

earnest, and has the best interest of the Catholic people at heart. Personally, I am doubtful whether much tangible good would come from the proposed conferences. As Mr. Scott himself admits, the non-Catholic bodies would be looking for some ulterior motive behind Rome's proposal. But if the advantage under this head is doubtful, yet it must be beneficial to ventilate this question. When one considers the sacrifice that some of our poorer people are making for conscience sake; when one sees laboring men working for 7s or 8s a day—and not always constant work at that—and remember what it means to them to pay for the State system, and yet pay for the education of their children in the Catholic schools, why it makes me feel like lifting my hat to them when I meet them. But is it enough to show our respect? Should we not be striving to lighten their burden? To the great bulk of people, the things that are, are right. If we would alter the position, we must agitate, agitate, and again agitate—in the pulpit, in the press, and on the platform. I venture to assert that there are thousands of people who do not understand the injustice we are laboring under. Every elector enlightened means a step forward, every ounce of prejudice removed means so much less weight against us.

Whatever comes of his proposal, Mr. Scott has earned the gratitude of New Zealand Catholics. For his is a letter which cannot fail to evoke discussion, and we who are only fighting for justice want all the light and assistance that discussion can give upon the subject. If I understand Mr. Scott's position rightly, it is that on the essential principles that govern the Catholic position there can be no compromise whatever. But what to my mind he seems to aim at is an amicable conference, with a view to the combination and organisation of the friends of religious education in the country. As one who mixes a great deal with non-Catholics and realises how desirable it is to procure their co-operation to any extent that we can, I think Mr. Scott's suggestion well worthy of serious consideration.—I am, etc.,

JAMES J. MARLOW.

Dunedin, October 30.

OBITUARY

MR. MAURICE McGRATH, WELLINGTON.

Mr. Maurice T. McGrath, the well-known contractor (writes our Wellington correspondent), died at his residence here on Friday evening, after an illness of about a month's duration. Deceased was a native of Waterford, Ireland, and came to the Colony about twenty-five years ago. He had attained the age of fifty. As a contractor he carried out several big works in the Colony, including railway construction in Hawke's Bay, the Marlborough reclamation works, and the city baths in the Te Aro district of this city. At the time of his death he was carrying out the roadway and Seatoun tunnel construction works in connection with the extension of the electric tramway system to Seatoun. About five weeks ago he was attacked by influenza, which led to internal complications necessitating an operation on Tuesday last. The deceased gentleman, who was widely known and respected, was until recently a member of the Miramar Borough Council, and also acted on the directorate of several local companies. He leaves a widow (a daughter of Mr. Charles Redwood, formerly of Blenheim, and a niece of his Grace Archbishop Redwood), and four children—one boy and three girls. His eldest brother is Archdeacon McGrath, of Lismore. The interment will be private.—R.I.P.

Interprovincial

The gross receipts of the Tourist and Health Department last year were £15,820, as against £16,018 for the previous year.

While in Christchurch Sir Joseph Ward will have an interview with the general manager of the Union Company with a view to obtaining reduced fares on the company's coastal steamers for Exhibition traffic.

Sub-Inspector Dwyer, of Christchurch, will be in charge of the special police force at the Exhibition during the season. He will be relieved at the Christchurch Police Depot by Sergeant Norwood, who is at present station sergeant. The Exhibition force will comprise about 50 men.

The directors of the New Zealand Coal and Oil Company have received a cable message from the London office, stating that the expert's tests of 50 tons of Orepuki shale sent Home in February last, are most satisfactory.

Mr. James B. Heywood, Secretary to the Treasury, has been appointed to succeed Mr. J. C. Gavin, who has retired, as Assistant Auditor-general. Mr. R. J. Collins, who has been assistant secretary and accountant, succeeds Mr. Heywood as secretary.

A press message from Wairoa states that a magnificent series of caves has been discovered behind Mr. McLeod's milking-shed, at Nuhaka, on the Main road to the Morere Hot Springs. An exploration extending over five hours failed to find a limit to the caves, and a well-equipped party is conducting a search.

The second session of the present Parliament was practically brought to a close on Monday evening, and before 10 o'clock his Excellency the Governor and the Premier were on their way to the Christchurch Exhibition. The passing of the South African Reciprocity Bill, the Supplementary Estimates, and the Appropriation Bill constituted the chief business on Monday.

A long debate arose over the Frisco mail service resolutions in the House of Representatives on Friday, several members opposing the subsidy of not less than £15,000 and not more than £20,000 per annum on the ground that the service was irregular and the boats not up to requirements. The Premier gave strong reasons for continuing the service, which gave an average last year of 31 days from Auckland to London, and 30 to 29 days from London to Auckland, with which no other service could compare. The resolutions were adopted.

The discovery of the Queensland fruit fly in oranges distributed in the Hastings district from the consignment from Auckland has caused a scare amongst local fruit-growers. At a meeting of the Hawke's Bay Fruit-growers' Association, held the other day, it was decided that the meeting reiterate the opinion already sent to the Government; that the establishment of the fruit fly means disaster to the fruit industry; that the association learns with regret that through lax regulations the fruit fly maggot has been imported into the Colony through Auckland; that in its opinion the department should be more strict in its examination in Auckland than elsewhere, as the temperature of the northern city is more favorable to the breeding of the pest.

In the House of Representatives on Saturday, Sir W. J. Steward moved a resolution standing in his name with regard to the signal services to New Zealand of Sir J. G. Ward at the recent Postal Conference at Rome. He said the work done was known to all, and all felt that appreciation should be placed on record. The Postmaster-general of New Zealand was not an ordinary official. He was one possessing thorough practical acquaintance with all the details of his department, and having a capacity of statesmanlike constructive character. The three names that will be for all time associated with the penny postage of the world are Rowland Hill, Heniker Heaton, and Joseph Ward. He was sure the House would unanimously approve of the resolution he had the honor to move, and join with him in wishing Sir Joseph equal success in the still greater services he was about to render at the Colonial Conference to the Colony and the Empire. He moved—This House records its high appreciation of the signal services rendered to New Zealand by the Hon. Sir J. G. Ward, Postmaster-general, at the recent Postal Conference at Rome, and congratulates him upon having secured for this Colony recognition as an independent entity and also separate vote. This House also recognises with satisfaction his able advocacy of the extension to the whole Empire of the penny postage system, which has, through his efforts, been adopted in New Zealand with such marked success, and hopes that this beneficial reform will be speedily accomplished, and that it will eventually have world-wide operation. Further it expresses its pleasure at the acceptance, at the instance of the honorable gentleman, by the Government of the United States of America of the system of penny postage as between that great Republic and this Colony; and it is hereby ordered that this resolution be entered in the journals of the House. Mr. T. Mackenzie seconded the motion. Mr. Hogg supported, and Mr. Massey added his tribute to the fine management of the Post Office and the good work done at the conference at Rome.

A notice with reference to the Edinburgh Watch and Spectacle Company, George street, Dunedin, appears in this issue.

J. G. CALDER, CARGILL ROAD & CUTTEN STREET, will open Dental Rooms at Cargill's Corner, South Dunedin, on October 8th. All dental work undertaken. Teeth extracted One Shilling.