

he had received from the Scripture Campaigners, in which he was threatened with annihilation if he persisted in opposing the measure. But Mr. Billson, who had remained true to his principles, had increased his majority from 52 to 1900. Another man on their side, for which the Campaign Council would give a great deal for his life was Mr. Geo. Elmslie, of Albert Park. He was the whip of his own party in the House, but the supporters of Scripture instruction desired to make him their whip. A short time ago a private poll was taken in his constituency, and, to give an air of genuineness to the matter, the Town Clerk of South Melbourne was asked to declare that the poll, which showed the usual 10 to 1 majority, was honestly carried out. Mr. Elmslie, who would not support the referendum, was also threatened with extinction, a strong candidate being put up against him, but the result showed that he had nothing to fear, for his majority (300) at the last election was increased to 2000.

Continuing, the Dean said the result of the election showed the Scripture Campaign Council was incapable of unseating or returning any member, and that the time when a political bogey man could frighten candidates was past and gone. Not only were the majorities increased in the electorates he had indicated, but one constituency (that in which he had voted) had changed its member solely on account of his vote on the referendum. He regretted it, because the late member for East Melbourne was a personal friend of his, as well as a friend of several on the platform. He had everything in his favor, was popular, and was always true to the political principles he advocated; but, unfortunately for himself, when the question of the Bible in State schools was before the House he went with the wowsers and so was defeated. As he said before, he sincerely regretted it, but when it was a question of religious intolerance, if his own brother were standing as the nominee of the Campaign Council, and Mr. Snowball was an opponent of the measure, he would, on principle, vote for Mr. Snowball. That those figures should be put forward by the Campaign Council seemed very strange, in view of the actual results. It was to be deplored that the heads of the various denominations should have put their names to a circular which was untrue in what it stated, and misleading in what it left unstated. The statement that the Catholic Church was opposed to the Bible was also most untrue.

An Unjust Proposal.

The originators of the pastoral and the members of the Scripture Campaign Council fully deserved the ashes of humiliation in which they had fallen. As the morning papers had pointed out, the minority had a right to its religious convictions, and to ask anyone to pay for the religious instruction of the majority was just as tyrannical as the Act passed in Ireland making the Catholic people pay tithes for the Protestant ministers' stipends. It was stated a short time ago by the Bishop of Ossory that, when the Catholic majority got into power, they would take steps to regain the churches and religious buildings of which they had been plundered. He (the Dean) had no such fear, for he had too much respect for his Catholic fellow-countrymen to imagine such a thing. They had built churches and religious institutions, and were satisfied with them; but, supposing, when Home Rule was established, that a referendum were put to the electors of Ireland as to whether they would take back the Church property, and that the Catholic electors, numbering 83 per cent. of the population, answered in the affirmative, what a cry would be raised throughout England, Scotland, and the North of Ireland. Certainly it would not be done, but, supposing it were, it would not be nearly as tyrannical as the proposal to compel Catholics to pay for religious instruction of the State school children. In a pamphlet which had been widely distributed, Mr. Benj. Hoare had pointed out that £600,000 a year was paid to State school teachers, who numbered 5200. As Catholics contributed their fair share towards the payment of the State school teachers' salaries, it would not be fair to ask them to pay for the teaching of a definite form of Protestant religion. The injustice to Catholic children by withholding from them the scholar-

ships given by the State had been recently removed, at what he might call the point of the bayonet, and whatever they gained in the future would be by the use of the same instrument.

THE PROGRESS OF THE DOMINION

Mr. John T. Donovan, LL.B., writing to a friend in Belfast, who published the letter in the *Irish Weekly*, says: 'Coming back to New Zealand after an absence of four and a-half years I noticed many evidences of the wonderful progress in this land. Here is a country where the conditions are next to ideal, thanks largely to the spirit of progressive democracy which impels the beneficent legislation of the Government. The wealth and happiness of all classes is the keynote of the policy of the Government. The Administration has produced that form of advanced legislation before which many of the proposals of the Liberals at Home, denounced as Socialistic legislation, pale into insignificance. The result is that a country like New Zealand is minus poverty, and differs from America in this respect. In the United States you generally find the extremes of poverty and wealth bumping against each other. In New Zealand you have no multi-millionaires, for the character of the legislation aims at preventing the over-accumulation of wealth.

'Again, you find more real genuine prosperity than in any country I know of. Many thousands of agriculturists can be found averaging holdings worth from ten to twenty thousand pounds.

'A matter that struck me this time was the invasion of motor cars. They are as common almost as blackberries at Home. To see old farmers, who came out without a sou to New Zealand some forty or fifty years ago, driving their motor cars, a luxury confined to our fairly well-to-do classes in the cities at Home, is to realise the wonderful prosperity in this democratic country. The difficulty a stranger would find in walking along the streets of Wellington, Auckland, Christchurch or Dunedin, would be to differentiate between the "master" and the "man," for in this country the employee is very often more independent, and in very many cases nearly as well off, as the employer.

'The advantage of a tour of lands such as these beautiful States of Australia and New Zealand to men in public positions at Home is incalculable. Most of the economic and domestic problems that will face us have been tackled and solved successfully in the New World.

'Neath the Southern Cross we saw for ourselves what the management and control of State-owned railways can do for the development and enrichment of a country. In the older countries the railways are run solely as dividend-making concerns, the convenience, happiness, and prosperity of the people being a secondary consideration. The converse of that policy obtains out here. The railways are extended into the back-blocks even before the population reaches there. The migration of the people follows, and new towns, new industries, and agricultural development result as a natural consequence. Despite all the assertions to the contrary, the success of the State-owned railways in the colonies is a great and instructive fact.'

On a recent Sunday the ceremony of blessing and laying the foundation stone of the new Church of Our Lady of Mercy at Mount Barker was performed by the Very Rev. Father Roney, S.J., of Norwood. The occasion was one of much rejoicing, and several hundred people were present. The old church was dedicated to St. Francis of Sales, but the new church will be named 'The Church of Our Lady of Mercy,' in recognition of the fact that Father Landy, the priest in charge, first started his work in the parish on the Feast of Our Lady of Mercy in 1885. The building is not to be completed yet, but the nave, tower, porch, and turrets will be erected. The liability will be about £2200 with the furnishings, and it will cost another £500 to complete the sanctuary and two vestries.