



## H. A. C. B. SOCIETY

Established 1871.

Registered under the Friendly Societies' Act

**OBJECTS.**—To cherish a love for Faith and Fatherland; to extend the hand of fellowship to our co-religionists of every nationality; to render assistance and visit the sick and distressed; to help the widows and orphans of deceased members.

A FULL Benefit Member, on payment of a weekly contribution of from 1s to 1s 3d (graduated according to age), is entitled to Medical Attendance and Medicine for himself and family (children to be under the age of 16 years) immediately on joining. Also 20s per week for 26 weeks, 15s per week for the next 13 weeks, and 10s per week for a further period of 13 weeks, in case of sickness, and should there be a continuance of illness, 5s per week is allowed during incapacity as superannuation, provided he has been a member of the Society for 7 years previous to the commencement of such incapacity. On the death of wife, £10; at his own death relatives receive £20.

A Reduced Benefit Member, on payment of a weekly contribution of from 7d to 8d (graduated according to age), is entitled to Medical Attendance and Medicine for himself immediately on joining and a Sick Allowance of 10s per week for 26 weeks, 5s per week for the succeeding 13 weeks, when, if he be still unable to follow any employment, he shall be entitled to 2s 6d per week for another 13 weeks, and in case of additional illness, 2s 6d during incapacity, under the same proviso as in the case of full benefit members. On the death of a reduced benefit member his representative is entitled to the sum of £10.

Members of female branches contribute weekly (graduated according to age) from 7d to 9d, and receive benefits as follows:—Medical Attendance and Medicine immediately on joining, in case of sickness 10s per week for 26 weeks, 7s 6d for the succeeding 13 weeks, and 5s per week for another 13 weeks if still unable to follow any employment. On the death of a female benefit member her representative is entitled (if single) to £20, (if married) on the death of her husband she is entitled to £10. Should she die before him her representative is entitled to £20. Provided in all cases the Rules of the Society and the requirements of the Friendly Societies' Act are adhered to.

Twenty-five branches of this excellent Institution are now established in New Zealand, and every provident Catholic in the Colony eligible for membership should join and, combining as it does, the spiritual as well as the temporal, participate in its unsurpassed advantages.

Full particulars may be had from branches and from

P. KEARNEY,

District Secretary, Auckland.

### DEATHS.

**COLLINS.**—On the 7th July, at the George Hotel, Port Chalmers, Mary Martha, the beloved daughter of John and Isabella Collins; aged 5½ years.

**RYAN.**—On the 30th June, at the Bendigo Hotel, Alexandra South, L. G. Ryan, in his 59th year, fortified by the rites of Holy Church.—R.J.P.

# The New Zealand Tablet.

FIAT JUSTITIA.

FRIDAY, JULY 23, 1897.

## MR. BEN TILLET AT THE CITY HALL.



**T**RADER Unionism *versus* Industrial Anarchy" was the subject of a very interesting lecture delivered by Mr. BEN TILLET on Wednesday of last week. On such a subject there are few men who could speak with greater authority than Mr. TILLET. He has himself risen from the ranks of labour and has shared the hardships of perhaps the worst paid and most hardly treated class of English labourers. He was sent to work at the age of seven, and worked in a brickyard for the modest sum of one and ninepence a week. His employer wanted him to work for one and sixpence, but with characteristic courage young TILLET struck for the odd threepence and got it. At the age of twelve he took to the sea, and, after some experience on board a fishing-smack and afterwards in the Royal Navy, he finally settled at the Docks, where he gradually formed the Dockers' Union which

has now some 23,000 members. He became general secretary of the Dock, Wharf, Riverside and General Labourers' Union, and was one of the leaders of the great Dock Strike in the course of which he showed great power of organisation. It is scarcely a year, moreover, since Mr. TILLET suffered a short but painful imprisonment in the cause of labour. In August of last year he was solicited by the Antwerp dockers to give them advice as to the best mode of obtaining better conditions for their work in the Antwerp docks. Having crossed over to Antwerp he was met on his arrival by a number of the Antwerp police, who warned him that he would not be allowed to address any public meeting in Antwerp, or to promote a public agitation there. Mr. TILLET promised not to address a public meeting but he twice met the leading dockers in a private room and gave them the benefit of his advice and English experience. For this he was arrested and locked up in a filthy cell, and was kept there in physical conditions so disgusting as to make him very unwell for several days. Having done and suffered so much in the cause of labour Mr. TILLET has certainly every claim to be listened to with attention and respect. He has, besides, qualities of his own as a public speaker which will enable him to win the ear of working-class audiences wherever he may go. His features are interesting and thoughtful, his bearing is resolute but at the same time open and courteous, and his whole expression is suggestive of thorough-going earnestness and sincerity. He possesses a fairly powerful and resonant voice and has a remarkable command of clear, terse and vigorous English. It is a pleasure to hear him speak, and whether one agrees with him or not, one cannot but feel that he is deeply possessed with a sense of the wretchedness of multitudes of men and women of his own rank in life, and is filled with an honest and heartfelt desire to alleviate, and if possible remove, their hardships. So far as Mr. TILLET'S remarks on Trade Unionism are concerned we do not see how any true friend of the working-classes can do other than endorse his sentiments and heartily support his advocacy of closer and firmer organisation amongst the labourers of New Zealand. It is perfectly true that the labouring classes here are very much better off than their comrades in the Old Country. It is true that we have a legislation which, as Mr. TILLET says, is second to none in the world. But it is also true that perfect justice and freedom for the working classes are by no means universally secured, and serious evils still exist. It is a fact, for example, that there are employers in Dunedin who are found willing to employ girls, under the guise of "apprentices," for half-a-crown, and in some cases for nothing, a week. It is a fact that in very many cases union wages are only nominally paid, a substantial refund being privately made by the employe, who is afraid to openly declare that he or she does not receive the full union wage. It is a fact that amongst some classes of labourers, and notably amongst the miners on the West Coast, there has been so much terrorism on the part of the employers that the men are positively afraid to form a union. This is a state of things which certainly ought not to be, and the evils we have mentioned will gradually become more intensified unless the men make a firm stand and band themselves together everywhere in close and compact organisation. We wish Mr. TILLET all success in his efforts in this direction, and we hope the men everywhere will loyally respond to his appeals.

Having said so much we feel bound to add a word or two in the shape of criticism of Mr. TILLET'S address. In the first place we would point out, what his own experience will, no doubt, soon show him, that language which may be perfectly true regarding the old country, is often by no means applicable to the state of things in this Colony. We give one example. Though at the beginning of his lecture Mr. TILLET expressed the opinion that we had a "labour legislation second to none in the world," yet towards the close of his address he told his hearers that the capitalists "have collared the municipal institutions of this country, they have collared the Parliament, they have collared the pulpit, they have collared the Press, and last but not least, they have collared you." If the capitalists had really "collared" the Parliament we would hardly have had a "labour legislation second to none in the world," and we should say that the statement as applied to New Zealand, contains only a very small element of truth. In the second place, we are sure Mr. TILLET'S usefulness as a labour leader in New Zealand would be greatly increased if he could manage to steer clear of the very violent language into which he is

Smoke T. C. Williams' JUNOITOBACCO.  
COMPARE SIZE AND WEIGHT OF STICKS.