

# THE WEEKLY GRAPHIC

AND

NEW ZEALAND MAIL

VOL. XLI.—NO. 14

SEPTEMBER 30, 1908

Subscription—27/ per annum; if paid in advance, 30/. Single copy—Sixpence.

## The Week in Review

The formal opening of the Auckland School of Mines is an event of great importance to the whole Dominion, but more especially to the northern province itself. Three-fifths of the gold exported is produced in the Auckland district, which employs over 300 men in the industry. Each of our large centres will thus specialise in some one branch of modern education—Otago in medicine, Canterbury in engineering, Wellington in law, and Auckland in mining and commerce. Mining more than most professions requires a long and thorough training. The work of a mine manager is not only hard, but there is absolutely no room for the man who is only moderately efficient. The manager is either a success or a failure, and to be a success he needs the best scientific education that can be obtained. The aim of all modern universities is to keep in touch with the industrial and commercial life of the community. We want practical men able to make their way in the world, and the vague, indefinable something called culture rightly finds but little favour in our eyes. Not to produce dreary scholars or thinkers, but to produce shrewd, capable, pushing men of business ought to be the object to which universities in a democratic community should devote their energies. The Auckland University College, by specialising in mining and commerce, has taken a step in the right direction.

Sir Robert Stout, in his address at the opening of the School of Mines, rightly insisted on the necessity of hard work if an individual or nation is to succeed. But many think that there is little need to preach the gospel of work in an age as strenuous as our own, and that the danger rather lies in the fact that we allow ourselves to little real relaxation. Dr. Warre, the famous headmaster of Eton, and an old boating "blue," has been contrasting the sports and pastimes of the present day with those of earlier times. He says they are no longer joyous recreations, but serious business. The spirit of the age which fostered what he terms the "Olympic agony" has swept into its net all forms of amusement. The professional element has given rise to spectacular performances, in which the chief interest turns on the cash concerned in the issue. Self-advertisement and desire for personal distinction have supplanted esprit de corps. Dr. Warre made a fine use of the Horatian phrase, that "the soul should keep itself tempered from insolent exultation," in reminding us that we should strive to bring into all our games a chivalrous sense of honour that should instinctively repudiate any unfair advantage or unfair method, and so help to build up a national character "sans peur et sans reproche." How much this advice is needed has been shown by the unseemly squabbles that took place over the decisions of the judges in the recent Olympic contests. The true sportsman scorns such things as betraying the spirit of the "pot hunter," and the whole value of athletics is gone when the chivalry of the sportsman is replaced by the mere money-getting instinct of those who, by way of distinction, are popularly known as "sports."

The Public Works statement shows that it is proposed to spend this year £2,430,450 or £330,000 more than last year. Of this sum £1,279,000 is to be devoted to railways, and the balance to various other improvements. The North of Auckland line, henceforth to be known as the North Auckland Main Trunk line, is to receive £80,000; Kawakawa gets half that amount; Osborne-

Rotorua has been allotted £80,000. Considering that a quarter of a million has to be set aside for the completion of the Main Trunk, and that the Midland absorbs £150,000, these amounts must be considered fairly satisfactory. The Whangarei-Kawakawa line is especially important as its completion is absolutely indispensable to the advance of settlement in the Northern Peninsula. Of equal importance is the Helensville-Northward line. It has dragged along for many weary years, and it is to be hoped that now the Government is showing practical interest in the work no controversy over the precise route to be followed will be allowed to delay its completion. The vote of a quarter of a million for roading the back blocks is none too large. Of all public duties that of providing facilities for settlers who have so pluckily tackled the hardships inseparable from life in remote settlements stands easily first. Other details of the statement may be criticised in some quarters, about this vote the only regret will be that it was not larger still.

France has withdrawn her troops from Casablanca, and thus the new regime in Morocco seems to be recognised by all the Powers, including Germany. The new Sultan is to be given a free hand in organising his kingdom, and the task is not likely to be an easy one. He will have to radically change the existing social conditions before any semblance of good government can be looked for. It is doubtful if the Sultan will be able to exercise any real authority over his chiefs. They will strenuously resist any attempt to introduce European methods, and the slightest approach to such a thing might easily precipitate another revolution. Unless monarchy is to reign supreme in this corner of Africa, it is inevitable that sooner or later it must be brought under European influence, and that can only be done by some agreement being entered into between England, France, and Germany. In any case, the outlook is not hopeful.

The famous "gagging" clause introduced into the Second Ballot Bill has been condemned from one end of the Dominion to the other. Much of the criticism levelled at the motives supposed to have actuated its introduction has been unjust. There is no doubt that the Government merely desired, as far as possible, to make the election continuous. In many cases, where a second vote is necessary to decide election to any office, the vote is taken without further discussion. But this can only be applied where no interval is allowed to elapse between the two ballots. To attempt to silence Press and public alike for several days on matters so important as questions of policy is merely to court disaster. No law can be enforced unless it has public opinion behind it. It is safe to say that every paper of any standing would absolutely refuse to submit to any such restrictions, and the only result would be that men would glory in breaking a law they felt to be unjust. Capable as it is of being abused on occasions, the right of free speech has nevertheless been the main factor in securing our national liberties, and it is impossible to suppose that this right will be surrendered by the people at the bidding of any Government, however strong it may be.

Mr. Andrew Carnegie has long been known as one who recognises the re-

sponsibilities of great wealth. No one has been more munificent in endowing and founding libraries and other public institutions. He has now given a quarter of a million, producing an income of £12,500 a year, towards the foundation of a hero fund in the United Kingdom. The object of the fund is to provide for the maintenance of the widows and children of those who may lose their lives in performing deeds of heroism in times of peace. Few things could be more deserving of public support than this fund, and Mr. Carnegie's generous gift is likely to be largely supplemented by other donations. Our roll of heroes is a long one, and includes men and women in every walk of life. Our method of rewarding them hitherto has consisted in giving them a medal of some sort if they survive, and if they die we leave those dependent on them to either starve or be supported by casual charitable contributions. It is not that as a nation we do not recognise and appreciate deeds of valour, but we have short memories, and it has not been to our credit that many of our greatest heroes both in peace and war have been allowed to reap neglect and poverty as their sole reward. We trust that some of our own citizens will start a hero fund for New Zealand. When thousands of pounds are forthcoming to support ethical and other fads of every description, surely the two pence of the Good Samaritan could be spared towards the support of those whose breadwinner has laid down his life to save his fellows.

The Admiralty has at last been convinced that it is not wise to fount Mr. Deakin's scheme for establishing an Australian navy. Mr. Abbott, the president of the Pastoralists' Union of New South Wales, recently delivered a very forcible speech, in which he drew attention to the fact that we took Australia from the aborigines by force, and we must hold it by force against the swarming millions of Asia, who are not likely to pay any more attention to our rights of pre-emption than we did to those of the aboriginal inhabitants. Our only title deed to our colonial possessions is the power of the British navy. We contribute 1/- per head per annum as against 15/- per head contributed by the inhabitants of the United Kingdom. Sir John Colomb, the well-known writer on naval questions, supports Mr. Abbott in his contention that something more could be done by the colonies, and Lord Brassey expressed cordial approval of the suggestion that Australia should organise a fleet of her own for coast defence. He suggests that the inauguration of the scheme should be done with all the pomp and spectacular effect of which Admiral Sir John Fisher is a pastmaster. The Lords of the Admiralty have promised co-operation, and nothing now remains but for the colonies themselves to push the matter forward before public enthusiasm cools.

Mr. Deakin's scheme proposes that the Commonwealth shall equip and maintain a flotilla of six destroyers, seven submarines, and two depot ships. Australia will supply as many of the men as possible, the Imperial Government providing the rest. The cost of the ships is estimated at £1,277,500, and the annual cost of maintenance at £340,000. The administrative control is to remain in the hands of the Commonwealth, subject to one or two conditions. England is to loan cruisers and give every help possible towards forming the proposed fleet. There is no doubt that the project is likely to receive far more support and excite more widespread interest than any proposal for increasing the contribution to the Imperial navy could do. Australia is already a nation, and it is feeling the need of adequate expression

of national instincts. The beginning is small, and of course for many years to come she will have to rely on the British fleet for protection. But once begun the scheme will grow, other parts of the Empire will follow her lead, and the healthy rivalry engendered between the fleets of the different countries will go far to maintain, if not increase, the high state of efficiency for which the British navy is so justly famed.

The trouble over the "Wilford clause" in the Education Bill has been ended by the House definitely rejecting the proposed amendment in favour of uniform school-books. At the same time the incident has done good because it has drawn attention to the very serious cost to parents with large families when they are always being called upon to provide fresh books for their children. It is urged that uniform books would not be in the best interests of education, but even from an educational point of view, there is much to be said in favour of Mr. Wilford's clause. A multiplicity of books is apt to retard a pupil's progress by causing some of the ground to be traversed over again when it has been previously thoroughly covered, and other important parts are apt to be neglected. If uniform books are used a pupil moving from one school to another knows that he has done up to a certain point in the book, and thus he can go steadily on. Latin was far better taught at Home when all the schools used the old Public School Latin Grammar than it is at present, when each school has a book of its own.

But it is not likely that any such system will be established in our national schools, owing to the inability of experts to agree as to which is the best book in any subject. Different teachers prefer different books, and while one would find a particular book exactly suit his needs, another would find it next door to useless. The real solution of the difficulty will probably be found to lie in the direction of providing all books and other educational necessities absolutely free of cost. For at present, the tax on parents who have several children attending school is undoubtedly a heavy one. There is no reason why the Educational Department should not print and publish its own books. This would considerably reduce the cost, and would also enable teachers to get works more suited to our requirements than many of those at present in use. The matter is one that calls for serious consideration, and though the expense of free books may seem to many a decided obstacle, yet the relief afforded to parents with large families would be great, and also books would be more carefully chosen, and we should not have such frequent, and often, bewildering, changes.

The Newcastle by-election has resulted in a great victory for the Conservative candidate. He polled 2143 more votes than his rival, whilst the Socialist candidate was nowhere. At the last general election the Liberal member got in by the large majority of 7200 votes, and though doubtless the whole Catholic vote was thrown into the scale against Mr. Asquith's Government on account of his action in prohibiting the Eucharistic procession, yet this only partly accounts for the result. The current of public feeling has for long been setting steadily against the present Liberal policy, mainly, we believe, on account of the obstinate refusal to even consider the question of tariff reform. The English workers—and Newcastle is essentially a labour constituency—are beginning to realise that free trade closes both Home and foreign markets against them. Not all the sophs thrown to them in the shape of temporary relief and measures aimed against the