

statement from that which is attributed to us by our correspondent. If the hunger-policy is carried out—and we are entitled to assume that it is—the officials charged with its administration could not provide any open and decent alternative to the dreadful one to which we have alluded above. To do so would be to defeat both the penalty and its object. The British army may be the most virtuous on earth. True, Mulhall's *Dictionary of Statistics* (last edition, p. 204) does not quite bear this out as regards the regular army. But that is 'neither here nor there.' Every person who is acquainted with the atmosphere and circumstances of military camps—British or foreign and whether in peace or in war—does not need to be reminded of the utter cruelty of reducing helpless females by systematic hunger in such surroundings. So long as the hunger-penalty is really enforced, the alternatives we have mentioned are, as we have said, 'practically' the only ones before them. The remarks of Lord Roberts and of the problematical Boer lady—who was evidently not one of those whose houses were burned or whose husbands were on commando—simply do not touch the particular question discussed here nor the phase of military life to which we have made reference. It is the part of a Catholic paper to stand for humanity and for peace—though not for 'peace at any price.' And we should have failed in a public duty if we had omitted, either through fear or favor, from entering our solemn protest against the barbarities that have disgraced the campaigns of supposedly civilised troops in South Africa, China, and the Philippine Islands.

DIOCESE OF DUNEDIN.

A retreat for the students of Holy Cross College is being conducted this week by the Very Rev. Father Boyle, C.M.

The foundation stone of the new Dominican Convent, at Milton, will be solemnly laid on Sunday (St. Patrick's Day) by the Right Rev. Dr. Verdon.

Miss Margaret Brennan, a pupil of the Dominican Convent, Queenstown, has been successful in obtaining an 'E' certificate at the recent teachers' examinations.

His Lordship the Right Rev. Dr. Verdon arrived in Queenstown on Friday week, and administered the Sacrament of Confirmation on the following Sunday in the Church of St. Mary of the Lake, in Arrowtown on Tuesday of last week, and in Cardrona on Thursday.

The following are the results of the practical examinations in music held at St. Dominick's College by the examiner of Trinity College, London.—Senior Grade: Honors, Eileen Ward, 94 marks (recommended by the examiner for the higher examinations A.T.C.L.); Minnie Paton, honors, 87; Alice A. M. Moon, honors, 85 (also recommended by the examiner for the higher examinations A.T.C.L.); Katie Hannon, pass, 75. Intermediate Grade: Norah Joyce, honors, 80. Junior Grade: Freda Clarke, pass, 78; C. McLeod, pass, 67. Preparatory Grade: Myrtle Morrison, pass, 74.

It is many years since the committee responsible for the national concert in connection with the festival of Ireland's patron saint have had the good fortune of securing the services of so many leading vocalists as they have on the present occasion, and consequently everything points to a first-class entertainment in the Garrison Hall on to-morrow evening. The programme is all that the most exacting admirer of Irish music could desire, and, taking into account the reputation of the performers, as it will be interpreted in a manner which will leave little to be desired, the attendance should be a record one. The object for which the concert is to be given is two-fold—to celebrate the great Irish national festival in a befitting manner, and to assist the funds of St. Joseph's Hall, a building which has, since its opening, proved an incalculable boon to the Catholics of Dunedin. Among the performers will be Misses Rose Blaney, Constance Pearson, Winnie McCornack, Mrs. J. Woods, Messrs. Jago, E. Bush, T. J. Hussey, P. Carolin, W. Shephard, R. Phillips, E. Lagar, J. A. O'Brien, T. Anthony, A. Vallis, and Herr Zimmermann.

NEW ZEALAND: GENERAL.

THE Government have re-appointed Messrs. J. R. Blair and F. de C. Malet as directors of the Bank of New Zealand.

THE proprietor of the *Triad* is to be warmly congratulated on the very fine illustrations in the current issue. These are principally scenes from Samoa, and are capital productions.

THE Government have decided that Monday, March 18, be observed as St. Patrick's Day by the civil service throughout the Colony.

MR. PERCY CECIL HJORRING was on Friday admitted by his Honor Mr. Justice Williams, at Dunedin, as a solicitor of the Supreme Court of New Zealand.

ALL the men dismissed from the Waihi mine since the presentation of the union's demands have been reinstated. This acknowledges the principle that officials of unions are not to be singled out for presenting a claim.

THE Fortification Coal Company (reports the *Bruce Herald*) expect to have their mine thoroughly opened up and the railway in full swing within three months, carrying coal from the pit to the Milton railway station.

Two escapees from Burnham Industrial School were found on Saturday on a farm close to the institution. They had killed a sheep and were boiling the legs in a bucket, when a farmer came upon them, and after a smart chase caught them and took them back to Burnham.

THE following item of news received by cable last week will no doubt fire the ambition of candidates for the Mayoral chairs in

various parts of this Colony:—Power has been granted to the Duke of York to confer the honor of knighthood during his tour of the colonies.

THE London *Gazette* of 4th January notifies the appointment of Lieutenant Robert Walter Gordon Collins, who is a son of Lieutenant-Colonel Collins, Wellington, to the Oxfordshire Light Infantry Regiment, the appointment to date from the 19th May, 1900. Lieutenant Collins is an ex-student of St. Patrick's College.

THE Government are disposed to hold no Easter encampments this year, as it has been decided that when the Duke and Duchess of York are in the Colony the whole of the troops in the North Island, Nelson, and Marlborough, numbering about 8,000, will be concentrated in Wellington, and those of the rest of the South Island in Christchurch, where two big reviews will be held, and the training usual in camp will then take place.

It looks as if the Government were preparing to engage in the coal trade. The Premier told a deputation of Wellington trades unionists on Friday night that he hoped in a few months to say that the Government were coal dealers. It was his intention to ask Parliament next session for authority to open a State coal mine. He maintained that the combinations existing in the Colony and the manner in which they were being worked were to the detriment of the people, especially the poor, and demanded immediate attention.

ON Sunday, March 3 (writes a correspondent), the Catholic Church, Greytown, was well filled when the Rev. Father Kimbell preached on the evils of intemperance. The rev. preacher showed that Solomon and St. Paul raised their voices against this vice, and in our own day distinguished ecclesiastics such as the late Cardinal Manning, and Archbishop Ireland deplored the results of the evil. The Irish Bishops gathered in Synod had said that 'drink kills more homes, made more widows and orphans, broke more hearts than all the famines.'

THE Press agent in London has been very hard up for news when he has to cable out what the Duchess of York is to wear on the occasion of the opening of the Commonwealth Parliament. When news was so scarce it is pretty evident that he made the most of the incident in which some of the Irish members figured in the House of Commons. As experience has taught us to take this gentleman's reports of Irish affairs with more than the proverbial grain of salt, we shall await with some curiosity our Home exchanges containing an account of the matter.

'OREPUKITE' writes:—'I notice in last week's issue of the TABLET in 'Southland Notes' a paragraph re the importation of 300 girls from Scotland to work in the Orepuki Shale Works. As such a statement may be misleading to the public I wish to say—as an Orepukite—and one who knows the truth of it that the Company has not the least intention of bringing out those Scotch lassies, and there is no foundation whatever for such a statement. I believe it is the Company's intention in due time, if everything works satisfactorily, to start a match factory, but even then, I think, no girl importation will take place. The works at present in all its branches will not employ 200 men.'

THE *Belfast Examiner* has a long account in a recent issue of the travels of the Very Rev. Dr. Watters, and Dr. and Mrs. Mackin in the Holy Land. On Christmas Eve they visited Bethlehem in order to take part in the devotions on the great festival. The party received every hospitality from the Franciscan Fathers. Dr. Watters had the privilege of saying Mass in the Grotto at two o'clock on Christmas morning. There were priests and Catholic laity present in Bethlehem on the Feast of the Nativity from all parts of the world. Dr. Watters, and Dr. and Mrs. Mackin reached Malta on the return journey to England on January 8, and were expected in Liverpool ten days later. It was their intention to spend a fortnight at their birth places, Dundalk and Dunavil, near Kilkeel, before returning to London.

A NUMBER of the residents of Little River (writes a correspondent) entertained Mr. Maloney last week on the occasion of his departure from the district for Taupo Road, near Napier, where he is to resume his former duties as Native school teacher. Mr. Maloney had by his quiet and unassuming manner made a large circle of friends during his long residence in the district. And although being foremost in all cases where presentations or banquets to others were concerned, he was strongly adverse to all outward displays as regards himself, hence his sudden departure was only known at the last moment by a few friends. However, when it became more widely known that he had left the district universal regret was expressed, and as a token of the high estimation in which he was held by all classes a movement is on foot with a view of forwarding to him a purse of sovereigns on behalf of the inhabitants of Little River. Mr. Maloney took a keen interest in all Church matters, and the present choir owes its existence to his family.

It was just as we anticipated in our last issue. The Canadian protest has effected something. In yesterday's daily papers appeared the following cable message: 'Mr Balfour has consented to the appointment of a committee to inquire concerning the Coronation Oath.'

Messrs. Louis Gille and Company, Liverpool street, Sydney, call the attention of our readers to their new stock of books and music for Lent and Holy Week, many of which are offered at greatly reduced prices.—*.

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