

single step, helps in no way to remove the dissatisfaction and discontent of a large portion of the community.

The injustice and tyranny of rampant majorities, for example, in Otago and Canterbury, are permitted to continue to reign and rule unchecked; and as to the other provinces, the majority is left at liberty to imitate their brethren in the South.

In fact, the minority is handed over, bound hand and foot, to a majority without conscience, decency, or the least care for the rights and duties of others. Further, there is no provision in this Bill calculated to prevent a repetition of the scandalous inefficiency of Government schools, as lately revealed in the case of the Dunedin High School. It is clear, from the fact of the introduction of this Bill, that Government is convinced the education systems of the various Provinces are not satisfactory. But it is equally certain that the General Government is afraid of the Otago and Canterbury vote. All things considered, it would have been better, however, had the Bill never been introduced. It is a compromise between duty and fear, and consequently of the character of such compromises—weak, lame, illogical, giving satisfaction to no one.

Our object in noticing it at all is to point it out to the attention of Catholic voters. A general election cannot be far off, and Catholics ought to be put in possession of such facts as this, that at the proper time they may be enabled to treat the enemies of justice and fair-play as they deserve. The policy Catholic voters ought to follow during the elections, which cannot be far off, is to vote against every candidate who, either in the Provincial or General Assemblies, has voted against aid to their schools, or in favor of Boards with merely discretionary power, no matter whether their opponents be, equally with them, our enemies or not. Our principle should be to punish the men who have denied us justice.

In the next elections, such a line of policy may be made to tell to some purpose; but it is not quite so certain that after the next general elections it will ever again be in our power to give even a kick. Politicians of all grades, and Executives, whether Provincial or General, seem determined that if they can help it, no more Catholics shall come to this country. We say it advisedly, that the immigration scheme, though fair on paper, has been purposely administered in such a way as to shut out Catholic immigrants, particularly from Ireland. Of this there can be no doubt whatever. This, we know, will be denied, but only fools can be deceived by such denial. Dozens of vessels with immigrants have been sent here from England and Scotland. Has even one been sent from Ireland? Has any honest *bona fide* effort been made to find emigrants in Ireland? Not one ship has been despatched from any Irish port, no honest effort has been made to find emigrants in Ireland; and Irishmen and Catholics are as efficaciously excluded from all participation in the grants for immigration as if direct and positive instructions had been given to exclude them. There is a vulgar saying, which we venture to give here, because it is expressive—"There are many ways of killing a dog without hanging him;" and our General and Provincial Executives, ably aided by the General and Provincial Agents at Home, have killed Irish and Catholic immigration without any positive enactment to that effect.

Catholics, then, may have one chance of showing they are men, by justly punishing the astute and cowardly enemies of their religion and race, but it will be their only chance. It has been arranged that immigration shall be so conducted as to reduce their influence to next to nothing in the country; and that godless education shall destroy the remnant of faith which may be found amongst us. The policy pursued in this Colony in reference to these measures is not only unjust, but it is insultingly and monstrously unjust.

WEEKLY EPITOME.

A CORRESPONDENT of the Dunedin 'Evening Star' writes from Wellington that the form the onslaught on Dr Featherston will take in the House will be—"Featherston failed here and everywhere; his personal influence is his only merit." It is a pity the Government did not recognise a fact patent to people in Wellington before they sent him home.

THE Finnimore-Houghton correspondence, remarks the 'Wanganui Herald,' is exceedingly damaging to the former gentleman. The offer to purchase the confiscated land was founded in a simplicity which might have been expected from second childishness; while the offer of half profits to a Government officer if he would further the ends of his correspondent, has received its proper condemnation in its exposure.

"EGLERS" writes in the 'Australasian':—"Parke's Californian contract is so far mere moonshine—the company is only on paper; the capital to build his mail steamers has not been subscribed, and

perhaps never will be. It is probable that another Californian line will be arranged by New Zealand on the basis of Victorian co-operation.

THE 'New Zealand Herald' does not believe in Mr Brogden's proposals for taking over the railways of New Zealand and placing them in the hands of an English company. It does not for a moment think that Messrs Brogden's proposals will be listened to. First, because the Government will not be likely to entertain anything so extravagant; and secondly, because the now existing Government, or that which may come after it who favor the present public works policy, will not allow such an amount of patronage to slip through its hands into those of an English company of capitalists. To make use of a homely phrase, "the scheme will not wash."

WITH the failure of the immigration policy, writes "Observer" in the 'Daily Times,' must follow the corresponding failure of the public works scheme, and then the bubble will burst as surely as any "South Sea Bubble" ever did.

RIFLE BULLETS FOR NATIVES.—The 'Cross' of the 19th July says:—It is reported that a system of manufacturing rifle bullets in Auckland for the use of rebel natives is in existence. If so, it is to be hoped that the Government will show themselves fully equal to the emergency, and that they will soon succeed in sheeting home the offence to the guilty parties.

It is stated in late English papers that the Astronomer Royal has selected Christchurch as the station in New Zealand for observing the transit of Venus in 1874.

It is stated that a member of the firm of Messrs John Brogden and Sons may be expected in the Colony before long, and the principal object of his mission will be to further the proposal for handing over the construction of management of railways in New Zealand to an English company.

The 'North Otago Times' extracts, with pleasure, the following opinion on "Man versus Sheep," from the 'Dunedin Evening Star':—"Men and women are better occupiers of the soil than sheep and cattle, and as there will be plenty of land to be had when the new Hundreds are proclaimed, we hope they will realise the expectations of their supporters, and provide happy homes for prosperous families."

The Dunedin High School buildings were valued at £20,000, or at six per cent, a rental of £1,200 a-year. The total cost of the school for the year, including the above interest on value of building, is about £300, or nearly £30 a-head per boy. The 'Mount Ida Chronicle' says:—"It becomes a question whether this school is of value sufficient to justify it being made a charge against the Province, and thinks that those who will not let their boys mix among the common herd in the district school should pay a fair rate for the education of these precious boys."

IN the Legislative Council on the 29th ult., the Hon Captain Fraser presented a petition from the directors of the Dunedin Water Works Company, praying that before any action is taken by the Legislature in the matter of the petition for the repeal of the Dunedin Water Works Act, the petitioners may be heard in refutation of its allegations.

THE Auckland Education Board have asked the Superintendent to obtain the loan of £30,000, to enable them to build schools, teachers' residences, &c. It is also proposed to ask an additional £10,000. Of course, as usual, the Catholics will have to pay their share of the interest, and get none of the principal.

MR BARTON, one of the candidates for Queenstown in the General Assembly, on being asked at a meeting "if he would support any legitimate measure that might be brought forward providing for an equal distribution of revenue for denominational education," replied "that he would support any 'legitimate measure,' but he would not support a denominational system." The querist: "If each class pays the same, they should have an equal distribution." Mr Barton: "So they have; Catholics are not taxed as Catholics, but as colonists. All sects and classes are taxed alike. Hereupon the querist (a Catholic), who might have said Catholics got no benefit in return, said, "We do not get the same benefit." Mr Barton: "You get all that the country can afford to give you." Mr William Powell: "Then I am to infer that Mr Barton is not in favour of denominational education?" I require a positive answer. Mr Barton replied that he would oppose it in the House if he had to choose between the two systems. Mr Powell: "Then why did you support Mr Macauley?" Mr Barton: "Because he was a personal friend of my own; but I told him at the time that, in my judgment, he was in error on that question." Mr Barton has evidently trimmed his sails on this question with the view of catching a majority.

THE Queensland Ministry which was lately saved from defeat by an opposition member suddenly ratting are said by a correspondent of a Sydney paper to be doing the most "to pet towns whose allegiance is doubtful. The Education Bill is likely to prove a fertile source of contention. Mr Palmer foresaw the row, and shrewdly threw it into the Assembly as an 'infernal machine,' to distract the attention of the public from the real game of his party. Like the Land Bill, he throws down the Education Bill on the floor of the House for members 'to worry.' Meetings of Roman Catholics have been held in Brisbane and Ipswich, and resolutions condemnatory of the Bill, as contemplating an act 'of spoliation and persecution,' have been unanimously adopted." Writing on a subsequent date the Melbourne correspondent of the 'Daily Times' informs us that "the highly liberal Education Bill of the Ministry has been rejected by a majority of one, and Parliament has been dissolved." We know the 'Daily Times' correspondent's views of "liberality."

HENARE MATAU, the 'Hawke's Bay Herald' says, with his "committee," has stated overland for Poverty Bay. He is canvassing actively for a seat in the House, which he hopes soon to see vacated by Karaitiana. He will find Henare Potae, probably, his most formidable competitor. He has adopted a notion which is a novelty, at least in New Zealand electioneering tactics. White rosettes, with the colours—the red, white, and blue—attached, are being sent about the country, to be worn as badges by his supporters.

A TELEGRAM from 'an undoubted authority at Wellington,' informs the Bay of Plenty 'Times,' that immediately after present