

statesmen and South African Jingoos for their sturdy patriotism. How times are changed! Now Mr. Seddon and others raise their voices in mild and gentle remonstrance against the thousand-fold worse disabilities inflicted on Uitlanders by the gang of millionaire mine-owners that now rule the Transvaal. And Mr. Seddon and the rest are curtly told, in effect, that they are impertinent meddlers and busybodies.

## DIocese OF DUNEDIN

The contract has been let for the erection of a new presbytery at Naseby.

A new church is in course of construction at Balfour, in the Riversdale mission. Building operations began on Thursday of last week.

On Sunday next, at the 11 o'clock Mass, the Rev. James Liston (deacon) will be raised to the priesthood by his Lordship the Bishop.

The retreat for the clergy of the diocese opened in Holy Cross College on Monday evening. It is being conducted by the Rev. J. Ryan, S.J. The annual diocesan synod takes place on Friday morning.

We understand that Monsignor Mackay leaves Rome for Scotland about the end of February, and that he will shortly afterwards return to New Zealand by the Cape route.

The Very Rev. J. Ryan, S.J., conducted a retreat for the Children of Mary, South Dunedin, last week. A two weeks' retreat will be given by the Jesuit Fathers in St. Joseph's Cathedral, beginning on next Sunday. This will be followed by a week's retreat in South Dunedin.

The date of the Fogarty Family Benefit Concert, as announced in our issue, has been altered to Tuesday, 9th of February, to suit the arrangements of the Rev. Mr. Ewen, who is lecturing on the original date at the hall. Ticket-holders are requested to alter any tickets that may be left in their possession. The case is a most deserving and distressful one, and the sympathisers of the widow and the nine little orphans should fill His Majesty's Theatre on the 9th February. A first-class concert of bright and popular items is being arranged.

The third meeting in connection with the repairs to the Christian Brothers' School and House was held in St. Joseph's Hall on Sunday evening. His Lordship the Bishop presided, and about twenty gentlemen being present. Mr. T. J. Hussey reported progress on behalf of the deputation appointed to interview his Lordship. It had been decided that the necessary repairs to both school and residence be gone on with at once, the cost being estimated as not to exceed £230. His Lordship expressed his pleasure at the interest the ex-pupils were taking in the matter, and said that their idea of attempting to raise funds to build a new school had his entire approval. On the motion of Mr. P. Hally the meeting formed itself into a committee to consider ways and means to raise funds (1) to pay for the present repairs and (2) to set about the work of building a new school. Rev. Father Murphy was appointed treasurer, and Messrs. D. S. Columb and J. B. Callan, jun., joint secretaries of the committee. It was decided to make an appeal by circular and canvas to ex-pupils.

## INSPECTION OF CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

### The North Canterbury Board Gives Way

(From our Christchurch Correspondent)

January 25.

As an outcome of the Very Rev. Father Le Menant des Chesnais' renewed application to the North Canterbury Education Board for the inspection of Catholic schools, and in accordance with the spirit of the Education Act, the Board at their ordinary meeting last week, on the recommendation of its sub-committee set up for the purpose, decided to accede to the reasonable request and undertake the work. The following is a report of the whole proceedings in the matter:—

At Wednesday's meeting of the Education Board, the Appointments Committee reported that it had considered the whole matter of the inspection and examination of private schools. The new regulations, which make provision for the examination of any children that were candidates for certificates of competency, having first been read and discussed, it had been resolved to recom-

mend the Board to instruct its inspectors to examine, as far as practicable, any private school, on application being made.

Dr. Chilton wrote stating that he was strongly opposed to any further concessions being granted to private schools.

Mr. T. W. Adams was also opposed to the Board undertaking the examination of private schools at present.

Mr. D. Buddo said that the Act distinctly provided that a child could be educated anywhere so long as the authorities were satisfied that efficient instruction was being given. Inspection would conduce more to efficiency than anything else that the Board could do, and in a large city such as Christchurch the Board should not neglect an obvious duty. It should recognise that while the State allowed children to be educated otherwise than in public schools, the State should give the public the results of the work done by those children according to some recognised standard. He also said that he hoped the time would come when the inspection would be compulsory.

The chairman (Mr. H. W. Peryman) said that the secretary had laid before the committee telegrams showing that all the Education Boards in the Colony except two undertook the inspection of private schools. One of these two had not sent any information and the other was leaving off such inspections owing to pressure of work upon the inspectors.

The report of the committee was adopted.

Under the heading of 'Inspection of Private Schools,' the 'Lyttelton Times' of Thursday morning contains the following editorial article:—

'It is a pity that the law does not permit the Education Board to do more than it determined to do at its meeting yesterday in regard to the inspection of private schools. The Education Act specifically confines the authority of the Board to those institutions whose teachers or managers apply for inspection, and for the present the local authority can go no further. We hope, however, that the Minister will lose no time in introducing an amendment of the law that will make inspection compulsory. Many of the private schools are admirably conducted and are achieving results quite as satisfactory as those obtained by the public schools; but some of them, as Mr. T. W. Adams very plainly indicated at yesterday's meeting, are falling a good deal short of modern requirements. Their accommodation is not suitable, and their instruction is not efficient. In the past we have all been too much inclined to look upon this question as one concerning the schools rather than the scholars. We remember a former member of the Board opposing the inspection of private schools on the ground that it would give the Roman Catholics an advantage to which they were not entitled. Happily the present members have taken a broader view of the question, and have decided to do all that is possible to ensure that every child in the district under their control shall have the rudiments of a sound education. The Catholics will, of course, take advantage of the concession; it is on their petition, indeed, that it has been made; and we may hope that the managers of all the private schools will apply for inspection. Those that neglect to do so cannot expect a flattering interpretation to be placed upon their attitude. They will very naturally be suspected of having no confidence in their own methods of teaching. The Act provides that the inspection shall be conducted "in like manner as the inspection of public schools," but we presume that the inspectors will be allowed some little latitude in the performance of their new duties. The private schools do not all follow the standards or even the syllabus prescribed for the public schools, and it would be obviously unfair to examine them by the same tests. However, this is a detail that may safely be left to the inspectors themselves. The Board has decided to do the right thing—rather tardily, it must be admitted—and its decision cannot fail to produce good results.'

Messrs. A. & T. Inglis are now holding their Annual Summer Sale. The reduction in all departments surpasses those of all previous years. For first-class value and only the very best quality of goods the firm stand unsurpassed—

Builders and farmers will do well to peruse the advertisement of the Milburn Lime and Cement Works appearing in this issue. Their Portland Cement will bear all the tests of the imported article, while their Milburn Phosphate and Lime are indispensable to the successful farmer. The Company are also agents for Auckland Hydraulic Lime and Havoc, the famous Canadian and Noxious weed destroyers.—

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