

"not an ornamental member, but an active working one." He can hardly be called a Tory, for he promises to continue, with pure administration, the policy which, he claims, his party would have adopted had they not been forestalled by the wily Premier Dick.

As a speaker Captain Russell is fluent, polished and scholarly, but he lacks that magnetism which attracts and holds the interest and attention of men. He is too aristocratic a gentleman to lead the country in these democratic days; but he will be elevated to power when culture and refinement are abroad in the land, and when *bouhommie* is not the most valued qualification for high political honours.

No one, glancing at the burly form that fills the Speaker's Chair

HON. H. J. MILLER, in the Legislative Council, could disconnect it from the idea of great bodily strength and endurance. Nor is it surprising to hear that he was the first freshman who ever won the skulls at a 'Varsity boat-race. That he could simply walk through a town and gown row with only one fear at his heart—as he himself admitted—that if he hit with all his might, he might kill his man. Any one who has shaken hands with the veteran, and felt, in this way, the size of his fist and the strength of his grip, could easily credit the above statement. The honourable gentleman's voice, when he gives his ruling, is one of great volume. No one was ever heard to ask him to speak louder. On a recent visit to the scene of his early aquatic triumphs at Eton, feeling, doubtless, a boy again, he was on the river bank cheering a contesting crew with all his might and main. When an old caretaker, who had not seen him since his school-boy days, exclaimed: "That's Mr. Miller, I know it is! There's not another man alive who can make so much row!" Possessing these physical characteristics, and mental ones of no mean order, he was a man who was sure to make his mark in a new country, and

little likely to be satisfied with the humdrum life in an old one.

Arriving in Otago from Sydney in 1860, he devoted himself to carving his name in fair and enduring characters on the rich tussock plains around Oamaru. Not content with pastoral pursuits only, he took a great interest in the development of the Westport Coal Company, and is still Chairman of Directors of that valuable property. In his political character Mr. Miller has experienced many changes, and



HON. H. J. MILLER, M.L.C.

his characteristic bluntness and grip of the ever-varying situations, have made themselves felt in each step of his career. In the old Provincial days he represented Oamaru in the Otago Council. For two years he acted as Secretary of Public Works. As a member of the Fox-Vogel Government, he held a seat in the Elective Council in 1872, and at the death of the late Hon. Sir Harry Atkinson, in 1892, he was elected Speaker in his stead, a post which he has since held with honour to himself, and satisfaction to his colleagues.