

CONCERT AT TEMUKA.

(From the *Temuka Leader*.)

THE concert in aid of the funds of the Temuka Convent School, given by the school children in the Volunteer Hall last Wednesday night, was a great success. The Hall was crowded to its utmost capacity, and judging by the frequency with which the performance was applauded the audience were highly pleased. The hall was well decorated with flowers, and the stage was tastefully dressed, credit for which must be given to Mr. and Mrs. Beri and Miss Gaffaney, who worked hard on the previous day at it. Mr. Quinn, who occupied the chair, said he had great pleasure in presiding that evening. He hoped that they would remember the ages of the performers and be indulgent to their faults. He then spoke on the education question at some length, and said the Catholics of New Zealand were heavily handicapped. It was a surprise to him and to many others, how the Catholic schools maintained their own against the Government ones. Time after time the Catholics of New Zealand, from Southland to Auckland had presented petitions to Parliament, but they were taken no notice of—they were torn up and thrown into the waste-paper basket. There were men in the House who were inclined to do justice to Catholics, but they were in the minority, as the Catholics of New Zealand were also, and he would specially mention one member of South Canterbury—Mr. R. Turnbull. Notwithstanding the disappointments they had met with, they would still continue to agitate for their just rights.

The performance was opened with an overture played very nicely by Miss Quinn, after which Miss N. Murphy spoke a prologue with good effect. The words were appropriate to the occasion, and elicited great applause. The following programme was then gone through:—Full chorus of about 30 girls, "Beautiful Star"; dialogue, "Folly and Fashion," Misses Connolly and A. Murphy, and Master H. Louis; song, "He, She, It," the little girls; recitation, "The Boys' Lament," Master J. Connolly; solo with chorus, "Send for Mother, Birdie's Dying," Miss M. A. Connolly and girls; dialogue, "Pussy Cat," Misses C. Gaffaney and C. Ropplewell; chorus of boys, "Ten Minutes Too Late"; recitation, "The Sparrow's Nest," Miss L. Quinn; duet, "Friendship," Misses M. and M. A. Connolly; solo, "Papa, Stay Home," Miss Connolly; chorus of girls, "Come Birdie, Come"; dialogue, "The Choice," Misses A. Murphy and C. Gaffaney; comic song, "Dr. Quack," Master H. Louis; dialogue, "A Gift from Ireland," Misses M. and B. Connolly, quartette; "We'll all go a-Singing," Masters H. Louis, J. Clarke, J. Connolly, and T. Dunne; recitation, "Grandpapa," Master M. Demuth; solo, "Children's Voices," Master H. Louis; dialogue, "Mrs. Caudle's Umbrella Lecture," Miss McGrath and Master J. Clarke; duet, "The Vacant Chair," Misses M. A. Connolly and E. Demuth; dialogue, "Taking the Census," Miss A. Murphy, and Masters H. Louis and W. Jackson; and a full chorus of girls, "Far Away." Besides, two dramatic sketches were enacted: one entitled "The Broken Window," by Miss E. Gaffaney and the boys, and another entitled "Who is to Inherit?" by the girls. It would be impossible to particularise every item on the programme, which was certainly gone through in a manner that would do justice to adults. The singing of the children throughout was very good. In the choruses the voices blended beautifully together, the time was good, and the pieces were rendered as well as could possibly be expected from children so young. Miss Gaffaney accompanied the singers on the piano and greatly helped to achieve success. She played with great care and never so loud as to drown the voices. This is the great feature in an accompanist, and the way in which Miss Gaffaney observed this rule was worthy of great praise. The solos sung by the Misses Connolly and Master H. Louis were capitally rendered, and the encores were frequent, but in no case were they responded to. Misses C. and M. Quinn also played a duet on the piano splendidly, and won great applause. The most praiseworthy feature of the programme, however, was the drama "Who is to Inherit?" in which Misses A. Elkis, C. Gaffaney, Connolly, E. Connolly, M. A. Connolly, Demuth, M. Gaffaney, Brosnaban, and Fitzgerald took part. This piece was rendered excellently, and in it Miss M. A. Connolly, Miss Connolly and Miss Fitzgerald displayed much histrionic ability. The dramatic sketch, "The Broken Window" was also well rendered by a large number of boys, assisted by Miss E. Gaffaney, who showed great intelligence in the way she acted her part. Master Elkis acted the part of Judge, and preserved a grave and solemn look while the comedy in which he was playing a part, and which made the audience laugh loudly, was being enacted. He spoke his lines—which by-the-by were very long—well, and Master H. Louis also acquitted himself of his part capitally. The dialogues and recitations were spoken with great precision and clearness—in fact, the most marked features of the entertainment were the purity of pronunciation, the distinctness of articulation, and the general excellence which characterised the speaking powers of the children. Without a single exception they all spoke almost faultlessly, considering their ages, and showed that much pains and care had been expended on their training. On the whole, the Sisters of St. Joseph may be congratulated, not alone on the success of their concert, but also on the excellent manner in which their pupils acquitted themselves. At the conclusion of the programme Mr. Quinn, on behalf of the Rev. Father Fauvel and the Sisters, thanked those present, and the whole entertainment was brought to a close by the singing of "God Save the Queen."

Mr. John Bright has written a letter to Mr. Blennerhasset, candidate for Parliament from the city of Manchester, condoling with him on the opposition of the Irishmen in that city who are supporting the Tory candidate. Mr. Bright assures him that Codlin, not Short, is the true friend of Ireland, although Codlin has been fully as bitter a foe of Ireland in the recent as Short was in the more remote past. It is the Irish leaders, according to John Bright, who are the worst enemies of Ireland—all of which is cabled to America and respectfully submitted as a dazzling novelty in electioneering.—*Pilot*.

Commercial.

MR. DONALD STRONACH (on behalf of the New Zealand Loan and Mercantile Agency Company, Limited) reports for the week ended December 22 as follows:—

Fat Cattle.—135 were yarded for to-day's market, representing all qualities. Owing to the trade being fully supplied last week, competition was dull, and to effect sales fully £1 per head reduction on last week's prices had to be submitted to. Best bullocks brought £8 to £9 17s 6d; two prime prize bullocks up to £14 2s 6d; ordinary, £5 5s to £7 10s; cows in proportion. We sold on account of Mr. A. Grant, Temuka, and others, bullocks to £9.

Fat Calves.—Forty-one were yarded, and sold at 7s to 22s 6d.

Fat Sheep.—2,114 were penned; of these 250 were merinos (of poor quality), the balance cross-breds, of very good to prime quality. The requirements of the trade in these were easily satisfied, and this number being far in excess of what was really wanted, prices realised for those sold were 2s per head below last week's, besides a number had to be turned out unsold. Best crossbreds brought 8s 6d to 10s 6d; a few pens extra prime 12s 6d to 13s 3d; ordinary, 6s 3d to 8s; merino wethers, 4s to 5s. We sold on account of Mr. W. Cunningham, Pleasant Point, cross-breds, mixed, to 8s 6d; Mr. G. B. Watson, Deborah, and others, merino wethers at 4s.

Fat Lambs.—938 were penned. This number was also in excess of the requirement; a number were turned out unsold, while the remainder sold at 1s 6d to 2s under last week's rates, the range to-day being 4s to 8s 6d. We sold fifty at 7s 6d.

Pigs.—Eighty-seven were penned, mostly suckers, from 2s 6d to 7s 6d; porkers, 21s. Competition was inactive.

Store Cattle.—There would have been a better demand existing but for the want of rain, which is even now beginning to cause anxiety to a number of farmers. At sales held last week four to five-year-old bullocks realised £4 7s 6d to £6 7s 6d; heifers, £2 15s to £4 5s.

Store Sheep.—We are still unable to report any movement in this market. We have particulars of several choice lots for disposal, and are now prepared to suit buyers.

Tallow.—There is a good local demand existing, and all lots offered are freely taken up at—for inferior, 12s to 14s; medium, 15s to 17s; good to prime, 18s to 19s; and rough fat, at 7s to 11s per cwt.

Grain.—Wheat: The stock in hand for sale is very light, and scarcely any addition is being made by new arrivals. There is a slight inquiry for prime samples of velvet, but the transactions in this line have been very limited in extent during the past week. Inferior and fowls' wheat continues in good demand, and prices hardening. We quote prime milling 3s 3d to 3s 4d; medium, 3s 1d to 3s 2d; inferior, 2s 6d to 3s (ex store, bags weighed in).—Oats: Those are in very good request, and, although prices are firm at late quotations, we cannot report any advance. Good bright, short oats are in limited supply, and are likely to stand at present prices, if not advance. Consignments of inferior and discoloured continue to come forward, and as these are readily taken up, chiefly for local use, at low rates, values for best samples necessarily suffer. We quote short, bright milling, 1s 10d; short, bright feed, 1s 9d; medium, 1s 8d to 1s 8½d; musty and discoloured, 1s 3d to 1s 7d.—Barley: There is nothing to report in the barley market beyond the disposal of small lots for feed and milling occasionally at from 1s 9d to 2s 6d.

DUNEDIN PRODUCE MARKET, DECEMBER 23, 1885.

J. H. KILGOUR, grain and produce broker, reports under above date as follows:—Wheat: There is a fair demand for good milling parcels, and although arrivals have not been large, transactions having been confined to local buyers, prices remain as reported last week—viz., 3s 3d to 3s 4d for white velvet and Tuscan, and 3s to 3s 2d for red straw. Fowl feed is in active demand at 2s 3d to 2s 11d.—Oats: The market is quiet, and prices remain at quotations of last week—viz., 1s 9d to 1s 9½d for shipping parcels of bright short feed, and 1s 10d to 1s 10½d for milling; while for local purposes qualities sell at 1s 8d to 1s 8½d.—Barley: There are no transactions, and prices are nominally the same as recently reported. Chaff: Arrivals are quite up to requirements. Best quality, £3 2s 6d to £3 5s; inferior to medium, £2 15s to £3.—Potatoes: I have disposed of all fresh arrivals and picked lots of Derwents at £2 per ton, and local kidneys at £8.—Butter: Fresh, 7d to 7½d per lb for prime, and 6d for medium quality. The market for salt is considerably quieter, and 8d to 8½d is the highest price for prime, kegs extra.—Cheese: 5½d to 6d for best quality.—Eggs: Supplies are pretty full this week. My sales have been at 1s 2d, but to-day 1s 1d is the best price offering.

MR. F. MEENAN, King street, reports:—Wholesale prices including bags: Oats, 1s 6d to 1s 10d; wheat, milling 3s to 3s 4d, fowls' feed 2s to 3s; barley, malting 2s 9d to 3s (dull sale), milling 2s 0d to 2s 6d, feeding 2s; oaten hay, £3; rye-grass, £3; chaff, £2 15s to £3 5s; straw, £1 15s to £2; bran, £4 10s; pollard, £6; flour, £7 10s to £8; oatmeal, £10 6s to £10 10s; fresh butter, medium to prime, 6d to 9d; good salt butter, in demand, 8½d; eggs, 1s; cheese, 5d to 6d; bacon, 6½d in rolls, hams 9d; potatoes, Derwents, old, £2, new £8 for local kidneys.

Cork, Nov. 7.—The Danish steamer, Constantine, chartered by the cattle-dealers who are boycotting the Cork Steam Packet Company, to convey their cattle to England, while proceeding to Liverpool with a cargo of cattle grounded in Cork Harbor. She was subsequently floated this morning without injury to the vessel or cargo. The cattle-dealers openly charge the Loyalists with bribing the pilot of the Constantine to wilfully ground the vessel.