

neither Father Binsfeld nor I, as far as I know, have made a single step for that purpose. If Father Binsfeld went up the country, it was on his usual quarterly visit to Massacre Bay; a plan that he made long before Mr O'Connor came as a candidate for the Superintendency; and who can bring me a single man who can tell me that I went to town to speak to him about the elections? Indeed, I did not do anything of the kind, because I considered the election of Mr Curtis certain. But because these reports have been freely circulated, I must say that although I would feel too proud to see a Roman Catholic, if he were a truly practical one, holding the office of Superintendent, (and I am sure, in such a case, Mr Curtis would appreciate my motive for giving him my vote), yet as Mr O'Connor in his address did not in any way allude to the subject for which I feel a particular interest, I mean education, I suppose he will still propose the amendment he had proposed in the last session of the Council, a measure which is considered dangerous; but I think it would be safer to leave for the present, at least, the Education Act as it is, rather than to bring an alteration which might be very injurious to separate schools. In the present circumstances therefore, I have no reason to vote against Mr Curtis; the Catholics of the Province are indebted to him for the support he has obtained for their schools, and should he not be the successful candidate, in voting for him I would have still the satisfaction of having paid him a tribute of gratitude.

HOME RULE SYMPATHY IN NEW ZEALAND.

(From a Correspondent.)

At a meeting of Irishmen held in the Waimea district, it was unanimously resolved that the Home Rule movement in Ireland is worthy of the support of all Irishmen in New Zealand. A committee was at once appointed to carry out the intentions of the meeting, which are to collect subscriptions in the Waimea district, and to solicit the co-operation of all Irishmen in New Zealand.

This can easily be done by the formation of local Committees, and where practicable, of Central Committees.

We contemplate the formation of a Central Committee for the West Coast, to receive the moneys of each local Committee, and the amounts so received will be credited to each district and acknowledged in the 'Nation,' 'Irishman,' and NEW ZEALAND TABLET, newspapers.

Where from unavoidable circumstances a Central Committee cannot be appointed, the local Committee can remit to the following gentlemen, members of the Council of the Home Rule Association, whom we have selected joint Treasurers, the moneys to be collected. A. M. Sullivan, Editor Nation, Isaac Butt, Q. C., and M. P., John Martin, M. P., Professor Galbraith, T. C. D., and Mr O'Neil Daunt.

The effect of the adhesion of the Irishmen of New Zealand to this movement, will be to strengthen the hands of the Home Rule Association immensely. It will be conferring an amount of moral support much more valuable than the money we may send, and it will serve to show that though we have become colonists of New Zealand, we have not ceased to be Irishmen.

By inserting the above you will not only be forwarding the movement, but you will also be conferring a favor on your correspondent.

[Mr John M. O'Toole, Waimea, is hon. Secretary to the Committee.]

FREE NOMINATED IMMIGRATION.

MR ADAM, during his visit to Southland, particularly impressed upon those who interviewed him the desirability of their taking full advantage of the new system of nominated immigration.

The first ten days the nominated free passage system was in force at Napier ninety passages applied for. The 'Telegraph' remarks: The free system of nomination takes a vast deal of trouble and responsibility off the shoulders of the Government on the arrival of the immigrants, as those who nominate the parties naturally are prepared to receive them.

THE CLASS OF IMMIGRATION AGENTS NEEDED.

(Tuapeka Times.)

THE motives of our immigration appointments are simply motives of personal friendship and of political partisanship. These motives are transparent in a lamentable degree. If we only enlist the British press in our favor, half the battle of colonisation is won. And none but a fluent and practical agent can do this. It is absurd to suppose that one lecturer, even for the province of Otago, will be able effectually to influence the millions of England's inhabitants. An efficient agent would commune with himself: "It is true that wages have greatly increased at home: but it is also true that thousands of these wages men and women will never be freholders; and if wages are high, not merely may that wage elevation be temporary, but it is associated with taxes equally high, and with a liability to war with rival nations, from which the colonies are more or less free. The latter have more elbow room, more broad acres. The career in the colonies is a more equal race; whereas the wage man at home is handicapped from the first. We, in the colonies, have a better climate, and consequently better health, and we can therefore rear and enjoy better families. I will tell all this to the people of Europe. But how? The means stands near me. They consist of the public platform and the mighty press. By pamphlets I will address families; by the daily newspaper I will address millions; by the voice I will persuade more millions." In this way a lecturer with sterling ability would, at the end of twelve months, remove the prejudices which now are placed in the path of New Zealand immigration.

IMMIGRATION BUNGLING.

MORE DISCLOSURES.

THE following extract from a letter from an intending immigrant to his brother—Mr Shanly, of Napier—puts in a very strong light the intolerable obstructiveness that rules in the New Zealand Immigration Office in Great Britain. The sum of £21 was paid by Mr Shanly under the regulations then in force for the passages of his brother and family, and the passage ticket was sent home. The extract gives us the sequel:—

"I have safely received the passage ticket, for which, whether I use it or not, I give you my best thanks. I have communicated with Mr Featherston, the Agent-General for New Zealand, and in return have been, so to speak, inundated with a lot of official papers, one of which informs me that official notification has been received by him of the purchase of the ticket in Napier, and informing me that the first ship sails for Napier on the 28th October. Some of the papers sent to me for filling up rather grate against my feelings; they seem so much as it were in *forma pauperis*, and in no place of them do I see any allusion to circumstances where the passage has been prepaid. One of them is a certificate from two householders, who must declare their belief that I cannot pay more. As I have not to pay anything, and they do not know what you can pay, how can anyone certify to this? Among others is one that I fully intend to work for wages in the colony, which I do not. Mr Culley, the agent here, says that no doubt the prepayment supersedes many of these forms, but he does not seem to fully comprehend the matter. I suppose prepayment is not common."

We (Hawke's Bay paper) should like to know by whose authority the signing of objectionable and offensive forms like those described is made obligatory. We venture to say it is the first that the public generally has heard of them. The Legislature seems to have lost all control over the immigration department. It is managed by a gentleman responsible to no one, and managed in a spirit directly opposed to the wishes of the public. The sort of immigrants whom it would be most desirable to introduce are precisely those who would refuse to sign such forms as those referred to.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION.

A WRITER in the 'New Zealand Church News,' says:—"It is often assumed that the introduction of a Government system of education necessitates the abandonment of Church day-schools. This assumption largely influences even those who would gladly see Church schools flourishing and doing their work, if it were possible. It seems foolish to waste one's energies against wind and tide, if it be the fact that the Government system is sure to occupy the whole educational field, that it commands the sympathy of the people at large, and that Church schools in the nature of things, can only prolong a miserable existence. Let us examine this position. There is no evidence as yet that Church schools, if courageously supported at the present juncture of affairs, will not thrive. They have thriven in England, in a marked way, since the introduction of Government schools. Colonial towns are, at any rate, sufficiently like English towns to justify expectation of somewhat similar success, if anything like the same zeal be shown in the cause. They are beginning to thrive again in America, although the secular system for many years held its own there. In Australia with Government aid, Church schools did very well; since its withdrawal many have been given up, but the Government system is only on its trial, and there is no evidence as yet that Church schools will not again be found to answer. There is no evidence as yet that a Government system, without daily religious instruction, and open to all scholars alike, good and bad, children of well conducted homes, and children of the gutter, will command the sympathy of the people at large. The evidence in England is very strong the other way. In all probability, probability amounting almost to a certainty, Church schools well conducted, in the chief towns of the Diocese of Christchurch, would meet with ample success. The promoters of such schools have in view something higher and better even than intellectual attainments for their children, and set store by religious and moral influences in their choice of a school.

THE VICTORIAN EDUCATION SYSTEM.

THE following from the Melbourne 'Leader' is another tardy admission that the free, secular and compulsory system of Victoria is a costly failure:—

"Mr Harker has taken an opportunity of eliciting from the Minister of Education why the compulsory clauses of the Education Act have not been put into operation. This clause of the statute is undoubtedly the vital principle; it was intended to net all children apparently neglected, or whose parents used their labor as a means of living, and up to the present time it has been a dead letter. The explanation Mr Stephen gives is not a satisfactory one. It is impossible, he says, to put the compulsory clauses into operation until new schools are erected. Does Mr Stephen by this imply that the evasions of the Act are so many that if the children not attending school were brought into the fold the schools could not accommodate them? The reply involves more than absurdity, because, in the first place, the clause has not been tested, and Mr Stephen cannot possibly know how far it is evaded; and if it were tested, it is reasonable to assume that the addition to the schools would not, distributed over the whole colony, be so many that the establishments could not accommodate them. Perhaps as an experiment Mr Stephen will put the law in force in one district, where school accommodation is already ample, and let us know to what extent new schools will be needed when the compulsion in the matter of school attendance becomes of general application.

MR. CASHEL HOEY.

NOT very long ago, when Cashel Hoey was appointed Secretary to the Victorian Agent General, the 'Australasian' loudly demanded to know who "this Cashel Hoey" was, as if Mr Hoey had never been heard of before. It appears, however, that that paper has been better informed since, and has not only ascertained that Mr Hoey is not quite the obscure person it took him to be, but has even learned that his wife, Mrs Hoey, is a well-known popular novelist. The following announcement appears in the 'Australasian' of September 27:—In next week's issue of the 'Australasian' will appear the first portion of a new novel by Mrs Cashel Hoey. The new story is named 'Out of Court,' and judging from the great popularity which Mrs Cashel Hoey's novels have always secured, a similar success may be reasonably anticipated for the present one."