

a vase of paper flowers, charmingly designed; Miss Clara Cameron, raised bead work; Miss Mills, a card basket in raised bead work, and Honiton point lace and guipure antimacassar; Miss McLachlan, a chenille bracket; Miss Ahern, a cushion in raised bead work; Miss K. Cameron, a point lace antimacassar, and a rose tree in full bloom with most natural-looking paper blossoms; Miss H. Cameron, point lace, and a bannerette in chenille; Miss Sheedy, point lace; Miss Carroll, a magnificent mantelpiece border, and, in plain work, a night dress very neatly sewn, and richly embroidered; Miss Conway, a mantelpiece border; Miss O'Driscoll, wax flowers; Miss Browne, a cushion; Miss Hoare, lace. Very neat plain work was exhibited by the Misses Morrison, Hall, Columb, and Margetts. We append the prize list.

English.—Fifth Class: 1, M. O'Driscoll; 2, H. Cameron; 3, A. Conway; composition, Ada Conway. Fourth Class: 1, P. M. Hanning; 2, A. Watson; transcription, A. Watson; composition, M. Hanning; mapping, 1 P. A. Watson and 2 M. Ahern; distinguished, Misses Murphy, H. and C. Cameron, Mills. Third Class: 1, J. MacLachlan; 2, D. Yamm; 3, M. Brown; transcription, D. Yamm; distinguished, M. Browne; mapping, M. O'Neill. Second Class: 1, Mary Columb; 2, V. Perrin; distinguished, L. Hanning; 3, Anne Hall; distinguished Kate Cameron, C. Meenan; transcription, M. Hungerford. First Class: 1, K. O'Meagher; 2, E. Obren; distinguished, L. Roberts, W. Perrin, M. Fagan.

Arithmetic.—Fourth Class: 1 M. Conway. Third Class: 2, D. Yamm; distinguished, M. Dennehy. Second Class: M. Brown; distinguished, R. Mills, M. Morrison, M. Columb. First Class: L. Roberts.

French.—Fourth Class: 1, R. Day; distinguished, M. O'Driscoll. Third Class: V. Perrin; distinguished, M. Hanning. Second Class: M. Browne; distinguished, D. Yamm, J. MacLachlan. First Class: K. O'Meagher; distinguished, L. Roberts, M. Fagan.

Writing.—1, O'Driscoll; 2, M. Browne; distinguished, L. Hanning.

Catechism.—Boarders: M. Brown; distinguished, Misses O'Driscoll, Murphy, Hanning, Neale, Cameron, Perrin, W. Perrin. Bible history: K. Cameron, distinguished, Misses Murphy and Neale. Day pupils: M. Martin; distinguished, Carroll, M. and R. Mills, H. and C. Cameron, Dennehy, Ahern, Fagan, Morrison, Sheedy, Ada and Annie Hall, Mullin. Church History: Clara Cameron; distinguished, Misses Carroll, M. and R. Mills, Dennehy, H. Cameron, Ahern, Martin, Morrison, Sheedy.

Music.—(The first and second prizes had been kindly presented by Mr. G. R. West). 1, M. O'Driscoll; 2, M. Browne; 3, W. Perrin, Frazer, Duncan; distinguished, Misses Hanning and Williamson, Morrison, O'Meagher.

Singing.—C. Cameron: distinguished, O'Driscoll, Mills Conway.

Plain Work.—1, S. Carroll; 2, A. Hall; distinguished M. Morrison.

Fancy Work.—1, S. Carroll; distinguished, Misses Watson, Mills, Cameron; 2, C. Cameron; distinguished, Misses Hanning and Martin.

Mending Clothes.—J. MacLachlan; distinguished, M. O'Driscoll.

Order.—K. Cameron; distinguished, Misses Browne, MacLachlan, Watson, Mills, O'Neill.

Attendance.—K. Lees; distinguished, Misses Ahern, Dennehy, Yamm, Martin, Morrison, Columb, Mullins.

Politeness and Deportment.—R. Mills; distinguished, Watson, H. and C. Cameron, Conway, Mills, Martin, Day, Lees, Ahern.

Boards.—Politeness; Miss Murphy; distinguished, Misses O'Driscoll, K. Cameron, Browne, MacLachlan.

Flower Making.—K. Cameron; distinguished, MacLachlan, O'Driscoll, Neale.

Conduct.—Hanning; distinguished, O'Driscoll, Hanning, Browne, and O'Neill. Day pupils: Watson; distinguished, Conway, H. and C. Cameron, Lees, Mills, Day, Dennehy, Yamm.

Junior School.—Conduct: M. Columb; distinguished, C. Meenan, Annie Hall, L. Roberts, M. Fagan, Mullins.

The Bishop's prize for good conduct, awarded by the votes of the pupils, was conferred on Miss O'Driscoll, who was accordingly crowned with the white wreath prepared for this purpose.

NEW ZEALAND HIBERNIAN CATHOLIC BENEFIT SOCIETY.

THE usual quarterly meeting of the members of the St. Joseph's branch, No. 1, N.Z., Christchurch, of the New Zealand Hibernian Catholic Benefit Society was held in St. Patrick's Hall, Christchurch, on Thursday, the 6th inst. There was a fair attendance of members, the inclemency of the weather preventing many from attending. The most important business of the evening was the nomination of officers for the ensuing six months, and, judging by the many nominations received for the various offices, no doubt, in the election of same at next meeting of branch, a great deal of interest will be taken by the members, and, therefore, the contests for same should be very close.

The Branch is steadily increasing in strength and prosperity. Since the last quarterly meeting the number of members of the Branch has been increased by twenty-six. Twenty-four of these joined by clearance, and the remaining two were duly initiated as new members.

During the last six months this Branch of the Society has undergone some severe trials, chiefly through the fault of the late Secretary, and the state in which he left books of Branch; but, thanks to the energy of its members and the aid which it has received from the Executive Directory of the Society, and from one or two gentlemen outside its ranks, the Branch has borne its trials well, and now bids fair, if we may judge by its progress during last quarter, to become the strongest branch of the B. D. in New Zealand.

Commercial.

MR. DONALD STRONACH (on behalf of the New Zealand Loan and Mercantile Agency Company, Limited) reports for the week ending December 19th, as follows:—

Fat Cattle.—For the week's supply 156 head were yarded, consisting chiefly of good, with a few pens extra weight and quality. For medium to good, prices were about the same as last week, but for prime quality an advance was obtained. Best bullocks brought £10 15s to £14, and cows £10 10s to £12. We sold on account of Mr. Alexander Thomson, Kakanui, 30 bullocks at from £9 15s to £10 15s; Mr. McLean, Allday Bay, and others, 4 bullocks at £9 to £9 15s, 8 cows at £7 12s 6d to £12. We quote prime beef, 25s to 27s 6d; medium, 22s 6d per 100lb.

Fat Calves.—41 were penned, of which we sold 11 at from 10s to 24s each.

Fat sheep.—A moderate number came to hand—1710—consisting of 280 shorn merinos, 100 do. in the wool, 458 cross-breds in the wool, and the balance shorn. The trade bought freely, and prices showed a slight improvement on last week's. Best cross-breds, shorn, brought 17s 6d to 20s 3d; others, 13s to 18s 6d; do. in the wool, from 16s to 18s 3d; merinos, shorn, 8s to 11s; in the wool, 16s 9d. We sold on account Messrs. Millington Bros., Papakaio, 66 cross-breds, shorn, at 14s to 15s; Mr. William Dennison, Pukeuri, 30 cross-breds, do, at 13s 9d to 18s; and others, 40 shorn merinos at 8s. We quote mutton shorn, 3d to 3½d per lb.

Fat Lambs.—583 were penned. Competition was brisk, and all sold at an advance on last week's rates, fetching from 9s 6d to 15s. We sold on account of Mr. William Dennison, Pukeuri, 22 at 11s 6d; Mr. Watson (Pukeuri) and others, 78 at 10s to 10s 3d.

Fat Pigs.—123 were penned, and under spirited competition all were disposed of at from 14s to 63s each.

Store Cattle.—well-grown bullocks in forward condition are saleable, but inferior stores are not in much demand. Quotations are without material change.

Store Sheep.—Inquires are being freely made for young merinos and cross-breds of both sexes, and we are in negotiation for the sale of three or four large lots.

Wool.—Deliveries into store have been on a more extensive scale during the last few days, and we have decided to hold our opening sale, as advertised, on next Friday, when we will offer some superior wools in grease and scoured.

Sheepskins.—We offered a large catalogue at our weekly sale on Monday last, nearly all station and country skins. The usual number of buyers was in attendance, and competed spiritedly for merinos, but for cross-breds competition was dull, and prices lower, fetching from 1s 7d to 4s; merinos, 1s 1½d to 5s 8d; green pelts, 5d to 6d; lambskins, 8d to 11d.

Rabbitskins.—We report a fair demand, but owing to the supply of prime winter skins being all but exhausted, business is scarcely so brisk as a week or two ago. We offered and disposed of a catalogue of inferior and mixed lots on Monday last at for 31 bales, 2½d; do, 1 do, 10½d; DP, 1 do, 1s 2½d; 2 do, 1s 4d; do, 1 do, 1½d; do, 1 do, 2½d; G and P, 1 fadge, 3d; J, 1 bag, 2½d; M, 3 bales, 1s 1d per lb.

Hides.—The demand continues steady at late rates, viz., 2d for bulls, 2½d for out and inferior, 3d to 4½d for light up to heavy weights if clean and in good condition. We cleared out all to hand this week at the above quotations.

Tallow.—Quotations are unchanged—inferior and mixed, 17d 6d to 24s; medium, 25s to 29s; prime, 30s to 32s; and rough fat, 18s to 22s 6d per cwt.

Grain.—Wheat: Stocks of prime milling are being very much reduced by this time, and any such offering could easily be placed. Medium sorts are also more in demand, but soft or sprouted is still difficult to place, except for fowls' wheat, which is also only in feeble demand. We quote prime milling, 4s 1d to 4s 2d; medium to good, 3s 3d to 4s; inferior and fowls' wheat, 1s 9d to 3s. Oats: Large sales have been made during the week for export, simply owing to returning vessels preferring to accept low freights instead of paying for ballast; this, however, has no effect on prices lately ruling, which may be now quoted the same as last week, viz.:—Stout, bright, milling, 1s 9½d to 1s 10d; short bright feed, 1s 9d; medium, 1s 7d to 1s 8d; and musty and discoloured, 1s 3d to 1s 6d. We cleared out all in store at above quotations. Barley: We have no sales to report.

PRODUCE MARKET.

MESSRS. MERCER BROS., Princes street, report:—Fresh butter (in ½lb. and 1lb. prints), best quality, 8d per lb.; ordinary butter, 6d per lb.; eggs, 1s 1d; roll bacon, 7½d per lb.; good salt butter, in kegs, 6d per lb.; cheese, 5½d per lb.

MR. F. MEENAN, Great King street, reports:—Wholesale prices, Oats, 1s 6d to 1s 10d per bushel; milling wheat, 3s 6d to 4s 3d per bushel; fowls' wheat, 2s to 3s; barley, malting, 4s to 5s; milling, 3s to 3s 6d; feeding, 2s to 3s; hay, oat, £4 10s per ton; rye-grass hay, £4; chaff, £3 10s to £4; straw, £2 to £2 5s; bran, £4; pollard, £4 10s; potatoes, £2 to £2 5s; oatmeal, £10 10s; flour, £10 to £10 10s; fresh butter, medium to prime, 7½ to 10d per lb., salt, 8d per lb.; eggs, 1s per dozen; bacon, sides, 8½ per lb., rolls, 8d; hams, 10d; pork, 4½d; cheese, dull of sale, 4d to 6d.

We have received from Messrs. Henderson, Law and Co. two very neat and convenient almanacs, issued by the Royal Fire and Life Insurance Company.

Mr. William Reid, seedsman, Princes street, Dunedin, has issued an almanac ornamented with a beautifully designed border of white lilies.

Mr. John Graham's "Hot Springs Guide," for October, contains a quantity of valuable and interesting information, and some well-executed photographs—one of some men engaged in prospecting is especially good.