

New Zealand Enjoys Liberty Equal to Canada.

An considerable attention has lately been drawn to New Zealand on account of the progressive legislation here initiated, it may be of interest to compare the constitutional machinery by the aid of which this legislation has been effected, writes a correspondent of the Chicago Record. New Zealand is one of the "free colonies" that, possessing representative institutions, is bound to Great Britain by the most slender of restrictive ties. She is allowed the elector and honor of being under the British flag and is a component part of the empire with all the privileges and securities such a position brings, able to make her laws for internal government entirely without restraint. The only restriction is that the legislation must meet the approval of a representative of her majesty the queen, so that no law made in New Zealand may traverse the foreign policy of the empire or encroach upon the rights of any citizen under the flag.

At the head of affairs stands the Queen's representative, who is at present the Earl of Aufrery. His salary of \$30,000 per annum is provided by the colony. He is not only the leader of social and political life, but has important state duties. His proclamation assemblies, prorogues or dissolves parliament. In a political crisis, such as the downfall of a ministry, he calls upon some member of parliament to form a new cabinet. In the name of the Queen he gives assent to a bill passed by the general assembly and it thereby becomes an act to be placed on the statute book, or he refuses to do so if he considers it against the imperial interests.

A notable instance was that of the "Asteric" restricting bill, which, after passing both houses, was rejected by the Queen. Her majesty's advisers in Great Britain could not consider the matter. It was designed to check the too profuse immigration of Chinese, Syrians, Hindus and others who were flocking at that time to the colony, but was held to impose undue limitations on English subjects in Asia and was rejected. The governor also presides at the sittings of the executive council of the ministry; he signs the orders in council, the commissions for the military and appointments in the civil service, and generally acts as the Queen's representative.

The upper house is called the legislative council. It consists at present of 45 members, but is not necessarily that number; it cannot be less than 10, but is otherwise unlimited. The members are formerly appointed for life, and some of them still hold office under that tenure; but in 1891 a law was passed which makes the appointment one for seven years only. They are appointed nominally by the governor, but really by the ministry of the day; as a general rule such appointment is made only when a vacancy occurs, but many can be appointed as the governor can be persuaded to allow on good reason being shown.

The upper house in the past was supposed to represent the landed and capitalistic interest, most of these called to the honor being elderly men of wealth and position; but when the Liberals are in power their nominees dilute the mixture considerably. During the long reign of the Balance-of-Power ministry many men holding the advanced opinions of the present government have been put into the upper house, and it is owing to their presence in that body that progressive legislation has been achieved. This is an explanation of the threat sometimes made of "flooding the upper house" when bills passed several times by the house of representatives have been balked in the legislative council; it means that a sufficient number of people will be sent into the council to form a majority and overpower the resistance of those who would block the way.

The upper house has no control over what is called money bills, such as those of giving pecuniary relief to the colony that affects revenue or expenditure; their function is purely legislative. Thus, when the oblige pension bill was before them they discussed the principles of oblige pensions and could accept or reject the bill as a whole, but might not vote on the question of how much should be paid each pensioner or how long the pension should be allowed. Two members of the upper house are Maoris, who sit as representatives of the native race.

Legislative expenses receive \$750 a year, and their travelling expenses to and from parliament, with a free railway pass. They are supposed to be of independent pecuniary means and the money they receive is only to cover their expenses of residence in Wellington during session.

The lower house is called the house of representatives and consists of 74 members. Seventy of these are Europeans and four Maoris. The colony is divided into 58 rural electorates and four cities. Each rural electorates elects two members to the house and each of the four cities—Wellington, Auckland, Christchurch and Dunedin—elects three. In these elections every registered male who is eligible for a seat in parliament and every elector, whether man or woman, can vote in the choice of candidates. Of course, there are a few qualifications for a seat in the house. For instance a paid officer of the colony, whether in the civil or military service, is not eligible. The elections take place every three years if there is not a dissolution declared by the governor, and if a seat becomes vacant by death or resignation a by-election takes place.

Votes were formerly allowed on property qualification, so that one man might have a vote in several electorates. This plural voting was attempted to be met by having all the elections held on the same day, but even this gave rise to all sorts of clever evasions and by rapid transit of voters from one town to another, in all of which they held property. Now only one residential qualification is allowed, viz., that of having lived three months in the district. The principle is "one man one vote," whatever the rank or position, but there is also "one woman one vote," for in 1883 the women of New Zealand were admitted to franchise, and both by their intelligence and interest in political matters have justified their admission to full privileges as citizens.

No keen is the interest taken in New Zealand in political matters that it was found in the elections of 1896 that out of a total adult population of both sexes amounting to 326,638 the number on the electoral roll was 229,229. Special arrangements are made to include the votes of the wandering population, such as commercial travelers, seamen, sailors, etc., in order that they may not lose their electoral rights by absence. The only drawback is that the result of an election is not known at once, as sometimes there

Vast Acreage of Woodland That is Furniture-Now.

Great American foresters have gone indoors since the modern era began for time-saving, labor-saving and space-saving furniture says the New York Sun and Express. The highest development of the new movement is found on Manhattan Island, where time and space are so valuable.

In the lower end of the new island the new furniture takes the form of filing cases of wonderful complexity and capacity. They take the place of desks and confidential secretaries and are better than either, for they never forget nor mislay nor tell about valuable papers. In the upper end of the island the new furniture amasses with the variety of its uses. Not only are new styles of movable furniture being made, but thousands of houses and flats are being fitted with permanent articles, such as bed boxes and sideboards. Every year the moving population adds its furniture car bill smaller. Some houses for rent on the island now are so well furnished that the renter need pay more than a carpet. The line of demarcation between a private apartment house and a family hotel is becoming more and more indistinct.

Demand for Wood Great.

All of this furniture business has caused a wonderful increase in the amount of hard wood consumed. With the improvement of general conditions there has been a demand for more furniture, and the lumber industry is the greatest in the United States.

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Reggs and his wife arrived after an awful trip over the hot and dusty roads. The soles of their shoes were worn through, and they were almost in despair from fatigue.

They brought with them a bottle of "moonshine" whiskey to use in emergencies. When they got here they crossed the river to Cincinnati to see the sights. They took a few drinks of the moonshine to cheer them up, then they finished the bottle and became drunk. They were arrested for drunkenness while dancing in the streets of Cincinnati.

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The British Fleet Will Return a Call.

Boston, Aug. 14.—The English squadron, commanded by Vice Admiral Sir Frederick G. D. Bedford, K. C. B., will probably visit Boston about the second week in September. This will be the first time in many years that an English fleet has entered this port, and the compliment is probably directly due to the presence of Rear Admiral William T. Sampson, as commander of the Charleston navy yard.

A little over a year ago the United States fleet, under command of Rear Admiral Sampson, visited Bermuda and was given a royal welcome from the British admiral and his officers and men who were there to meet the English ships. The English ships will afford Admiral Sampson and the people of Boston a chance to return the courtesies shown the United States fleet.

Although Admiral Sampson has as yet received no official notice from Rear Admiral Bedford regarding the contemplated visit of the English ships, it is understood that the English admiral has sent word to Rear Admiral Sampson, commanding the North Atlantic squadron, to the effect that he expects to reach Bar Harbor about September 4. Admiral Farquhar, on the flagship New York, accompanied by other ships of the British fleet, will rendezvous at Bar Harbor on September 2, and will accord the visiting ships a most hearty welcome when they reach that port. It is expected that the visit of the English ships at Bar Harbor will last about a week and that they will then leave under escort of the American ships for this port. They are due here about the middle of the month. How long they are to remain in Boston has not been decided.

The arrival of the English ships will call for numerous social festivities, both at the navy yard and on board the ships. The navy yard will include an exchange of salutes and the usual formal calls between the officers. Many social people will extend a welcome to the visitors, and to themselves enjoy the festivities.

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"When we were less than a hundred feet away I saw a gigantic tiger shark rise and start toward him, and at the next instant the poor fellow shot down out of sight, life buoy and all, like a man going through a trap. We were so horrified that we simply sat still and stared, and what seemed to be two or three minutes elapsed. Then the life buoy suddenly appeared. It must have risen from a great depth, because it bounded at least four feet into the air and fell back with a splash. Of Erickson we never saw a trace. He went into that shark's jaw as surely as two and two make four.

"We rescued the other men all right," said Capt. McLaughlin in conclusion, "and Capt. Wilson is still alive to bear out what I say. That, gentlemen, is my reason for believing that sharks will attack human beings. However, if any one can tell me what became of Erickson, I am open to conviction."—New Orleans Times-Democrat.

Spoke at Antigonish.

Antigonish, Aug. 14.—(Special)—Notwithstanding a heavy pour of rain a very large gathering greeted Sir Wilfrid Laurier and party on the arrival of the special train from New Glasgow en route to Antigonish. This afternoon the premier made a neat and captivating address of fifteen minutes. His remarks were non-political and were equally applauded by Conservatives who were present in large numbers as well as Liberals. Afterward an informal reception was held. At 8 o'clock the premier was given another ovation.

A One Hundred and Fifty Thousand Dollar Fire.

Boston, Aug. 14.—Fire at 18 India street this afternoon caused a loss of \$150,000, chiefly to Timothy Gay & Co., wholesale grocers, who claim damage of \$100,000. H. M. Hyman, insurance agent, Geo. W. Reed, claims; E. G. Tuttle, owner of the Chelsea Express Dispatch Company, F. Fern & Co., and S. Levy & Co. are other losers. The loss on the building, owned by Timothy L. Smith, is \$15,000.

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Supplies for China.

Ottawa, Aug. 14.—Hon. Sydney Fisher has forwarded to the war office a tender by a leading Canadian contractor for the supply of a considerable quantity of hay for the use of British forces in China. Up to the present no definite arrangement has been made for Canadian food supplies as in the case of the South African war, but Mr. Fisher is carefully watching developments with a view to placing contracts in Canada.

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Home, Aug. 14.—At Tafo, province of Avellino yesterday, a man, suspected to have been the companion of Ernest, the assassin of King Humbert of Italy, was arrested. He was dressed as a priest, but was found in possession of a false passport. Letters in French and English were in his pocket.

Winter Coming.

Heavy frost was experienced in several sections of the province last night. At Boston a thick white frost covered the ground at an early hour this morning. At Ex River, about 40 miles up river from Fredericton, a very heavy frost was felt, which has damaged crops.—Fredericton Gleaner, Monday.

Shirt-Waist Trouble.

New York, Aug. 14.—Secretary Goldstein of the Vest Makers' Union today declared that the shirt waist agitation had so seriously affected the trade of waist-coat making that the proposed strike for high wages which was to have taken place this week had been indefinitely postponed.

Over Eight Millions in Gold.

New York, Aug. 14.—The largest shipment of gold bullion ever exported from this city in a single day will be shipped by the steamers Tatum and St. Paul tomorrow. The shipments will be as follows: Tatum, Magom & Co., \$7,000,000; Heintzsch, Kalkreuth & Co., \$500,000. Total, \$7,500,000.

Chess Player's Funeral.

New York, Aug. 14.—The funeral of Wm. Steinitz, for years the champion chess player of the world, was held today from an undertaking shop in Essex street. The services were under the auspices of the German Chess Club.

Bather Drowned.

Brantford, Mass., Aug. 13.—George B. Osborne, aged 19 years of Newton Upper Falls, was drowned here while bathing today. He worked for the John Hancock Insurance company of Boston.

To Reject the Charter.

Havana, Aug. 14.—The municipality of Havana has decided to reject the city charter unless the changes which it will recommend are adopted.

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