

HON. P. J. O'REGAN.

(See Frontispiece.)

Mr. O'Regan, whose work for the cause in New Zealand had made his name a familiar one wherever our cause is known, and whose contributions to the *REVIEW* have been of a most valuable and instructive kind, was born of Irish parentage in New Zealand in 1869. His parents were pioneer settlers in one of the bush districts where schooling was difficult, so that Mr. O'Regan is practically self-educated. He worked on his father's farm until he had attained the age of 22. But at an early age he began to take a great interest in politics and journalism, and in 1891 he became connected with a small newspaper in a mining district. In 1893 he contested a Parliamentary election, but was defeated. A few months later he was elected as a supporter of the Liberal Government, and was a member of Parliament for two terms, from 1893 to 1899. In the latter year he was defeated for re-election. He then took up the study of law, and was admitted to practice as a solicitor in 1905 and qualified as a barrister in 1908. He is at present engaged in the practice of law in the city of Wellington.

It is just twenty years ago that Mr. O'Regan read Progress and Poverty and became a Single Taxer. A strong and consistent upholder of our doctrines both in and out of Parliament, he has become widely known in New Zealand as a strong protagonist of the doctrines of Henry George. He has written many articles in opposition to Chamberlain's fiscal proposals and in advocacy of the new British Budget, and has lectured in many parts of New Zealand. He has advocated in writings and speeches proportional representation, referendum, and an elective ministry on the Swiss model. He has devoted himself to propaganda and has been out of politics since 1905 when he contested Wellington Central and polled 2,700 votes to the successful candidate's 3,100, his chances being spoiled by a third candidate nominated by the Independent Labor Party.

Mr. O'Regan is a Catholic and holds

strongly that religion should inspire the movement for social justice, and that incalculable harm is done by even the appearance of an alliance between religion and social injustice. In the days of the famous McGlynn controversy he maintained with absolute confidence that the deposed priest would be re-instated in his priestly office once the matter was reviewed by a higher authority than his Bishop. Mr. O'Regan was highly gratified when this prediction was fulfilled.

The splendid service which Mr. O'Regan has performed for the cause has often been at great personal sacrifice, and his name will be recorded high when the muster roll is called.

A FAITHFUL OFFICIAL REMOVED.

The removal by Comptroller Prendergast of Peter Aiken from his post as Collector of City Revenue and Superintendent of Markets, of N. Y. city, which responsible offices he had long filled under Comptroller Metz, with credit to himself and honor to his official superiors, took place last month, on the charge of "incompetence." It is to be regretted that the present Comptroller should have resorted to so unworthy a device to save his face in the desire to remove a true and tried public servant to make room for some party henchman. Those who know Mr. Aiken's conscientiousness and character of thoroughness in whatever he undertakes, which won him promotion and high personal compliment at the hands of Comptroller Metz, whose business success has at least demonstrated his ability to judge of the fitness of his subordinates, will indignantly scout the charge of "incompetence." Mr. Aiken's promotion was made in spite of serious political differences with Mr. Metz. And when it is known that Comptroller Prendergast refused to hear Mr. Aiken's defence on the ground that the "law did not require it," we can better judge of the real motive that caused the removal of this faithful public official.

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