

the *Daily Times* has also been fair and full in his reporting columns, but there his fair-play ceases. However, we need not waste many words on the *Daily Times*. He is the representative of the class that would play in New Zealand the part that landlordism has played in Ireland; and, therefore, abuse of the Irish cause is all that lies open to him. We have spoken of Lord Cornwallis, and of how he longed to kick the miserable tools by which the dirty work of his Government was carried on. Let us hope, for the credit of humanity, that there may be a member or two of the class that directs the *Daily Times*, who, were the interests of their class not paramount with them, would gladly kick their editor.

We found it asked a few weeks ago, here in Dunedin, of what religion were the people of New Ross—especially the supposed poisoner or poisoners of forty men. We are now prepared to answer the question. The majority of the people of New Ross are Catholics, then, but Mr. F. A. Leigh, J.P. of Rosegarland is a member of the Church of England.—And Mr. F. A. Leigh was accountable for the poisoning referred to. It took place by the distribution of beef among the men employed on Mr. Leigh's harvest—the meat having been cut from a beast that had been killed on its showing symptoms of disease. Forty people were immediately taken ill, some of them most dangerously so, and two of them had died at the latest date to which we have news.—The *Nation*, September 8. But as to why Mr. F. A. Leigh thought carrion good food for his harvestmen we shall leave that gentleman himself to explain.—Nevertheless, although we possess some slight knowledge of his reputation, we do not believe he had any intention of injuring the people so fed by him.—And now will those editors who have published a calumny on the people of New Ross in connection with this poisoning case explain how the matter really stands?

THE Juvenile concert at the Queen's Theatre, Dunedin, last night was a great success. The house was crowded, and the programme charmingly rendered. At the conclusion Bishop Moran returned thanks to all who had given their assistance; to the young performers; Mr. Leech, their conductor; Mr. G. W. Elliot, who had kindly given the use of the Theatre, and the audience who had patronised the entertainment. His Lordship added that Dunedin was to be congratulated on the proficiency shown by its youth in the fine arts. We are obliged, owing to want of space, to hold over our detailed critique until next week.

IN consequence of pressure on our space and time we are obliged to hold over to next week the subscription lists to the church at Gordon; reports of the Catholic Literary Societies at Christchurch and Invercargill; Ahaura subscriptions to Irish National League, and various other matters. Our readers will the more readily excuse us when they hear that a chief cause of our failure to publish the matter forwarded to us has been circumstances attendant on the visit of the Messrs. Redmond to Dunedin.

MR. J. E. Redmond left Dunedin yesterday morning for Invercargill, where he lectured last evening. Early as the hour was several gentlemen had assembled at the terminus to bid him God speed, among whom we noticed the Venerable Archdeacon Coleman, the Rev. Father Lynch, Messrs J. P. Armstrong, F. Meenan, J. Daly, C. O'Driscoll, J. J. Connor, Ames, and J. F. Ferrin. Mr. Redmond we may truly say has taken with him the lasting regard and admiration of all those who came in contact with him, and attachment to his person will in future add a warmth to their zeal in the cause he advocates. A better man could not possibly have been found for the mission confided to him, and even Ireland may feel proud of her envoy. Messrs W. Redmond, and J. W. Walshe, left in the afternoon by the s.s. Ringarooma for the Bluff, where Mr. J. E. Redmond joins them en route for Melbourne to-day. The good wishes and respect of the Irishmen of Dunedin, and we believe we may vouch for those of the men worthy to be called Irishmen in all New Zealand, accompany these gentlemen in their voyage as they thoroughly deserve.

MESSRS. MERCER BROTHERS, Princes street, report:—Fresh butter (in $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. and 1 lb. prints), best quality, 8d to 9d per lb.; ordinary butter, 6d to 7d per lb.; eggs, 8d; roll bacon, 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ d per lb.; good salt butter, in kegs, 6d per lb.; cheese, 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ d per lb.

The City Boot Palace in George street have just received a first-class selection of new boots and shoes, which they are disposing of at a very small profit.

The *Illustrated New Zealand News* for this month is just out, and contains some excellent views of this and other colonies.

Hally and Co. have opened new premises as hosiery and haberdashers at 95 George street. Patrons can depend on obtaining articles at lowest possible prices.

Rome, August 16.—It is asserted that the Vatican has determined to ask France for explanations in regard to the divergence between the terms contained in President Grévy's recent letter to the Pope and the instructions given to the French Ambassador at the Papal Court.

THE MESSRS. REDMOND IN DUNEDIN.

"THE IRISH LAND QUESTION."

(Dunedin *Morning Herald*, October 25.)

THERE was a large and enthusiastic audience at the Queen's Theatre last evening, when Mr. J. E. Redmond delivered a lecture on the "Irish Land Question." Councillor J. Carroll presided. In introducing the lecturer the CHAIRMAN remarked that the subject of the address was a most important one, as the land question was agitating the public mind in every civilised country at the present time; and in the Colonies it was our duty to prevent anything tending to monopoly of the land taking place and causing such disastrous results as in Ireland.

MR. REDMOND (who was heartily received) said that land reform constituted the second portion of the programme of the Irish National League. Happily, owing to the action of the united manhood of Ireland during the last three or four years, this question had been pushed on very far indeed along the road to an ultimate settlement, consequently it would not be necessary for him to go far back into the origin of the land question in Ireland, or to harrow the feelings of the audience by a recital of all the miseries and heart-burnings which in the far past resulted from the system. It would be sufficient to explain as clearly as he could what they were asking for to-day in regard to this question. In order to do that he would have to briefly explain what the League had succeeded in effecting during the last two or three years. Having shared in the struggle he was qualified to speak authoritatively. The land question in Ireland might be said to date from the first invasions of the English. From that period the land had been confiscated several times, and in Cromwell's time the land of Ireland was parcelled out amongst his successful soldiers. It was an absolute fact that a very large proportion of the present holders in Ireland owed their titles to their estates to ancestors who earned them simply as military marauders. The land system thus created was so vicious in principle and so brutal in practice that we looked in vain for its parallel in the history of the civilised world. As time went on things did not improve. If tenants were anywhere rash enough to reclaim or improve their lands they were forthwith obliged to pay over the full value of those improvements, in the shape of rack-rents, to their landlords. The latter, hated and hated by the people, began to live in large numbers abroad simply sending to Ireland to collect to the last farthing their exorbitant rack-rents. Poverty, misery, famine, discontent, crime, unsuccessful rebellion, followed in dismal sequence generation after generation. Then the process of the consolidation of estates began to creep in, and had gone on so steadily ever since that to-day we had the astounding fact that 740 men owned one-half of Ireland, and little over 10,000 men owned the whole of it. Every Act of the English Parliament was conceived in the interest of the landlord and against the tenant until 1870, when a Land Act was passed professing, at any rate, to protect the improvements of the tenants. But it left the old power of eviction and arbitrarily raising rents in the hands of the landlords, and proved a useless and hollow mockery. From that day to the establishment of the Land League, a period of ten years, no less than 81 Land Bills were introduced into the House of Commons to amend the Irish land system, and although everyone of them was supported by a clear majority of Irish members, they were all defeated by overwhelming majorities composed of Englishmen and Scotchmen. The most extreme of these measures was less revolutionary than the Land Act which, in 1881, they forced Mr. Gladstone's Government to carry, and they were all conceived in a spirit of conciliation towards landlordism. The fact was that at any time for 50 years before the establishment of the Land League the people would have been willing to make terms with landlordism. All they wanted was permission to live—permission to remain so long as they paid a fair rent in undisputed possession of their poor homes, dearer far to them than their palaces to the rich. Their *summa bonum* was fixity of tenure and sufficient food, and for generation after generation they begged for justice and held out the hand of reconciliation. But no, the absolute power of landlordism would not be yielded, and the hand of friendship held out by the people was rudely repulsed. It was repulsed once too often. Weary of begging and petitioning, with their intelligence awakening to the power which after all rested in themselves, a new spirit sprang to life amongst the people, and not one moment too soon they took from the standard of their enemies the watchword "No surrender!"—(applause). Henceforth they would demand their full right, and their right was the land. Fixity of tenure meant fixity of landlordism, and they would have none of it. Landlordism was stained with the blood of the people, and with one voice the cry went up to heaven that landlordism should go—"The Land for the People." The men who first raised that cry were few in number. At their head were Mr. Parnell and Mr. Michael Davitt (applause). They soon found that their words had awakened a responsive echo throughout the land; that, in fact, they had at their back the manhood of Ireland. They speedily assembled the leading men together, and the Land League was formed. From the very commencement the principles of the League were plain and unmistakable. The people—the tillers of the soil—should become the owners of it, but the titles of landlords to their estates were not to be inquired into; and with a sense of justice—nay, even of generosity—which the impartial historian of the future would record with feelings of wonder and admiration, the very people who had been plundered and oppressed and degraded and done to death by landlordism only proposed to resume possession of the land upon payment of its full honest market value to the landlords. They called upon the State to advance the money to enable this transaction to be carried out, as had been done in Prussia and other European countries, but meanwhile they called upon the people to combine and resist for the future the imposition of rack-rents. The scheme was denounced as revolutionary and communis-