

TOPICS OF THE WEEK

metamorphosis it had degenerated into 'Natty-toos.' Imagine the indignant chiefs being addressed as 'Natty-loos!' No wonder they felt hurt. It is well that the Premier should know their feelings on the matter, as it may teach him to see more clearly some of the objections to the perpetuation of the Maori nomenclature.

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NOTICE TO AUTHORS.

1. A motto instead of the writer's name must be written under the title of the story. The author's real name must be enclosed in a separate envelope addressed to the editor, and all such envelopes must have the motto and words 'Story Competition' on the top left corner. This envelope must not be placed in the MS. packet, but MUST BE POSTED SEPARATELY. It must also contain a declaration that the work is original and entirely the sender's own.

2. Every MS. must be prepaid, and if left open at both ends will be carried at book rates. It must be addressed 'Editor NEW ZEALAND GRAPHIC, Shortland-street, AND OUTSIDE THE WRAPPER ABOVE THE ADDRESS, MUST BE CLEARLY INSCRIBED THE MOTTO MENTIONED IN RULE 1.

3. Any competitor who may desire to have his MS. returned in the event of it not being successful must clearly state his wish in a note attached to the above declaration, and must also enclose stamps for return postage. When such a desire is not expressed, the MS. will become the property of the GRAPHIC.

4. All contributions must reach the office before May 15, 1899.

5. Choice of subjects rests with the writer, BUT THE SCENE MUST BE LAID IN NEW ZEALAND AND BE OF SPECIAL INTEREST TO NEW ZEALANDERS. It may deal with any subject, natural, supernatural, love, heroic, adventure, life on the gumfields, gold mines, or country, search for treasure, fighting, or peace; in fact, anything bright and interesting, and free from anything unsuitable for family reading.

6. Write clearly on one side of the paper only.

7. Writers who fail to comply with the above simple rules and conditions will be rigorously disqualified.

HAD WE BEEN THERE

THE talk of the last week has been the Samoan business, and the unfortunate brush with the natives, in which seven of the European force were killed and seven wounded. It appears to be the universal opinion here among those who know the Samoan bush and the native methods of warfare that the affair ought never to have occurred; it was a clear case of mismanagement somewhere, as anyone, with or without military knowledge, can see. The incident is of service to us as showing what kind of fighting our boys might have been called on to take a hand in, and for which they must have proved a good deal less fit than the sailors who formed the European portion of the landing force. I think that all things considered we may thank our stars that our boys did not go to Samoa. It is all very well dreaming of the glorious things they might have accomplished, but it would have been quite another thing if these inexperienced lads had been surprised by the natives and cut to pieces. The Premier is represented by a Wellington correspondent as deploring the non-despatch of the Auckland contingent, which had it been sent promptly would 'have been in time to wipe out the recent repulse.' Such an expression, if it really fell from the Premier, shows clearly that he has been as completely carried off his feet by the tidal wave of martial enthusiasm as any of us. He, too, has been dreaming of his gallant New Zealanders storming the deadly cover and carrying the enemy's position at the point of the bayonet, and has lost sight of the less romantic but more common-sense aspect of the business. Those who look at it in the latter light will hardly repress a smile to hear Mr Seddon speaking of the Contingent being 'in time to wipe out the recent repulse,' and a feeling of thankfulness that things turned out as they did.

IF REEVES CAME TO NEW ZEALAND.

THE Hon. Mr Reeves, our Agent-General, is ascending the ladder of fame with a rapidity which is making his enemies here green with envy. He could never have done it had he remained in the colony, for the simple reason that the upper rungs of the same ladder he was endeavouring to scale were occupied by two other gentlemen, who showed no inclination to make room for William to pass, and who certainly would have quickly resented any attempt on his part to climb over them. William recognised the position and went home as Agent-General. The post offered opportunities, though scarcely of the very first order, and he made the most of them. By combining lecturing on social and political questions with a downright devotion to the frozen meat and butter trade, which does credit to his powers of adaptation, he

Common. But here the trouble comes in. Can he be the colony's paid butter and meat man, and a representative of a British constituency? It is the old question can a man serve two masters. Will he not neglect our meat and butter for the sake of his constituency, or vice versa. Rumour has it that the Opposition intend to bring this matter up next session, and if they are able, to veto any attempt to permit William to serve in the dual capacity. The same uncertain jade also says that Mr Seddon is favourable to William's ambition, fearing that if some avenue is not found for the ascent of his young friend he will be trying to usurp Dick's own throne. We must never forget that Mr Reeves is the high priest of State socialism in this land, and if he came back there is no saying what a following he might command, or what he might achieve. Since he left labour legislation has been comparatively non-progressive, to the disgust apparently of some sections of the labour party. But if he came back again with a whole cookery book of untried legislative recipes there would probably be enough messing about the big kitchen in Wellington to please all those amateur cooks who threaten to make a terrible devil's broth of our statute books. It is to Mr Seddon's interest that William should stay where he is; and perhaps to our interest too. Certainly the Opposition should not desire to look upon him again if they are sincere in their denunciation of all his works. Rather than grudge him the Agent-Generalship in the event of his becoming an M.P., they should be quick enough to perceive that his absence is cheaply purchased at his price.

MAORI NOMENCLATURE.

IS it true that the Government has christened a new township 'Tau-matakakatangi-haugaa-aau?' If so, I can only explain this deliberate attempt to damn and blast the infant settlement in its cradle on the supposition that it is likely to become a stronghold of the Opposition party; and then I must say the act seems to me unfair, even as judged by the rules of political warfare. Is it right that any place, whatever its political faith is likely to be when it grows up, should start life so cruelly handicapped? Think of it: would any man with his senses about him dream of taking up his abode in a place with such an unwieldy load of a name? He would virtually shut himself off from the rest of the world, for who would ever venture to address a letter to such a place, and who but an insane reporter or a delirious linotypist would ever think of trying to chronicle or print the doings of the unheeded settlement. To a certainty they would shun it as birds do the Upas Valley. Here is an admirable illustration of the foolish extremes into which we may be led by a zeal to perpetuate the Maori names. The folly of the thing is surely self-evident, even to those who have advocated the system. Mr Seddon, I believe, has been one of these, and is therefore in a way responsible for this latest monstrosity. If were enough to condemn him unheard, but unfortunately he has already been condemned in this matter more than once out of his own mouth and never so directly as the other day at the unveiling of the Kaiapoi memorial. In his speech on that occasion he had, over and over again, to refer to the Ngaitahu tribe. According to a Canterbury paper his first reference was a triumph of pronunciation. He placed the vowels, and sounded them as to the manner born. But that was only in the opening of his speech, where he had evidently schooled himself to correctness. As he proceeded, and his oratory became, so to speak, more and more extempore, the letters of the name got transposed and mixed up in the most extraordinary way, to the astonishment and bewilderment of his listeners. First it was 'Nahi-hatus,' then it was 'Nati-tuis,' and in its final

THAT NATIONAL COUNCIL.

OF COURSE it is somewhat premature to say what effect the meeting of the Women's National Council has had in Auckland, where the body has been sitting. The murmur of the discussions has only just ceased. But it is interesting to speculate on probabilities. The President of the Council let it be understood that the delegates in holding the convention in the Northern city meant to do more than confer on Auckland an honour other cities of the colony had enjoyed in turn. She indicated that so far as the objects of the Council were concerned we here were a community of Gallios, and that it was the determination of the delegates to convert us. Now the question is how many converts have they made? I know of several ladies and gentlemen, too, who



"It is the determination of the delegates to convert us."

were present at some at least of the discussions, and had a chance of judging with their own ears and eyes of the character of the organisation, but to what extent and in what direction they have been influenced, they do not say, and very likely do not yet know. By degrees, however, the seed that has been sown will spring up where the soil has been favourable, and then we shall see what we shall see. I dread the results in some households where the meek uncomplaining wife has hitherto quietly submitted to the commands of her lord and master, simply because she has been taught that it was her bounden duty to do so. What if the call to enfranchisement has reached that peaceful hearth and urged to revolt that sister in her bondage? You smile, sir, but have a care. Mayhap at this very moment you are cherishing in your bosom the conspirator who a month hence will have set your authority at defiance and have joined the ranks of the enemy.

CHUCKING OUT.

HIS EXCELLENCY the Governor, who is now on a visit to Rarotonga, no doubt contemplated nothing further than a pleasant sea trip, and a delightful sojourn in the isles of palm, when he decided to go there. But he is likely, in his official capacity, to be called on to transact business the reverse of pleasant. There appears to be confusion in that little island community under the system of half native authority, just as there is in Samoa, and the Governor is to be appealed to in order to set matters right. The new Deputy-Commissioner, Colonel Gudgeon, I fancy, finds his task no easier than Mr Moss, his predecessor, found it. Acting as guardian of the peace in these lands, and endeavouring to deal out equal justice between white and brown and white and white, is a business which you have to try your hand at before you appreciate its difficulties. For instance, the other day a request was presented to the Deputy-Commissioner from some of the leading chiefs praying that certain Europeans, seven in number, should be deported from Rarotonga, as their presence was inimical to the peace of the community. Fortunately for the Deputy he was able to



It is Mr Seddon's interest that William should stay in England.

got up a name in the Old Country, and now we hear that he intends going in for a seat in the House of

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