

BROOKE'S MONKEY BRAND SOAP WON'T WASH CLOTHES



Fair Play

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STRAIGHT TALK

Mr. W. L. Rees was in town last week from Gisborne, where he is now living. Mr. Rees says he has done with politics for good. He intends, in future, to stick to his profession—he is one of the cleverest special pleaders in the colony—but he will still take a great interest in the settlement of the Native lands of the colony. A good many hard things have been said against Mr. Rees from time to time, but he is a genial, warm-hearted man, whose personal friends are many, and who always speak in the highest terms of his sincerity. He has had too many big ideas, has floated too many big schemes for the regeneration of everything and everybody; but he is a thoroughly honest enthusiast, and he has been a good friend to the Natives.

Years ago Mr. Rees was a Congregational minister on the other side. He afterwards took to the law, and many a good yarn can he tell of Aspinall and other legal "old timers" in Victoria. For years he has been a great personal friend of Sir George Grey, who, it is well-known, has a great regard for him. He has written a very decent novel—"Gilbert Leigh"—and a "Life of Sir George Grey," and in his day has been one of the best cricketers, tennis players, and all round athletes the colony has ever seen. His two sons—Arthur and Lincoln—have also done good work as athletes. Both are lawyers, like their father. Mr. Rees is accompanied by the famous East Coast chief Wi Pere. The pair have been interviewing the Government on Native land matters, into the details of which we do not care to go.

The N.Z. Tablet, Dunedin Catholic organ, liketh not that Knight of the Cheap and Muddy Glory, Sir Robert Republican Prohibition Stout. Commenting upon the gushing address given by Stout at the reception of his political supporters, the Tablet likens Sir Robert to a veritable Pecksniff expanding at Mrs Todgers. "In their plain, unvarnished humbug," says the

Tablet writer, "his words are about the best thing we have ever seen—even from him."

Dunedin, although far ahead of Wellington in matters educational, has no free library, and we are glad to notice that an active agitation for the establishment of such an institution has been started in the Southern city. One of the most enthusiastic advocates for a free library is Mr. Mark Cohen, the energetic and clever editor of the Dunedin Evening Star. Whatever enterprise Mr. Cohen throws himself into generally succeeds, and we have no doubt that the pressman will eventually see his desires accomplished. It certainly is an anachronism that so go-a-head a city as Dunedin should lack an institution which is to be found in Auckland, Wellington and Christchurch.

The Government have made a good appointment in selecting Mr. Lee Smith to represent the colony at the Canadian Reciprocity Convention. Mr. Smith is essentially a shrewd, practical business man, a good public speaker, and a thoroughly straightforward man, which is saying a great deal of one who has mixed so much in politics. He has stood for the House twice but has not been successful. In Dunedin, however, he is very much respected, and he may be trusted to look after our interests at Ottawa in a very intelligent and useful manner.

By the way, talking about Government appointments, when is the North Island to have a turn? At present the fixed determination of the Government appears to be to give anything and everything they have in the way of patronage to the South Island men. It's as bad as it was in Macandrew's days. When Mac was in power, no one had a chance of getting a Government billet who did not hail from down South, and did not speak broad Scotch. Whenever anyone was wanted, even a messenger, Mac would lay his shoulder-of-mutton fist on the Cabinet table and say, "Ah've the verra man for ye, he comes fra Otarger." And he generally got the billet. Is Jock McKenzie emulating the departed Macandrew? It looks like it. There'll be a big squeal from Auckland if this sort of thing goes on much longer.