

REV. MR. ISITT.

We publish in this issue a portrait of the Rev. Mr. Isitt, one of the most intemperate advocates of temperance that this colony has probably ever seen. Mr Isitt is a man of but one idea, and to the furtherance of his fad, he brings all the powers of vituperation of which he is a past master, Prohibition pure and simple is his motto, and his fight against the liquor traffic is conducted on the principle, that "no good can possibly come out of Nazareth." His opponents can do no good because there is none in them, and we believe honestly that the Reverend Mr Isitt would rejoice more heartily over one publican damned than if twenty common or garden sinners were brought to repentance. His present attitude as virtual editor of the *Prohibitionist* (a paper conducted in four editorial shrieks and a series of paragraphic howls) and supporter of Sir Robert Stout and Mr H. D. Bell is singularly incongruous. As a clergyman he is devoting his influence towards electing to Parliament a pronounced freethinker, and as a prohibitionist he is also giving his support to a gentleman, who at the last general elections, ran as one of the nominees of the Brewers and Licensed Victuallers Association. Can inconsistency go much further? Mr Isitt may mean right, but like all fanatics he overreaches his mark. May a layman, with all due respect, call to recollection that little parable of the Pharisee and the publican? and is not the Reverend Mr Isitt too much inclined to preach the religion of "Orthodoxy is my doxy and heterodoxy is yours."

Mr George Hunter, the well-known Hawke's Bay squatter, is making a big attempt to get in for Waipawa, the constituency which W. C. Smith represented in the last house. Hunter is very popular with the working men, for he is a generous employer, but he will have a hard fight to defeat the Government. Mr Charles Hall, of Woodville, who for many years has been Smith's right hand man in the district and for whom Smith will use his utmost endeavours, is opposing Hunter. A third candidate is Mr W. W. Carlile, brother of the Napier lawyer, and at one time—some years ago—editor of the *Hawke's Bay Herald*.

Carlile made a great deal to do about the Smith-Cadman land business and talks about the Smith party as if they and not the Ormond-Russell-Williams ring were the "landgrabbers" of the province of big runs and small population. Carlile, however, won't get in; the contest is between Hall and Hunter and the result will be very close.

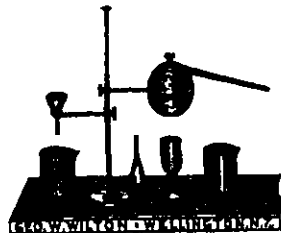
"Kennedy Mac." undoubtedly scored heavily by his first canter last week. It was a rattling good speech, and although we don't go with him all the way on the State Bank question, yet the greater portion of the speech fitted in with our views very well. There's a lot of downright hard, bed-rock, common sense about Macdonald, and the best of him on a platform is that he speaks so clearly and with so much "vim." Just compare him with Iceberg Bell for instance. Bell shuffled and stumbled and stuttered through his oration on Saturday, whereas "Mac." was distinct, crisp, and to the point in every sentence. "Mac." has put himself well up in the betting by his speech.

A woman writes to us as follows: "Thanks, very much, for your article on Sir Robert Stout in last week's issue of FAIR PLAY. It was quite a revelation to me, and doubtless to many others. I have children myself and I want them to grow up earnest, God-fearing Christians. The more I consider over the candidature of Sir Robert Stout the more I come to the conclusion that it would be wrong for me to vote to put such a leading freethinker into the House. He is a man of the very highest moral character, I know, and I was glad to notice that you dwelt upon that side of his character, but what you say us to the bad example he sets, by his non-belief in the good old book, has convinced me that, good a man and high-principled a politician as he is, we women, who wish to see this country remain true to the Christian religion, ought not to vote for him. I shall not, at any rate, and I am sure that many more who, like me, have read your outspoken article, will follow my example."

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