

to be convened at an earlier date for consideration of such bill exclusive, should his Excellency's Advisers see fit." In moving the motion he alluded to the manifest bad results of the present form of Government. He said there was no doubt that the practice had been to get out of the colonial chest all they could, and the result had been to destroy that self-reliance which should exist in a constitutionally-governed country. No debate was needed on the question. They had the stern logic proclaimed from the housetops, that the revenue was not keeping pace with the expenditure. He did not blame any Government for the present state of things. It was the system that was at fault, and from this House downwards everyone was in what might be called a fool's paradise. Under this system no public work, however important, could be undertaken, except with a view to its locality, and men were gaged as statesmen by their capacity to take back spoils to their constituents. A very great reduction could be effected in the expenditure. If this system was continued they would end in what the Americans called an "eternal smash." Such a commission as he wished to be appointed could detail a scheme which would commend itself to the House and the Colony, and he held that it would not affect the community of the people, but if that were found unavoidable, then he would say of two evils choose the least. Mr. Pyke had no doubt but that as years advanced the two islands would drift farther and farther apart. Not geographically; he did not mean that, but in feeling. It was seen now by the bill which came before the House that the interests of the two islands were not identical. The latest instance of that occurred on the previous evening when the South Island supported the Gold Duty Abolition Bill which was thrown out by the North Island members. But there were worse troubles than that. There were two parties in the House—a Northern and a Southern party. The Hon. R. Stout said he had never been an advocate for separation. He expressed his surprise at the hon. member bringing forward his motion now. He did not think a Royal Commission would do any good. The gentlemen composing it would be certain to be biased either one way or the other. The matter could be discussed as an abstract question at another time. At the present he did not think it was possible to adopt separation in view of the position of the Colony. Captain Russell moved a further amendment to the effect that in the opinion of the House it is desirable that the public works expenditure be reduced by a sum of not less than £500,000. He disclaimed any party spirit in making the motion, and said he should not go into any details. He did not blame the present Government any more than the late Government for the present position of the Colony, but he considered that the Colonial Treasurer when in 1876 he had brought down his Public Works scheme was the Frankenstein of the Colony. He held that the House ought to endeavour at once to reduce or do away with borrowing. His only object was to put the Government in the position of having to reduce their expenditure by the amount he mentioned in his amendment. With regard to insular separation, he did not think it was advisable and as perhaps the oldest colonist in the House he strongly disapproved of that proposal. He pointed out the large reduction which had taken place in the railway returns, which was now more than 1 per cent. less than it was 14 years ago. One good thing in the reduction of borrowing would be that property would come to its proper value. He pointed to the late fall of the wool market, and asked whether, in view of all these facts, it was not advisable that they should reduce their expenditure until a more successful season. It had not been shown, he contended, that any of the large works proposed were necessary. The Hon. E. Richardson said the liabilities on the 1st August last were £1,912,000, and it should be remembered that many of these liabilities extended over a period of two or three years. The expenditure for the year, it was anticipated, would be within a million and a quarter. If the vote was reduced as suggested, it would mean a decrease in roads and in public buildings. Considerable reductions might be made in the Railway Estimates on various lines to the extent of about £400,000. If the motion of the hon. member was carried, the vote for roads must also share in the reductions, which would also have to be made in various other votes. He pointed out that the effects of such a motion as that of the hon. member being carried would be very disastrous. Mr. Macandrew's motion was put and lost on the voices. On the question that Captain Russell's amendment be carried, Major Atkinson said he was glad to hear the Minister say that the Government was prepared to accept the motion. The Hon. E. Richardson said he had indicated the direction in which reductions could be made, and if the motion was carried he would move to that end. The Hon. R. Stout said the Government were not going to support the reductions. They would vote against them. Mr. Buchanan moved the adjournment of the debate, which was agreed to.

Alluding to Mount Criffel, the *Wanaka* correspondent of the *Daily Times* writes as follows:—I once again say to all intending comers: Be advised, men, and wait a few weeks yet. Snow falls heavily more than once during the past week, and there is fully a foot of it lying about the main diggings now. The cold is fearful. There is no firewood. No store is finished yet, and no provisions that I have heard of are on the top. Husband your resources, and you will then have funds to respect the country. Wait till fine weather sets in, and provisions are on the field, and ever, needful at hand, then when you make your raid on Criffel you can riddle her as you have riddled many a field in days of yore, and may every true digger go in and win. Should anything of a startling nature occur at any time I shall wire you. None but men possessed of patience, endurance, energy, and stamina need come here.

At Monday's wool auctions 11,600 bales were catalogued. The market was weak, prices generally running 1d to 1½ lower, while all descriptions of inferior and faulty wools were fully 2d below last sales.

The negotiations between the German and Spanish Governments on the question of the Caroline Islands are being conducted in an amicable spirit, Germany having offered to relinquish possession of the island of Yap (or Uup), if it can be proved that the Spaniards previously occupied the island. It is generally expected a peaceful settlement will be arrived at.

Cholera is again spreading in the south of France, and it has made its appearance in the district of Herault.

THURSDAY.

In the House of Representatives yesterday, Mr. Buchanan resumed the debate on Captain Russell's motion, "That in the opinion of this House the Government should reduce the Estimates of Public Works expenditure by a sum of no less than £500,000," and Mr. Moss' amendment, "That the estimates having been passed without a diminution in the burdens imposed upon the people, this House does not consider it advisable to suddenly stop public works already in progress, but requests the Government to take such measures as may be necessary during the recess, and bring them down at an early period next session." He pointed out the critical condition of the Colony, and contended that the Treasurer had failed to relieve it from such a position. He hoped the amendment of the member for Hawke's Bay would be carried by a large majority.

An immense and distinguished audience assembled to hear Mr. George Augustus Sala at Auckland last night, although only 24 hours' notice of the lecture was given. For more than two hours, without reference to book or note, the great journalist gave a most graphic description of the Russian Empire, concluding with his opinion as to the probability of war between England and Russia. He held his audience from first to last. Great regret is expressed that Mr. Sala cannot prolong his stay. He leaves for Wellington, and on his way back to Melbourne will lecture in Tasmania. Mr. Sala was entertained at the Northern Club with a select party by Mr. B. C. McMillan. He made a speech referring to his colonial impressions.

It is believed that the Emperor William will abandon all designs on the Caroline Islands, provided the Spanish Government can effectively prove their claim over them. In consequence of the pacific attitude displayed by Germany in the matter, public feeling is becoming more calm in Madrid.

The Right Hon. Joseph Chamberlain, addressing a public meeting at Washington on Tuesday night, stated that he rejected the demands made by Mr. Parrell, and expressed a hope that the Whig party would accept the programme of the Radicals, as otherwise they would be compelled to part company.

AWARDS TO THE CHRISTIAN BROTHERS.

The educational jury of the New Orleans Exposition, of which ex-Gov. J. W. Hoyt, of Wyoming, was chairman, made sixty-seven awards to the schools of the Christian Brothers, as follows: One grand diploma of honour, highest award, to the Society of Christian Brothers of the United States for collective educational exhibits; twelve diplomas of honour, highest awards to individual institutions, or individual college or high school exhibits, including one to Brother Alexis for superior appliances for teaching geography and one to the Society of Christian Brothers for plaster casts, charts and a series of copy-books for teaching drawing; eighteen diplomas, including one to the Brother professor of botany at St. Joseph's Normal College, Amawalk, N.Y., for collections of plants and woods formed by him and his students for the museum, and one to the Brother professor of mathematics at De La Salle Institute, New York city, for album of development of solids; seven certificates of merit, and twenty-nine honourable mentions.

Among others we note the following awards:—Diplomas of honour: Normal Institute, Aimmendale, Md.—Literary works, astronomical charts, linear drawings, studies, etc.; Rock Hill College, Ellicott City, Md.—Students' work, linear and architectural drawings. Diplomas: St. Joseph's Academy, Baltimore, Md.—Students' work and photography; St. Peter's School, Baltimore, Md.—Pupil's work, and linear and free-hand drawing. Honourable mentions: St. Vincent's School, Baltimore, Md.—Pupil's work; Immaculate Conception School, Baltimore, Md.—Pupil's work; St. Alphonsus' School, Baltimore, Md.—Pupil's work; St. John's Collegiate Institute, Washington, D.C.—Pupil's work and drawings; St. John's School, Baltimore, Md.—Pupil's work.

Kidney and urinary troubles are universal, and the only safe and sure cure is American Hop Bitters—rely on it. Read.

There again comes from the Highlands the cry of "open and organised agitation" for reform of the land laws. And this in districts where it was thought landlord influence would intimidate the crofters from speaking out! The fact is, the land agitation in Scotland has not yet really begun.—*Nation*.

Some months ago we had occasion to say a word or two on the subject of Volapuk, the newly invented universal language, whose existence is due to the ingenuity of a Swiss Catholic priest, the Rev. Herr Scheyer, of Lienzstein. Since then the progress made by this latest attempt "to come forth from the second general curse which was the confusion of tongues" has been so considerable as to warrant our returning to the subject once more. Volapuk, which word in the Volapuk tongue signifies World-Speech, has called into existence numerous Volapuk societies in various parts of the Continent of Europe; there being no fewer than 20 of them in Holland alone. Newspapers and reviews have been published in it, and there are Volapuk grammars in more than 18 languages. In Paris a chair of Volapuk has been established in the Ecole des Hautes Etudes Commerciales. It has numerous enthusiastic supporters, some of them being persons of distinction, who believe that Volapuk is destined to become the common language of humanity in the future. In short, it is the most serious attempt hitherto made towards the establishment of a universal tongue, and it does not succeed it may be confidently predicted that no other will. To be sure, it has a rival, "Pasingua"; but the admirers of Volapuk look with scorn upon the latter, which they deem utterly incapable of ever supplanting the newly-born language of their choice. "Pasingua" is nothing better than a jumble of a number of already existing European languages, and one would need to know at least five of them in order to understand it.—*Bombay Catholic Examiner*.