

NEW ZEALAND BOARD OF APPEAL IN ACTION.

Peter Barr, Chairman of the New Zealand Board of Appeal, has issued the following summary of the opinions upon which the board is acting, some of which may be interesting:—

(1) All three members of the Board must sit together when appeals are heard, and the decisions must be the opinion of the majority.

(2) The Commissioner cannot allow an appeal, but must forward it to the Board to be dealt with. He may, however, notify the Board that in his opinion the appellant ought to succeed.

(3) The Board may summon any officer whose evidence appears to be material to an appeal.

(4) It is for the Governor alone to decide whether an officer should be included in the administrative division or not, and there is no right of appeal from that decision.

(5) In the classification of the professional and clerical divisions, the Commissioner or the Board has power to fix a minimum salary lower than the highest salary in the class to which the officer belongs; i.e., at any of the sub-divisions of the class.

(6) The Board has power, in dealing with appeals from officers in the general division, to fix either the salary, increments, or maximum, as it thinks fit.

(7) The Board has power to consider appeals from officers in the general division for transfer to the clerical division, and to allow such appeals if it is of opinion that the officer would be more appropriately classified in the clerical division.

(8) In the event of an officer of the service, at a sitting of the Board, refusing to answer questions in connection with any matter affecting an appeal, the Board can only report him to the Commissioner as having been guilty of a breach of regulation 102.

(9) Where a notice of appeal is received by the Commissioner in a matter in which there is no right of appeal, the Commissioner is not bound to forward the notice of appeal to the Board, but is entitled to inform the appellant that there is no right of appeal, and decline to take any further action in the matter. If he did send on such a case and the Board held there was a right of appeal, he would be entitled, and, indeed, bound to disregard the decision of the Board of Appeal as being *ultra vires*. If any appellant is dissatisfied with the action of the Commissioner in such a matter, he can take proceedings in the Supreme Court to compel the forwarding of the notice of appeal.—The "Katipo."

THE MERIT SYSTEM IN POLITICS.

Civil service planks were included in the platforms adopted by the Illinois State Conventions of the three leading political parties, held last month. All declare for merit system extension.

Democratic.

The Democratic civil service plank, adopted at the Springfield convention, is as follows:—

"We favour immediate revision by the General Assembly of all civil service laws now on the statute books, to the end that the deficiencies, ambiguities and absurdities of such laws be corrected; and we favour extension of the revised civil service laws so as to make them applicable to all employees of Cook County not now under civil service."

The specific provision for extension "to all employees of Cook County not now under civil service" was placed in the Democratic platform through the efforts of W. Francis Corby, member of the Cook County Civil Service Commission.

Progressive.

The Progressive party civil service plank adopted at its Urbana convention is as follows:—

"Resolved, that we pledge the Progressive legislators to throw all their strength to strengthen the merit system in the civil service against the reactionary attacks made upon it by the Democrats in the last few years, and to extend civil service to Cook County, the Chicago sanitary district and the Chicago municipal courts."

Republican.

The planks dealing with civil service in the Republican platform, adopted at the Peoria convention, are as follows:—

"Federal Civil Service.—The Democratic party pledged itself honestly and rightly to enforce the civil service laws of the United States. It has debased the service, violated the letter and spirit of existing laws, refused to place offices created under new laws under civil service, and returned to the abandoned and reactionary practice that to the victor belongs the spoils.

"The Republican party pledges itself, if restored to power, to work for the following reforms, which it believes to be of paramount importance in the legislative and administrative work of the state: * * * The extension of civil service principles to all branches of the state service."