

JUST ISSUED.

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**DEATH**

O'CONNOR.—On August 5, at the Waverley Hotel, Auckland, Mary, relict of the late Daniel O'Connor, and mother of Maurice O'Connor, Auckland; aged 80 years.—R.I.P.

**IN MEMORIAM**

FALCONER.—In loving memory of Robert Augustine Redpath Falconer, who died at Oamaru on September 9, 1902.—R.I.P.

QUINN.—In loving remembrance of our dear little Katie, who departed this life on September 13, 1901, at Sacred Heart Convent, Wanganui.

The dear one is with Jesus now,  
Seeing Him face to face,  
Gazing upon His own beloved brow,  
Watching His smile of grace,  
Hearing the Master's voice in all its sweetness,  
Knowing Him now in all His own completeness.

Inserted by Mrs. A. Quinn and family, Wellington.

**MARRIAGE.**

CONDON—LOGAN.—On August 18, 1903, at St. Joseph's Cathedral, Dunedin, by the Rev. Father McGrath, Richard, youngest son of the late Redmond Condon, farmer, Rostellan, County Cork, Ireland, and brother-in-law of the late Captain John Mahony, who was drowned in the Black Sea (name of his ship, Queen of the Isles, of Liverpool), to Johanna, eldest daughter of John Horan, farmer Owaka.



To promote the cause of Religion and Justice by the ways of Truth and Peace.

LEO XIII. to the N.Z. TABLET.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 1903.

**THE PUBLIC SERVICE**



JOHN BULL used to smile in a superior sort of a way at the French nation because he thought it was always ready to go to war for an idea. The sturdy, practical Britisher is as great a glutton as his French neighbor for punishment. He bears bullet-wounds and bayonet-stabs with sunny resignation so long as they result in some tangible and substantial advantage—in slices of territory, spheres of influence, or fresh markets for his pots and pans and cotton goods and crockery ware and iron buckets. In the domestic politics of most nations, almost as stubborn struggles are commonly waged over place and pelf as over ideas—over principles of rule or methods of administration. The loaves and fishes are fierce subjects of dispute. The ideal method of distributing them

has hardly yet been found. The lack of it was one of the weak spots in Bellamy's 'Looking Backwards,' and it helped to break up every modern Utopia from that of the Shakers to the ill-starred 'New Australia' in the woods of Paraguay.

Despite New Zealand's advanced ideas in many other respects, its regulations for appointments to, and promotion in, the Civil Service are half a century behind those that are in force across the Tasman Sea in Victoria, and even those that have long prevailed in the fossilised conditions of the British Isles. Our lame and halt provisions in this connection cannot fail to be a source of clamor, protest, ill-feeling, and misrepresentation until they are radically altered. And there is wide scope for improvement and reform. The matter was agitated for a brief space in the House of Representatives last week. It took the shape of a proposal for the creation of a Board to deal with all appointments to the Civil Service. This was lost on the 'catch' division by a slender majority of four votes. The proposal is a good one, so far as it goes. The trouble with it is this—that it does not go far enough. Something more sweeping is required. The needs of the Service demand not merely a proper Board, but a good system for that Board to follow both in the matter of appointments and promotions. Our Public Service Board, when it comes, should be as free from even the suspicion of political 'pull' or pressure or control as the judges that with cold and passionless neutrality administer justice upon our Bench. But even the best Board working on a faulty or a rotten system is like a soldier with a cracked musket or a rapier of gilded corkwood, or like an artisan with damaged or worthless tools. The system which the proposed Board should be called upon to administer should require, as a fundamental principle, that (except in the case of known experts in certain branches) all permanent appointments to the Civil Service should be by competitive examination and that alone. The Act of 1886 provides for this. It only needs to be administered and to be made (with the exceptions mentioned) of universal application. 'All appointments to the Civil Service,' says one section of the Act, 'shall be by competitive examination, which shall be held periodically in the chief centres of population, and from the most successful competitors in the order of their merit shall be selected candidates to fill all vacant cadetships in the Civil Service.' There is a world of pathos in the story of the gallant and battle-scarred French subaltern who explained his baldness to the First Napoleon by attributing it to the fact that so many younger men had stepped to positions of high command over his head. This question of promotion in our Public Service is one that demands serious and immediate attention. And no reform can ever be deemed satisfactory or final until it embraces a just and rational scheme which shall place this thorny question of promotion on a right basis and beyond the reach of either friendship, enmity, or caprice.

The whole question of appointments to, and promotion in, the Civil Service is one that affects a large and growing class of our population. But there is no section of the community that has such an interest in a thorough-going and far-reaching reform as the Catholic body. Till comparatively recent years, admission to the Civil Service of New Zealand was—outside one or two Departments—practically barred against persons who professed the Catholic faith. Even in this year of grace the old and evil tradition is by no means confined. Our co-religionists find their way with less hindrance into State employment. But, relatively to the members of other religious denominations, their numbers are small. Worse still: practically the only occupations open to them are those of hard grind and meagre pay. The positions of ease, of command, of comfort, and of sound emolument are almost altogether closed against them, and apparently kept as preserves for the members of more favored creeds or no-creeds. And there are large branches of our Public Service where Catholics are, and have ever been, such

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