

BROOKE'S MONKEY BRAND SOAP WON'T WASH CLOTHES.

# Fair Play

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## STRAIGHT TALK

The advantages of insignificance are often felt and realised, but rarely admitted. It is, however, impossible to compare New Zealand with other countries without recognising that many of the blessings we enjoy are due to our isolated and insular position, our unimportance, our comparatively small population in proportion to area, and to the fact of our troubles, though rapidly evolved and speedily settled, having been most decidedly in miniature.

There are thousands of New Zealanders thoroughly cognisant of almost every event and change in the political and economic history of their country, who cannot see that they are enjoying a higher state of civilization than many older and wealthier nations can expect to attain for the next quarter of a century; or that the Rubicon of a more critical period has been safely passed, and we now stand on the threshold of a brighter and more humane social era. To have seen the "spirit of the times" changed in a brief period of less than four years from Trade Unionism to Constitutionalism, without more serious consequences than a quiet settling down to the ballot box, the advent of new labour members, the extension of the functions of the State in an industrial direction and the introduction of a few Factory Acts and Labour Bills is a matter on which every intelligent New Zealander ought to congratulate himself.

That this favourable aspect of affairs is beginning to dawn even on the obtuse and the prejudiced, and that "light" is penetrating "dark places," is most noticeably instanced by the recently expressed intention of the Hon. Mr. Pharazyn, who "will not oppose the Labour Bills this session." Considering the extreme mental perturbation into which these measures

threw that gentleman on a previous occasion, it is difficult to say whether his proposed course of action is due to an increased perspicacity or to a regard for his own health.

The United States (consul at Auckland (says an English contemporary) has been reporting favourably on the recent "State Socialistic experiments" in New Zealand, and considers they are "working admirably." We are glad to hear this, but fear that his opinion has been induced more through contemplation of the bad effects of an aggressive, unsocial, ramping, raging individualism, in the millionaire-making, and nigger-roasting country he represents, than from any love of Socialism in the abstract.

Recent cable accounts of the latest developments of industrial strife in America, with its record of shooting, burning, and destruction of property, are appalling to all lovers of "law and order." Uncle Sam has always boasted of "licking creation; he is doing it now, with a vengeance. The militant organisation of strikers, and the public sympathy and assistance given them, seem to indicate that a Civil war is almost imminent, and a convulsive struggle for life and liberty, of a magnitude hitherto unequalled in the world, is fast approaching. "Caesar's Column" is actually being realised.

Glancing retrospectively at our own little "friendly trial of strength," and remembering the rapidity with which the bitterness of feeling then generated died away, it is not chimerical to think that future historians will speak of the event as exemplifying the peace-loving and strong common-sense characteristics of the people. The turning of such a vital point in our destiny, with so little friction, as compared with what is taking place in France and America, renders that eventful period worthy of commemoration by annual national festivities; and it is possible that J. A. Millar, set up in a marble niche, invested with a tin halo, holding a copy of the Shipping and Seamen's Bill in his hand, will be added to some future calendar of saints.