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of a class of willing, but unemployed, workers. He had ascertained that the number of waterside workers in the Dominion amounted to 3,486, and the average earnings of many of them only amounted to 10/ per week. That meant that many of these workers were really unemployed. He proposed as a remedy that some scheme should be devised whereby the waterside worker could be provided with a house and sufficient land upon which he might employ his spare hours, days, or weeks in producing food for his household consumption, and, if he desired it, for sale. He reviewed at some length experiments that had been conducted elsewhere in this direction, especially those made in the United States. He said that carefully prepared accounts showed that many workers who had been placed on quite small sections had been able to make up to £50 clear profit in good years. All real improvement, he maintained, must begin in the home, and nothing could be hoped for whilst whole families were living in poverty and squalor.

proprietors, as the cost of it is only a pound or two. The only way to check excessive speed in the past has been by stop-watches.

Prosperous Australia.

If any reliance is to be placed on travellers' tales Australia would seem to be exceptionally prosperous just now. Money, we are told, is plentiful, and another thirty millions are expected to come into the country from this season's wool clip. The Lord Mayor of Sydney declares that already there are ample funds for all projects, public and private, and he has been offered large sums at very low rates of interest. What they will do with the extra thirty millions he doesn't know. Mr. Booth, of Christchurch, thinks that most progress is being made in Queensland. A North Canterbury farmer, who had bought land on the confines of the Darling Downs at 4/6 per acre, assured him that the land was equal in quality to that of Willow Bridge, which is considered worth from £35 to £45 an acre. Australia has had a succession of good seasons, and this year abundant rains have fallen over nearly all the continent. The uncertainty of the rainfall constitutes the great drawback to Australian prosperity, and in good seasons the wise man makes provision, not for the proverbial "rainy day," but against the days when rain will not come.

Regulating the Speed of Motor Cars.

Hardly a week passes without some fatal accident being recorded in connection with motor cars, and hitherto the police have been practically powerless to check excessive speed. If a motorist was summoned, such different estimation of the pace at which the car was travelling would be given that bewildered magistrates hesitated to convict. It would seem, however, that at last the police have managed to get ahead of the man who always disputes the charge of furious driving. An extraordinary device has been invented, by which the moment a motor car exceeds the speed limit a bell starts ringing, and continues to ring until the speed has dropped to one allowed by the regulations. And that device the Chief Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police has informed all proprietors of motor buses and taxicabs that he will require them to adopt.

Baptist Missions.

In opening a large bazaar in Ponsonby, held in aid of the Baptist Church in the neighbourhood, and of the Indian Mission fund, Mr T. W. Leys made reference to Baptist missions. He said that a militant missionary spirit testified to the vitality of a congregation, and contributed materially to its success. He believed that the Ponsonby Baptist congregation had done more, in proportion to its numbers, for missionary work than any other congregation in Auckland, and it was very evident that they recognised their duty to the starving, ignorant, and helpless people in the sphere of missionary labour. In this connection, it is interesting to note that the work of modern missions began in the obscure shop of William Carey, a Baptist shoemaker at Kettering. The strongest and most fruitful impulse to mission work came neither from bishops nor from ministers, but from a Baptist and a cobbler. Teaching a poor school, brooding over the map of the world which he pasted up for his geography lessons, and seeing how vast a part of the globe was covered by waste places, fertile in sorrow, he read at a meeting of ministers a paper on the duty of attempting to spread the gospel among the heathen. At first he met with little support, and the first sum subscribed for him was only £13 2s. 6d., but he planted the grain of seed which has since grown into a mighty tree.

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 Value of Polar Exploration.

WHAT the average man wants to know in regard to Polar expeditions is what is actually gained by anyone reaching either the North or the South Pole. Many people, indeed, seem to have found cause for regret that the tragic mystery of the Polar solitudes has at last been dispelled. The Pole is no longer one of the unattainable things of the world, and the stimulus to endeavour has been removed. What, then, has been gained by the discovery? Scientists say they know of no problem likely to be solved. There is no astronomical observation that can be taken at the Pole, which cannot be taken just as well at many other points in the Northern Hemisphere. Geological knowledge may be enlarged, but any geological investigation of a useful character requires a large and well-equipped party. The same holds good of biological discoveries. An explorer travelling alone could only hope at best to collect a few photographic records. The chief scientific value of Polar exploration, and discovery lies in the extension of the frontiers of meteorological and oceanographical research. But the dominant motive of Polar explorers has been to achieve the unachieved. The conquest of the Pole will be a standing witness

to the indomitable courage, pluck, and perseverance of the human race.

Arts and Crafts.

The exhibition of handicrafts and arts in connection with St. Matthews Church, Hastings, was most successful, and the vicar, Mr. Hobbs, has every reason to feel gratified at the result of his venture. Sir William Russell, in declaring the exhibition open, made some pertinent remarks on the value of manual training. He said that the education system of New Zealand was excellent, and everyone, no matter how poor, provided he had the capability, could rise from the lowest rung to university honours, but the system lacked attention to the practical side, and the present exhibition set an example in the encouragement of handicrafts and arts. Sir William deprecated the assumption that handiwork was not intellectual. No person, no matter what his mental attainments, could be happy unless he could do something with his fingers. Beginners should not be discouraged by small failures; they should persevere, and the more they tried the more success would attend their efforts. These exhibitions of handicrafts should undoubtedly prove of great value in encouraging manual training. For some reason or other technical education in New Zealand does not seem to make as much headway as it ought. Complaints are frequent as to the lack of pupils for technical classes. We claim to be a practical people, yet we neglect the most practical of all forms of education.

The Influence of Home.

Dr. Findlay's lecture on "Casual Labour—Its Waste and the Remedy" was conceived in his best vein. He began by referring to the efforts being made at Home to improve social conditions, and declared that New Zealand must at all costs prevent the continued existence

The Threatened Lords.

They say that threatened men live long, and that remark certainly seems to apply to the House of Lords. The Lords have been threatened with extinction, and threatened with various