

AUCKLAND.

(From our own correspondent.)

July 16.

At no general election within the memory of the rising generation have the Roman Catholic portion of the community here more cause to give utterance to the hackneyed saying "Save us from our friends" than during the present. There are but few of that religious persuasion aspiring to the honour (?) of being Parliamentary representatives here, and judging from the action of one in particular, the fewer the better for that body. But what will not ambition lead to, and what the means not resorted to, to arrive at the goal at which it aims? Mr. Tole has been for ten years, he says, a member of the House of Representatives, and yearns to go there again. He was uneasy in mind because a report had gained currency in Eden that he had changed his views regarding the education system, but his first words to his constituents, in order to ingratiate himself once more, was to disabuse their minds of that suspicion.—"He had hitherto bowed to the will of the electors, and he would in the future as in the past steadfastly oppose any attempt to sap or destroy the present educational system." To add a little sugar to the coating of that bitter educational pill swallowed by Mr. Tole—for bitter it must be to any man professing to be a good practical Catholic—Major Burns, in seconding the vote of confidence, boasted that on that account "the Orangemen had put him in before, and would now put him in again." Once more, "Save us from our friends."

The question of lighting the Queen street wharf with electric light has been repeatedly proposed, but no definite action has as yet been come to.

At present the Harbour Board Committee has under its consideration an offer from Mr. J. Nearing, which it is thought might be acted upon ultimately. He argues that working large steamers at night would give much greater despatch, as well as assist those employed in discharging cargo. Should Mr. Nearing's proposal be entertained, he is prepared to import the necessary plant, which, together with its cost, is as follows:—One 6 unit dynamo electric machine, direct wound, constructed for arc lighting with all the latest improvements, to run 6 arc lamps of 2,000 candle power, £126; spare amateur for same, £21; 6 double differential automatic regulator electric arc lamps for out door use, £72 9s; six globes, £6 6s; 500 yards No. 18 copper wire, double insulation, £26 5s; one switch, 11s; current indicator, £4 15s; total, £283 11s. Packing the whole for shipment, £15 15s; total, £299 6s. Six horse power nominal steam engine, to run six arc lights, £60 18s; packing for shipment, £3 1s; total, £63 19s. Eight-horse power nominal steam engine, to run twelve arc lights, £84; packing for shipment, £4 4s; total, £88 4s. It is stated that one of the small wharf donkey-engines could drive a six light machine. The committee, to whom the consideration of the proposal was referred, will bring up its report at the next meeting of the Harbour Board.

Mr. G. E. Boyle, who, for some time past, occupied the position of choir-master of St. Patrick's Cathedral, is about leaving for Australia through failing health, in hopes that the change of climate may be beneficial. As he has been always ready to give his valuable vocal services when required in any benevolent cause, the parishioners, assisted by many persons of musical talent, professional and amateur, have resolved upon giving him a complimentary benefit prior to his departure.

The early closing movement set on foot by many of the Auckland employees, is making itself felt. Already a few extensive firms have agreed to close their business places at 6 on Saturday evenings, and others are about to follow the example set. After giving the change of hours a fair trial, they intend making it permanent, if not injurious in any marked degree to the trade.

Encouragement towards the thrifty and domestic work of poultry-raising by settlers and others has been given in a substantial manner here this year by numerous citizens. Some really valuable prizes were offered for the best exhibits of poultry in the different classes, and a very successful show, lasting three days, has just closed. The originators of this competition deserve some credit for the energy displayed in the enterprise.

A grand bazaar and fancy fair in connection with St. Mary's Catholic Church, Onehunga, was opened this week. An elaborate display of fancy work, and a splendid assortment of pictures, adorned the different stalls. An entertainment of a like nature is being got up towards the erection of the proposed new Catholic church in Ponsonby, and a concert was held in the Ponsonby Hall this week, the proceeds of which will be devoted to the procuring of materials necessary in carrying on the work of the bazaar, which is being inaugurated through the instrumentality of the Sisters of Mercy.

The only safe and sure cure for Gravel or Urinary troubles is Hop Bitters. Prove it, Read.

A demonstration of the Kent and Sussex labourers, attended by six or seven thousand persons, was held on Monday at Rochester, when resolutions demanding the passing of the Franchise Bill were unanimously carried.

Mr. T. Shone, writes: Provide yourself with a small tinderbox, let it be filled with tinder made from burnt rag (no other tinder will do), carry this in your pocket; should you be so unfortunate as to be bitten by a venomous snake, ignite the tinder (the back of your pocket knife will answer for a steel), cover the wound with the lighted end of the tinder box, and blow steadily through the small hole at the reverse end. In a few seconds a large blister will be formed, in which may be seen floating certain globules of liquid, like oil; open the blister, allow the contents to escape and you may go about your business without much consequences. I have seen it tried more than once, both in cases of puffadder and night-adder bites, with equal success.—South African paper.

INVERCARGILL CATHOLIC LITERARY SOCIETY.

THE ordinary weekly meeting of the above Society was held on the evening of July 15, Mr. P. Reid President, in the chair. The attendance of the members was very gratifying; two candidates were balloted for and duly elected.

The programme for the evening consisted of readings, recitations and songs. The first item on the programme was a recitation by the chairman, who delivered "Rustic Logic" in his well-known effective style, and, at a later stage in the evening, gave "Progress of Madness," which afforded a good example of what can be accomplished by means of intelligent phrasing and clear enunciation. Mr. Lawlor's contribution was a comic reading, "The Beef Contract," by Mark Twain, which was very amusing and provoked some laughter. He also sang, "Cruiskeen Lawn" which was well received. Mr. B. Bradley recited in a very able manner "All Hallow," and was followed also by a recitation from Mr. D. Bradley, "The Home Above," which was so short that he had but little opportunity of displaying any histrionic ability he may possess. Mr. Gusack gave an intelligent reading from Irish history excellently. Mr. McIntyre recited "Hohenlinden," and he has improved greatly in his declamatory powers. The next item was a comic song, entitled "Poor Traump," which was rendered by Mr. Crowley and was much appreciated. The recitative, "Desmond the Lord of Kildare" was given by Mr. Mulligan who arrives at the end rather abruptly; he will make a good reciter, but the brake requires to be steadily applied. Mr. Bennisia rendered an Italian song entitled "The Star," he has an excellent voice, and was enthusiastically applauded. "The Railway Chase," was recited by Mr. O'Brien with his usual gesticulatory movements. Mr. Farrell was heartily applauded for his singing, "Tom. Bowling," which was effectively rendered.

A DYNAMITE GUN.

THE government officers at Fort Hamilton express the opinion that a dynamite gun with which they have been experimenting will prove a weapon of terrible destructiveness, but Colonel Hamilton thinks it will be more serviceable on land than on water, because he does not believe that a charge of dynamite striking but not penetrating the deck of a ship like the British Thunderer would destroy the vessel. The gun looks like a 40 foot brass pipe mounted on a steel girder such as lie on the elevated railroad pillars. The gun is constructed of brass and steel, fitted in the most accurate manner at the points, and capable of sustaining a pressure of 1,000 pounds to the square inch. It weighs but a ton, and may be carried by a small gunboat. The projectile is nothing more or less than a dynamite cartridge encased in soft metal, with a shell of brass and fitted with a wooden tail. It weighs about a hundred pounds. The soft metal filling protects the dynamite from all ordinary accidents. But when the projectile, at speed, strikes, head on, against a resisting surface, a hard metal pin imbedded in the soft metal, and not touching the dynamite, is forced into the fulminate at the head of the cartridge and discharges the dynamite. The gun is constructed with a powerful air-chamber capable of storing an immense amount of compressed air. The gunner sights with telescopic sights with hair lines, and with the pressure of a finger discharges the air into the barrel, and starts the projectile on its flight. The great length of the tube is required to economise all the forces of the air which is less rapid in its action than gunpowder. This gun will throw cartridges three miles with a precision never attained with gunpowder. An ordinary projectile loses power the further it travels from the gun. This cartridge arrives ready for business no matter how far it goes.

The Government is experimenting at Fort Hamilton with a two-inch gun, and some wonderful execution has been done. The guns may be manufactured in any well-equipped machine shop, and cost but a song in comparison with the enormous guns turned out by Krupp and at Woolwich. The same principle is applicable to field guns to be used in land engagements. There is much scepticism on the part of the public as to the possibility of firing a dynamite cartridge, even with compressed air substituted for gunpowder as a propelling force, without the explosion of the cartridge, but it is declared that it will accomplish it. Blank cartridges have been used in the experiments. As to the accuracy of the gun there can be no doubt, and it may be expected to send a missile against a ship at a distance of two and perhaps three miles almost unerringly. If it will hurl dynamite cartridges, as the inventor says it will, it will certainly effect a great revolution in warfare. The first experiment with the dynamite gun at Fort Hamilton was made on April 17. Sand and lead were used instead of the explosive. Lieutenant Zalinski expressed himself as being well satisfied with the result.—American Paper.

It is reported that some Russian officers who were found wandering near the Punjab, on the Murghab, have been taken prisoners by the Afghans, and sent under escort to Sarakhs.

The life-blood of Ulster continues to ebb away gradually. Despite the industry, wealth, enterprise and enlightenment of which the "loyalists" of Ulster used to boast so much, the best and most vigorous of our people are daily withdrawing from amongst us as if this were a plague-stricken province. The records of our Northern ports bear ample testimony to this sad and discouraging fact. Thus, on every day during the present season, the emigrant ships have borne away hundreds of young men and women who should have sufficient room for their exertions at home. It would, however, seem that with crowded garrisons of soldiers, police, and useless officials, together with a glibulous aristocracy that takes up like a sponge the whole sap of the land, there is little left for the good, lowly, and industrious, who must either starve or emigrate.—Nation, May 31.