

a fool." The new notes are of handsome design, following somewhat the lines of the Bank of England note, and are printed on a superior quality of paper. As a good number are now in circulation, tradespeople will soon become accustomed to them, and welcome them as an improvement on the old ones.

Some theatricals were staying at a Napier hotel, and one of them left, rather injudiciously, no doubt, the following portion of the prompter's book lying in his room:—"Am on the second floor: can see into prison yard. O'Connor is in there and exercises with the rest. The machine has been made, and the clockwork acts splendidly; 60 seconds after the spring has been set the ammer will strike and the dynamite explode. The machine is well concealed. When I give the signal by throwing the ball over be ready; do not make any blunder. (Part, trust me I will not fail.)"

A fresh arrival picked up the scrap of paper and reckoned he had made a great discovery of a piece of stupendous villainy. Forthwith he informed the police of a huge conspiracy in view. It was not until investigations had been made that the whole affair was explained. The fresh arrival is now cogitating over his child-like innocence in not having seen through the mystery before.

Current Comment.

OUR COLONIAL CREDIT.

New Zealanders should, thinks the "Wanganui Chronicle," be proud of the position they occupy, more especially seeing that the Midland Railway debenture-holders have been assisting the Conservatives in their endeavours to damage the colony's credit. The New South Wales four per cents. are subject to conditions which make them highly popular with investors, and it would be scarcely fair to compare them with securities paying the same rates of interest. But, without making any allowance for exceptional circumstances of this kind, there is abundant ground for congratulating New Zealand upon the creditable position she occupies in the list. A colony whose securities average about 1 per cent. higher than those of her neighbours cannot be the parlor position we are sometimes asked to believe.

THAT AWFUL LARRIKIN THE SPARROW.

He ravages our gardens in spring and summer, pulls our crocuses and primroses to pieces, says a Christchurch contemporary, in sheer larrikin delight of destroying things, and plays the very mischief with our early peas. His friends point with pride to the fact that he is an insect eater, as well as a grain eater. It is a misplaced boast. Mr Tegetmeier turns the eye of the scientist upon the contents of the sparrows' little "insides," and exclaims, "Oh, monstrous! but one half-pennyworth of bread in this intolerable deal of sack!" In other words, "there is very little insect to very much seed and plant." The birds the sparrow chases away do a great deal more to keep down insects than he does. Wherefore Mr Tegetmeier and Miss Ormerod, after cursing the sturdy rogue with bell, book, and candle, hand him over to the temporal arm to be dealt with with all possible severity. Boy and man do their worst against him, from "egghood" to old age he is never quite safe from the oppressor. It would be wrong to say, that like the celebrated jockdaw, he is none the worse for it all, but considering the dangers which encompass him, the seductions of poisoned wheat, and the rude assaults of head-hunting boys, he still thrives amazingly.

RATHER ROUGH ON GEORGE HUTCHISON.

Possibly, says the "N.Z. Times," Mr George Hutchison speaks the mind of the majority of the Opposition party on the land question. Possibly, too, he may delude a few benighted people by his fine talk about "the emancipation of thirteen thousand settlers." But the great bulk of the people have, by a process of mental

emancipation, come to see that the Liberal land policy forms the very foundation of the country's prosperity, and they will not lightly entertain any reactionary proposal. The electors will also bethink themselves regarding many other matters, concerning which the Opposition leaders either maintain a discreet silence or give utterance to pleasing but unmeaning platitudes. They will ask themselves, in the event of the Opposition coming into power, what assurance they would have of the safety of such advanced laws as the Old Age Pensions Act, the amended municipal franchise, one-man-one-vote, advances to settlers, conciliation and arbitration, the Truck Act, the land and income tax, and restriction of alien immigration, and a dozen other legislative means of improving the resources of the colony and promoting the welfare of its inhabitants. These are the points upon which the sovereign people will require to be satisfied, before they change their political servants; and they will demand something more than a vague assurance that none of these measures will be repealed, before they execute a change of front. Despite Mr Hutchison's effort, a constructive Opposition leader is still a "felt want" in the land.

MINISTERS' SALARIES.

If the salary be so inadequate, and the "self-sacrifice" too grievous, or if a larger income would be derived from other pursuits, why cling to the office for so many years? Why so much heart-burning by the many who are cheerfully prepared to make the sacrifice, when a vacant portfolio has to be filled? Now, we have nothing to say against Ministers for not curtailing (continues the "Wanganui Chronicle") in a leader on the alleged insufficiency of Ministers' salaries. The salaries they receive are not sufficiently large to permit of their doing much in that way. What, however, the people of the colony cannot help remarking upon is the fact that while they are economical as to means with their own money, and the money they receive from the colony as salary, they are lavish to ostentation in their expenditure when the colony has to foot the Bill. A Democratic Government should cultivate simple habits, and be as careful of the people's money as of their own.

MR ROLLESTON AND STATE HOTELS.

In last week's "Notes and Notions" we warmly commended Mr Rolleston's proposal. On the same subject the "N.Z. Times" remarks:—"It may be pointed out that the Government has now one hotel at least under this system, and that it has succeeded fairly well. We refer to the hotel at Mount Cook, where the manager is paid a salary for looking after the Hermitage, and has no interest whatever in the sale of alcoholic liquors, and the result is that visitors describe it as a model public-house. Before this system was adopted, we have it on excellent authority that the hotel was most unsatisfactorily conducted. However, the main point in all that Mr Rolleston has said is this—that there are questions which belong to no political party; that they belong to the community as a whole; that the people should have an opportunity of settling them for themselves; and that such questions should be removed from the arena of political party warfare. Mr Rolleston is to be praised for the thoughtful suggestions he has made on social questions, just on the eve of a session of Parliament, and prior to a general election—occasions when the issues are too often obscured by personal and party plique.

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RHEUMATISM

is not always in the Joints.

It comes in the muscles of the limbs and back very often, and sometimes it takes the form of rheumatic gout, or of lumbago—a crippling, dull ache in the small of the back. The symptoms are a little different—everyone recognises them fast enough—the cause is always the same.

IT IS THE BLOOD

that causes these things: blood that has become impure from wrong food or wrong drink, so that when the damp, cold weather comes, or the patient has got wet, or especially when there is

A CHANGE OF WEATHER,

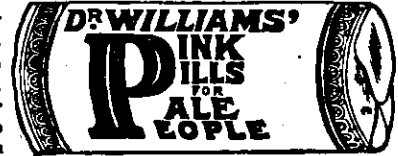
the agonies begin; because the blood, impoverished and acid, only needs something to start the pains.

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have Cured more Cases of Rheumatism, Rheumatic Gout and Sciatica than of all other disorders put together. Here is a case in point:

Mr. Charles Finely, 4 Lucerne Terrace, Young Street, Fitzroy, Vic., was some time ago severely attacked by rheumatism. Wearing, aching pains afflicted him in the knees, legs, hips, hands and shoulders. The agony was fearful, and a reliable doctor could do nothing to ease it. At last he was recommended to try Dr. Williams' Pink Pills, and did so. In less than a fortnight a miraculous change had begun, and after he had used several boxes every trace of rheumatism had left him. He is now quite cured, and the winter has no terrors for him.

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