

but now a Government bonus was to be given for the production of pig and wrought iron, and a New Zealand iron company organized to take advantage of the offer. The New Zealand seas teemed with all kinds of edible fish, and Vogel determined to establish fishing villages on the southern coasts to cure and tin fish for export to the old world. Stewart Island, he believed, was the most suitable of all places for the purpose. It commanded the best fishing-grounds in the colony, and had abundant timber from which a supply of sawdust could be procured for smoking the fish. Even at that comparatively early time the people of New Zealand had begun to lay the foundations that have made their country a paradise for dentists and deprived their children of teeth at an early age. The consumption of sugar was 74 lb. per head, while in Great Britain it was 38, and in the United States 27. As the soil and climate of New Zealand were suitable for growing sugar beet, it would be possible to grow locally all sugar that was required, and thus save the sum of £600,000 spent annually on importing the commodity. Never were the potential resources of any country more fully explored than were those of New Zealand by Julius Vogel during his last term of office.

The story of Vogel's numerous schemes for restoring prosperity resolves itself into a long list of failures. Progress on the North Island trunk line was so slow as to be almost invisible. Fruitless negotiations with a contracting company for the building of the west coast railway were still dragging on when the Stout-Vogel Government fell from power. The new industries were never started.

Perhaps it was Vogel's fault. Perhaps he was an unpractical visionary with power to conceive but no ability to organize. However that may be, it must have been a bitter disappointment for him to recognize so many possibilities and yet be unable to put his schemes into practice. Did he never feel that he was being denied even a gambler's chance? Did he never compare himself to a man playing poker, holding marvellous hands but yet having insufficient money to back his bids, or finding that

his opponents threw in their hands, refusing to bet against him? Whatever the answers to these questions may be one thing is certain. Never in the darkest hour of economic depression did he lose courage or confidence. Before retiring to England, a beaten man, to spend the remainder of his years in extreme poverty and ill health, he tried hard in his public utterances to rouse the fainting spirits of his fellow-countrymen, to show them what a safe bet their country still was, what a strong favourite in the race of nations. An extract from one of these speeches may serve as an epilogue to his political career.

"For thirty-four years I have closely watched the progress of the Australasian colonies. There have been times when it seemed to me that terrible reverses must infallibly overtake them, and again and again has the weakness of my judgment been rebuked, until I have learned to think that the logic of facts is in favour of recovery rather than decline. The growth of these colonies has been so marvellously rapid that the mind is unable to retain the memory of the halting periods. As in the past, so in the future, and in all humbleness of spirit I dare to predict that many generations will pass away before the colonies beneath the Southern Cross reach the culminating greatness of their destiny."

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We have received the following note from Mr. Burdon about his article on William Webster, published in *Korero*, Vol. 3, No. 4:—

"I have to apologize for a mistake made, or at least implied, in my article on William Webster. My thanks are due to Mrs. R. M. Burnard, of the Historical Branch, Department of Internal Affairs, for pointing out that the Webster claims did not expire in 1895, but were revived in 1909 and only finally settled in 1926."