

tion in order to preserve the faith of their children. Personally, we have not the least desire to see any more Irish Catholics come to this country; we should prefer to see them remain in their native land, where their faith and that of their children will be safe. And if we have raised our voice in reference to this subject, it has not been through any desire for Irish and Catholic immigrants, but in consequence of the natural and reasonable indignation that arose from beholding the perpetration of a grievous and insulting injustice. Moreover, we spoke as colonists anxious for the prosperity of the Colony.

WEEKLY EPITOME.

THE expenditure of the proposed Auckland million loan, the 'Southern Cross' says, would be as follows:—For the purchase of native lands, £180,000; immigration, £200,000; schools and school-houses, £30,000; harbour improvements, East Coast, £20,000; gaols, hospitals, asylums, £30,000; railways, including a railway to the Thames from Waikato, £540,000. "There can, says the 'Cross,' be no doubt but that the several objects here mentioned, if properly carried out, would confer great advantages upon this province, and would far more than counterbalance the additional burden which the interest of another million would lay us under for some time to come. The great desideratum of the colony is immigration, and the province of Auckland more especially stands in need of increased population as a guarantee of future progress and prosperity. In the same view, the more rapid alienation of native lands for purposes of settlement is essential to the peace and security of the country. If money can be obtained for these objects on equitable terms, we see no good reason for discouraging the proposition as a whole."

DR. FEATHERSTON'S affectionate solicitude for the interests of Shaw, Saville, and Co. (remarks the 'Post') is really touching. From some additional telegraphic correspondence laid on the table on the 5th inst., we find that on the 4th of January Messrs. Vogel and Reynolds telegraphed to him from Melbourne, "Do not renew Saville's contract without express authority." To this Dr. Featherston on the 10th January replied, pathetically protesting against these instructions by saying, "Don't imperil thousands' lives intrusting service inexperienced hands." The anxiety was, we fancy, as much on the probable loss of thousands of pounds to Shaw, Saville, and Co., as the probability of any lives being lost in ships flying a different house-flag. At any rate, it is a pity the same anxiety was not shown for the lives of the children on board the *Bebington*, whose deaths, according to the evidence, might in all human probability have been averted had there been on board a proper supply of farinaceous food and medical comforts.

If the statement of the Wellington correspondent of the 'Daily Times' be anything like correct, the National Bank stands a chance of getting the Government account. After referring to the petition presented against the name of the Bank, he goes on to say—"In fact, the Bank of New Zealand is evidently not very much in favor with the House, and especially with the Auckland members. A motion of Mr Swanson's, for the production of some correspondence with the Bank on the subject of the public account, gave rise to a good deal of talk the other night, in which many members pretty freely expressed an opinion that the Bank was using the Colony as a kind of milch cow, and the Government was blamed for allowing such large sums to be extracted from it on various pretences. I should not be surprised if an effort was made soon to get the public account transferred to some other bank."

Now that so much attention is being given to the undeveloped coal fields of the Colony, it may be interesting to mention that a return laid on the table of the House of Representatives shows the total import of coal during the past three years to be: 1871, 93,048 tons; 1872, 93,815 tons; 1873, 103,523 tons, the year ending on June 30, in each case.

A QUESTION has been put to us ('Southern Cross') which has a meaning we are not in a position to answer. It has, however, an important bearing. We are asked whether boys, and, too often, girls, employed at various flaxmills in the province, are permitted to enter into engagements of themselves, and without any sort of Government supervision. It is said that many of these lads so engaged are greatly overworked as to hours; that they are very roughly housed, and sometimes not too well fed. The larger proportion are stated to be parentless and without education. As may be expected, at some of the mills no attention is paid to the morals of the youths, and no check is placed on their indulgence in foul language, their proclivities to piffle, to smoke, or to drink. In fact, that beyond the work that can be got of them they are in no way cared for. The subject is really a serious one, and if only a very small part of what is stated be true, legislation must be invoked to deal with so great a social evil before it begins to fester and spread.

At the Catholic Church, Grahamstown, on the Sunday after his arrival, and, at the conclusion of morning mass, Father Norris was presented with an address of welcome prepared by Miss Margaret McSweeney, on behalf of the Catholics of the Thames. The Church was crowded to the door. Father Norris, in reply to Miss McSweeney, said he felt deeply grateful for the kindly feeling displayed towards him in the address. They had couched their welcome in terms of great respect, and he set down that welcome as being far greater than anything which he could merit. There were two things which especially pleased him. The first the truly Catholic spirit and warm feeling that was prevalent amongst them, and which found expression in many ways; and the second was the great care which he found had been bestowed upon the young, in the way of Sunday Schools, and in other directions. It was right that care should be taken of the young. He (Father Norris) could not conclude without once more thanking his friends for their address and the trusting love and confidence expressed therein.

THE Auckland 'Evening Star,' writing on the relations of the Agent-General with the Government, professes to be at a loss which most to admire—his infinite impudence, or the extreme coolness with which the Government tolerate his continuance in office and his astounding effrontery. The Dunedin 'Star' remarks the same question must suggest itself to the minds of all who read the immigration correspondence.

THE 'Hawke's Bay Herald' says that Hawke's Bay is kept back in every way by want of labor; settlers and others have made arrangements, relying upon the promises of the Agent-General, and have surely some right to ask why those promises have not been fulfilled.

A CORRESPONDENT draws attention to the fact that though Dr Featherston has advertised in 47 English and Scottish papers for domestic servants, he has not advertised in a single Irish paper for them. It may be of interest to mention in connection with this fact, that at Wellington, it is complained that the present immigration system is an utter failure as regards the want of female servants, either in town or country. A considerable number of girls are sent out, but the bulk of them are of a class quite unfit to be admitted into respectable houses. At Timaru, "That domestic creature, maid-of-all-work, is just now at a very high premium, in fact being well nigh un-purchaseable."

THE 'Hawke's Bay Herald' remarks:—Mr Stafford has retired from the Leadership of the Opposition. So yesterday's telegrams informed us. In this morning's news it is hinted that Mr Fitzherbert may take the coveted position. This is rather an unkind cut to Mr Vogel, if true, seeing that the latter has so thoroughly met the views of the former in the matter of a Provincial loan. Mr Stafford's retirement will, we think, be regretted on all hands.

THE number of immigrants nominated in Canterbury during the last four weeks, is said to be nearly 800. No doubt Dr Featherston, with his characteristic coolness, will in some future despatch claim credit for getting them.

FROM a Parliamentary paper, it appears that the total amount of the contracts taken for the construction of railways, is £1,136,450 14s 6d, divided amongst the Provinces as follows:—Auckland, £229,889 2s; Hawke's Bay, £49,345; Wellington, £49,918 1s 6d; Taranaki, £41,000—Total, North Island, £370,182 3s 6d. Otago, £474,627 11s 11d; Canterbury, 147,109 17s; Canterbury and Otago half each, Waitaki bridge, £28,064 16s 8d; Marlborough, £80,309; Nelson, £11,989 6s 4d; County Westland, £24,167 19s 1d—Total Middle Island, £766,268 11s.

THE Government, it is reported, intend to legislate during the session for the inspection of steamers, and to prevent them overloading and being shorthanded or insufficiently ballasted.

THE 'Waikato Times' writes:—To overcome the native difficulty is the question of all others that interests the settlers in this district. By our telegraphic columns it will be seen that it is proposed by the Government to appoint native councils. We suggested some months back that this step would be politic, for the reason that it would go far to convince the natives that there was no intention either on the part of the Government or of individuals, to juggle them out of their land. * * * There need be no fear that these councils will act for any length of time as impediments to the acquisition of land. The natives have become accustomed to European luxuries, and to a greater extent unaccustomed to work or to live less luxuriously than temporary necessity compels. No matter how opposed some of the chiefs may be to the disposal of land, their followers will force them to yield. A native, as a rule, does not look beyond to-day; if he can get what gratifies his passions for the time being, he is quite willing to leave the future to chance. It will, of course, be the duty of the legislature, as has hitherto been the case, to make sufficient land inalienable to support the natives if disposed to work. We anticipate good results from the bill, of which, however we have only a meagre sketch.

A NAPIER exchange thus writes upon the sale of adulterated intoxicating drinks:—We maintain that the Government is as much bound to protect the public in the matter of alcoholic drinks as it is in the weights and measures of groceries and bread; and this being granted, so long as the Government neglects taking measures to ensure the retailing of harmlessly-adulterated alcohol, so long is it responsible for the disastrous consequences resulting from the sale of poisonous drinks.

THE Auckland Weekly 'News,' says:—Some twelve years ago Mr Richard Hudson felt himself in that position which many have been in, that of being unable to meet his engagements with his creditors. He acted differently, however, than the majority do under such circumstances. Instead of taking the protection of the bankruptcy laws, which under any circumstances is questionable honesty, Mr Hudson resolved that, with time given him, he would do his utmost to pay all his just and lawful debts. Since that time he has paid some £750 outstanding debts, and his creditors are so well satisfied with such rare honesty that they have presented him with a beautiful time-piece and a handsome gold ring, as some mark of their esteem. Mr Hudson acknowledges the compliment paid him in the following terms:—"To Messrs. Thomas Choeseman, Joseph Newman, and the subscribers to R. Hudson's Testimonial Fund.—Gentlemen,—Permit me to thank you most sincerely for the elegant testimonial you have thought proper to present me with in acknowledgment of the liquidation by me of certain old obligations incurred about twelve years ago. When I was first asked to give my consent to such a proposal, I replied that on two grounds I should be happy to do so. The first—That to all future generations of my family's name such an heirloom might descend as a worthy inheritance and memento of past times. And second—That possibly some good might result publicly in the way of imitation. For it cannot be esteemed a light thing for any individual or community to be possessed with the conscientious principle that debts, like other duties, are sacred things, to be fulfilled and discharged whenever circumstances permit, the benefit of the Act to the contrary notwithstanding. Trusting that such ends may be answered by an action which has given me great pleasure to perform, and again thanking you for your kind appreciation,—I remain, gentlemen, your obedient servant, RICHARD HUDSON."