

We owe the following paragraph to our contemporary the *Dunedin Evening Star*:—It appears that in New South Wales, as in New Zealand, the expenditure on national education is rapidly expanding to alarming proportions. The Minister of Public Instruction for New South Wales requires this year a vote of £845,752, an advance of over 20 per cent. upon last year's vote. A fourth of the children attend Roman Catholic schools, and a considerable number are taught in private schools, to which the State contributes nothing. The actual cost is about £4 per annum." Our contemporary might have added that in New Zealand Catholics in addition to being plundered for the support of the State Schools, are fined heavily in the shape of taxes imposed on their school buildings, by means of which, nevertheless a large sum of money is annually saved to the non-Catholic population.

The current number of the *N.Z. Illustrated News* contains some charming views of the scenery of the Colony, and is in all respects most interesting.

CANTERBURY CATHOLIC LITERARY SOCIETY.

Christchurch, March 15.

THERE was no regular programme provided for the quarterly meeting of the Literary Society, which took place on the evening of March 10. Mr. Nolan, in the absence of the president, occupied the chair, and Mr. Milner acted in a like capacity for the secretary. The business was chiefly confined to the discussion of two notices of motion.

Mr. Kennedy moved: "That the resolution passed at the previous quarterly meeting re increase of subscription be rescinded, and that in future the rate of subscription be three shillings per quarter, or 10s. per annum, payable in advance." He said that it was not exactly the proper thing to bring forward such a motion in order to upset one that was only passed at the previous quarterly meeting, and which did not come into force as yet, but as it was a motion that was rather hurriedly agreed to, and might have the effect of driving members out of the Society, he imagined it would be sufficient reason for his so doing.

Mr. Corr, in seconding the resolution, said that he did not wish to see any man driven out of the Society, or prevented from joining it because of the subscription. He thought a pound a year was too much for a poor working man to pay, and for this reason he would favour Mr. Kennedy's motion.

Mr. Milner said that although a pound a year did not seem much, yet a good many members belonged to benefit and other societies, so that all those contributions made an inroad on a working man's earnings. If all the members paid regularly the proposed rate of subscription, sufficient funds would be forthcoming for the meeting of all current expenses.

Mr. Leahy said that when he brought forward his motion at the previous quarterly meeting the Society was in need of funds, which he did not see any way of supplying except by an increase in the subscriptions. However, if it could be satisfactorily proved that the Society could be carried on with a less charge to each member he would not oppose the reduction.

Mr. Connor believed that both the mover and opposer of the motion had the interest of the Society at heart, but differed as to the best way of assisting it. The scarcity of funds was not so much due to the smallness of subscription, as to the irregularity in payment. If members made it a point to pay regularly, no difficulties would be experienced. It was not honourable, to say the least of it, for members to come night after night, and have the use of the rooms and library, whilst their subscriptions were not paid. The rate was not high, but if any member wished he could give something extra, as the council would be very glad of some addition to the funds. Such societies were not self-supporting, no matter to what denomination they belonged, and he considered that they had a right to some assistance from the Catholic public, as an institution such as this was an indirect benefit to the Catholics at large.

Mr. O'Sullivan considered he would not be doing his duty if he did not support the resolution, although he warmly supported Mr. Leahy's motion at the previous quarterly meeting. The Society is in a better position now than at that time, whilst at the same time some members had left or at least were about to leave the Society because of the rise in the subscriptions.

At this stage of the proceedings Mr. Leahy intimated that on account of what had fallen from the previous speaker regarding persons leaving the Society, he would withdraw his opposition to the proposition.

Mr. Nolan said the only way to make the Society flourish would be for every man to pay his subscription punctually, as he considered it very dishonourable for a man to attend, and not pay his way.

The proposition was then put, fixing the subscriptions at three shillings per quarter, or 10s. per annum, payable in advance, and carried unanimously.

Mr. O'Connor brought forward a motion of which he had given due notice to the effect that the proposer of a candidate be not required to pay the nomination fee, but that the candidate do so when he becomes a member. Several members spoke on the subject, for and against, but it was finally passed by a substantial majority. After some other matters were discussed the meeting was closed with prayer in the usual way by the Rev. Father Bowers.

Mr. James Wiseman has opened a House, Land and General Commission Agent's establishment in Moray Place, Dunedin. The public will find their commissions carefully and satisfactorily attended to by him.

THE PARNELLITES AND THE TORIES.

(*Dublin Freeman*, Feb 2nd.)

MR. HEALY may now retire from the field of politics. His occupation therein is hopelessly gone. His grand ideal is unrealisable. The goal he has lived and laboured to reach rests on what is to him forbidden ground. In a word, as we are assured by the *Irish Times* of Tuesday, there can be no rapprochement between the Parnellites and the Tories. The banners were decisively forbidden in Belfast the previous night, simultaneously with the presentation of an address to that now very much perplexed young man Lord Rossmore. We had not previously known that Mr. Healy or any of the other members of the Irish Parliamentary Party were particularly anxious for union with either Tories or Liberals. It had been our impression that the gallant little band of gentlemen struggling for Irish rights on the floor of the House of Commons aimed at steering clear of parties altogether, so that they might use either one or other as might suit their purposes. We had thought that their aim was to use and not to be used. But we would seem to have been under a delusion. We are to get at the real wishes of the Parnellite Party through the Tories themselves, and only thus. These wishes are for union, say the Tories of the North; but this union cannot, must not, be. Hence it is that we suggest the immediate withdrawal of the member for Monaghan from public life. That he will act on this suggestion, however, even the Tories should hesitate about believing. The Tories have roared and bellowed till they were hoarse about "Kilmainham Treaties." They did not then, surely, hold the opinion they profess to entertain now. The "Kilmainham Treaty" did not symbolise a union with Toryism. Assuming it to have existed, it existed with the Whigs. "A plague on both your houses!" say the Irish members. "Think as you may, we pursue our course between your Scylla and Charybdis." But there is another peril to the aspirations of the Irish Party. Colonel Stuart Knox, the brave militiaman, who sustained defeat at the hands of a mere boy in the town of the Volunteers, is going for something in the shape of a Loyalist League as contradistinguished from a National League. This is hardly fair to Sir Stafford Northcote, who disputes with the Irish party the right to the term "National." Colonel Knox wants a closer connection between Irish loyalists and their brethren in Great Britain, and desires that delegates should be sent to England and Scotland to address meetings. The *Irish Times* is in sympathy, of course. According to that authority on matters Scotch, the people of Scotland, and of England too, have been "deliberately misinstructed on Irish affairs." It is necessary to counteract the effect thus produced, and a band of strolling players is to be organised to go the rounds and do the work. At the head of this band should be Lord Rossmore himself. Since his name has gained such prominence he has shown himself to be a most brilliant speaker. In the Rotunda he astonished all by his wonderful fluency. In the Ulster Hall on Monday night he took the assemblage by storm. Ah, he is clearly born for great things, is this Lord Rossmore! He awoke to find himself famous when the holders of the Great Seal stripped him of his Commission. He went up a rocket, but he is coming down a very palpable stick, indeed. He has a title, but he sadly lacks the staying power of a Healy.

THE NATIONALISATION OF THE LAND

(*Dublin Freeman*, Feb. 2.)

AN attractive paper on the Nationalisation of the Land was read at the Statistical Society on Tuesday night by Mr. James J. Shaw Barrister-at-Law. Mr. Shaw admitted at the outset the impossibility of adequately discussing the subject as originated and developed in "Progress and Poverty," and as the object of the paper was to refute the position taken by Mr. George in that celebrated work Mr. Shaw devoted himself exclusively to its main thesis—viz., that the private ownership of land is the cause of the poverty that accompanies progress, or at least is the cause that progress does not put an end to poverty, and that the remedy for poverty is to abolish this private ownership of land without compensation to the owner. Mr. Shaw set aside the morality or political expediency of the remedy thus proposed, and dealt entirely with the question from an economic standpoint. Having dwelt upon what he considers Mr. George's fallacious conception of agricultural industry, Mr. Shaw proceeds to point out the confusion between the ideas of exchange and production which he asserts is involved in that part of Mr. George's work which treats of the "interchangeability of wealth." "That is to say," remarks Mr. Shaw, "because the possession of one form of wealth enables you to exchange it for some other form of wealth, therefore an increased power of producing one form of wealth is, in effect, an increased power of producing all forms of wealth. That is to say, because a cotton manufacturer can sell his cotton and buy diamonds, therefore the invention of the power-loom was the same thing as the discovery of a new diamond field. That is just as reasonable as to say that the invention of the power-loom was, in effect, an increased power of producing food. No doubt the more cotton you have, the more of the existing food and diamonds you will be able to buy; but your possession of cotton will not make new food or diamonds easier to produce either for you or anyone else." Differing, however, as Mr. Shaw does from Mr. George's economic theories, he is by no means an advocate of the present state of things.

Mr. F. Lawrence—formerly known in connection with Mr. Dornwell's establishment—has commenced business on his own account in George street, Dunedin, and will be found to supply the best possible qualities of meat at low rates.

Dressmaking Department.—Mrs. Carter is now making dresses for 12s 6d. If you have hitherto been unable to get fitted properly, give us a trial. Perfect fit. Newest styles. Satisfaction guaranteed. Splendid New Stock of Dress Materials and new Dress Trimmings. A really good article supplied at the lowest prices in the city. Carter and Co., Ready-Money Drapers, George street, Dunedin. [ADVT.]