

resentment of the unfair tactics adopted—those not only relating to his personal character, but dragging in his religion as well.

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That the religious question had been imported into the contest—with a view to prejudicing the Catholic candidate—is frankly admitted, not only by the Grey press, but by impartial outside witnesses. Thus the special correspondent at Greymouth of the *Wellington Evening Post* says: 'The sectarian issue has been discussed in every street group from every conceivable point of view. The *Grey Star*, which supported Mr. Hannan, says that the position is "almost mainly due" to the introduction of the wretched sectarian question.

. . . An impartial observer could not have failed to be impressed with the amount of sectarian bitterness existing. And the Greymouth correspondent of the *Otago Daily Times*, a Government paper, thus describes the present condition of affairs in the electorate—which condition is merely the outcome and after-math of what took place before the first ballot. 'The demon of bigotry holds unchallenged sway in the Grey electorate at the present time. Not only has it disputed (? divided) parties, but it has severed friendships of lifelong standing. It is everywhere discernible. It is talked of in the streets at every corner. It is heard in the shop and in the mine. Never before has religious feeling been raised to such a pitch in this district. Already the public is highly inflamed, and the speeches now being made in anticipation of the second ballot tend to intensify rather than diminish the deplorable outburst. It was at first thought that matters would cool down by Thursday, but the indications point to the reverse being the case. Every hour the bitterness is increasing, and sectarian division is becoming more and more painfully evident.'

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Such a state of things stands for the utter degradation of politics; and the individuals or party primarily responsible deserve the execration of all decent citizens. Sooner or later such tactics are certain to recoil upon the candidate who employs them, or who fails to condemn them and to dissociate himself from them when they are being employed by his supporters. In the case of Mr. Michel, it looks as if Nemesis would overtake him very early. Moreover, the taint attaching to this election is morally certain to follow him into future contests; and the mistake made by his Grey supporters is likely to cost him dear. At the last two general elections he contested the Westland seat; and it is said that he received a not inconsiderable measure of support from the Catholic voters in that constituency. It remains to be seen how it will fare with him when he again submits himself as a candidate for their suffrages.

Notes

As Others See Us

Referring to the recent lamented deaths of Mr. J. F. Perrin and Mr. Ronald Stewart, the *Belfast Irish Weekly* remarks: 'Irish and Catholic journalism "down South" is a strong and vigorous force and factor in the public life of the Commonwealth, and of the Dominion of New Zealand. The weekly papers that come from Melbourne, Sydney, Perth, Brisbane, and other centres are creditable to the great communities amongst whom they are published; and the *New Zealand Tablet* is a journal of great literary merit.'

A Football Record

In the primary schools' senior grade competition at Christchurch on Saturday week, in which Marist Brothers defeated St. Albans by 43 points to nil, J. McCormack put up a remarkable record, scoring no less than 10 tries and converting 5 of them. Thus, out of the 43 points scored, this single player was alone responsible for 40 points. This is surely a record in the whole history of Rugby in the Dominion. And this

is the sort of material which the Schools' Union of Wellington are foolishly and fatuously trying to drive out of Rugby football!

Real White Man Pluck

There is truth and point in the following appeal from the *Straits Settlements Times* for more moral courage in dealing with the shady but socially 'respectable' characters of a community. 'Though we are but a voice crying in the wilderness,' says our contemporary, 'we would go on crying to our fellow white men to be strict and exact in their dealings, and, above all, to keep their characters a trifle more in harmony with the color of their skins. How many men are there in Singapore who have the pluck to look a shady person of good social position square in the eyes and say, "Sir, I don't wish to know you. You are not honest"? Just a little bit more of the real white man pluck and we should make those who have a tendency to crooked ways tremble at the ostracism which their practices would involve.'

A Scientist's Confession

'Even the most agnostic must admit the wonderful law and order that rules throughout the great scheme of Nature. So marvellous and complete is it that when I am informed that there is no personal God I answer to myself that of this great scheme I have but one experience, and that is that all the will, ruling power, intellect, soul, and spirit of which I have cognisance are personal.'

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This was Professor Sims Woodhead's confession of faith as given the other day in an address on the origin of life before members of the (London) Victoria Institute. Replying to questions as to the possibility of a chemist producing life, he said that, even if it could be done, it would not alter the great question, which remained just as wonderful, just as difficult to understand, and just as startling as before. 'My experience leads me to think,' he added, 'that, however life came into the world, however life and matter came to be associated, there must be a great Cause, a great Ruler, a great Regulator.'

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DIOCESE OF DUNEDIN

St. Dominic's College re-opened on Tuesday after the mid-winter holidays.

A social in aid of the liquidation of the debt on the Kaikorai Catholic Church will be given in the Wakari Hall on Friday evening. An excellent programme, consisting of a euchre tournament and musical items, has been arranged.

The members of St. Joseph's Men's Club held a smoke concert in St. Joseph's Hall on Monday evening. There was a fair attendance, and the programme was supplied by Messrs. Poppelwell, Fogarty, O'Connor, Yule, and Atwill. A debate is to be held next Monday, to which the members of the Ladies' Club have been invited.

The usual weekly meeting of St. Patrick's Men's Club was held in the presbytery, South Dunedin, on Monday evening, when the Rev. Father Delany presided over a fair attendance of members. Messrs. W. Bevis and Robinson were appointed delegates to represent the club on the Catholic Federation. A written

S. F. ABURN

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