

AUCKLAND.

(From our own Correspondent.)

July 2.

THE political horizon looms up dark and troublous. Chaos and indecision is the order of the day. It looks as if the different sections of politicians were biding their time; each waiting until his enemy has wasted the fire of his eloquence in addressing his supporters, and thereby to have the advantage of noting whatever was said with imprudence, or whatever promise of reform—possible or impossible—was left unsaid by his opponent.

While a large addition has been made to the electoral roll during the last few weeks, numbers have neglected the precaution—let it be hoped not for the reason given by one "free and independent"—viz., that he did not see one honest candidate in the field he would consider worth recording his vote for. Yet it is an uncontradicted fact that there are hundreds in Auckland who do likewise either through negligence or unwillingness.

"The best laid plans of mice and men gang aft a-gley," at least so thought an erstwhile Government surveyor, who, no doubt from philanthropic motives, occasioned possibly by "backsheesh," reported on a piece of land, 89 acres in extent, at Whangarei, surveyed by him for the Crown Lands Board. The description given was that it contained "a few kauri trees," which caused the upset price to be fixed at £44. It, however, sold at £120, and it was since ascertained that the timber alone on it is worth double the purchase-money. Of course the surveyor was dismissed the Government service, but it is uncomfortable to think perhaps there are others in the service equally dishonest; the country in every case being the loser. It is high time the Land Board and the whole Civil Service was re-organized.

In addition to the large export trade in frozen meat by the company here, a new feature in the department consists in the exportation of tinned meats also. On her last trip the Doric took Home 100 cases, and other shipments are to follow in regular succession. The workmen are turning out nearly 1000 tins per day.

About ten o'clock on the night of Tuesday, June 24, a fire broke out in a building on the grounds of St. Mary's Orphanage, Ponsonby, and the sympathy of the people was evinced by the fact that, within a very short time, crowds assembled from the most distant parts of the city, thinking that the Orphanage had caught fire. However, it was only a building formerly used as a native school and orphanage, but as a laundry since the fine and imposing building, the "Star of the Sea," was erected. It contained a lot of clothing belonging to the orphan children, and the loss will fall on the Sisters of Mercy, as, through an oversight, the building was not included in the general insurance. Judging from the esteem in which the good Sisters are held for their great care of the little homeless ones, the loss will be shortly repaired. Fathers W. McDonald and Lenihan were among the first at the scene, and rendered every assistance in their power.

On Sunday, June 22, the Rev. Father Lenihan preached a short but very instructive sermon at St. Patrick's Cathedral, on "Scandal," to a large and attentive audience.

On Sunday last, 29th ult., the choir of St. Patrick's Cathedral was ably assisted by Miss Alice Stanley and Mr. Gunning, members of Dunning's Opera Company. Miss Stanley sang the solo, *Et Incarnatus Est* in the *Credo*, and the *Agnus Dei* from Weber's Mass in G with marked effect. This lady possesses a rich contralto voice of great range and power. Mr. Gunning (tenor) sang Humell's *O Salutaris* and Zingarelli's *Laudate* in a very pleasing manner. This very efficient choir, which is now considered second to none in the Colony, owes its present prestige principally to the able conductorship of the Rev. Father Lenihan, a young clergyman who was selected to accompany Bishop Luck here a few years since. He acquired the art in continental countries, finishing up, I believe, in Spain.

DUBLIN'S LATEST SENSATION.

LONDON, May 24.—Mr. William O'Brien, Member of Parliament for Mallow, and editor of *United Ireland*, was interviewed this evening in reference to the charges recently made in that paper of bestial practices on the part of Inspector French, the chief of the Government detectives in Ireland, Secretary Cornwall, of the Post Office department, and other officials of Dublin Castle. Mr. O'Brien declared emphatically that he can prove the truth of every one of his assertions. It was true, he said, that Cornwall had begun an action for libel, but he believed that Cornwall had been ordered to take that step by Mr. George Trevelyan, Chief Secretary for Ireland. Trevelyan's object in having the action begun, Mr. O'Brien said, was to justify a refusal to make the matter a subject of Parliamentary inquiry by saying that it was *sub judice*, and not a subject for outside investigation while pending before a court.

Mr. O'Brien believed that the action was a sham and that Cornwall would avail himself of every legal device to delay the trial, and would ultimately withdraw the suit. He was confirmed in this belief by the action of Cornwall's alleged partner in vice, French. He began an action for libel, but allowed it to slumber along until the present time, and now his lawyers have given notice of an intention to ask the Court, on June 3, to dismiss the case on the ground that French is suffering from softening of the brain. Mr. O'Brien is evidently in very serious earnest in this matter, anxious to justify his charges before a jury, and confident of his ability to do so.

The latest utterance of *United Ireland* upon the subject is as follows:—"We regard Cornwall as mere carrion. Our solicitors had him several times under examination at their offices in the French case, and have anonymous letters clearly showing the state of the unfortunate wretch's conscience. With the poor wretch himself we have no quarrel beyond ordinary human disgust at his crimes. Our war is with his masters."

The affair is causing a stupendous sensation in Dublin. The daily newspapers, however, ignore the case beyond printing carefully

filtered reports of the legal proceedings. The names of several notable persons are involved in the scandal.

Mr. O'Brien is employing ex-Inspector Meiklejohn, who was discharged from Scotland Yard for his connection with turf frauds, and now conducts a private detective bureau in partnership with ex-Inspector Clark. He has proved himself very clever in his inquiries, which have resulted in Mr. O'Brien's filing an affidavit containing many sickening details of the alleged crimes, which seem to be circumstantially proved. Mr. Meiklejohn is still engaged on the case in Dublin, and Mr. O'Brien, who has already spent 5000dol. in his inquiries, says he is willing to spend 5000dol. more to bring the scoundrels to justice.

LORD LANSDOWNE AND HIS OLD TENANTS.

(From *United Ireland*.)

VERY likely Lord Lansdowne's Kerry agent thought he had rid his Lordship for good and all of his pauper tenants when he handed over a batch of them to Mr. Tuke to be transported to his patent Paradise in the Great Lone Land. Who would ever have thought that the pestilent fellows would turn up outside the Governor-general's palace at Ottawa, and paste their white faces against the window, to his Lordship's discomfort? The following despatch illustrates the obduracy and ingratitude of the Irish tenant; but it is consoling to find that his Lordship's resource was quite equal to the occasion:—

"Ottawa, Ont., March 25.—Out of a large number of destitute emigrants who are lying in a half-starved condition in the emigrant shed here, is one who was a former tenant of Lord Lansdowne. He applied to his own landlord for help yesterday, and was refused, the Governor-general telling him that *Canada was no place for paupers to emigrate to and he would do nothing to encourage their coming!*"

This to the discomfited Kerry tenant must have been slightly puzzling. His Lordship's agent had told him that he must emigrate because he was a pauper, but now that he had taken Mr. Trench's word and found himself a pauper still, the Marquis of Lansdowne blandly assures him that Canada is no place for paupers to emigrate to. But Lord Lansdowne was perfectly consistent. The grand thing was to get the troublesome persons off his own estate. If in Canada they are still paupers and starving, of course it is unpleasant that they should come to his door to beg; but being paupers and starving, there is all the less chance of their ever getting back to Kerry, and, to make assurance doubly sure, his Lordship wisely decides to do nothing to save them from starving promptly.

MODERN CHAMPAGNE DANGEROUS.

(From the *Philadelphia Times*.)

"CHAMPAGNE is not what it used to be," said a wine merchant yesterday. "The old process produced pure, wholesome wine, but the new process does not. By the old process the juice of the grapes is allowed to ferment in the casks first. Fermentation, you know, is an action of nature that throws off impurities, and the more of it you have the better. After the case fermentation the wine is bottled, with a little syrup, or, perhaps, a few raisins, added to produce a second fermentation.

"The bottles are then put on racks in the vault with the necks down, so that the sediment falls upon the cork. Men go through the vaults every day for three years, and take up the bottles and shake them, so that each bottle is handled about twelve hundred times before it is put on the market. During that time the corks are changed three times. Now, that is the way true champagne is made. The new process turns out an inferior article, containing nitrogen, and sometimes albuminous matter as well. It is the second or bottle fermentation that permits the nitrogen to escape, and completes the work of good wine making. The new process omits this second fermentation, and puts the wine on the market in two months from the time they begin to make it. If a man drinks too much champagne now-a-days, he has the most beastly headache to which the flesh is heir, and it generally lasts two or three days. That is caused by the nitrogen in the champagne, left there by the new process.

"Some of the best known brands are now produced by the new process. You see, the demand is so great that the old process is too slow to supply it, and it will be a cold day when French wine-makers get left in a matter of that kind. They not only rush the champagne into the market in two months, but make it now very largely of green, scrubby grapes, and even of 'wilksour' wines—anything to swell the profits.

"When the Germans captured Alsace and Lorraine, which were the garden spots of France, they went through every old chateau and cellar, and drank all the champagne they contained. I've heard that in a few months the stock was as large as ever."

"You think, then, that pure champagne is pretty hard to get now?"

"I do, and unless you are very particular in your search the less wine of that name you drink the better for you."

Mr. Talmage is a well-known Protestant preacher of Brooklyn. He knows the ways of the "Spiritualists." In a late sermon he said: "Spiritualism ruins the physical health, and is a marital and social curse. Orgies of obscenity have taken place under its wing. Women by hundreds have been pushed off into a life of profligacy. If spiritualism had full swing, it would turn this world into a pandemonium of carnality. It is an unclean and adulterous religion, and the sooner it goes down to the pit from which it came up the better for humanity. Spiritualism produces insanity all over the land. If you put your hand in the hand of this influence, it will lead you down to hell, where there is an everlasting seance. Spiritualism ruins the soul and makes men infidels."