

the experience of Dunedin before them it is strange that local bodies should waste so much time in deciding this important question.

We are also informed that on Thursday afternoon last there was a large gathering of country and borough councillors and other residents of the town and country of Ashburton to take part in the opening of the Diamond Jubilee Convalescent Ward, a handsome addition which has just been completed. His Worship the Mayor (Mr. C. Reid), as chairman of the Hospital Committee, was asked to perform the ceremony. In doing so he expressed himself pleased at the valuable addition made to the building, and felt sure that it would be highly appreciated by the patients. He also paid a high compliment to the medical officer (Dr. J. E. Trevor) and to the matron (Mrs. McKay) for the skill, attention, and great kindness they always showed to patients, who, while necessarily having to conform to certain rules, were made to feel thoroughly at home. Others present spoke in the highest terms of praise of the skilful treatment and great kindness with which the patients in the institution were treated. Dr. Trevor, in replying, said he was highly pleased with the new additions. They wanted more room, and this want was now supplied by the handsome, cheerful, and well furnished ward they were that day opening. It was sometimes stated that patients in the Ashburton Hospital were made too comfortable, but when people were sick it was just the time they required the greatest attention and kindness. He might add that when the inspector, Dr. Macgregor, paid his last official visit, he stated that the Ashburton Hospital was one of the best managed institutions in the Colony. After singing a verse of the National Anthem to a piano accompaniment, the large company were hospitably entertained at afternoon tea by the matron.

(From our TIMARU correspondent.)

A pleasing and very successful entertainment took place on last Friday evening in the boys' school, in aid of the new St. Joseph's Hall, which was recently opened by Rev. Father Tubman, and which is equipped with a fine billiard table for the use of the members of the Aloysian Club. The entertainment was given by the Black Diamond Minstrel Troupe, all members of the Society. An overflowing house greeted the troupe and the entertainment was of a most enjoyable character, many of the witticisms being so fresh and lively as to fairly bring down the house. The following took part in the entertainment:—Messrs. D. Griffin (tambo), C. Healey (bones), B. McKenna (interlocutor), Sullivan, McGowan, Leigh, Kane, F. and D. McDonald, M. McKenna, M. A. Niall, M. Whelan, W. Quirk, and Doyle. Mr. Healey sang 'Duck-foot Sue' and 'All right'; Mr. Griffin sang 'Have you seen her' and 'Pretty lips'; Mr. Niall, 'Some day I'll wander back again'; Mr. McDonald sang 'Good-bye, Mavourneen'; and Mr. McKenna, 'Carry me back to old Virginny.' The first part concluded with a ghost scene.

In the second part Mr. Robertson, a visitor from Christchurch, sang four songs—'The Arab's farewell,' and 'The song that reached my heart,' and was encored. Mr. McDonald sang 'Only silly Tommy' (encored); Mr. Doyle, 'The crossing-sweeper'; Mr. McCormick danced an Irish jig, and Mr. Smith a sailor's hornpipe. Mr. Rissel gave a magic lantern display, showing the Black Diamond Minstrel Troupe, the King and Queen of Spain, Admirals Dewey and Montijo, and 'Uncle Sam.' The entertainment concluded with a farce entitled 'Black dentistry,' which caused great laughter.

The entertainment was a decided financial success, and will materially reduce the indebtedness on the new hall. The success which greeted the Black Diamond Troupe in Timaru has decided them to repeat the entertainment in Fairlie and other places.

## DIOCESE OF DUNEDIN.

(From a QUEENSTOWN correspondent.)

August 8, 1898.

Thinking that some at least of your readers would like to hear a word or two of news from this district I am making an effort to send you a line or two. It is quite unnecessary for me to say anything about our new church after the splendid photo and description of it which appeared in the TABLET a few weeks ago. I may, however, tell you that the Rev. Father O'Donnell did not exhaust all his energy in building the magnificent church which adds an additional charm to charming Queenstown. He is now busy beautifying the grounds around the church. I am sorry to say our borough council are somewhat slow in doing their part of the work—namely, forming a decent road to the church. However, patience and perseverance will accomplish wonders. In addition to that excellent society, the Society of the Sacred Heart, the Rev. Father has also started an Altar Society. This society gives sixpenny concerts monthly and is under the efficient charge of Mrs. Black, who is ably assisted by most of our amiable young men and charming young ladies. The first concert was held a few weeks ago and was a great success. Non-Catholics are surprised to behold the magnificent building, which speaks so eloquently of the energy and zeal of Father O'Donnell and his people, spring up as if by magic. To Catholics there is nothing surprising where God and his Church are concerned.

Time precludes me from referring to your recent leader on the educational difficulty and Rev. Father O'Donnell's able letter on the same subject. If I may be permitted to say so, I do not agree with the rev. gentleman in all details, still I am convinced his proposals are well worthy of the serious consideration of Catholics, aye and even the politicians of New Zealand. Until Catholics prove their sincerity on this question by refusing to support weak-kneed members of their own creed at the poll they will never be taken seriously by the people of New Zealand.

V.



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## CROWN LANDS FOR SETTLEMENT

The following Crown Lands in addition to those advertised in *The Land Guide* will be offered For Sale or open for Disposal as under:—

### AUCKLAND.

For Sale by Public Auction for Cash on 26th August.

Section 97A, Parish of Tatarariki, 250 acres. Upset price, £125, 3 miles from Scarrott's Post Office.

Section 193, Parish of Okahu, 68 acres. Upset price, £214.

About 12 miles from Tokatoka, contains 75 kauri trees, or 360,000 sup. feet. A tramway passes within 4 chains of the section.

For Lease by Public Auction on 2nd September.

Lot 570, Town of Cambridge West, 8 acres. Term of lease, 14 years. Upset rental, £1 1s per annum.

Block XLVI, Town of Rotorua, 2ac. 1r. 8p. Term of lease, 14 years. Upset rental, £3 per annum.

KAURI TIMBER for Sale by Public Auction on Friday, September 16.

1,114 green kauri trees, containing about 3,858,000 sup. feet and 117 dead trees, containing about 234,912 feet. Upset price, £2418 11s. On Section 4, Block XIV. Tutamoe Survey District.

252 green kauri trees, containing about 786,321 sup. feet; 39 dead trees, containing about 97,320 sup. feet. Upset price, £507 6s. On Section 1, Block II. Kaihu Survey District.

Time is given for removal of timber—in the first case five years is allowed, and in the second two years.

Half the purchase money is to be paid on fall of hammer, and the balance—of the larger amount, in twelve months, and in the smaller, three months.

### HAWKES BAY.

For Lease by Public Auction on 31st August.

Sections 6 and 7, Block XIV., Tahoraite S.D., 21 and 20 acres. Term, 7 years. Upset rentals, £3 10s and £3 7s per annum.

For application for Lease for Thirty Years. Open September 14.

Section 9, Block V., Tautane, 393 acres. Annual rent, £24 12s 6d. Situated two miles from Wimbledon Post Office, and there is a good road to Danvirke. The land is of fair quality, and there is a quantity of totara timber on it, for which the sum of £60 has to be paid.

### MARLBOROUGH.

For Lease in Perpetuity.

Section 9, Block XII., Clifford Bay, S.D., 148 acres. Half-yearly rent, £13 11s 4d. Open on 24th August.

This section is a portion of the Blind River Estate.

For application for Cash, for Occupation with Right of Purchase, or for Lease in Perpetuity.

11 Sections, Gore Survey District, Sounds County, from 94 acres to 1575 acres. Price from 5s to 10s an acre. Open on 7th September.

### CANTERBURY.

Small Grazing Run open for Lease on Application on 6th September.

Section 36228, Nimrod S.D., Waimate County, 1901 acres. Term, 21 years. Annual rental, 8d per acre.

For Sale by Public Auction at Timaru on 6th September.

17 Town Sections and 5 Village Allotments in Town of Opawa. The town sections are one rood each, the Upset Price being £5 to £8 per section. The Village Allotments are from 5 acres to 7 acres, the Upset Price from £16 10s to £22 per allotment. Opawa Town is adjacent to the Albury Station on the Timaru-Fairlie line of Railway.

### OTAGO.

For Lease in Perpetuity.

First Class Land.

4 Sections Pomahaka Downs Estate, Clutha County, area from 282 acres to 319 acres. Annual rental from 2s 6d to 3s 1½d per acre. Open on 17th August.

The above sections are open, undulating land, nearly all ploughable. A large portion of the land was sown with turnips last season and produced an excellent crop, now being fed off with sheep, which will leave the land in good heart for a crop this season.

### SOUTHLAND.

For application for Cash, for Occupation with Right of Purchase, or for Lease in Perpetuity.

Sections 32 to 34, Block XXII., Invercargill Hundred, about 23 acres each. Price, £2 per acre. Open on 24th August.

These sections are situated one mile from Tisbury Railway Station on the Seaward Bush Railway Line.

For Lease in Perpetuity.

4 Sections in Block II., Waikawa S.D., area from 4 acres to 20 acres. Annual rental, 2s 2d to 2s 4d per acre. Open on 21st August.

These sections are situated close to Waikawa Township.

Sale Plans and Full Particulars of the above may be obtained at any Land Office in the Colony.