

NEW ZEALAND.

The disastrous wreck of the "Elingamite" at the Three Kings, on its voyage from Sydney, with its results of great sufferings and deplorable loss of life, must cause every one who has the slightest feeling for the welfare of his fellow man to exclaim against the criminal carelessness which admits of boats and rafts not being kept always properly provisioned for use, and provided with compasses, which could easily be fitted into the wood-work. The extreme difficulty experienced in launching the boats shows also that boat-drill should be made not only imperative, but efficient. Not the make-shift sort of drill, which is occasionally, but very occasionally, indulged in, where the men are merely called from their bunks to their several posts, made to handle the falls, and then allowed to go back again. That is next to useless. The boats must be properly launched. It has been objected that this takes time; but what is time compared to human life, and the awful sufferings of which we have recently read with horror. A systematic overhauling of life-belts, to see that all fastenings and appliances are in perfect order would, one would imagine, be regularly made; but from the difficulty many experienced in fixing them on, and the complaints one heard it would seem that even this very simple precaution was not attended to. A simpler form of fixing could easily be designed instead of the one used at present that requires the printed instructions placed in cabins,

which there is rarely time to read if one has not done so beforehand. This wreck should be a sufficient lesson to those in authority to see to these simple matters on which so much depends; but they certainly should not have required this lesson. It has cost too much to teach. The imperative necessity of a foghorn on the Three Kings will, doubtless, impress itself on the public mind, and it is fervently hoped that they will not rest till they get it.

GERMANY.

The safety of the Kaiser during his visit to England at the beginning of the month was very thoroughly guarded. In these days when it is the fashion for royalties to pay more frequent diplomatic visits to their neighbours, the anarchist, who rarely loses an opportunity to take a pot-shot at big game, has to be reckoned with, and stringent steps taken to frustrate his evil intentions. The Germans expected much from this visit. They see that they have gone too far in their unreasonable severe attack of Anglophobia, and their characteristic caution, hitherto cast to the winds, now demands that steps be taken to counteract, if possible, the evil already accomplished. The Kaiser certainly acted his part in all good faith. He has always regretted the lengths to which his subjects have gone in this respect, and certainly spared no pains while in England to make a good impression.

