

the necessity for such an institution being formed in our midst, and the desirableness of Government supporting the scheme with a thoroughly adequate endowment. In this action we trust, and, indeed, we fully expect, he would be warmly supported by his two colleagues, Messrs. Duthie and Bell, and the daily press of the city ought to do its share in bringing the arguments in favour of a University very prominently before the notice of honourable members. Petitions should also be prepared and sent round for signature, and representations in support of the project should be made by the various educational and other local bodies. Wellington has every just claim to have a University College established here. The city is the capital of the colony; the natural centre, not only of the trade of the whole of the southern—and more wealthy and important—part of the North Island, but also for the northern and western coasts of the South Island; it is yearly growing in size, in population, and in attention to the arts and sciences, and it is most manifestly unfair that she should not enjoy those extended educational facilities which are the portion of her two great rivals, Dunedin and Auckland. We have in this province two of the best secondary schools in the colony—the Wanganui Collegiate School and the Wellington College. We are more accessible to Nelson with its College than to Christchurch, and there are besides a perfect host of educational institutions to which the establishment of a University here would be of incalculable benefit. The fact that Wellington has been so long without a University is by no means creditable to the older citizens, who were, in bye-gone days, much more attached to making money than given to thinking and caring about the educational endowments of the city in which they lived. It is, however, never too late to mend, and the time has now arrived when a University must and shall be established in Wellington. We look forward to the opening of Parliament with a confident trust that Sir Robert Stout will bring all his undoubtedly persuasive eloquence to bear upon the Government and his fellow members in this matter, and that backed up by petitions and by press and public approval, he will be successful in inducing the Government to do what would be merely an act of simple justice, viz., to authorise the establishment and endowment of a University in the capital city of the colony.

Fish, Oh!

It is a widely admitted fact that the average New Zealander eats, as a rule, just about twice as much animal food as is requisite and good for him, and in ninety-nine cases out of a hundred, when the colonial dyspeptic consults his medical adviser, the man of prescriptions and pills tells him to eat less meat—"Go in for more fish and fruit, my dear sir, far better for you than so much meat in this climate of ours." That in the warmer months of the year a diet composed mainly of fish and fruit must be very much better, more especially for those whose occupations are of a sedentary character, is obvious to anyone who studies physiology, but, unfortunately, it is not so easy to obtain the fish, the use of which is so strongly recommended. A similar difficulty used to exist in Wellington with regard to fruit, but of late years the supply of fruit has come fairly up to demand, and although the price may sometimes be higher than it should be in New Zealand; than which a finer country for fruit-growing could not be imagined, still there is not very much to grumble at on that head. But with regard to our fish supply there is really very serious reason for a growl,—a long growl, and a deep growl. We may here state our honest opinion that the fish supply of Wellington is wretchedly inadequate to the requirements of the population; that the price charged for this valuable and, indeed, necessary food is out of all reason; that the trade is in the hands of a grasping ring of monopolists, and finally that it is high time that a new departure were made; that the trade were taken by fair but determined opposition, out of the hands of the ring, and that it became possible for the citizens of Wellington to procure a regular and plentiful supply of fish at a fair and reasonable price. Nor do we think there need be any great difficulty about the matter. At present the fishermen have only one source of disposal for their fish, and the price they receive for the result of their hard and dangerous work is just such as could be expected from a monopolist ring, and nothing more. The men have no alternative. Few, if any, of the poor fellows, are possessed of capital sufficient to hold themselves independent of the ring, and consequently they are entirely at the mercy of the monopolists. What is wanted, and wanted very badly in Wellington, is a Fish Market placed in a good central position, owned by the Corporation, and under the management of some hard-headed official with a talent for organisation, a will of his own, and a good allowance of common sense. The

fishermen could send in their fish to the market, where it could be sold by auction in small lots to the hawkers, who would speedily increase in number and who would take round the fish to the doors of the customers. Once let the citizens realise the fact that they could have daily, if necessary, a good choice of fish at a reasonable price and the consumption of this excellent food would be doubled, if not trebled. At present fish dealers seem to consider the public ought to put up with anything, and everything they choose to offer in the shape of a fish, and the price which they charge is out of all proportion to that which they pay to the hard-worked fisherman who are bound down to them and cannot free themselves from the grip. A fish market would mean the emancipation of the fishermen, the reduction of the present absurdly high profits made by the middlemen, and a regular supply of fish at a fair price for the general public. It is a disgrace to Wellington, situated as it is in close proximity to some of the finest fishing grounds in the colony, that the fish should be so poor in quality and that the price charged to the consumer should be so extravagantly and almost prohibitively high. We repeat that it would be to the benefit of the health of the citizens were they to consume more fish, and we feel sure that it only needs a little effort for a Fish Market to be successfully established, for the fisherman to be better remunerated for their arduous and dangerous toil, and for the public to get a regular and much cheaper supply of one of the most valuable and healthful of foods. We commend the idea of a public Fish Market to our now Mayor, Mr. Brandon, and trust that he may take up the project we have sketched out in rough and carry it through to a successful issue.

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