

little for the welfare of New Zealand. They are ruining the Dominion politically, morally, financially, but what do they care? When are the people going to take a hand in the game? If our State schools are hopeless from a true educational point of view, that is if they fail to form character, as every secular school must fail, we cannot console ourselves that they are making a success of purely secular instruction. The examiners who tested the candidates at the last national scholarship examinations report unfavorably. According to the United Press Association, one examiner says that *all the papers* in the public service and senior national scholarships were poor, showing bad spelling and grammatical ignorance. The reports on the pupil teachers' examination for Class D certificates show that the ignorance also extends to the teachers. Such are the schools which the egregious Hanan and his predecessors left us!

### Our Legislators

What better can we expect from our legislators? We could name half a dozen of our M.P.'s whom no wise man would put in charge of a motor car. We are certain that seventy per cent. of them would display even more appalling ignorance of grammar, geography, and history than the pupils of the State schools have done. In the second volume of his recent work, *Modern Democracies*, Viscount Bryce tells the world what sort of muddlers we are content to elect for Parliament in this country:

"The House of Representatives is in one sense too representative, for its members are little above the average of their electors in knowledge or ability. . . . nearly all my New Zealand informants declared that the quality of the legislature, instead of rising with the growth of the country, had declined during the last thirty years, and that the debates were now on a lower level than in the days of Sir George Grey or Sir Harry Atkinson. . . . The country has no lack of capable men, thoughtful and well-educated,—none of the self-governing Dominions has a larger proportion,—but very few of those seem to find their way into the Legislature. . . . The standard not only of attainments, but of debates and of manners also, leaves something to be desired. Thinking bears a low ratio to talking."

That is the judgment of a great scholar and a distinguished statesman. Ignorant, incompetent, and ill-mannered he finds our elected representatives. One wonders if he is thinking of Lord Limavaddy when he talks of manners! But surely he does not know that as the present Government consists of P.P.A. hirelings it is impossible to find in it anything better than what he does find. Decent, educated, well-bred men do not do the sort of things these persons pledged themselves to do when they were put in power by a gang of bigots.

### Ministerial Mugwumps

Dr. Dillon exposed the monumental ignorance of the tricksters who went to Versailles after the war to make the world safe for hypocrisy, and people were not astonished. We had long learned to regard Lloyd George and all of his class as being more learned in Marconi shares than in geography or grammar. And we do not forget that among the smaller sprats at that infamous gathering was our William. Would that we could have for one season his speeches unexpurgated! That picture of him making his now historic gesture from a balcony in Wellington will never be perfect until we have a string of his *ipsissima verba* under it. As for Australian political squibs, the *Catholic Press* (June 9) gives us some interesting flashlight snaps of them. George Reid never read a book, and was unable to speak the English of educated people. Premier McGowen also said he never read a book, and when asked whence he got his information replied: "From the newspapers and listening to blokes talking." When Pius X. was elected, Sir John See said to a friend: "This new Pope must be a learned man. . . . I read somewhere that he preaches in the vernacular language. That is a sort of Hebrew, isn't it?" It is recorded that

when a teacher complained to Education Minister Jacob Garrard about defects in the curriculum he said he would send a plumber to make it right. What fun we miss by not getting true reports of all that certain of our political luminaries say in the House! Some gems from that M.P. who bit an olive on the way to Samoa and complained that the plums were "— bitter" would be of general interest. We have seen Minister Parr's awful letter to the children, and surely there are others who could amuse us even more by their silly twaddle if they only got a chance. Considering how useless they are, it might be a good suggestion to get them to tour the country and give shows to the public in the various theatres. A select few from the Upper House might be included. MacGregor on history, for instance; Lee on broadmindedness; and Anderson on statesmanship would be a fine combination. But of course we shall have to wait until the *primo tenore robusto* comes back to enliven the stage with his gestures.

### General Crozier's Revelations

It is significant of the honor and esteem in which British Ministers are held that Irish children have made the name Greenwood a synonym for a downright lie. We have heard it even here more than once. When somebody uttered a statement that was plainly beyond belief the remark was made: "That's a Greenwood." Like master like man! Greenwood, Lloyd George, and every British journalist from Dunedin to Dundee are tarred with the same brush. Lies get a long start, as, from Luther to the horsewhipped cad (whose calumnies the *Otago Daily* gave great prominence to recently) every bigot and No-Popery ranter knows well, but lies are eventually found out and liars usually find their level in the end. No decent man pays the least attention nowadays to the editorial ravings of a Colonial day-lie; no man in his senses would trust the word of a British Minister—even of our friend Sir Francis Bell. Constant exposure has shown us what British Ministers and British pressmen are, and we are not likely to forget it. Of all the shameful and incontrovertible exposures none could compare with that recently made by General Crozier who has proved to the hilt the charge that Lloyd George and Greenwood were aiders and abettors of the murders, sacrileges, and thefts of their Black-and-Tan agents in Ireland. There is no denying it now; General Crozier speaks with the authority of one who knows; he was actually in command of the criminals and he resigned because he was too decent to become accessory to their crimes as Greenwood and the English Premier did. He asserts publicly in the *Daily News* that during the six months of his command "murder, arson, looting, and other forms of terrorism were practised by the Crown forces, rendering his position impossible and making his resignation imperative." Greenwood and Lloyd George made the mistake of putting an honest man in command and he refused to stoop as low as their level. His first revelation throws a flood of light on the alleged Sinn Fein crimes. He says: "Disguised as members of the Irish Republican army a company of auxiliaries held up the Post Office at Kilkenny last September, gagged and bound the mail sorters and opened twenty bags of mail. Most of the money found was stolen and the letters thrown into the river."

The day-liars told us that Father Griffin was killed by Sinn Feiners. The General says he is prepared to swear that he was informed by a certain cadet that he had murdered Father Griffin, and that a certain officer whose name was given stood by and later buried the priest's body in a bog. *The officer now holds an important position in Ireland.* General Crozier adds that a very high official in Dublin Castle and a police officer in the west were directly involved in the suppression of evidence bearing on the murder.

General Crozier holds important information concerning the murder of Michael O'Callaghan, former mayor of Limerick. He states that a former member of the auxiliaries, who threatened an exposure of the circumstances under which three men were killed at Kill-

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