

A GOLDEN OPPORTUNITY!

WESTERN AUSTRALIA has at last received the boon of Responsible Government. Her mineral wealth is now proved to be great and permanent. A wise policy of development and progress is being carried out by the new Government. Of the Loan of £2,000,000 recently floated on the English market (the amount asked for being over subscribed) £1,336,000 is to be spent in the construction of Railways, improvement of harbours, and the developing of the Colony's known mineral wealth. The Western Australian Land Company, Limited, and the Midland Railway of Western Australia, Limited, are also expending large sums in opening up the country. The climate of Western Australia in the south-west is genial and healthy, and, with an annual average rainfall of 42in., makes it unsurpassed for agricultural, pastoral, and fruit-growing pursuits. There can be no two opinions as to the soundness of an investment in West Australian land when obtainable in such good positions and at such low prices as the Estates we are at present offering. That the investment will prove reasonably profitable to purchasers is a certainty, but in all probability the profits will be VERY LARGE. The latest advices from Perth are very cheering, especially regarding the gradual discovery of the enormous mineral wealth of the Colony.

So surely as Sydney, Melbourne, and other capitals have made lightening-like progress, so surely will Perth and Albany, the principal towns of Western Australia, do likewise, and those who are now fortunate and far-seeing enough to invest in the great colony will undoubtedly reap a similar harvest to those who secured land in the before-mentioned places. To make these allotments (Building blocks from 75 x 150 feet) accessible to all we are now selling them at prices from £5 per lot. Terms from 10s monthly. Purchasers need not improve or reside on the land. Payment suspended in case of sickness or want of employment. All guaranteed land and specially selected.

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action, we defeated and relegated to the obscurity of private life which nature had wisely intended for him that vampire. There is a gentleman here (a voice, Mr Henley) who can tell you as well as I can how that snarling wolf belched forth his bigotry in vituperative language against the venerated head of the Catholic Church. We shall not forget that language, but we answer him that we Catholics are no longer to be despised by men of his stamp. We will stand together brothers all, and fight the enemy fearlessly. Having justice on our side, let us not fear. The British public, animated by a sense of fair play, will be made aware of the injustice to which they unwittingly have subscribed in the past, but, like honest Britons, seeing the injustice done to their unoffending neighbours, will join hands in removing this disability. I, therefore, propose this resolution:—'That we claim as an act of justice our due share of the taxes paid by all for the elementary education of the children of the Colony, and we are resolved to vote for no candidate who will not publicly pledge himself to support the Catholic claims.'

Father Foley, who seconded this resolution, vacated the chair, which was filled by Mr P. Henley, said:—"Ladies and gentlemen,—the Catholics contribute their share to the fund which goes to pay for the maintenance of what is called the public school system. Why not, therefore, receive a proportionate share of compensation in support of our schools, the maintenance of which should be added to the Government estimate on this matter of education. The only answer we receive to our demand for a subsidy of our schools is—Why not send your children to the public schools? This is no lawful excuse for the perpetration of the flagrant injustice imposed upon the Catholic body. Catholic parents are unwilling (where they have an opportunity of sending their children to private schools) to send their little innocent children to schools declared by Protestant as well as Catholic judges to be godless schools, which are the seed-plots of infidelity and immorality. This is the reason why we do not allow Catholic children attend public schools. This is the reason why Catholic parents and others, at very great expense to themselves, contributed so largely to the maintenance of denominational schools, that their children, dearer to them than life, may have an opportunity of being trained in the knowledge and love of God, and well grounded in those Christian principles which are the foundation of every good law and order. By our maintaining schools for the primary education of our children we save the Government of this colony something like £100,000 annually. Therefore we are justly entitled to receive that amount as compensation to the share we contribute in the public tax. As long as this state of things exist it is a public insult, and we would be unworthy of consideration were we afraid to make known our grievance. We protest against the injustice, and we will unite together, as our venerated prelates have advised, to record our vote in favour of any honest man, be he Protestant or Catholic, who, recognising the justice of our claims, pledges himself to use his influence if elected in advocating the same."

Mr D. McVeigh proposed the fourth resolution:—"That a committee be formed to see that every Catholic duly qualified be registered on the electoral roll of the district in which he resides." In doing so he said that the success of our movement depended in a great measure on carrying out the terms of this resolution. "It is well known that in the past there was a great deal of neglect in regard to having the names of Catholics entitled to vote duly registered. If every man so qualified does not see to this matter it will not be done, and when the polling day arrives an elector whose name is not on the roll, where it should have been if he took this hint, will look very small and awkward. Indeed, as the TABLET has said, such a one may sit down and eat humble pie on that day. Remember the timely warning given by the bishops and the Catholic Press: Register! Register!"

Mr J. Donaghy, in a few pithy words, seconded this resolution. The names of the following gentlemen were approved of as an

election committee:—Messrs T. Leatham, J. Sheehan, P. Henley, O'Rorke, Lloyd, Manion, M. Ryan, W. Bourke, Doherty, and D. McVeigh.

A vote of thanks, proposed by Mr Doherty to the chairman, terminated one of the most successful meetings ever held in the parish.

SIR THOMAS ESMONDE IN KILDARE.

ADDRESSING a meeting at Prosperous recently Sir Thomas Esmonde spoke as follows:—

Referring to the appointment of Nationalist magistrates, he said:—For my part, I do not set so very much store upon the appointment of Nationalist magistrates unless they are appointed in sufficient numbers. But inasmuch as it is the elementary right of the people to administer the law under which they live, it is to be hoped that Nationalist justices of the peace will be commissioned in every district of the country and from every section of the community hitherto unrepresented upon the bench—farmers, merchants, and artisans alike (hear, hear). For the time has surely come to remove the partisan stain from the characters of our local courts under which they have so long laboured, and which has so amply justified the saying that in them there is plenty of law for the rich man, but none for the poor (hear, hear). Germane to the magistracy, there is another long-standing grievance which calls for reform. I allude to the *personnel* of the grand juries. It is a monstrous anomaly that the taxes of our ratepayers should be levied and expended by bodies wholly unrepresentative of the vast majority of them, and over whom they have absolutely no control (cheers). Nothing has ever been done to redress this grievance. An attempt was made some years ago in this direction, an attempt in which I played an humble part, but the attempt failed. There is no reason now why the experiment of reforming the grand juries should not be made. It can easily be done by the appointment of Nationalist high sheriffs. These high sheriffs can summon grand jurors representative of every section of the community in their respective counties, and Nationalists in plenty can be found in every barony whose valuation entitles them to serve on the grand juries (applause). I come now, gentlemen, to another question of national importance, and one in which this locality is particularly deeply interested. I allude to the question of the evicted tenants, and I claim that on this most important question the Home Rule Government have also given proof of the honesty of their intentions (cheers). The Chief Secretary proposes the appointment of a commission to inquire into the circumstances of our wounded soldiers, with a view to reinstating them in their holdings, and thereby removing a pressing danger to the peace of Ireland as well as a source of most profitless expenditure to the Imperial taxpayers (hear, hear). You will mark how this proposal has been received by the various sections of our advisers. Some of them have laughed it to scorn, others have denounced it as an attack upon the most sacred rights of property. As for us, we welcome it as a prelude to peace, to justice to the restoration of our suffering countrymen to their homes (cheers). We anticipate important results from this commission of inquiry. Next session it will result in special legislation applicable to the case of those of them who have not previously come to terms with their landlords (hear, hear). Legislation in that direction is certain. The present Government is pledged to it. The Irish party will surely insist upon it, and my counsel to our wounded soldiers here to-day is simply this—"Be of good cheer, for the day of your deliverance is at hand" (cheers).