

any troublesome interference with his department on the part of his colleagues." There are other advantages that would probably accrue from the presence of the Commissioner of Immigration in London. Should Dr Featherston remain and need additional authority for the employment of extraordinary means under extraordinary circumstances, that authority will be at hand. And, should he decide to return, why Mr Vogel can himself occupy his place just as long as circumstances may require, and he should himself think fit to do so."

It is understood that Mr James Adam, of Tokomairiro, has been definitely appointed Emigration Agent for Otago. The 'Bruce Herald' states that his engagement is for two years, and that he will proceed home without delay.

The 'Lyttelton Times,' commenting on an apologetic speech by Mr Rolleston for Dr Featherston, says:—It is known, and admitted, that the Agent-General has had difficulties to contend with, but it can also be proved from his own words that the failure in immigration is in a great measure due to his negligence, want of enterprise, and positive disobedience of orders. Dr Featherston has been treated with great forbearance, and his friends would do well to recognise this fact without attempting to excuse—for they are compelled to admit—his shortcomings.

It is reported on good authority, says a Northern paper, that the Honorable Mr Vogel will leave for England almost immediately. It is further stated that the mission of the Premier will be to raise more money in order to carry on public works of great magnitude throughout the colony.

The 'Thames Advertiser,' after referring to quarrels in the Cabinet in regard to the change of portfolios, by which the Vogel Ministry was nearly broken up, remarks:—It is said that Mr Vogel believes that the Ministry have been brought into disrepute through the want of tact and discretion shown by Mr O'Rorke in his communications with the Agent-General, and through his want of administrative ability. We cannot for a moment believe that the reason given by the Premier for insisting upon this change is the true one, but we think that he has an ulterior object in view, which may be traced by the public. The Immigration Department is now to be under the control of the Premier himself, which means that all business details will be handed over to one of the permanent officers of the department. It is quite impossible for Mr Vogel to properly and efficiently discharge the duties of Premier, Colonial Treasurer, and Minister for Immigration, and at the same time to go "on the travel" for several months during the recess. Mr Vogel probably desires to hold the position himself because it would afford him a plausible pretext for taking a trip to England to set the Agent-General right and to arrange for a "steady stream" of immigration! This is probably the main cause of the change. He is evidently arranging all the preliminaries, and the securing of the immigration portfolio is probably the first and most important step.

A PAMPHLET is at present in course of publication by the Provincial Government of Canterbury, containing a variety of information with regard to the Province of Canterbury. It is being published for circulation in the old country, so that intending immigrants will be supplied with information of an authoritative character, showing the resources of the Province and the inducements it offers to those desirous of immigrating. In addition to the exhaustive information it will contain, the book will be illustrated, which is a commendable feature in publications of the kind.

From the annual report of the Postmaster-General it appears that the halfpenny stamp on newspapers has not been taken that advantage of as was anticipated. A writer in the Wairarapa 'Standard' in commenting on the report justly observes, "that the truth is, the revenue from this impolitic impost is not equivalent to the trouble, annoyance and mischief which it occasions." "If," says an exchange, "a truly national public opinion and a real united colony are desired, the Government would abolish this unprofitable and unwarrantable tax. We notice that the Parliament of New South Wales has wisely passed a Newspaper Postage Abolition Bill." Now that the Government are doing so much to bring the colony into prominence in Europe, they might act wisely in abolishing the postage on newspapers beyond New Zealand. The Victorian Government, it would appear, appreciate the power of the press of their colony in the Home country so much that they are entering into arrangements with various papers for the bringing out of supplements containing information regarding that colony. New South Wales, which has made up its mind to "go ahead," has abolished newspaper postage, and Victoria following in its wake has done the same.

The demoralised state of the Assembly is a prominent topic. Sir J. Cracroft Wilson, M.H.R. for Heathcote, before his constituents lately, in reviewing the past session of the Assembly, said there was a sad falling off in the *personnel* of the Legislature, and that so long as it was made up of its present element, log-rolling and intrigues would be regularly organised.

The Victorians not being able to discover payable coal in their Colony are turning their enterprise in the direction of New Zealand. We read that Messrs Croker, Hughes, and M'Carthy have got a lease of the Brunner coal mine from the Nelson Provincial Government, on favorable terms. They have also got a prospecting license over 5000 acres in the Mount Rochfort district for twelve months. They will be allowed to select a suitable spot, and they will then take a lease of 1250 acres. They are going to establish a line of steam colliers to run from Melbourne to Greymouth and other parts of the Colony.

The following is a correct statement of the total losses of the Insurance Companies in the late fire at Auckland:—New Zealand, £17,650; South British, £5850; Victoria, £6000; Imperial, £700; Pacific, £2000; Norwich Union, £1000; Northern, £3000. There are also other claims for partial damage, amounting to £5000. The total estimated damage is £50,000. The Insurance Companies have lost £73,000 in Auckland during the last twelve months.

In the course of a speech on the Provincial Loans Bill, Mr Vincent Pyke described the Cabinet as an overboiled potato dropping to pieces of itself.

The 'Cross' says:—"If we had a Government in Auckland

thoroughly devoted to the work of raising the province out of its present humiliating condition, and capable of turning its resources to account, there is an excellent opportunity here, and in other directions as well, for making a successful attempt to turn the tide of prosperity once more within our borders. We require a colonising policy. Auckland is the only province in the colony that is satisfied to lie idly by doing nothing. There is a large extent of land in the hands of both Governments which has been lying waste for years through the sheer neglect or incapacity of our local rulers.

In little more than two months from this date the joint New Zealand and New South Wales Californian interim mail service will be opened, and connection between our shores and those of America will be re-established. The construction of new steamers of 2000 tons register, for the permanent service is to be urgently proceeded with.

EVIDENCE of the advancing prosperity of the North Island, comes from Wanganui. In that district country land sold at prices ranging from £4 15s to £20 per acre. In the town of Wanganui, which is blest with a large and fertile back country, quarter-acre town sections were sold at the same sale at prices from £54 up to £395, equal to a range of from £216 to £1580 per acre.

The 'Wakatip Mail' remarks:—"The re-construction of the Cabinet accounts for prevalent rumors. Mr O'Rorke quits the Immigration Department, and takes that of the Post Office and Telegraph. This change, no doubt, forebodes another. Mr Pyke having gone into opposition would prevent the position of Minister of Mines being offered him, but there is no doubt a great desire to get rid of Dr Featherston, and rumor has pointed the finger at the Minister who would like to act for the colony as Agent-General.

It is reported that another large hotel is to be erected at Taupo, in anticipation of the hot springs becoming the fashionable resort of invalids and tourists. A steamer is also to be built and launched on the waters of the lake.

It is understood in Christchurch that the Governor's contemplated visit to Canterbury will extend over two months. The Provincial Government have secured Melville house (the residence of Mr Moorhouse when he was Superintendent), already furnished, for the accommodation of His Excellency and suite.

The General Government are preparing plans for large Government buildings to be erected in Wellington, the cost to be £14,000. The Provincial Government, it is understood, intend to make an offer to the General Government of a free site upon the proposed relaxation.

The Customs Department has ascertained that certain mercantile firms in Australia are supplying their New Zealand customers with duplicate invoices for the purpose of defrauding the revenue. The Government will prosecute with the utmost rigour of the law all infractions of the Tariff Act.

THERE is some prospect of a Highland Company of Volunteers being formed in Invercargill.

ISOLATED cases of diphtheria have occurred at the Thames.

The average value of wool for the five years ending 1871 was £1,155,695; of gold, £2,502,173. From 1861 to 1872 the value of gold exported exceeded that of wool by the immense sum of £1,000,000 a year. From the commencement of the gold discoveries in this Colony, to the end of the last financial year, there has been exported 7,008,309 ounces of gold, of the value of £27,195,886—bringing a duty of £870,000.

The 'Wanganui Chronicle' is announced to be edited by Mr Tribe, M.H.R.

A FAMILY in Otahuhu, Auckland, were nearly poisoned a few days since, through the foolish or culpable administration of some drug which had a most serious effect.

The Waikato 'Times' asserts that by the Kingites "every European is now spoken of as a 'dog.'"

A LIME kiln is being built at Tokomairiro, and with coal easily and abundantly procurable settlers throughout the plain may expect to be able to procure a constant supply of lime, of which the soil of Tokomairiro plain stands so much in need.

The Christchurch journeymen butchers have given notice that unless their wages are increased on October 25th, they will strike.

The construction of the Tauranga telegraph line is progressing rapidly.

The Maeris throughout the Bay of Plenty are busily engaged in planting large crops. Trade is improving.

Larrikinism in Auckland appears to be going great lengths, if the statements of the Hawke's Bay Herald's correspondent are not exaggerated.

The long-standing dispute between Cottar and the miners at Cardrona has at length been settled by the latter paying the sum of £300 for ten acres of the agricultural lease held by the former. The 'Argus' hopes that no more agricultural leases in that district will require to be bought out at the value of £30 an acre.

FRESH troubles are brewing at the Maerewhenua. Messrs Borton and M'Master, who own a river frontage to the Maerewhenua river, have given notice that they must cease work for six weeks while they wash the sheep. The miners are not prepared to submit, and Mr Farquharson has been dispatched to Dunedin for advice.

The first meeting of the members of the National Building Society for the payment of subscriptions, &c., was held at the acting secretary's office on Monday evening last. A large sum of money was paid in the shape of subscriptions, and a large number of new shares taken up. We must congratulate the Society in consequence of the success with which it is meeting.

The 'Tuapeka Times' states that Sir James Fergusson will visit Lawrence early in December, and that it is probable the celebration of turning the first sod of the Lawrence and Tokomairiro railway will be postponed till that time.

A FACTORY has been started in Wanganui for the manufacture of sashes, doors, moldings, etc., and is now in full working order.

The 'Ross Guardian' learns on most reliable authority that Mr John White intends offering himself as a candidate for the Superintendency of the Province of Westland.