

# You Don't Say So!

Dr. Mackin contemplates an early trip Home. The Hy-meneal altar, eh, Doc.?

Stout is falling back in popularity. Outside a small gang of temperance devotees his Auckland speech fell as flat as ditch water.

Colonel Fox won't get the best of his little affair with the Premier. Report says that Richard of Kumara holds two bows and the joker in the Fox game.

Buff and Black, poor Vigilant's successor on the *Times* and *Mail*, is making a name for himself. Teddy Cowan is a Napier man who was formerly "on" the *News* and *Telegraph*.

Mr. Ben Wilson, the genial and unassuming young gentleman who is Private Secretary to Hon. Cadman is engaged to a Wellington young lady—Miss Dot Parsons. Congratulations.

Pete Hughes, Williamson's funny little advance agent, "there arn't no flies on me," is keeping a pub in Melbourne. He has started a wig, not before he wanted one.

Leonard Harper, of Harper Brothers, Christchurch notoriety, is living in Spain. N.B.—There is no extradition treaty with the land of guitars and garlic.

Some of the Masons say that the election of Mr. H. D. Bell as Grand Master shouldn't have been, that there were other and better men whose claims should have been considered before his.

Pity Scobie MacKenzie is out of the new Parliament. He made a capital speech the other day when he got a typewriter as a present. It was a Yost. Yost the very thing for a literary man like Scawbie, whose fist is a terror to the printers.

G. M. Yerex, who recently visited the American Prohibitionist States, says that the sale of liquor is virtually annihilated in Maine and Kansas, that is of course publicly. Private persons get in supplies all the same.

Congratulations in advance. A daughter of Hon. Jock MacKenzie is to be married shortly to Mr. M. P. Cameron, of the well-known firm of Cameron & Christie, ironmongers, Wellington.

Kennedy Mac. has been talking lately of trying his luck in South Africa. Mac. has been very unlucky. He ought to do well if he goes to Johannesburg, but if he'll take our tip he'll stop here and live down adverse criticism. His great talents will bring him to the front again in time.

People are asking whether any of the old N.Z.L. and M. gang are to be prosecuted. "Cooked" balance-sheets, misleading reports, and giving advances to themselves, are some of the charges indulged in against the old directors by irate shareholders.

Sir Maurice O'Rorke is first favourite for the Speakership, but Major Steward, "The white flower of a blameless life," will make a fight for his old position. Rumour says that there will be a third candidate in the field. Sir Maurice is FAIR PLAY's tip. If he can get over one little weakness of character, he's the man for Galway.

*Bulletin* says that a favourite expression of King Seddon's is "I am not Dick Seddon now, I'm Premier of New Zealand." Well, and if it is, why shouldn't the Premier insist upon his dignity being respected? It's all humbug to pretend that a leader

of the Democracy must necessarily make himself cheap. As a matter of fact, Mr. Seddon is too easy-going and is by no means given to any putting on of official "side."

The Parnell memorial. There will be a rumpus if that balance-sheet is not forthcoming very soon.

Mrs. Robert Louis Stevenson was a grandmother before Robert married her.

"The advance towards Prohibition in Maoriland will at least retard woman suffrage in Australia"—that's what they say on the other side.

Phil May, if he does not succeed Harry Furniss on London *Punch*, will probably start a comic paper on his own account.

"The New Anstralia Czar," "Moses," "Don Lane," are some of the cognomens bestowed on the leader of the petering-out movement.

At Blenheim the other day the accompaniments at a local concert were played by a Mr. Kerkey, of Wellington. Needless to say they were "rekerkey."

A New Zealander—John McCormick—of Central Otago, has had his tender accepted (£109,000 odd) for erecting a bridge to replace the famous Victoria bridge at Brisbane, destroyed during the great flood.

Mr. J. H. Clayton, late of the *Bush Advocate*, Dannevirke, and previously of the *Hastings Star*, has bought the Marlborough *Daily Times*, Blenheim, and intends to make a first-class paper of it.

Ex-Judge Seth Smith, of Native Land Court, is off to England to have another operation performed on his eyes. He was in England for the same trouble some fifteen months ago.

Miss Maive, late matron of the Dumedin hospital, has gone to Cairo to re-organise on her own system the large hospital in that city. The appointment is direct from the Egyptian Government, and is, we hear, a well paid one.

After a couple of years quarrelling, back-biting, envy, hatred, and all uncharitableness the London Tabernacle people have finally decided to allow the Rev. Thomas Spurgeon, late of Auckland, to succeed his father as pastor of that celebrated place of worship. The Rev. Thomas used to be known as the Rev. "Tommy Scourge 'em!" His wife, who has been living in the Northern city for some time past, now goes home to rejoin her husband.

When Christie Murray, the novelist, was brought up at London Police Court recently for wife desertion, the novelist admitted that he left Melbourne with a girl, who was now living with him at Kensington. Christie Murray seems to have gone to the dogs when he took to the stage in Harry St. Maur's Company. He can still write a rattling good novel, however, and has recently done some excellent work, quite worthy of his earlier reputation. But woman, lovely woman, is evidently his weakness.

It's all stuff and nonsense about Premier Rosebery going to marry Princess Maud of Wales. He's twenty-three years older than she is, and, although it is said she likes him, the *Bulletin* says very truly the "Royal Family could hardly stand a Guelph's children playing second fiddle to the half bred Hebrew offspring of a Scotch Peer." Rosebery's first wife was Lady Hannah Rothschild, who brought him a perfect pile of dollars.

Rosebery suffers severely from insomnia, so the story goes. If this be true, he won't last long as Prime Minister. The