

Dr MORAN: I will give you a general answer. I will endeavour to promote the interests of the Peninsula district in every way, and to obtain for it everything it is entitled to, and will be always glad to receive suggestions from its inhabitants.

A question on the subject of insular separation was asked.

Dr MORAN: Gentlemen must imagine that I must be a perfect politician. It could hardly be expected that I would be prepared with an expression of opinions on such subjects. However, I have considered the question well, and always advocated a Government for each Island, and a General Government at Wellington.

An ELECTOR: Are you in favour of the extension of the franchise to the female portion of the community?

Dr MORAN: I am not.

The ELECTOR: Would you kindly give us your reasons?

Dr MORAN: I think it is sufficient for me to announce my principles. If I were to give you all my reasons you would be here all night.

Mr M'BRADE: Is the candidate in favour of granting State aid to the teaching of Free-thought at the Lyceum?

Dr MORAN: I do not know whether the gentleman means to insult me or not, but I will answer his question. I will say I am not.

Mr WORTHINGTON asked the candidate's reasons.

Dr MORAN: It is enough for me to announce my principles. I do not think any man has a right to call upon me for my reasons. If you return me to the House I will give reasons for the voting I give, but I have never heard of a candidate being called upon to give reasons for his answers to questions.

Mr J. CARROLL moved, and Mr MEAD seconded—"That Dr Moran is the most fit and proper person to represent the Peninsula district in Parliament."

Mr WORTHINGTON proposed, and Mr CLARKE seconded—"That the candidate be simply thanked for his address."

The amendment found only two or three supporters. The motion was carried with enthusiasm.

THE NOMINATION.

The nomination of candidates for the representation of Peninsula district in Parliament took place at Naumann's Hall at noon on Monday, Mr A. R. Ure acting as returning-officer. About 100 persons were present.

Mr William Robertson proposed WILLIAM JAMES MUDIE LARNACH, and the nomination was seconded by Mr Thomas Cossens.

Mr George Stokes proposed and Mr Angus McFadzean seconded JOHN WELLS.

Mr William Wardrop proposed and Mr Charles Stewart seconded MICHAEL DONNELLY. Mr Hugh Gourley, in proposing PATRICK MORAN, referred to the candidate's satisfactory views on the Chinese question, and said that he had no doubt that if the influx of Chinese was not speedily stopped they would become as great a pest as the rabbits. It would not surprise him very much to see some of their extreme Liberal members having to table a motion in the House to exterminate the Asiatic intruders in the same way as the objectionable quadrupeds.

Mr Francis Meenan seconded the nomination.

The candidates were invited by the Returning-officer to address those present if they were disposed to do so.

Mr LARNACH said: Mr Returning-officer and gentlemen, I come here as one of yourselves. I have been solicited by a number of electors in this district to come forward, otherwise I would not be before you; and feeling my interests were so much allied to your own, I thought I was justified in coming forward to serve you. Practically, I do not believe in theoretical legislation. I have had considerable experience, not only in this but in other countries in Australasia, and I think I am able, from the knowledge I have acquired, to serve you in a practical way, and do you good service.—(Applause.) A bonus has been raised before you to deprecate me in your eyes on the Chinese question. It is all claptrap.—(Hear.) I can only tell you plainly that I was very much grieved to hear a gentleman whom I respect very much comparing the Chinese to rabbits. I say it is humiliating for any man calling himself a man to do such a thing, and if any man finds fault with me because I have a feeling of charity and mercy, I say to him, Don't return me.—(Applause.) I say it is humiliating and degrading for a white man who has had a respectable education to compare a portion of God's people to beasts like rabbits.—(Applause.) I say it is a shame. If I lose my election in consequence of taking up the stand I have, I will come out

with more credit, and come out better in every respect, than if I descended to claptrap. I am not in favour of the Chinese coming here in numbers.—(Interruption, and a VOICE: "You have said you were, though.") I have said nothing of the kind. Look here, if you are not men enough to hear me, say so. I am not afraid of any of you.—(Hear, and interruption.) You mistake your man altogether.—(Interruption.) You mistake your man altogether if you suppose you will have any effect on me.—(A VOICE: "You said you were in favour of the Chinese.") I say I am not in favour of the Chinese.—(A VOICE: "And why do you go back on your previous statement?") I am in favour of the Chinese being treated in a proper way, as portion of God's people. I am in favour, also, of Maoris being treated in a proper way, and of any savages being treated in a proper way. There are savages in a country you are pleased to look upon as a civilised country, where they are committing murders and depredations that are shameful.—(Applause.) How can you dare to sit there and compare the Chinese to people who will go behind hedges and shoot others, and stab them in the dark?—(Applause, and a VOICE: "You mean the Boers.") Be men.—(A VOICE: "You have been among the Boers, have you?") The Boers are a superior race of men to those animals.—(Mr HENDERSON: "Do not be too warm.") Those of the intelligent electors who are here—(A VOICE: "Dry up.")—whose votes I respect, I feel quite sure know my opinions on the Chinese question, and know this: that I would not be one to allow Chinese to come here in numbers, because I do not believe in overrunning the country. When they are here, however, I will have them treated fairly. Look here, gentlemen, you have heard my opinions pretty fully, and it is not my intention to do so. All I have to say is this: if you send me to the Assembly I will do my work honestly and fairly, and I will do justice to every man and to every subject. I will do justice regardless of personal interests, and regardless of favour, or fear, or anything else. I will not lend myself to any party that will not do justice to this part of New Zealand. I ask you to send me to Wellington unfettered, so that I may judge for myself when I get there what portion of the Assembly is willing to do most justice to this district in particular, and the Colony as a whole. I have nothing to say in respect to the other candidates. All I ask of you is this: to choose the man who you think is best fitted to serve you; and if you leave out I will not quarrel with you. I believe you will send me there by an overwhelming majority—such a majority as will show that the electors of this constituency are not the least intellectual and intelligent of New Zealand.—(Applause.)

Mr WELLS, in addressing those present, gave expression to the same views as he did in his address on Saturday night, and repeated the charges which he then made against the Government.

Mr DONNELLY said: Mr Returning-officer and gentlemen, I am sure that you do not wish that I should detain you very long to-day, and it is not my intention to do so by speaking upon political questions. With these you are thoroughly well acquainted; but my candidature has received such opposition from all quarters, I have been attacked with such violence and such animus from every point, that I am sure you will pardon me for entering into, or at least replying to, a few objections which have been made against me. First of all I will refer to two or three objections urged against me by Mr Larnach in his St. Kilda speech. He said it was presumption in me to stand for this district. Mr Larnach, and gentlemen in the influential position he is in, regard it as presumption for any poor man to come forward to oppose him. (Mr HENDERSON: "Not at all.")—(Applause.) But nevertheless I am not afraid of the influence which he can exercise, and he may call it presumption or what he likes, but nevertheless I do presume to stand, and I think I can put forward in support of my candidature quite as good reasons as he can in support of his.—(Applause.) He was good enough to say at St. Kilda that I wished to make Parliament a stepping-stone to my ambition. That is not so. Parliament is the goal of my ambition, and I cannot help thinking that when Mr Larnach uttered those words it was his own case he had in view, and not mine.—(Applause.) My object in seeking office in Parliament is to advocate the principles which I have enunciated here during this contest, and which I placed before you last year when I announced myself as an advocate of Free-trade and of liberal land laws—that is, laws administered in such a manner that there shall not be in the future of New Zealand any cause to bring about those scenes which Mr Lar-

nach, with such excellent taste and such force has referred to as existing in another country at the present time. I wish the laws of New Zealand to be so administered and to be so dealt with that there shall never be cause in the future of New Zealand for anything of that kind. No doubt people who declare themselves as the deadly opponents of the nationalisation of the land will not agree with my opinions. They are prepared to administer the lands of New Zealand in the same spirit that they were administered in the country to which I refer, and I suppose they do not care if, centuries hence, the same results take place here. They may not care in regard to that, but I am sufficiently liberal-minded to care, and that is the reason why I support a liberal land system for New Zealand. I advocate economy in regard to the finances of the Colony, because I consider it to be in a dangerous position; I advocate the opening up of the country; I advocate a land tax; and I opposed last year, as I oppose this year, Chinese immigration. I advocated last year that the exemption in regard to the property tax should not be reduced below £500.—(Applause.) I advocated triennial Parliaments against Parliaments extending over five years, and so on with many other measures. I advocated these principles last year. I advocated them again this year, and in face of the hostile criticism of the Press which has been directed against me—in face of the severest cross-examination and interrogations that any candidate who has stood on a political platform has been subjected to—I have not been compelled to abandon or modify a single opinion. Seeing that Mr Larnach was anxious at St. Kilda to know what my motive was in seeking to be returned to Parliament, I will tell him: To advocate these principles. It has been said by many that, if returned, I could exert no influence in Parliament. Gentlemen, I think I can show you conclusively that I can use influence. I have exercised influence on Mr Larnach already. I have compelled him to abandon nearly the whole of that oppressive and Tory platform to which he gave expression here about a week ago.—(Applause.) Twelve or 18 months ago he advocated the abolition of property tax, the reimposition of tea and sugar duties, school fees, and taxing the people through the customs, and never said a word about land tax. Now he is in favour of a land tax, though he was not 18 months ago. Then he was a strong advocate of Chinese immigration in its most objectionable form (that is, making them permanent settlers in New Zealand). Now I see by the Times' report of his meeting at St. Kilda that he says he never advocated Chinese immigration.—(Mr HENDERSON interrupted to ask the candidate to express his own opinion.) I am replying to one of the strongest objections urged against me. It has been said that I have no influence, and I am going to show you that I have exercised influence over Mr Larnach—(applause); and if I can compel him before this constituency to abandon his platform, I have no doubt that if we were returned as members for different constituencies to Parliament I could, by the force of reason, compel him to abandon it there.—(Applause.) What did he say about the property tax—about the exemption, the first subject of his platform? He is reported to have said that he saw no reason why a man having £500 should not be taxed as well as a man having £1000, and that it was equitable and fair that a man having £500 should be taxed. When he saw that principle was not popular here, at Anderson's Bay, abandoned it, though here he said it was fair and just.—(Applause.) So it is with school fees. Eighteen months ago he was in favour of the reimposition of school fees. Now, when he comes before you and finds the fees are not popular, he is not in favour of their reimposition. As I say, the whole of the general principles to which he gave enunciation here a week ago he abandoned or modified, except that he is still, it seems, in favour of Parliament lasting five years instead of three years, and I have no doubt that a few well-directed questions would cause him before the end of the week to change his opinion on that subject also.—(Applause.) Probably by the end of the week his conversion will be complete, and then I can retaliate upon him, and say, in face of abandoning all his platform, what is he going to advocate?—(Cries of "Order," and a VOICE: "You are too personal.") I have to reply to these objections. It is unpalatable to Mr Larnach's supporters, no doubt; but I must answer them. I am only answering his objections. I will tell you what was stated a month ago to be his object in getting into Parliament. I do so because the statement comes through the same source as the criticism to which I was subjected. The Herald criticised the candidates for this constituency, and used these words in a leading article: "Mr Larnach has sufficiently liberal