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The Week in Review.

NOTICE.

The Editor will be pleased to receive for consideration Short Stories and Descriptive Articles illustrated with photos, or suggestions from contributors.

Bright terse contributions are wanted dealing with Dominion life and questions.

Unless stamps are sent, the Editor cannot guarantee the return of unsuitable MSS.

The Spaniard of To-day.

IT is customary to speak of Spain as a decadent nation, but the Spaniard of to-day is quite as courageous as the Spaniards of old, who for long were the dictators of the world. One who knows the country and people well recently drew attention to the fact that it was due to the incompetence of Ministers and general maladministration that affairs in Spain were in such a bad condition. He says the people are possessed of a high courage and patriotism, and this was demonstrated in Cavite Bay, when the wooden hulks of Spain were fought against the armoured ships of the United States until the lower guns were under water and the decks were scenes of frightful carnage. And in 1868, after the flight of Queen Isabella and the withdrawal of the troops from the capital, the common people formed themselves into a guard for the protection of life and property, and, just as they were, took up positions outside the abandoned royal palace and national institutions. Ragged men acted as sentries over untold treasures, and it speaks well for the moderation and intelligence of the people that during the days when the mob was in absolute control of the city no single act of violence took place, and nothing was disturbed in the great buildings, which had been left unprotected. A people capable of such high deeds are no dullards, as many would have us believe. Greatness is latent in them, but they have been starved physically and morally for hundreds of years by the cupidity of incompetent Ministers and vicious rulers. The red and yellow stripes may never again fly over half the known world. Spain's work as a colonising Power is finished, the young Republics of the West having inherited the legacies of the old country, but she has at her own doors the duty of regeneration with material that should once more accord her a high place in the arts and crafts of civilisation.

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A Chair of Agriculture.

Some interesting speeches were made at the A. and P. Association's Conference in Wellington. The retiring president (Mr. T. G. Wilson) dwelt on the absurdity of having no chair of agriculture in any of our universities, though we had chairs or schools of medicine, art, and every other conceivable thing. Speaking of the proposed professorship, he said: "It is true that agriculture cannot be taught in a classroom, and there must be a combination of practical outdoor experiment and research work besides lectures, but that seems to me to present no insuperable difficulties. If there was a chair in Christchurch, it is only a short distance to Lincoln College, where demonstrations and experiments might be easily carried out in conjunction with the authorities there. If in Wellington there is land at Trentham, or there is the experimental farm at Levin, which could easily spare sufficient area for experimental purposes conducted by the professor of agriculture. If in Dunedin or Auckland, arrangements could be made to get land, I am sure, without difficulty, either by gift or, if nothing was thus available, by renting a portion of a farm. How are we otherwise going to teach our young men the principles of agriculture? How are you going to equip the teachers to go out into the country and interest the pupils in Nature study and the crops and agriculture they see around them? Even those who go into the cities to teach are the better of this knowledge, for cities are as much interested as the farmers in crops, for their livelihood depends on them. How are you going to train men to manage your experimental farms? The managers of these farms are, I believe, good men; but any training they have they have given themselves. If our co-operative experiments are to be extended, as I think they ought to be, how are you going to get trained men to conduct them? We have even had to import all the directors at Lincoln College—there have been four to my knowledge." What has stood in the way of the proposed chair is probably a wrong idea of what it would mean. It would not be so much for the training of intending farmers as for the training of men in agricultural research. Men so trained would be able to give instruction and issue books and pamphlets for the information of those engaged in the practical business of farming. The distribution of information is the one great need of agriculture in the Dominion to-day.

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The New Zealander of the Future.

Sir Robert Stout made an interesting speech at the New Zealand Dinner in London on the future of our country. He drew a pleasant picture, and thought that we would be more idealistic than Englishmen. Dr. Findlay seems to think that we are in the main a practical people, with an eye on the present rather than on the future, but the Chief Justice does not agree with him. Speaking of the future New Zealander, Sir Robert declared that he would be influenced by the fact that his country was one of mountains. He would differ from the Englishman as the Highlander differs from the Lowlander. The Highlander had imagination, and so would have the New Zealander. He would be more idealistic than the Englishman. They would have free education in every scale. To save democracy it was necessary to diffuse education. They saw that some of their journals were better than any English journals, more judicial, and less partisan. The reason why they had no yellow press was that the appeal had to be made to an educated people. Here there were restraints, for the past was in the blood of the people. The future New Zealander would not hitch his waggon on to past history, but, in the words of Emerson, to a star. He would not be content with pa or present, but have his eyes to the future, looking to build up the best race the world had ever seen. They would not be content to be degraded by having numbers of people amongst them not knowing whence the next meal would come. They wanted neither millionaire nor pauper. This had been the aim of the legislators of the past. High ideals had led them on. The impulse of the early pioneers was to make the race better mentally, morally, and physically. In thirty years' time it would be seen what the New Zealander had become. Mr. Reeves followed this up by saying that New Zealanders were quite prepared to give the Empire a lead, and that they had inherited the characteristic of thinking no small beer of themselves. He added that when he first came to London as Agent-General he had been inclined to be very critical towards Downing-street, but he had since recognised that it was not so black as it was painted. It is not to be supposed that after-dinner speeches are meant to be taken too seriously, and the Chief Justice probably intended to paint a more or less fancy picture. We are certainly apt to hitch our waggon to a star, and just now we seem to be hitching it on to Mars in more senses than one.

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Downing Street.

Sir Joseph Ward's great speech at the House of Common's Banquet showed him to be not only a great Imperialistic statesman, but also a speaker of the very first order. He was humorous and serious by turns, and presented his ideas in a clear-cut, shapely form. Nothing could have surpassed the tact which he displayed when touching on the delicate subject of the relations which have existed between Downing-street and the overseas Dominions. He said that till the South African war the domestic relations of Britain and the colonies were more like those of step-mother and step-children than anything else. Aforetime it was a settled tradition of British statesmanship that the colonies were so many troublesome excrescences on the body politic—nuisances in time of peace and an expense in time of war. This view reflected itself in public opinion and matters of administration; hence the irritation and friction on both sides. The colonies were pigeon-holed by Downing-street as far as possible, and, failing that, they were snubbed; while, as for Downing-street, well, it was not a name to conjure with in the colonies. Traditions died hard, and the one mentioned was no exception. That tradition suffered severely in the South African war, when, to the bewilderment and delight of the military authorities, the colonies volunteered their help; but it did not die then, or the recent New Zealand Dreadnought offer would scarcely have aroused such astonishment and gratification throughout the United Kingdom as it appeared to have done. That any oversea Dominion should volunteer any assistance to the Home Government seemed something to make a home-bred Briton rub his eyes and ask if he was dreaming. The Premier went on to say that this tradition was not quite dead now, but he did not think it would survive the coming Defence Conference. The speech created a profound impression,