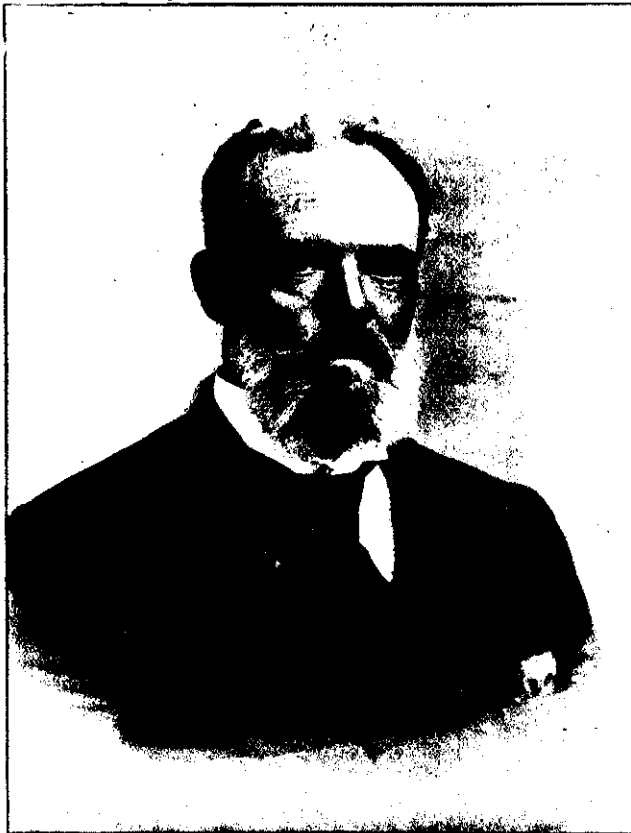


# People Talked About

## The Grand Lama.

The adventurous Japanese traveller, Ekai Kawaguchi, writes of his experiences in Tibet, in the "Century Magazine," which are rather interesting, in view of the British Mission's journey to that mysterious country. Leaving Japan in 1897, he went to Darjilin and set to work to learn the Tibetan language. This he accomplished in sixteen months, and, wearing the garb of a Tibetan lama, he entered the forbidden country. Success attended him, and he was able to live for many months in Lhasa itself and mix with every class of priest. Ekai Kawaguchi's sole object was to complete his studies of Buddhism. "The raison d'être of the Tibetan Government, says the writer, is the preservation and maintenance of Buddhism. So the policy of the closed door and seclusion was originally adopted for the same reason. But this policy has now undergone a change in character, and has become a vital principle of national preservation-vital as considered by Tibetans." Of the Dalai-Lama he says: "He is a young man, now twenty-eight years of age, with a fine, intelligent countenance. He was seated in a chair, wearing the yellow Tartar hood or priest's cowl, and robes of yellow silk and red wool, with many under-ropes of parti-coloured silks. He held his rosary of bodhi-tree beads (fruit of the pipal or bo-tree) in his left hand. Although the Dalai Lama possesses incredible stores of gold and jewels, and rosaries of every precious material, he carried only this simple rosary of the priests on each occasion of my seeing him. His Sublimity is by nature a man of superior courage and excellent qualities, while possessed of a profound knowledge of Buddhism. He is also a man of great political talents and resource, as his doings attest. He was not raised to the throne by the usual ballot method. While an infant he was brought to Lhasa with two other babes, all of whom were regarded as incarnations of the Dalai-Lama. Subsequently the Regent Lama and ministers of State of that time had reason to consider that two of the infants were devils incarnate, and the present Pope the only genuine incarnation of the Dalai-Lama. They obtained the recognition of the Chinese amban, or resident minister in Tibet, to this theory,



MR. H. SEED.

The Capable Inspector of the Wellington Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.

and succeeded in placing the boy on the throne without recourse to balloting on the three candidates. Since coming of age he has taken the government wholly into his own hands. Few Dalai-Lamas have lived to actually rule, the corrupt ministers poisoning each one before he came of age, and setting another infant incarnation in his place. The Dalai-Lama has lately concluded a secret treaty with Russia, and an exchange of presents was made with the Tsar. The emissary of the Tsar was a Buriat Mongol lama, whose people have always been free to come and go, visit and make pilgrimages about Lhasa. Working through the three tutors of the Dalai-Lama, he was received and treated with in 1900. Three hundred camel-loads of presents arrived from Russia in 1902, and I saw some of the new rifles which then came. Formerly the old fuse-gun was the only firearm in use in Tibet, and Tibetans high and low were astounded at the quality of these muskets, and knew no bounds in their admiration of Russian mechanical skill. As a matter of fact, the rifles in question were of American manufacture, and their range was, at the most, only five hundred meters."

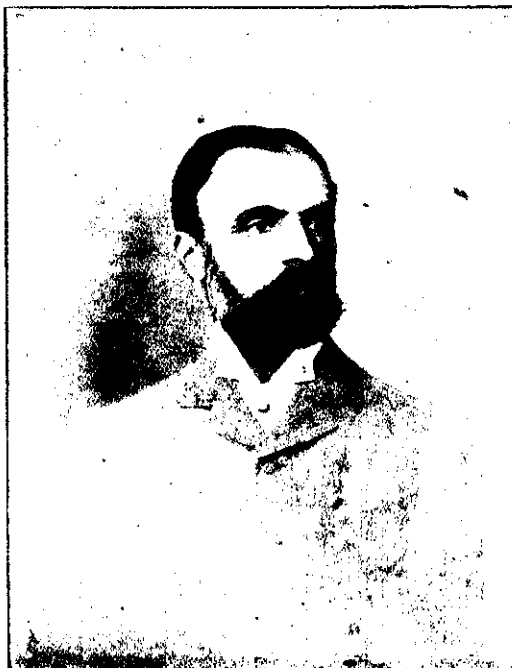
## A Big Break at Billiards.

Mr J. Belfield, amateur billiard champion of New South Wales, and Mr Eugene Boyle, one of the most expert amateurs, played an exhibition game of 500 up at the Globe Working Men's Institute recently. Mr Belfield, as usual, went in chiefly for the losing hazard game, not troubling much about top of the table play. His principal contributions were 43, 43, 38, 72, 94, 36, and, as a concluding performance, 225, which brought his score up to 652. The 225 is the highest break ever made by an amateur in Australia. Mr Boyle was unlucky in the way the balls broke, but he made some very fine shots, and a few good breaks, but he didn't pick up the strength of the table as readily as his opponent. He compiled 130 altogether.



MISS ROSINA BUCKMAN, the young New Zealand Soprano.

See "Dramm."



MR. J. S. JAMIESON,

President of the Wellington Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, one of the most energetic in the colony.