

DIocese of Dunedin.

A bazaar and concert in aid of the Catholic church, Cromwell, will be held in the Hawea school on the evenings of the 8th and 9th November.

A week's retreat for the women of St. Joseph's Cathedral parish will begin on Sunday evening, and will be conducted by the Very Rev. Father Brown, S.J., of Melbourne.

The Very Rev. Monsignor Hoyne, Vicar-General of the diocese of Ballarat, and the Rev. T. Kelsh, Westbury, Tasmania, left Dunedin yesterday for Queenstown, Lake Wakatipu. They will subsequently pay a brief visit to the North Island.

St. Joseph's Cathedral Choir was assisted at High Mass on Sunday by the Bland Holt orchestra, under the conductorship of Mr. P. Kehoe, when Beethoven's fine Mass in C was given. The music was rendered in a finished and devotional manner, creditable alike to choir, orchestra, and conductor. Miss Rose Blaney was the principal soloist, her contributions being Mascagni's 'Ave Maria' as an offertory piece, and Mozart's 'Agnus Dei.'

On Sunday last St. Joseph's Cathedral Choir met Mr. Percy Kehoe, conductor of the Bland Holt company's orchestra, in St. Joseph's Hall, for the purpose of presenting him with a tangible proof of their appreciation of his many kind services during his various visits to Dunedin. The Rev. Father Murphy (Adm.), on his own behalf, and also that of the choir, in a few well-chosen words, presented Mr. Kehoe with a travelling rug. After Mr. Carolin had spoken a few words on behalf of the choir, Mr. Kehoe replied in an appropriate speech, acknowledging the kindness that was shown him, and also spoke in very high terms of the choir.

A very enjoyable concert and social (writes a correspondent of the Southland Daily News), in aid of the organ fund of the Rakahouka Catholic Church, was held in the Mabel Public Hall on the evening of the 4th inst. Some of Invercargill's musical talent, including Mr. T. J. Anthony, were present, which was chiefly to be credited with the success achieved. A long and well-chosen programme was presented; and the one-act comedy, 'An Irish Engagement,' was produced, and left one and all highly pleased. The committee are to be congratulated on the worthy manner in which they carried out the affair, giving satisfaction to all.

INVERCARGILL.

The Basilica Fair in aid of the funds for the erection of St Mary's Basilica, Invercargill, was opened in the Theatre Royal on Monday evening of last week in the presence of a very large number of people. The Mayor (Mr. J. Stead) opened the fair, and in the course of his remarks said that the sum of £5000 was required for the new church, and he felt sure that the efforts of the stall-holders during the week would result in the raising of a substantial nucleus of the fund. The Daily News, writing of the display of goods, said the stall-holders are deserving of commendation for the attractive manner in which they have arranged the goods, and the decorations evidence the possession of considerable taste. Spectators were loud in their praises, but opinion appeared divided as to which stall was entitled to pride of place. Referring to the spectacular display, the same newspaper said that a great deal of curiosity had been evinced as to the precise nature of the performance which Signor Borzoni had in hand, and the assemblage having been led to anticipate something distinctly removed from the ordinary, a display falling short of that would have assuredly created disappointment. For the occasion the stage had been extended into the auditorium for some distance, giving a better view of the performance than otherwise would have been the case. Over 120 took part in the various tableaux, and at times, notwithstanding the extra accommodation, there was just sufficient space for the movements to be executed. Most of the representations were charming, and invariably attractive, and all were gone through in an exceedingly graceful manner, few mistakes occurring, and these being only the kind inseparable from an initial public display, even when professionals are concerned. The varied-coloured costumes of different designs produced effects pleasing to a degree, and the many remarks of approval of the pretty spectacles, the efficiency of the drill and graceful posturing, and the loud applause should suffice to show the Signor and his large body of pupils that their efforts more than satisfied. The demonstrations commenced at eight o'clock, the first portion occupying the greater the greater part of an hour, and the second at 10 o'clock, the interval being taken advantage of to dispose of goods. One of the best appreciated features of the proceedings was undoubtedly the performance on the stage of the Highland fling by eight young ladies in costume. They executed the different steps in a manner worthy of much more experienced dancers, and their finished style won vociferous applause. An orchestra, under the conductorship of Mr. A. Ferguson, supplied the music incidental to the spectacular displays, and also played during the evening.

The fair was open every evening during the week, and notwithstanding the inclemency of the weather on Tuesday and Wednesday, the attendance was very good. The efficiency of those who took part in the dances, tableaux, and groupings improved each evening, so that towards the end of the week this part of the programme was gone through in a manner that reflected the highest credit on all concerned.

The attendance on Saturday was a record one, every part of the theatre being crowded, and as a consequence business was very brisk. The fair was brought to a conclusion on Monday evening after a very successful run, and when the accounts are finally settled up there should be a substantial balance in aid of the Basilica fund.

WEDDING BELLS.

STEINMETZ—EVANS.

A marriage, which attracted more than the ordinary amount of interest, was celebrated in the Pro-Cathedral on Thursday afternoon (writes our Christchurch correspondent). The contracting parties were Miss Florence Mary Evans, daughter of Mr. Charles H. Evans, 'Allandale,' Wilson's Road, Opawa, and Mr. Daniel Steinmetz. The bride, who was given away by her father, was attired in white satin, trimmed with tulle and orange blossoms, and carried a lovely shower bouquet. The bridesmaids, who wore pale blue dresses trimmed with cream insertion and lace, were Miss Frances Evans (sister of the bride) and Miss Georgina Poultney (niece of the bridegroom), the duties of best man being undertaken by Mr. Charles Poultney. The bride being a member of the choir, the Wedding March was played by Miss Funston, the Pro-Cathedral organist, as the party left the church. After the ceremony the wedding party drove to the residence of the bride's father, where a reception was held, and the wedding breakfast partaken of by about 100 guests in a large marquee erected in the grounds. Various toasts, including the bride and bridegroom, were duly honoured. A garden party was held during the afternoon, and in the evening additional visitors were present, all being entertained with much hospitality. Mr. and Mrs. Steinmetz, both of whom are very popular and are devoted to all good work connected with the Church, were the recipients of numerous valuable and useful gifts, including a magnificent marble clock and cheque for 50 guineas from Mr. C. H. Evans.

THE WAR IN SOUTH AFRICA.

THE BATTLE OF GLENCOE.

DEFEAT OF THE BOERS.

SINCE we wrote last week hostilities have commenced in earnest in South Africa. Several skirmishes have taken place, both in the eastern and western frontiers, and one big battle took place on the north of Natal on Friday last, when the Boer forces were badly beaten and forced to retire.

The following are the principal items of war news since our last issue:—An armoured train, whilst reconnoitring near Spyfontein, killed five and wounded seven Boers. The railway between Kimberley and the Orange river, a distance of over 80 miles, is held by the Orange Free State troops. It was reported during the early part of last week that the forces under Commandant Cronje were bombarding Mafeking and that they had captured Taunga, a small town on the railway between Kimberley and Vryburg. The attack on Mafeking was unsuccessful and the Boers admitted that they lost 70 killed and wounded in the attempt. A report reached Capetown, but it has not been confirmed, that Colonel Baden-Powell, who is in command at Mafeking, feigning retreat, drew the Boers over Lyddite mines, which he then exploded, killing 1500. General Hore then made a dashing sortie and killed many more with maxims. Up to latest accounts Mafeking and Kimberley were safe, but Vryburg has fallen into the hands of the enemy.

The Free State forces opposed to the Britishers outside Ladysmith commenced hostilities on Tuesday of last week. Several cavalry skirmishes took place in the early part of last week in the neighbourhood of Blaauwbank and Besters, in which the Free State troops suffered severely. The Boers captured a Ladysmith train carrying several British officers and men for Glencoe.

On Thursday General Joubert's main column, 7000 strong, with headquarters at Dannhauser, to the north of Glencoe Junction, sent out an advance body, 2000 strong, but a British force checked their advance at Hattingspruit. On Thursday night 2000 Free State troops reached Actinhomes, Blaauwbank, and Besters from Mintiva Pass, Van Reenen's.

The railway at Elandslaagte had already been destroyed by a handful of Boer cavalry in order to prevent Ladysmith assisting Glencoe.

On Friday morning at six o'clock, in clear weather, 4000 men with four guns, from Utrecht and De Jagaar's Drift, occupied Impati Hill, 8000ft high and three miles east of Glencoe, also overlooking Dundee. General Joubert's plan was for the Free State troops to attack General White's main body at Ladysmith, while the Utrecht force and main column attacked Glencoe, but only the Utrecht force was engaged. General Symons ordered the 13th, 67th, and 69th Batteries into action. They made splendid shooting practice, a majority of the Boer guns being dismounted within an hour, causing consternation in their ranks. Many Boers descended the slopes of the hill to attack the infantry, and the cavalry were ordered forward, preventing these men from getting behind Glencoe, another section preventing the enemy's connection with the main column at Dannhauser. The 2nd Dublin Fusiliers, 1st King's Royal Rifles, and 1st Leicesters advanced under cover of the artillery fire. Taking advantage of the cover they splendidly stormed an almost impregnable height. The Boers fled precipitately, their guns being captured. During the rout many Boers surrendered. The battle lasted five hours. A large proportion of officers was killed through their refusing to seek shelter like their men. General Symons was mortally wounded, Lieutenant-colonel Yule, of the Devonshire Regiment, succeeding him.

Ten British officers and 35 rank and file were killed. Thirty officers and 150 rank and file were wounded. A private cable message received in Christchurch states that the Boer loss at the battle of Glencoe was 1000 men.

Later news is to the effect that the Boers lost 800 at Elandslaagte, and from 1000 to 1200 at Glencoe. The British loss at the former place was 160.