

important legislation may be introduced during the session as to which the constituencies have not had an opportunity of expressing their mind. In such a case it would be easily possible to carry a bill which might be entirely opposed to the wishes of the people, and the Referendum, which enables not only either House but also 10,000 ordinary citizens to demand that a poll be taken, supplies an effectual remedy against such an over-riding of the popular will. In the second place, the Referendum furnishes a means of effectually settling the difficulties so often experienced in connection with the Upper House. Whether or not it will ultimately lead to the abolition of the second chamber is a question which it is not necessary now to discuss. It is sufficient to note that the Referendum would prevent even the possibility of a deadlock between the two Houses, and the provision in the New Zealand Bill will make it absolutely impossible also for the Upper House to continually and persistently thwart the plainly expressed will of the popular chamber. Finally, the Referendum is in entire harmony with the genius of our constitution and with the democratic spirit of the age. Already, if important legislation, on which the constituencies have never had an opportunity of expressing their opinion, be introduced during any session, it is recognised as being entirely within the province of the Upper House to withhold its assent until an appeal shall have been made to the country on the question. This is in reality a roundabout and clumsy form of referendum, and the adoption of a direct poll of the people is merely the application of the same principle in a more simple and effective way. The truth is that there must exist in every constitution some authority which has the power to impose a final veto, and to which the ultimate appeal must be made, and what can be more fitting in a democracy than that that power should be placed, as it is by means of the Referendum, directly in the hands of the great mass of the people.

THE Most Rev. Dr. Verdon completed his visitation of the Gore district on Tuesday and returned to town by the evening express. Full particulars of the visitation will appear in next week's issue.

IN order to find room for arrears of correspondence we have been compelled to hold over our usual story and some general reading matter. The bulk of the correspondence which was held over from last week appears on pages 24 and 25.

TWO young ladies attending the High School, Convent of Mercy, Colombo street, passed the recent Canterbury College examination of music—Miss Florrie Hunt, intermediate grade; Miss Alice Scott, junior grade.

DURING the week we have received parcels of stamps for Father Kreyenborg's mission from the following Miss Sarah McCormick, Dillman's Road, Kimara, and two parcels (names of senders not being given) from Waiata.

WE publish elsewhere the full text of the sermon delivered by Archbishop Redwood at Pontifical Vespers on the occasion of the opening of St. Patrick's Cathedral, Melbourne. The correspondent of the Sydney *Trojan*, referring to the discourse, says—"The eloquent and gifted pulpit orator riveted the attention of a congregation which exceeded, if anything, the vast concourse of the morning service.

THE entertainment to be given by the pupils of the Christian Brothers' School on Friday of next week, promises to be a rare treat. A mere glance at the comprehensive programme to be presented shows how entirely abreast of the times the Brothers are in the department of what may be called school accomplishments, as well as in the sphere of ordinary every-day school work. In addition to the usual musical items, consisting of solos, duets, and concerted pieces by a specially-trained singing class, there is to be a varied and interesting programme of gymnastic exercises, including musical drill, dumb-bells, wands, clubs, parallel bars, and tableaux. The dramatic portion of the entertainment comprises, amongst other items, two scenes from Shakespeare's "Julius Caesar," and though this is a somewhat ambitious effort, we are quite sure that the boys will give a performance that will be creditable to themselves and worthy of the high reputation of their teachers. Apart from the undoubted claim which the devoted Brothers have on the generous support of the Catholic people, the programme presented is in itself sufficiently attractive to draw a bumper house, and all who visit the City Hall on Friday night can rely upon witnessing a thoroughly enjoyable and thoroughly up-to-date entertainment.

Says the *Melbourne Advertiser* of Nov. 13.—Last week we gave a list of the donations received at the opening of the Cathedral,

which reached £7000. This week we are informed that since Sunday week no less a sum than £1300 has come to hand, making the offering to the Cathedral £8300. Much credit is due to the Rev. J. McCarthy (Archbishop's secretary), Messrs. T. P. Carney, M. Moran, Dr. A. L. Kenny, K.G.G., and other members of the building committee, for the successful manner in which the arrangements connected with the opening of the Cathedral were carried out.

The remains of the late Mr. John Russell (says the *Taranaki Times*) were buried in the Ahaura cemetery on Monday, the Rev. Father Servajean officiating at the grave. There was a very numerous attendance at the funeral testifying to the respect in which he was held both in town and in the country. He arrived in the colony from Australia about 28 or 30 years ago; worked at his trade both at Nelson and Reefton, and was for some time with the late Mr. John Reid before he started in business for himself at Ahaura. Owing to failing health during the last two or three years he had to dispose of his property. Mr. Russell leaves no relatives in the colony, but a brother resides at Ararat, one brother at Draper's Town, Ireland, and two brothers in the United States, all of them being blacksmiths.

A WEST COAST exchange gives the following extracts from the Government Inspector's reports of the Greymouth and Brunner Catholic schools. Both schools are under the charge of the Sisters of Mercy, Greymouth, and the report tells its own tale as to the efficiency with which they are conducted:—The Brunner Catholic school was examined last week. The Inspector reports that the result of the examination is very satisfactory, there being only four failures. Sixty one children were presented. St. Patrick's and St. Mary's Convent schools were examined on Thursday and Friday last. The Inspector reports that the discipline of the schools and the manners of the pupils are excellent, that the progressive character of the work is most satisfactory, no subject showing such weakness as to call for special comment, and that he is much pleased at the continued success of the pupils. 141 children were present at the examination, all of whom passed but six, which gives nearly 100 per cent of passes.

LAST evening (says a Wellington exchange), after the meeting of the Wellington branch of the Amalgamated Society of Railway Servants, a presentation took place at Mr. Dealy's Railway Hotel. The branch presented Mr. and Mrs. Dealy with a handsome clock, and Mr. Stephen Dealy with a case of silver-mounted pipes and cigar-holders, as a token of regard for the kindness extended to the branch whilst holding its meetings at the hotel; it having been decided to hold future meetings in a room at the railway station. The presentation was made by the chairman, Mr. W. Austin, who reminded the members that the first meeting of the Wellington branch was held in the Railway Hotel. Mr. James Dealy responded, thanking the branch on behalf of his wife, himself and brother, and wishing the branch every success in the future.

A NUMBER of Alexandra gentlemen assembled at the Bendigo Hotel, Alexandra, on Tue-day evening, to welcome Mr. McAllen the new proprietor; and at the same time present him with a gold watch, the gift of the residents of Lawrence. Amongst those present were Messrs. Theyers, Gards, Rivers, White, Murray, Kolman, Butler, Grunstone, Nieper, Ryan, Mill, Roberts, Hutton, McCallum, Beck, Bidley; and amongst the visitors were Messrs. Hazlett, Johnstone, and Purvis (of Dunedin), and Mr. H. Hart (of Lawrence). Mr. Jos. Rivers, J.P., was voted to the chair, and on behalf of the subscribers presented Mr. McAllen with a gold watch as a small token of the esteem he was held in throughout the Lawrence district. Mr. McAllen, in a neat speech, thanked those present for their hearty welcome, and expressed his sincere gratitude to the Lawrence people for their valuable gift. The watch and good wishes he would always treasure as a memento of the five happy years he had spent among the people of Lawrence.

Says the *New Plymouth Daily News*:—Mr. Lawrence Milmo, of Hawera, kindly gave the lady boarders of the Convent an outing on Tue-day, driving them in a four-in-hand to the breakwater where they visited the s.s. Mahinapua. They were then driven round the town and suburbs, and enjoyed themselves thoroughly.

THE entertainment in aid of St. Joseph's building fund, in Tanner's Hall on Monday night (says the *Wahiti Miner* of the 13th inst.), was largely patronised by the public, who always anticipate with justice a first class fare when the Catholics are the providers. Mr. H. L. Hinks took the chair and made a few appropriate introductory remarks, and then called on Miss Power for the overture, a pianoforte solo, rendered with great skill and expression. "Ould Ireland" gained Miss Hackett an ovation, which was followed by "He hasn't been well since," a most amusing production, in which Mr. Montague showed elocutionary powers far above what we are used to. Our ever popular "Katie Fitzpatrick" could not fail to

CLOSE YOUR EYES to Quality and the world is full of Cheap Things. Low Prices get Customer, but it is Quality that keeps them. This is proved by the Enormous Sale of **TIGER BLEND TEAS**. They are old in popularity, but ever young in memory. If you do not use them begin at once.