

as 447, while the total population of the two principal Northern Counties, Whangarei and Hobson, is 12,828, and the increase has been 2,231. The borough of Whangarei alone shows as great an increase as the combined Waikato counties and boroughs, and it is also larger than either of the Waikato boroughs. These facts demonstrate very clearly that the North is forging ahead rapidly, and there is every reason to expect that it will advance still more so during the current quinquennial period. The North is a country of great and varied resources,

immense bushes is floated down the Wairoa and its many tributaries to the mills at a merely nominal cost, and the timber trade, so profitably conducted, gives employment to a large number of people. These again create a market for the settler's produce, and the local demand for the products of the farm has naturally had the effect of encouraging and advancing settlement.

Whangarei, too, has great natural advantages in having a fine harbour, and easy access to Auckland by water. With steamer freights at 7s 6d per ton between Auckland



MR. S. RAWNSLEY'S NEW BLOCK OF BUILDINGS.

unlike any other part of the province, and for the matter of that unlike any other district in the colony. It has never been spoon-fed by the Government; it cannot boast of railway communication with Auckland, but it has nevertheless been bountifully endowed by Nature.

Hobson County, for instance, has in its magnificent Northern Wairoa River a great waterway, navigable for large ocean steamers for over one hundred miles, and this surpasses the railway in cheapness and facility of transit. The timber from the

and Whangarei, the Northern farmer is better off than his Waikato competitor who has a railway. But this is not after all such a great advantage to the Northern settler, for the reason that he has very little freight for the market; his produce can walk to market; he is a grazier and does very little cropping. Even dairying does not get much of a hold here, though creameries are established in most of the districts, and the factory in Whangarei for three months in the year gives 5d a gallon for milk. Farmers here look upon dairying as a kind of white