

universe there was even, unconsciously by commerce, some mutual helpfulness between them. How then? Simpleton! their governors had fallen out; and, instead of shooting one another, had the cunning to make these poor blockheads shoot.

It is high time that the rulers of the world saw the necessity of putting their men to some better use than to 'blow the souls out of one another.'

It was at first regarded as rather suspicious that the proposal for discussing the question of disarmament should have come from the Czar, the member of a dynasty whose traditions had always been in the direction of spreading and consolidating in every possible way the dominion of the Russian Empire. People began to wonder what was behind it all. There is a good deal of truth in the view of the peace question expressed by an intelligent costermonger. 'When me and my old woman 'as a row,' said the coster, 'I allus notice that the one wot propoges peace is the one wot 'aint got 'old o' the poker.' It was not, however, the want of the poker that inclined the Czar to peace. He was anxious for disarmament for the simple reason that it costs Russia far more to keep up the present state of things than it costs any other country. The Czar possesses, and has to maintain, the largest standing army on earth. Every year 280,000 conscripts join the Russian forces, which, in time peace, stand at 1,000,000 men. On a war footing this would be increased to 2,500,000 men. The calling out of the reserves would bring it to 6,947,000 well-trained soldiers. The maintenance of its present military system costs Russia 51½ millions a year, and that item is sufficient in itself to make the Czar sincerely anxious for a change. He has shown himself energetically determined on peace. His good faith in the matter is now practically beyond question. It is to his energy and perseverance that the Conference owes its very existence. It is he who prepared the proposals to be discussed at the gathering. The programme under consideration comprises the following sections: international disarmament, the laws of war, mediation, and arbitration. We learn from the cables that the last two subjects, probably as being debatable, are to be placed in the forefront. When they are disposed of, the more knotty questions regarding the laws of war and the reduction of armaments will be tabled for discussion.

What will be the outcome of it all? We must say at once that we cannot share the sanguine hope of those who think that the Conference will usher in an era of universal peace. We do not believe that the Congress will bring about disarmament, still less that it will devise a scheme which will prevent or put an end to war. But it may do good work, even though it fail to accomplish all that our benevolent dreamers expect. Although general disarmament is out of the question, there is no reason why the representatives at the Conference should not arrive at an understanding not to increase for a fixed period the present effective strength of the armed military and naval forces, and at the same time not to increase their military budgets. It is practically certain that the laws of war will be materially modified in the direction of mitigating its horrors and in the direction of abolishing privateering and maintaining the absolute neutrality of merchandise which is not contraband of war. It is perhaps impossible to form any international tribunal which would serve as a substitute for mighty armies and the copious blood-letting of a modern war. But some scheme may be devised for referring small, but irritating questions (such as those connected with boundaries, fisheries, and the lesser disputes arising from breaches of treaty obligations) to a regular court of arbitration. If the Peace Conference accomplishes even this much it will have done useful work. It will have brought us at least a step nearer to the good time coming when 'nation shall not rise against nation, neither shall they exercise war anymore.'

The attention of capitalists and others is directed to the sale of valuable freehold properties, situated at Port Chalmers and North East Valley, to be held by Messrs James Samson and Co., at their rooms, Dowling street, Dunedin, on Wednesday, June 14th. The sale is by instruction of the Public Trustee as trustee in the estate of the late Susan M'Lauchlan, and all particulars can be obtained from the Public Trust office, Dunedin, or from the auctioneers. Among the properties to be offered is the Marine Hotel, Port Chalmers, consisting of 17 rooms, and subject to a lease, which expires in July, 1901. The other Port Chalmers properties comprise four dwelling houses and livery stables.*

DIOCESE OF DUNEDIN.

Thirteen Children of Mary were consecrated at Mosgiel on last Sunday. The function was conducted by the Rev. E. O'Donnell.

The drawing of the Art Union in connection with the bazaar in aid of St. Patrick's Basilica, Oamaru, will take place on Thursday, June 8.

The Very Rev. P. O'Leary, Senior Dean of Maynooth College, Ireland, who is on a tour around the world, arrived in Dunedin on Tuesday, and was the guest of the priests at the Bishop's Palace during his stay here. He left for the North by the Waikare on Wednesday afternoon.

On Tuesday morning a solemn Requiem Mass was celebrated for the repose of the soul of the late revered Dr Moran, Bishop of Dunedin. The occasion was the fourth anniversary of his death. The celebrant of the Mass was Rev. Father Murphy; deacon, Rev. Father Lynch (Palmerston); sub-deacon, Rev. Father M'Mullen (Port Chalmers); Master of Ceremonies, Rev. H. W. Cleary. The Rev. E. O'Donnell was also present. The solemn music proper to the occasion was very devotionally rendered by the choir of the Dominican nuns. The children of the Catholic schools and a fair number of the adult laity were present at the Requiem.

A concert, in aid of the local Catholic Church, was given in the Athenæum Hall, Hampden, on Friday evening. The weather was not all that could be desired, still there was a large attendance. The Mayor (Mr. Murott) presided, and introduced the performers, a number of whom were from Dunedin. The first portion of the programme consisted of a pianoforte solo by Miss A. Culling, a violin solo by Mr B. A. de Lautour, and songs by Miss Oliver, Messrs J. C. and C. D. Morton, and G. Meek. The second part opened with a violin solo, contributed by Mr Himmel. A violin solo by Mr A. B. de Lautour followed, after which songs were given by Mrs Woods, Miss Oliver, Messrs Morton and Meek. A comic duet by Messrs Morton and Meek brought the concert to a close. After the singing of the National Anthem the hall was cleared for dancing, which lasted for a few hours, Messrs de Lautour and Himmel supplying the music, and Mr D. Howie acting as M.C. Light refreshments were provided by the ladies of the congregation.

It is with deep feelings of regret that we record the demise of Mr Denis Flannagan, second son of Mr P. Flannagan, which took place at Gore on Saturday morning after a brief but painful illness. The deceased gentleman was not of iron constitution of late years, and on the Queen's Birthday took part in a shooting expedition—a circumstance that undoubtedly accelerated his lamentable death. Notwithstanding the kindly care and attention of his relatives and friends, and the unremitting medical skill of Drs Donaldson and Copland, the sufferer passed away. Deceased was (says an esteemed correspondent) a model and estimable citizen, a diligent, conscientious and persevering Christian man. Many were the kindly sympathetic messages received by the relatives of the deceased, which, though a matter of deep consolation and regret, tended in no small degree to assuage the grief into which the bereaved family was so suddenly thrown. Requiem service was celebrated at St. Mary's Church, Gore, on Monday morning, and was largely attended. The Rev. Father O'Donnell was celebrant. The remains of the deceased passed the last earthly portals on Monday afternoon, and were laid to rest in the Gore Cemetery, amidst the tears of a mourning throng. The ritual was impressively performed by the Rev. Father O'Donnell, assisted by Fathers M'Grath, Coffey (Dunedin), and O'Dea (Invercargill).—R.I.P.

A very successful concert (writes a correspondent of the *Southern Standard*) was given at Mataura on Tuesday evening, May 23, in aid of Mataura Catholic Church. There was a large audience present. The proceeds will, we are informed, be devoted to the purchase of an organ. Most of the performers came from Invercargill, and the committee may be congratulated on the excellent programme provided. The first item given was a song by Mr. W. E. Gladstone, 'The roll call.' Miss Cameron was in good voice and sang the old favourite 'Killarney.' She had to respond to a well-merited encore. The quartette 'The last rose of summer' by Misses C. and E. Anthony, and Messrs. Anthony and Gladstone, gained favour with the audience. Miss Kirwan sang 'Lenore' in an artistic manner, and had to reappear. One of the best efforts of the evening was that made by Miss Ettie Anthony, who sang her song in a manner that gained her enthusiastic applause. The comic element was supplied by Mr. T. J. Anthony, who received vociferous applause. Mr. Claude MacGregor sang with good effect and was recalled: The good old song 'The village blacksmith' was sung by Mr. E. D. Cameron, who also gave another favourite, 'Father O'Flynn,' both songs being well received. The duet 'In the dusk of the twilight,' by Misses Anthony, was well sung. 'Susie-ue,' with an invisible chorus, was sung very effectively by Miss Cameron, and Miss C. Anthony followed with 'An Irish girl's opinion.' A quartette was given by Misses Anthony and Messrs. Gladstone and Anthony, and a comic duet by Miss Kirwan and Mr. Anthony, and the first part of the programme was brought to a close. The second part consisted of a laughable Irish comedy, entitled 'An Irish Engagement.' Messrs. Gladstone and T. Anthony in the parts of Mr. Bullfinch and Jim Rafferty respectively, kept the audience in a peal of laughter. Miss Dickison (Julia Bullfinch), Miss Kirwan (Nora), and Messrs. J. W. Proctor and R. N. Todd also sustained their parts well. The accompaniments were played by Misses Anthony, Cameron, and Dickison.

The members of the Dunedin Catholic Literary Society, at the last two meetings held in St. Joseph's Hall on the 22nd and 29th inst., have been engaged in a parliamentary debate. The attendance on both occasions was large, and included a number of ladies, who took a great interest in the debate. The motion before the meeting was:—That the return of the present Government at next general election would be in the best interests of the country.' The debate was undoubtedly the best that the Society have had for some years. Many of the speakers had evidently devoted consider-