

DEATH

FAHEY.—At Kerry avenue, South Dunedin, on July 12, 1913, Michael Fahey, native of County Galway, Ireland, and late of St. Bathans; aged 77 years; deeply regretted.—R.I.P.

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'NEW ZEALAND TABLET'

COMMENDATION OF THE HIERARCHY.

WE STRONGLY RECOMMEND THE *New Zealand Tablet* AS A PAPER WHICH SHOULD BE IN EVERY CATHOLIC HOME IN THIS DOMINION; WE DESIRE TO EXPRESS OUR WARM SATISFACTION AT THE VIRILE, SCHOLARLY, AND ABLE MANNER IN WHICH THAT ORGAN OF CATHOLIC OPINION IS BEING CONDUCTED, AND WE PROMISE TO DO WHAT LIES IN OUR POWER TO EXTEND ITS CIRCULATION.—*Extract from recommendations adopted at the annual Conference of the Hierarchy held at Wellington, June 13, 1911.*

MESSAGE OF POPE LEO XIII. TO THE N.Z. TABLET.

Pergant Directores et Scriptores New Zealand Tablet, Apostolica Benedictione confortati, Religionis et Justitiae causam promovere per vias Veritatis et Pacis.

Die 4 Aprilis, 1900.

LEO XIII., P.M.

TRANSLATION.—Fortified by the Apostolic Blessing, let the Directors and Writers of the *New Zealand Tablet* continue to promote the cause of Religion and Justice by the ways of Truth and Peace.

April 4, 1900.

LEO XIII., Pope.

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THURSDAY, JULY 24, 1913.

THE GREY BY-ELECTION



SOME time ago we remarked in these columns that the Second Ballot Act was alright in theory and on paper, but that it was apt to work out in practice in a way that could hardly be anticipated, and in a manner that was directly contrary to the expectation and calculations of its framers. Theoretically, we wrote, when there are two Government candidates and one Opposition candidate at an election, and a second ballot has to be taken between the leading Government candidate and the Opposition candidate, it is assumed that the supporters of the Government candidate who has been eliminated will throw in their lot with the surviving Government candidate, and make his return certain. Practically, that is precisely what does not happen. Out of a feeling of annoyance and chagrin, or from other more or less reasonable motives, the supporters of the disappointed Government man promptly transfer their votes to the Opposition candidate, and secure his return. That is what happened, notoriously, at Tuapeka, at Dunedin North, and at Wellington North at the general election before last, and in several instances, also, at the last election. And that, although the position is not precisely parallel, is what is not at all unlikely to happen in the present by-election at Grey.

It seems to be generally considered that the Catholic voters are now the dominant factor in the election; and should they decide, as a protest against the tactics employed at the first ballot, to cast their votes against the Reform candidate, it cannot be said that they have not received strong provocation. Our Greymouth correspondent, in a wire received by us at this moment of writing, speaks not only of the 'unfair tactics' but also of the 'insults' to Catholics and the Catholic religion which were employed by Mr. Michel's supporters to arouse and inflame the spirit of bigotry amongst the Protestant voters. 'The sectarian issue,' he writes, 'which caused Mr. Hannan's defeat, is being widely discussed here, and the tactics adopted to bring about the Liberal candidate's rejection are being exposed daily.' What those tactics were may be sufficiently gathered from Mr. Hannan's statement to a reporter of the *Greymouth Evening Star*. On being questioned on the matter Mr. Hannan said he 'had informed Mr. Michel that he was so disgusted by the discreditable tactics and cruel slanders circulated and invented by Reform supporters that he intended to vote and work for Mr. Webb, whose party had fought cleanly and without recourse to such dastardly acts. Mr. Hannan hoped that his supporters, quite apart from the desirability of supporting a man in opposition to the Reform Government, would vote for Mr. Webb to show their

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