

Gasquoine, manager of the Wellington branch of the Grey Valley Coal Company's business, has made a donation of five tons of coal for the Benevolent Trustees for the poor of the city.—The Very Rev. Father Dawson, administrator of the cathedral parish, Auckland, paid a visit to the convent schools on Tuesday and was warmly received by the pupils, who had not forgotten the great interest which he took in their progress during his residence in Wellington.—His Grace Archbishop Redwood returned from the South this morning.

DIOCESE OF CHRISTCHURCH.

(From our own correspondent.)

On Friday evening (May 20th last), at the local Oddfellows Hall, the pupils of the convent school, Akaroa, gave their first public concert. In spite of the night being very wet indeed, there was a really good attendance, and the entertainment was a great success. The performance was a most excellent and varied one, and it is safe to predict that the next entertainment by the convent pupils will be eagerly looked forward to. Owing to the extreme pressure on our space this week it is impossible to enter into details of what was throughout a capital performance. The following took part: Misses E. Kerridge, E. Wiet, V. Lelievre, F. Vangioni, E. Rodrigues, M. Vangioni, R. Lelievre, Agnes Bagley, E. Nicholls, N. Vangioni, O. Lelievre, E. Penrose, K. Mora, L. Vangioni, C. Cullen, Master Bell. The musical and dramatic portions were capitally rendered and proved most enjoyable. At the close Father Dunham returned thanks to all present on behalf of the Sisters.

St. Mary's Hall was crowded to excess on Monday evening week, when the parishioners of St. Mary's Church tendered a complimentary concert to Mr. Harry Rossiter, who, for the past two years, has acted as choir-master and conductor. The programme submitted was an excellent one, and found great favour with the large audience, most of the items being encored. There took part in the concert Misses Edith Walker, Lucy Ryan, M. McLaughlin, L. Ryan, K. Goggan, Katie Young, Messrs. H. Bore, O. Read, A. Miller, C. Edgar, J. Allen, A. O'Brien, J. Rowley, and Mr. Painter's excellent mandoline and guitar band. Amongst those present were the Vicar-General, the Rev. Fathers Marnane and Goggan, and the Rev. Father Servajean, who has been transferred to Christchurch from Ahaura, where he was recently parish priest. During the evening occasion was taken to make a couple of presentations to Mr. Rossiter. The parish priest, the Rev. Father Marnane, on behalf of the parishioners, presented Mr. Rossiter with a handsome gold-mounted ebony *bâton*, suitably inscribed, and also bearing on a shield in the centre the word "Kia-ora." In making the presentation, the Reverend Father referred to the manner in which the recipient had always worked in the interests of the Church, and also to the manner in which he had devoted himself to make the choir what it was, and he concluded by wishing that Mr. Rossiter might be long spared to wield the *bâton*. Mr. A. H. Blake, on behalf of the choir, presented Mr. Rossiter with a handsome $\frac{1}{2}$ ver-mounted walking-stick, and in doing so spoke of the good feeling which had always existed between the choir and their leader. The audience then rose, *en masse*, and sang "For he's a jolly good fellow," and gave three hearty cheers. Mr. Rossiter replied in a feeling manner, and then the programme was proceeded with. The honorary secretary was Mr. J. C. Chase, who fulfilled the onerous and important duties of that office in a very satisfactory manner, and contributed in no small degree towards the success of the concert.

The *Universe*, says a local paper, referring to a "chat," illustrated by limelight views of New Zealand, given by the Right Rev. Dr. Grimes at Caversham on Easter Wednesday, says: The audience listened spellbound for two hours, and even then they wanted to hear more about this beautiful "paradise of the Pacific," and the wonderful work that the missionaries are doing there.

(From our GREYMOUTH correspondent.)

The many West Coast friends of the popular and beloved Father Servajean deeply regret his departure from their midst for Christchurch.

The work of preparing the articles required for the stalls at the forthcoming bazaar in aid of the convent building fund is being vigorously pushed on by the ladies engaged in this meritorious work. They have, under the guidance of Father Carew, accomplished wonders, and their zealous efforts are sure to make this bazaar a great success.

The widows of Brunnerton will no doubt ere this have realised the fact that the law is an uncertain quantity and that the prospects of obtaining heavy damages against the Coal Creek Coal Company—which, no doubt, the lawyers said were certain to be obtained—was something of a mirage which is now fast fading from view. This money expended was subscribed by a generous public to place the widows and orphans above the pinch of poverty. The subscribers had no idea that a large portion of their donations would go as fees for lawyers. The stoppage of the mines, pending a decision by the judges on the legal points, has resulted in hundreds of poor people with their families suffering real hardship. The Brunner disaster has taught a lesson which it is to be hoped will not be forgotten by Government inspectors of mines and other responsible parties, when day after day gas is reported as being present in a mine and naked lights are still allowed to be used by the miners. Then those in authority should be brought to the bar of public justice for criminal carelessness.

We are pleased to notice that our old friends, Messrs Edmund Sheedy and Co., have commenced business on a big scale as hardware merchants and general ironmongers in the large premises formerly known as the Cosmopolitan Hotel. The new firm have evidently a firm faith in the future of Greymouth, and we cordially wish them every prosperity and success.

(From our TIMARU correspondent.)

The Aloysian Catholic Club held their first debate of the session on Tuesday last, the subject being Napoleon v. Wellington. Mr. T. L. Harney championed Napoleon, while Mr. M. F. Deanehy led on the side of Wellington. The Rev. Father McDonnell, chairman, summed up, and on a vote being taken, a majority declared in favour of Napoleon, the voting being Napoleon 26, Wellington 19.

On Sunday the Feast of Corpus Christi special devotions were held in honour of the Blessed Sacrament. The sanctuary was decorated with flowers and evergreens in a very tasteful manner, and at Vespers a solemn procession of the Blessed Sacrament was held around the church and in the priory grounds. The Aloysian and Hibernian Societies and the Children of Mary were present in regalia. The procession was well lighted, and as it meandered through the priory grounds the moving lights and the various colours of the many banners made a pretty and imposing spectacle. The Rev. Father Tubman preached an appropriate sermon on the Blessed Sacrament, dwelling on the many biblical proofs of the Real Presence.

The boys of the Marist Brothers' School engaged in their first football match on Thursday last, the game being stopped and the enjoyment marred by a rather serious accident. The opposing team belonged to the Timaru Side School, and when both teams were fairly going, a pupil of the Marist Brothers', Martin O'Brian, son of Mr. William O'Brian, of Adair, had the misfortune of breaking his leg. The injured boy is one of the best players in the team, and the accident brought the game to an early and unpleasant conclusion. The Marist Brothers' plucky little team enjoy up to the present an unbeaten record in the football field.

The weather continues very dry. Hard frosts and cold fogs are frequent, but rain, which is much needed, keeps threatening, but does not come.

CONTRABAND OF WAR.

The course of the present war has given a live interest to the question as to what is and what is not contraband of war. The early portion of the war was devoted chiefly to the capture by each side of vessels carrying the enemy's flag. The cables have from time to time announced the release of some of the captured Spanish ships, the courts not having in such cases upheld the legality of the captures in accordance with the code of international law. The term "contraband of war" is applied to certain commodities relative to war, and to trading in them with the belligerent states. A neutral state may carry on ordinary trade with a country at war (excepting with an effectively blockaded port) but the trading vessel must carry no contraband goods. The meaning of the term is liable to misunderstanding, but the following is the best brief and popular account of the subject that we have met. It may be of interest to readers of the N.Z. TABLET, more especially at the present juncture, when the tangle of complications in East and West may at any time result in its being put into operation around our coasts:—

Contraband of war.—In determining, according to the law of nations, whether merchandise is or is not contraband of war, it is classified as:—

1. Absolute contraband.
2. Occasional or conditional contraband.
3. Goods not contraband.

The first class includes all goods of an essentially warlike character.

The second class includes provisions, naval stores, coal, horses, certain kinds of machinery, certain forms of steel, iron, etc., which are subservient to warlike use, and which are destined for the use of the enemy. They are contraband or not according to occasions and conditions as to their character, shipment and destined use. Every such case depends on its own facts.

The third class includes articles not suited to warlike use, such as church service and musical instruments, household wares and goods, and other such like articles, together with many that are purely mercantile in character.

No article of merchandise is contraband unless transported beyond the territorial waters and jurisdiction of a neutral State, nor unless destined for an enemy's port, or for an enemy's use, or for an enemy's ship upon the high seas, which belligerent ships are permitted to police in search of an enemy's ships and contraband of war.

No final and exhaustive definition of contraband articles can be given. They are changing with the progress of inventions. Some articles were formerly contraband which now are not. The converse is also true.

Each belligerent government is competent to determine what it will treat as contraband. If its prescription should be made in outrageous disregard of international law or treaty rights, neutral States affected would probably interpose.

Neither belligerent can treat goods as contraband in violation of its treaty stipulations with a neutral power as regards the subjects of that power. Any one desiring to ship goods to a foreign port in neutral vessels would profitably consult any existing treaties between Spain and the government of that port.

The belligerent rights of capture as against a neutral exist only either in case of contraband of war or of enemy's goods aboard, or of a violation of an effective blockade, and in other analogous cases where the conduct of the neutral justifies the belligerent in treating his property as enemy's property.

If Spain adheres to the principle, "free ships, free goods," as the United States Government proposed to do at the beginning of the war, only contraband goods are subject to capture in such ships.

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