

\$24,000 per annum, with a like sum for expenses. The salary of the Governor-General of India is 250,000 rupees a year, which at the present rate of exchange is about £15,000 a year, and he is expected to maintain a state almost regal in its splendor. The emolument of the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland is £20,000 a year, but he is necessarily compelled to entertain largely and to maintain a large establishment. Judged by these standards, the salary of Lord Hopetoun was neither extravagantly large nor exceptionally small.

A Visitor's Impressions.

Canon Dalton, who was round the world as chaplain to the Prince and Princess of Wales last year, has been giving his impressions of the Australian colonies in a paper before the Royal Colonial Institute. He 'noted the existence of a strong undercurrent of republican aspiration in Victoria and New South Wales' though local statesmen discouraged it. In future wars it would be less easy for the Australian States voluntarily to support Britain owing to the fact that everything would depend upon the fiat of the Federal Minister of Defence. Now Canon Dalton may be right and he may be wrong, but the point to be emphasised is that he had neither the time nor the opportunity to enable him to diagnose public opinion. His impressions must be the result of second-hand information, and therefore he should not dogmatise. We are not altogether unacquainted with the globe trotter who forms from a railway-carriage window his impressions of the country he passes through, and gives them to the world in a book. Such a one spends a week in Rome and another in Paris and later on unburdens his mind on the Pope and Continental life in the inevitable lecture. Nor are our visitors the sole offenders. Almost every colonist of any position does the same thing when he visits the older lands, and these 'impressions,' if gathered from the obscure prints in which they sometimes appear, would form an interesting collection. But we expect better things from a Canon selected for such a position as that filled by Canon Dalton. When expressing his individual opinion, however, the Canon was on safer ground. He 'advocated a regenerated Imperial Parliament, consisting of 150 or 200 members, with colonial representation, and Home Rule all round. This would, he considered, be a step towards greater unity. It would be possible to separate Imperial from national matters, as well as to keep an open mind on the question of reciprocal trade relations.'

In Lighter Vein

(By 'QUIP.')

*. Correspondence, newspaper cuttings, etc., intended for this department should be addressed 'QUIP,' N.Z. TABLET Office, Dunedin and should reach this office on or before Monday morning.

'THERE'S nothing like a little judicious levity.'

R. L. STEVENSON.

Peace Prospects.

Sir Joseph Ward, in a speech which he made during the week, said something to the effect that he wouldn't be surprised if peace were proclaimed when the Premier landed in South Africa. Contrarywise, as Tweedledee of Looking-glass Land would say, I should be surprised if it weren't. It is spoken of as certain among those who are in the know, you know, that the Peace Conference at Vereeniging is the direct outcome of Mr Seddon's threat to visit the country. The Boers didn't care a button for our ten contingents, but when they heard that an eleventh was coming in the person of the Honorable Richard, they wanted to throw up the sponge there and then. They have been persuaded, however, to keep it down until the aforesaid Honorable arrives at the capital, and the lime-light man gets his apparatus fixed up. What a glorious day for New Zealand will be that Peace Day! Our Premier will strike an attitude in the middle of the Pretorian square like a statue that has seen a spook. The sunbeams will pour down upon our Premier and make the gilt buttons in his court dress shine like an eruption of policemen's lanterns. Milner and Kitchener will hold our Premier's horse. The biograph men on the adjoining roof will all be focussing our Premier. De Wet and Delarey will approach and lay their Krupps and Pompoms and kopjes in the palm of our Premier, and our Premier, like the character in the *Casino Girl*, will give them his 'benedictine' and tell them that he forgives them. To follow this, the Imperial Parliament has arranged a long series of banquets and kindred 'shivooos' with the view of keeping Richard as long as possible out of England. The King has heard that Richard wants to annex England. This is not true, however, for the present. All he wants now is Australia. Hence Lord Hopetoun's resignation.

Concerning Fowls.

The Beef Trust, we are informed, is endeavoring to square the oval—the next best thing to squaring the circle—by forming a corner in eggs. If it succeeds, eggs will keep going higher and higher, and they will be just about 'high' enough for ordinary electioneering purposes by the time the general elections arrive. To save expenses, then, everybody should provide himself with a 'fowlery.' Besides, it is nice to have fresh eggs eight days a week, and to wake up about dinner time and hear the feathered denizens of your own back yard caroling their simple 'lays.' Moreover, if you have a bit of a garden, there is nothing like a few fowls to make the seeds come up. And it is so easy to make a beginning. A few birds will do to start with. Late on a moonlight night, when you are sure the owners are asleep, is the best time to get them. In Huck Finn's theology it was always an act of charity to remove any chicken that didn't seem to be 'roostin' comfortable.' He used to take a chicken whenever he got the chance because, as he said himself, 'If you don't want him yourself you can easily find somebody that does, and a good deed ain't ever forgot.'

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It may be safer on a dark night, but it is more pleasant and more profitable when the moon is up. This isn't superstition. On a dark night you stumble over things and knock your head against the perches and lose your bag and your temper. And you can't tell what kind of a bird you are getting. You may secure what seems to you to be a Speckled Leghorn, or a Windydot, or some other nationality that has won the belt in its time, and when you get home you find out that it is only a Berkshire or a Shorthorn. Berkshires and Shorthorns are not good layers. They are about as good at eggs as governors are at foundation stones. Some say the roosters won't lay at all. But I twisted the neck of one once, and threw him into a corner, and he lay there all the afternoon. It is one thing to get a hen to lay in a corner, and another to get her to lay in advance. But even this can be done. A White Island man has been experimenting and has succeeded, by perseverance and judicious feeding, in establishing a formula by which an egg, whose birthday was really last September, will be found just as healthy as if born only this morning. 'Wonders will never stop ceasing.'

Quip

DIOCESE OF DUNEDIN.

It is intended by the committee of St. Joseph's Club to have several tournaments during the current season. These will include ping-pong, chess, and draughts contests.

Dr. O'Neill, of this city, who went to South Africa with the Sixth Contingent, returned to Dunedin on Saturday night. His many friends were pleased to see him back again.

The annual meeting of the South Dunedin Literary and Social Club was held on May 14. The Rev. Father Coffey presided, and over 60 members were present. The report for the past year was presented, and showed that the session had been very successful. The following were elected as office-bearers for the 1902 season:—President, Rev. Father Coffey; vice-presidents, Father O'Reilly, Messrs Mee, Carr, Marlow, Tynan, Petre, and Blaney; secretary, Mr M. J. O'Connell; committee, Messrs Bourke, Rattigan, Fitzgerald, Dee, Miscal; steward, Mr R. O'Connell. Votes of thanks were passed to the office-bearers and also to the Rev. Father Coffey for the great interest he had taken in the successful working of the club. It was decided to hold the weekly meeting each Monday during the present winter session. On Monday last a musical evening and a reading of essays were the items presented, and the performers were very successful. Prizes were awarded to Messrs Carr and Foster for their essays on Gerald Griffin's work, the 'Colleen Bawn,' which were commented upon by several of the members.

NEW ZEALAND: GENERAL.

THE Right Hon. R. J. Seddon has arrived at Durban, where he met with a very flattering reception. He intends to spend a week in South Africa.

THE Government have decided to assist such municipalities who desire to celebrate the Coronation by a pound for pound subsidy up to £500 for the four chief cities, and up to £200 for smaller towns.

THE population of Dunedin and suburbs is about 51,000, of whom 8120 are ratepayers. It takes eight mayors, eight town clerks and assistants, and 82 councillors to manage the affairs of these boroughs. It seems as if a little judicious amalgamation would be productive of economy.

ON March 31, 1900, the total number of Government employees in the Colony was 11,355, whose salaries amounted to close on £1,400,000 per annum, or on an average a little over £120 a year each. Nearly half a million sterling is paid in the Wellington provincial district, or more than one-third of the total. As nearly the whole of this amount is paid to residents in Wellington and suburbs, it means a weekly expenditure of close on £10,000.

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