

Fair Play

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STRAIGHT TALK

Christmastide is again with us and, as usual, the happy-go-lucky New Zealander is preparing to enjoy himself next week. We have no intention of becoming sentimental over the matter, but we must say that we all ought to be thankful that this colony is free from the awful depression with its accompanying poverty and misery, which at present reigns in Melbourne and, to a lesser extent, also in Sydney. New Zealand isn't booming and no sane person wants it to boom, but at the same time there is enough and a little to spare for all who choose to work, and for the loafer we have no pity.

On Monday next we shall all, no doubt, do as we have done so often before, sit down on a blazing hot day and gorge a big feed, more suited for a clime where ice and snow are over the land than for this sunny southern country of ours. The gorge over, we ought all then to join in a prayer that it may be long ere New Zealand sees the bitter days of depression which have recently been known on the other side, after which we can devote our attention to our digestion, the powers of which we shall have terribly strained. This is FAIR PLAY'S first Christmas amongst the people of New Zealand but it will not be the last, and we trust we shall have many opportunities of repeating our present wish, namely, that every reader of our paper may enjoy

A VERY JOLLY CHRISTMAS,

and that 1894 may be for her or him—ladies first, nowadays, if you please—more than ever

A HAPPY AND PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR.

The retirement of Dr. Lemon from the position of Superintendent of Telegraphs has resulted in the perpetration of an act of political patronage that hardly redounds to the credit of Mr. Ward. First it was announced that Mr. Gray, who is in charge of the Post Office Department, would be appointed to succeed Dr. Lemon, while still retaining his position in the Post Office. This arrangement, it was explained, had been made on an economical basis, with a view of retrenching expenses. It was at once understood, however, that Mr. Gray would be chief merely in name, as it would be absolutely impossible for him to give sufficient time to the practical management of both departments

properly. The appointment of an acting superintendent was looked forward to with almost a certainty that the choice would fall upon Mr. E. H. Bold, and great surprise was created when it was given to Mr. J. K. Logan.

Mr. Bold is probably next to Dr. Lemon the ablest man in the Telegraph Department. He is a civil engineer and a practical electrician of the highest class. In his professional capacity as an engineer he has done service for the colony in superintending the construction of roads. The work at that time was most dangerous, and the men who took part in it may be said to have literally carried their lives in their hands. Mr. Bold received the thanks of the colony for his work through Mr. Ormond. In addition to this he has rendered able service to the colony while in the Telegraphic Department. This record alone should have entitled him to promotion in the event of a vacancy, but he still has further claims on the Government.

Mr. Bold is the senior Inspector of Telegraphs, and his first appointment dates from October 1st, 1868, while Mr. Logan, who has been promoted over his head, entered the service on October 25th, 1865, over two years later. There is certainly something radically wrong in this appointment, for by all the rules and customs of the Civil service Mr. Bold was entitled to it by virtue of his seniority, and the able services he has rendered to the colony. Mr. Logan may be a good and efficient officer in his way, nobody denies that, but what has he done that he should be pitchforked into a position for which, however fit he may be, another man is much better qualified? As a Democratic paper, from its inception, FAIR PLAY has supported the Liberal Party and rejoiced over its return to Parliament in such an overwhelming majority, but if this is to be taken as a specimen of what use it intends to make of its power the sooner we have a reconstruction of the Ministry the better. Mr. Ward's action can be described as nothing else but a flagrant abuse of his position, for if ever a reprehensible political job were perpetrated surely we have it here. The only ascertainable reason for Mr. Logan's promotion is that he comes from the same district in the south that returned Mr. Ward, who has evidently done this thing to curry favour with his constituency, an action which may in the near future cost him dear.