

Population and Politics.

Several weeks ago, Mr. Arthur Myers, M.P., stated in an interview with a "Star" reporter that, so far as the census returns then disclosed, there would probably be three or even four additional members, allotted to the North Island, with three possibly in the Auckland province. A reporter from the "Star" waited on Mr. Myers last week, and asked if he was still of this opinion.

"The census returns now published," said Mr. Myers, give the population of the North Island Boroughs as 282,363, North Island counties 277,413, South Island boroughs 223,017, and South Island counties 219,539. In computing the population for electoral purposes the Commissioners are required to add 28 per cent to the rural population; and if we add this 28 per cent to the population of the counties, which may be taken as roughly synonymous with the rural population, this makes a total for the North Island of 637,481, and for South Island 502,772. If you work out the proportion you will find that this gives 42 members to the North Island, and 34 to the South, even allowing the South Island the benefit of the fraction; which is a gain to the North Island of four members; so it seems to me that the estimate I formerly made is likely to be justified."

"Could you give any indication as to where the extra electorates are likely to be created?" Mr. Myers was asked.

"The law leaves something to the discretion of the Commissioners," replied the member for Auckland East, "and in the rural districts they are allowed to make an allowance up to 550 persons by way of addition to or deduction from the population; so that it is rather difficult to express a definite opinion on this point. I think, however, that there will still probably be an extra district created in the suburbs of Auckland, another probably between the Tautanga and Taurunui electorates, and another in the vicinity of the suburbs of Wellington."

"Should you be disposed to support the proposal that has been put forward to increase the total number of members?"

"I am not in favour of this suggestion. It would give New Zealand a larger House of Representatives than the Australian Commonwealth, or any of the Australian States except New South Wales. In any case it would only be a temporary expedient; as the same question might arise after each census, and it could not always be met by increasing the number of members."

Young New Zealand.

The commander of H.M.S. Pioneer has come to the conclusion that the physique of young New Zealanders is not of much account, but he bases his judgment upon the examination of recruits offering for service in the British Navy, which would not be a fair criterion. The ship's surgeon, through whose hands recruits must pass, states that of the 145 recruits examined on the Pioneer in 1910, 40 were medically fit, and 105 medically unfit. Details showed that 30 were rejected for not being of sufficient chest measurement, 26 on account of their bad teeth, nine for having scoliosis (a lateral curvature of the spine), and the rest for various different defects. For 1911 so far 41 men had been medically examined and about 15 had been passed. The causes of the rejections were approximately the same, and in a similar ratio to those for the previous year. The surgeon attributed the "back twist" to the habit many young fellows have of standing about with their hands in their pockets. Further, he believed that some cases of scoliosis were brought about through many young fellows having had, when boys, to carry heavy milkcans or pails of milk in one hand. This had a tendency to pull one shoulder down more than the other. He had had an opportunity of noticing this, as many of the navy were recruited from country districts.

Regarding those New Zealanders who did pass the test, however, it is stated that the Admiral had nothing but praise. Their physique was splendid; indeed, they more than favourably compared with Australian recruits. Only a few months ago, on the occasion of his last inspection, the Admiral had remarked in conversation that the New Zealand seamen on board the warships were much better physically than those of Australia. Captain Stopford and the surgeon made it clear that they were by no means pointing to the New Zealanders as a physical degenerate, for such he was certainly not; they had only discussed the wide prevalence of two

defects, bad teeth and twisted backs. Apart from that the physique of the young New Zealander was very good. Captain Stopford said, further, that naval reserve men recruited from our shores were, in his opinion, a fine body of men as a whole. The standard for this class of service was much lower than that for recruits proper.

An Auckland medical man, who is a member of the Medical Corps, waited upon by a "Star" representative last week, said Captain Stopford's remarks were not to be taken seriously as far as the general physique of young New Zealanders was concerned. The doctor in question went on to say that he had recently put through hundreds of territorials, and the percentage of rejects was exceptionally small. Almost invariably the young men coming up for investigation were of excellent physique. Compared with recruits from the South of England (of which he had had personal experience), he could say that New Zealanders were immeasurably superior. Under the old volunteering system the class of men offering was not so good, but the hundreds of territorials whom he had recently examined were, generally speaking, really first-class men. They represented the average standard of young New Zealanders, so far as physique was concerned, and there was not the slightest reason, in his opinion, for any concern on the question as it applied to the manhood of the Dominion. The ordinary number of cases of impaired hearts and of defective eyesight were encountered, but the average was, if anything, below what might be expected in any country. The only explanation of Capt. Stopford's statement was that there was an inferior class of men offering as naval recruits, and they were not at all representative of the average standard obtaining in New Zealand.

Parliamentary Roll.

It is understood that the Government has decided to take an electoral census of the Dominion early in July, in readiness for compilation of the rolls for the new electoral districts.

A householder's schedule will be used in the four chief cities, each occupier of a house being required to fill in the names of all adults residing therein.

Adults already on the roll will remain, and adults not enrolled will be given registration claims, and on subsequent comparisons of schedules and rolls non-residents will be removed from the rolls.

In country electorates a house-to-house canvass will be made, as in 1905, for the purpose of enrolling electors and recording changes of address.

It is not proposed to extend the house-to-house canvass to sparsely-settled districts, but each postmaster will be instructed to see that enrolment is as complete as possible.

Auckland Criticized.

The "Sydney Morning Herald" to hand by last week's steamer contains an article by Mr. T. H. Nesbitt, town clerk of Sydney, on Auckland, which city he recently visited. Speaking of the Auckland tramways, he says words failed him to describe the trams, but the conductors were, as a whole, the most uncivil, discourteous, ill-mannered, and disabling body of men it was possible to imagine. Surliness and bad manners had developed into a fine art. If one asked a question on any matter connected with the service, the reply was given in a most contemptuous and insolent manner. The cars were heavy, lumbering and unclean, and were a disgrace to the city. Of cleanliness there was not the slightest visible sign, and expectorating was committed without protest. The necessity of ventilation was completely disregarded, it being, figuratively speaking, necessary to perform a surgical operation or use a Nasmyth hammer to let down a window, whilst a ten-ton crane was required to get it up again.

Auckland, continued the writer, was pre-eminently a city of parks. Albert Park deserved the pride of Aucklanders, was in splendid condition when he was there, and the variety of annuals and specimens of carpet bedding were very choice indeed, and for exactness and regularity would, in his opinion, compare with Hyde Park and Kensington Gardens, London.

"Street maintenance," says Mr. Nesbitt, "is a matter which the Auckland municipal authorities appear to have neglected for years past, the 'rotty patchwork policy' having been dominant. Utterly inadequate amounts are allocated to the City Engineer for the purposes of street maintenance, and consequently the £40,000 voted yearly is

PERSONAL NOTES.

Mr. W. Carlton Smith, of Wellington, accompanied by his family, arrived in Auckland last week, and is staying at "Gargen." In the course of a few days Mr. Smith leaves by the schooner Kereru for Niue Island, where, at the direction of the N.Z. Education Department, he will open a school upon the same system as that now obtaining throughout the Dominion and the Islands under its administration.

The remains of the late Mrs. Nerheny, wife of Mr. P. J. Nerheny, were buried at Waikaraka Cemetery, Onehunga, last week, the funeral cortege, which was a very lengthy one, proceeding first from Mr. Nerheny's residence in Abbott's-road, Mt. Eden, to St. Benedict's Church, where a requiem service was held. The hearse, before which marched the members of the Auckland branch of the Hibernian Society, in full regalia, was covered with floral emblems, which had been sent from every part of

fritted away in patchings and repairs. The City Engineer has just submitted a comprehensive scheme for the improvement of 230 streets, involving an outlay of from £326,550 to £414,710. These figures are somewhat startling, but if the Auckland streets are to be put in condition a considerable sum will have to be expended immediately."

The writer had something to say in regard to the ferry service, and, while considering the wharf accommodation and office buildings, good said that the steamers compared most unfavourably with those of Sydney. In conclusion, he said that there was not only room for improvement in the existing ferry service, but also room for competition, on strict business lines.

Lady Uses Horsewhip.

There was considerable excitement in Warkworth last week when, it is alleged, an assault was made upon a Warkworth chemist by the wife of a local medical practitioner. On Wednesday, before Mr. Scott-Smith, S.M., Dr. Ick. Hewins claimed for services to a labourer, Mr. McCormick (who defended) claimed a nonsuit on the ground that there was no such name as "Ick Hewins" on the register. The objection was overruled.

Last week, Mrs. Ick Hewins, accompanied by the doctor, entered the chemist's shop of Mr. Cadman, and, it is alleged, attempted to horsewhip him.

A bystander, interviewed after, said several blows had been struck.

In the last issue of the "Rodney Times," in a letter, Dr. Ick Hewins stated that he was "breaking neither the law of God nor man, even if the ascertainable facts differed from his statement."

Further developments are expected.

The Knyvett Case.

The following notice appears in last week's "Gazette": "His Excellency the Governor has been pleased to dismiss 5a of the Defence Act, 1909, and under section 13, sub-section 6, of the Defence Amendment Act, 1910, and section 54, 1a, of the Army Act, now in force, to confirm the sentence passed on Captain Frank Berners Knyvett, late officer commanding No. 1 Company, Auckland Division N.Z. Garrison Artillery, on the 10th day of May, 1911, to wit, that he be dismissed from the N.Z. Defence Forces for "conduct to the prejudice of good order and military discipline," this sentence to take effect from 31st December, 1909.

THE NEW PLYMOUTH CASE.

The following notice appears in last week's "Gazette": "His Excellency the Governor has been pleased to dismiss from the New Zealand Defence Forces, under section 5a of the Defence Act, 1909, Captain Charles Thomas Mills, 11th Regiment (Taranaki Rifles), with effect from the 27th April, 1911."

POSTED TO THE RESERVE.

The "Gazette" adds that "Having in view the excellent previous records in the Defence Forces of the Dominion of ex-Captain Frank Berners Knyvett and ex-Capt. Charles Thomas Mills, His Excellency the Governor will, on the recommendation of the General Officer commanding the N.Z. Forces, favourably consider an application by either or both of these gentlemen to be posted to the reserve of officers, provided that such application be accompanied by an ample apology for and retraction of the letters severally written and instigated by those gentlemen."

the Dominion. The procession from the Church was by way of Khyler Pass to Onehunga, the Rev. Father Mahoney, of Onehunga, assisted by the Rev. Fathers Holbrook, Cassin, and Ormond, conducting the rites at the graveside. At the conclusion of the service the Rev. Father Holbrook delivered a panegyric on the deceased lady, and on behalf of the bereaved family expressed thanks for the wide and practical sympathy received. Among those present were the Mayor (Mr. C. J. Farr), town clerk, city engineer, councillors, members of both Houses of Parliament, representatives from the Hospital and Charitable Aid Board, Auckland Sailors' Home, Liberal and Labour Federation, Hibernian Society, Friendly Societies, Tailoresses' Union, and a large gathering of representative citizens. Messages of sympathy were received from the Acting Prime Minister (Hon. Jas. Carroll) and all the members of the Ministry.

Mr. W. S. Farby, late telegraph engineer for the Auckland district, who has just retired on pension, left for Wellington by the Mokoia on Tuesday, accompanied by Mrs. Farby, en route for England.

The Rev. S. S. Osborne, for the past 17 years in charge of St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church at New Plymouth, and who recently resigned, was entertained last week at a very large and representative gathering of residents. Mr. Osborne was the recipient of several valuable presentations, and an illuminated address. His successor has not yet been appointed.

Mr. John Robert Hurrey, a resident of the Gisborne district for over forty years, died last week at his home at Whangara after a short illness. Mr. Hurrey was closely associated with the industrial prosperity of Gisborne. In the early days he was a participant in the defence of Waerenga-a-hika, and his soldierly qualities were transmitted to his sons, three of whom served the Empire during the Boer war, one being fatally shot while in action.

Mr. Blythe, accountant at the New Plymouth branch of the Bank of New South Wales, has been promoted to the position of accountant at the Auckland office.

The directors of the Stratford Dairy Company, have appointed Mr. W. M. Kirkman, of Frankton Junction, to the position of factory manager. A large number of applications was received.

The Rev. A. H. Colville, diocesan missionary, who has been conducting missions in various parishes in the Canterbury and Wellington dioceses since the middle of April, returned to Auckland by Main Trunk train on Sunday.

Mr. M. Rudd, manager of the New Plymouth branch of the Union Steam Ship Company, has received notice of transfer to Auckland, Mr. G. Holdsworth, at present acting sub-manager at Lyttelton, will relieve temporarily at New Plymouth.

Mr. Chas. H. Kingsford, who has resigned the post of organist and choir-master of the Church of the Epiphany, after holding it for the past 31 years, was the recipient last week of a handsome framed illuminated address. The presentation was made by Mr. W. J. Fallows, who, on behalf of the choir members, expressed appreciation of the efficient and helpful instruction received from their leader during his term of office.

Dr. H. G. H. Monk, assistant district health officer, returned to Auckland on Saturday from Ahipara, Bay of Islands, where he has been on a visit in connection with an outbreak of enteric fever among the Maoris. Nurse Bagley, of Wellington, is in charge of the temporary hospital at Ahipara, and the object of Dr. Monk's visit was to render medical assistance and to assist in organising the arrangements for the treatment of the natives.

A very pleasant function took place on Friday evening at the office of Messrs. Kempthorne, Prosser and Co., Ltd., when the Auckland staff gathered together to convey their good wishes to the manager, Mr. Taylor, on his approaching marriage. Mr. Wood, the assistant manager, expressed the pleasure of the staff in having this opportunity of showing their loyalty and goodwill towards their manager, and asked Mr. Taylor to accept a suitably inscribed silver salver as a token of their esteem. Mr. Taylor feelingly responded.

A private cable message was received on Saturday reporting the death of Mrs. Edward Lewis, at St. Kilda, Melbourne. The deceased was the wife of Mr. Edward Lewis, formerly a wine and spirit merchant in Auckland, who has resided in Melbourne for the past 23 years. Mrs.