

McConnell, Byder, Joseph Sherlock, Naylin, Callaghan, M gee and Miller.

THE manner in which the opposition Press is backing up Sir Robert Stout's amazing appeal to the women of Wanganui shows the plight of their party. Arrogance and absurdity never had a more glaring manifestation than that in question. The *Otago Daily Times*, indeed, has the wit to acknowledge in effect that Sir Robert's claim to be Mr Ballance's legatee is preposterous, but tries to improve the shining hour by saddling Mr Seddon with a charge of dishonesty, and, by false pretences, flung the place his adversary claims. But it seems certain that, from anything of the kind, Mr Seddon has been saved—if only by his sound common sense. Egregious folly is the note of the situation, even though over-weening conceit may also have a share in it.

A REPORT (no doubt intended as a sort of advertisement), (says the *Catholic Times* of June 22) has been in circulation to the effect the M. Zola's book on Lourdes has been put on the Index. As a matter of fact, it has not been laid before the Sacred Congregation, but it has been pilloried by the Continental Catholic Press as utterly unworthy of the subject of which it purports to treat.

THE report by cable, received here last week, relative to the death of the Cardinal Prefect of Propaganda, has been contradicted—we hope with truth.

THE members of the Dunedin Catholic Literary Society are busily engaged in rehearsing a performance to be given in the Princess Theatre on Sept 7, in aid of the building fund of St Patrick's church, Dunedin. The play is Lover's "White Horse of the Peppers," a piece of historic interest and full of fun. The farce "An Ugly Customer" is to follow it. The theatre has been generously given free for the occasion by its proprietor, Mr Reynolds. A bumper house is expected and will certainly be well deserved.

IN referring last Sunday in St Joseph's Cathedral to the intention to erect a Catholic hall in Dunedin—of which mention has been already made in our columns—the Very Rev Father Lynch, Rector, explained that there was in hand for the purpose a sum of \$120.

WE are pleased to learn from a Westport correspondent that the Very Rev Father Walshe is nearly recovered from the results of his late accident. Pressure on our space obliges us to hold over our correspondent's letter, with other contributions, to our next issue.

T I M A R U.

(From an occasional Correspondent.)

THE election of officers of the local branch of the Hibernian Society took place at their last meeting, and resulted as follows:—President, T. Sheehy; vice-president, J. Sullivan; treasurer, J. Moloney; secretary, Mr Dennehy (re-elected); guardian, P. Keane; warder, F. Flannagan; sick visitors, P. Kane and W. Cunningham. The balance-sheet for the quarter then elapsed was brought forward, and showed the branch to be in a most satisfactory condition. Out of a total membership of 90 only 8 benefit members were unfinancial. The funds showed a substantial increase, while the amount outstanding in arrears was less than it has been since the branch was formed. It is surprising, in a district such as this where the membership should be doubled, that more do not avail themselves of the benefits of the society, and make provision against those casualties in life to which they are liable. The benefits are equal to those of any other benefit society, and the members are linked together by the strong bonds of religion and nationality.

The Rev Father O'Sullivan, of the African Mission Society, has paid us a visit, and I learn has been very successful in the object of his visit—the collecting of funds in aid of his society. He preached on Sunday (29th July), and gave a graphic description of the hardships and privations the missionaries have to endure in the malarial districts of Central Africa, the mortality amongst them being enormous. In the evening he preached an eloquent sermon on the Blessed Virgin, and established himself at once as a preacher of no ordinary merit. On Friday evening last Father O'Sullivan delivered a lecture to the Aloysian Society on "The Pyramids of Egypt." Having personally visited the pyramids the rev lecturer gave a vivid description of what he saw, and quoted from copious notes taken at the time of his visit. The largest pyramid (Cheops), which covers an area of 13 acres and is 700 feet high, was graphically described. The Rev Father ascended the wonderful structure, the top of which is only 32 feet square, and the description of the view from the wonderful height was interesting in the extreme. A vote of thanks to the lecturer, proposed by Rev Father Hurlin, and seconded by Mr T. Harvey, was carried amidst rounds of applause. The hall was fairly well filled, a large proportion of ladies being present.

Your Christchurch correspondent has given South Canterbury a friendly hint re establishing a branch of the Irish National Federation. From my own knowledge I can say it was mooted here some weeks since, and I think that some decisive steps in the initiative will be taken very shortly. As far as Timaru is concerned it has always given a good account of itself on previous occasions when a demand has been made for assistance on behalf of the National movement, and I am sure the Irishmen of South Canterbury will not be behind on this occasion. The objects of the I.N.F. are such as to commend the institution to all Irish Nationalists of any creed—It is unsectarian; Home Rulers of any nationality may join, and the subscription is within the reach of all. The monies subscribed are to be used in assisting the evicted tenants, augmenting the Parliamentary fund, and generally providing the Irish Party with the sinews of war, to continue the struggle for Home Rule. Justin McCarthy has appealed to Irishmen all over the world for assistance, and when we consider the loyalty and industry of his followers, some of whom through their constant attendance at Westminster and their fidelity to their leader, suffer considerable pecuniary loss, surely we ought to try and do the little we can do to assist them. I hope in my next letter to be able to say that a branch has been started, and I do not see, if Michael Davitt is to be welcomed by branches of the Irish National Federation in the chief cities and towns of New Zealand, why Timaru should deny itself the privilege of doing a similar honour to a patriot who of all others has a singular hold on the affection and admiration of all true Irishmen.

The celebration of Arbor Day was carried out with great *éclat*. A tug-of-war between the public school and the Catholic boys took place, and resulted, after a four minutes tussle, in a win for the Catholic boys—young Hibernians.

High Mass was sung by the Rev Father Pertuis on Sunday, the 5th, the choir rendering Winter's Mass. Our church of the Sacred Heart can now boast of possessing a choir which, I believe, is second to none in the Colony, with a magnificent organ, an accomplished organist, a well balanced choir, and a musician of the first rank as conductor. It is unnecessary to say that the beautiful music of the church will be faithfully and artistically rendered. One item in the singing of the Mass which deserves special mention is the beautiful chanting of the "Vere dignum et justum est," with organ accompaniment, the devotional chanting of this Gregorian chant, blending with the sweet tones of the organ, is strong enough to rouse devotion in an anarchist. The Rev Father Hurlin chanting the Preface is one of the musical items of of the Mass and is worth going a distance to hear. As a devotional chant it is unsurpassed. Miss E. McGuinness played the "Cujus Animam" as an offertory and the "March of the Priests" as a dismissal in a finished and masterly style.

ENTERTAINMENT AT PAPANUI.

(From an occasional Correspondent.)

ON last Thursday we had another of our pleasant entertainments in the schoolroom, which was a very great success. The ladies and gentlemen who took part in the programme were the Misses Fraser, Poff, Moir (2) Blumsky, Joyce, Shasky and Murphy, Messrs Blumsky, Ross, Delahunt, Smyth, Joyce, and Masters Murphy and Joyce. The first part of the programme took the Christy minstrel entertainment, the two corner men being well represented in Messrs Blumsky and Ross, who enlivened the proceeding with their bones and tambo and their quaint and funny songs, which were very much enjoyed. During the interval tea and cake, kindly provided by the Mesdames Blumsky, Butler, Murphy, and Joyce, were served to each of the audience. Mr F. Delahunt kindly provided the necessary requisites for the tea.

The second part consisted of a concert, and a very funny farce by Messrs Blumsky, Ross and Luke.

This concert was a very great improvement on our first. It is most gratifying to see the spirit and interest which all take in making our entertainments a success. Everyone works with a will, and no trouble is too much for any of the members to take in doing their best to forward the object. No one makes a charge for any work done towards the matter. No doubt those little re-unions will be the means of promoting a good deal of good amongst us. They will bring us together more, and make us take an interest in one another's welfare, and also it is an advantage for our young people to have the chance of performing to encourage them to cultivate their talents. Who knows what we may turn out yet? At least there is plenty of material amongst our young performers and with more practice it will improve.

A few of the items worthy of mention were Miss Moir's song, "Killarney," which she sung with all the feeling and pathos of one who had spent some pleasant hours on the shores of the beautiful lake. Another item was a duet by the Misses Fraser and Blumsky, "Those chiming bells," which was very much admired. Miss Fraser is a very pretty singer, with a deep, rich voice, which no doubt, will be often

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