11. The services of Mr. Robert Parker have been secured as organist for the occasion, and a treat may therefore be confidently expected.

The third annual social of the St. Patrick's and St. Mary's branches of the H.A.C.B. Society was held on

Wednesday evening in the Druids' Hall. There was a very large attendance, and the function proved highly enjoyable. A strong committee, with Mr. E. F. Reichel as secretary, worked hard to ensure the success of the gathering.

On Wednesday last Mr. John Power, at present in the office of Mr. A. G. Carty, solicitor, of Feilding, was admitted as a solicitor on the motion of Mr. M. Myers. Mr. Power, who is well known on the West Coast of the South Island, and in New Plymouth and Wellington, as a young man of promising ability, has the best wishes of his many friends for future success in the legal profession.

With reference to the exception taken to your correspondent's remarks relative to the inter-college football match, your correspondent wishes to state that he had no desire to reflect in any way on Mr. White, whose knowledge of Rugby football cannot be questioned. The inference was merely made from an observation of the style and standard of the display. The boys were evidently not in their best form, having but recently returned from their winter vacation.

The usual weekly meeting of the Catholic Young Men's Literary Society was held on Monday evening. The Rev. Father Kimbell, S.M., presided. A debate was held on the question whether municipalities should establish produce markets. Mr. E. A. Baker led in the affirmative, and Mr. O'Connor in the negative. After an interesting discussion a majority declared in favor of the affirmative. The society has prepared a very interesting syllabus that will keep members occupied for the remainder of the year.

Palmerston North

(From our own correspondent.)

September 4.

'St. Patrick's Fireside Magazine' will be issued on Wednesday next.

A social in aid of the convent debt will be held in the Zealandia Hall on the 13th inst.

A friendly game of cards and quoits was played between the Oddfellows and H.A.C.B. Society during the week, resulting in a victory for the Oddfellows.

The annual meeting of St. Patrick's choir was held in the school after Vespers on Sunday, 27th ult. The Rev. Father P. Tymons occupied the chair, and there was a fair attendance of members. The report and balance sheet were read and adopted, and showed a credit balance of £1 7s 3d after all outstanding debts had been met. Three new members were elected. The following officers were then elected: Organist and conductor, Mr. P. Tombs (re-elected); secretary, Miss Arambue (re-elected); treasurer, Mr. V. A. Dallow; committee, Mr. and Mrs. Russell, Mr. E. Higgins, and Mr. Tombs, and the rev. chairman. It was decided to practise Gounod's 'Messe Solennelle' and some new music to hand for Christmas. A vote of condolence was passed to Miss L. Brophy and family on account of the death of her sister, Mrs. Kemp (Waverley), a former member of St. Patrick's choir.

The inaugural meeting of St. Patrick's Literary and Debating Society was held in the Zealandia Hall on Monday last, the Rev. Father J. Bowden being in the chair. It proved to be a representative and enthusiastic gathering of the young men of the parish, and was well supported by members of the H.A.C.B. Society, Bro. Albert Rickard being elected its first secretary. The Rev. Father P. Tymons (patron), in delivering the opening address, referred to the great pleasure it gave him in having such a useful institution started in his parish, and said he was delighted to note the initiative came from the young men themselves, which was a good augury for the future success of the society. He congratulated them on securing the Rev. Father J. Bowden, B.A., as the president, and said they little knew of the fund of knowledge and learning they would be able to draw upon from their president in their various debates. The Rev. Father Bowden said after what they had heard he feared more would be expected of him than he could impart, but he trusted useful instruction would be gleaned from the debates, and asked them to over remember and stick to the three well known rules laid down by the late Lord Russell for debate: First of all to know what you were going to say; when/known the same, to rise and say it, and to sit down when you had said it. He informed the meeting that the society would meet every Monday in the Zealandia Hall, and that he would read a paper for discussion on 'Bible-reading in schools' on Monday, 11th inst. Messrs. R. Mulrooney, W. T. Devine, and M. Kennedy also addressed the meeting.

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