

for half-a-crown an acre! The land in question is said to be of first-rate quality and as level as a table.

THE 'Wellington Independent,' in an article supporting Mr Vogel in his taking the administration of the Immigration Department from Mr O'Rorke, makes the following admissions of the latter gentleman's usefulness:—"The probability is that the Premier does not like the way in which Mr O'Rorke has dealt with the Agent-General. But it is nevertheless the fact that, whether well founded or not, the strong remonstrances of the Minister for Immigration have had good effect in creating an amount of activity in the London Agency which was formerly unknown. The remonstrances of Mr O'Rorke have led to great improvements, and the competition caused by the establishment of the New Zealand Shipping Company has already resulted in the sending out of a much better class of ships." Mr Vogel's way having thus been made clear for him, "the new administration (to quote the 'Independent') of Immigration will start under fair auspices."

A WRITER in the 'Timaru Herald' says:—"Considering that the Assembly expires in the course of eighteen months by the effluxion of time, I believe it is not at all unlikely that the Government move will be an appeal to the electors. Matters are all right just now. They can go to the electors with a good plausible tale, and it is very unlikely indeed that the conditions will be quite so favorable in the next eighteen months. No one seems to think, as was at one time imagined, that any attempt will be made to swamp the Council by a fresh batch of nominators. It is generally understood that the Governor would set his face against such a proceeding; and it was this knowledge and belief that weighed with the Council in the bold determined step they have taken."

AN Auckland journal says of Mr Macandrew that he rarely speaks, and never long, but he thinks not a little, and keeps his thoughts to himself.

THE returns of the cost of the Government Printing Office disclose an expenditure which an exchange regards as most lavish and extravagant, and altogether beyond the requirements of this Colony. It is stated that the outlay for the past year has been £13,222; and that the cost of paper is not included in this sum. This gives an expenditure of some £250 a week all the year round for producing the necessary printing for the New Zealand Government—an outlay that would keep employed some seventy or eighty printers at a scale of remuneration above the average obtained in the Colony.

THE Hon. Colonel Brett, when speaking in the Legislative Council, on the Education Bill, said that "He would refer to the Board of Education at Christchurch. It was composed of seven gentlemen, five being Episcopalians and two Presbyterians. Was that a proper Board? Should a Board so composed exist? There was one Roman Catholic upon it, a gentleman who had been a Judge in India—a highly intellectual man, of considerable talent and ability; but they made it too hot for him, and he was obliged to leave. That was what he called intolerance and bigotry. The Secretary of the Board was an Episcopalian, the Inspector was an Episcopalian, the masters were Episcopalian; and there was no other element of religion. In the district schools, five out of seven of the Committee of these schools were Episcopalian. Therefore, what was the system but Episcopalian? and it would come to this, he supposed, that the gates of heaven would not be open to any but Episcopalian."

THE 'Mount Ida Chronicle' referring to American divisions of feeling on political matters, says:—"This state of things—this bitter, undying feeling—is the direct fruit of subdivided government suddenly called upon to centralise. New Zealand, if she were wise, would strain every effort now, while her population was small, to do away with the evil of numberless Governments forced upon her of necessity at the first, and continued so long solely by force of the strong interests that have grown up collateral with the growth of the Provinces."

THE Select Committee appointed to consider the subject of Colonial Industries, reported regarding coal, "The committee are gratified to find that the importance of this great source of national wealth is being recognised, and that in Otago and Canterbury, by the construction of railways, vast deposits of coal, suitable for domestic and mechanical purposes, will be rendered cheaply available, whilst in the Province of Auckland, it is to be hoped that by an early completion of the Kawakawa or other railway, it will be also cheaply supplied, for on this much of the prosperity of the Thames Gold Fields depends."

It is not long ago since Mr Seaton arrived, and now it appears that his brother celebrity in the annals of immigration—Mr T. Birch—is on his way back to his adopted country. Mr Thomas Birch is a passenger by the ship Lady Jocelyn, which sailed from London for Port Chalmers on the 30th July, and the following letter, written by Mr Birch, appears in the 'Shetland Times' of the 28th July:—"I consider that I am in duty bound to acquaint you that I have now ceased to have any connection with the New Zealand scheme of emigration from these shores. I did look forward to pay another visit to Shetland, and to rally as many people of the right stamp as I could muster to take out to New Zealand with me in September; but the munificence of the New Zealand Government in instructing their Agent-General in London to limit my expenses and salary to 18s per diem compels me, in self-defence, to forego a pleasure I much desired. Nevertheless, I trust my friends in Shetland will use their best endeavors to stimulate emigration from Shetland to Otago."

THE Christchurch correspondent of an Otago paper, referring to an attempt to oust the City Solicitor, Dr Forster—"a really eminent man—on certain apparently frivolous grounds," observes:—"By-the-by, the number of newly-fledged members of the legal fraternity that are constantly joining the ranks here is perfectly appalling, and how they are all going to get a living is to me a mystery."

THE Wellington correspondent of the 'Thames Advertiser' says, in regard to the circumstances on which Messrs Brogden base their claim for compensation for loss sustained in introducing immigrants, "The whole has apparently arisen from Dr Featherston's bungling at first, and the constant changing of immigration regulations."

MR M'LEOD, a gentleman who obtained a rather unenviable notoriety some time back through a transaction by which it was alleged

he bartered his seat in the Assembly, has arranged with the Provincial Government of Wellington to proceed to Canada for immigrants. It is said that he also might act on behalf of Otago, but at least one Otago paper has expressed itself to the effect that he would be undesirable as a representative of the Province. When every Province has its own emigration agent and agents, what is the great colonising scheme coming to? High Provincial officers in a position to judge evidently do not think much of it.

A WEST COAST paper says:—"The export of white pine logs from the West Coast to Melbourne is likely to become a permanent industry, the timber being found suitable for the purpose of packing cases, for which there is now a large demand in the sister colony. Large areas of land have been taken up in the Buller district for the purpose of securing the white pine timber and other woods, which will become of value on the railway works in contemplation being carried out."

FROM the 10th October, 1872, to 30th June, 1873, the following number of persons was sent for by Victorian colonists, from the United Kingdom under the immigration regulations of 20th June, 1870:—From England, 149; Ireland, 137; Scotland, 19; Germany, 5; total, 307. Now, considering the proportion which the Irish in Victoria bear in point of numbers to the other colonists, it cannot be said that they by comparison with others are forgetful of friends at home.

THE 'Southern Cross,' a ministerial journal, writes in the following terms of Mr Vogel's policy:—"We believe there are many who regretted the Government changing their opinion, relinquishing the line of policy laid down in the budget speech, and going upon the system of provincial borrowing. He brought in the Provincial Loan Bill, declaring that, if the House did not accept it, he was prepared to adhere to his original proposal. It was something like the American legislator—"Them's my principles; but if you don't like them—I kin change them!" Can anything be more damaging to Mr Vogel as a politician than this condemnation of his line of action by the 'Southern Cross'?"

THE 'Wanganui Herald' understands that the Mayor, as a member of the Wellington Education Board, has addressed a remonstrance to that body against the oppressive way in which they are levying, and purpose to levy, by summonses from Wellington, the rates outstanding in Wanganui. The 'Herald' does not know what effect such a thing may have upon the Wellington members, but is very certain the Education Board cannot long be permitted to go on as it has been doing.

MR CHAS. O. MONTROSE has resigned the managership of the Anglo-Australian Telegraph Agency. Mr Montrose was a most courteous gentleman in the discharge of his duties.

WE read in the Thames 'Evening Star' that at a full meeting of the Waiohahi Education Committee the complaint made at the previous meeting against Mr Seward, of the Waiohahi School, was investigated. The complaint was that Mr Seward had unnecessarily introduced the term Orangemen when alluding to Protestants. Mr Seward said, in explanation, that the children were reading history, and in explaining the word massacre, he alluded to the massacre of St. Bartholomew, when the Catholics massacred the Protestants, and had made no mention of the word Orangemen in speaking of Protestants. After some discussion by the Committee, it was arranged that the chairman should draft a letter to be sent to Mr Seward on the subject. "We hope that the energetic action now being taken by the Catholics at the Thames will have a successful result; that there will be no occasion for Catholic children any longer to attend the public schools, and to prevent opportunities arising of having their religion insulted. In saying this, we do not allege that it has been the case in this instance, having seen no evidence on the subject, but merely point out the steps that are being taken by which such possibilities will be avoided."

IN reporting the landing at Wellington of the immigrants per Douglas, the 'Independent' says:—"The lot seemed to be a very fair admixture of the inhabitants of the three parent countries, and though the proportion of the children of the Green Isle was not remarkably conspicuous, yet there was clearly a good sprinkling of them to be seen. It was also to be observed that several members of the Catholic clergy were ready at their debarkation, in order to render their co-religionists what information or assistance might be in their power. Taking the whole shipload of immigrants, they are a presentable and unobjectionable looking lot. Their apparel and the quantity of luggage they bring indicate they are of the more thrifty class, while the children are sturdy and clean." The 'Independent' proceeds to compliment the Agent-General upon his selection; but it would appear that, so far at least as the Irish portion are concerned, he has not much to be complimented upon, as we have been informed by a telegram (published in our last issue) that nearly all the Irish passengers by the Douglas had been nominated by their friends in the colony. So that if there are to be any congratulations on the subject, they should be to the immigrants' friends and not to the worthy doctor. The same may also apply to a large extent in regard to the immigrants of other nationalities.

THE 'Daily Times' has reason to believe that the selection of an Emigration Agent by the Provincial Government has not yet been finally decided upon. There are sixty-nine applicants for the appointment, which, in all probability will be conferred on Mr James Adam, of Tokomairo, who several years ago held the office at Home for which he is an applicant. Mr Adam's appointment will no doubt be a guarantee that the "balance of nationalities" will be preserved; or, to put it less euphoniously, that so far as Otago is concerned, the very least will be that if the Irish don't apply they won't be sought after.

THE meeting called at Auckland to refute the Rev. Dr Iang's statements regarding the land-purchases made by the missionaries in the early days, appears to have had a result opposite to that anticipated by the promoters.

CAPTAIN MILLS of Timaru had a narrow escape from suffocation on Friday week, while diving for a lost anchor.