

cess attending the fete, said that the result would be sufficient to liquidate the debt on the Sacred Heart school. The gross takings were £854, and, after paying all expenses, there will be a credit balance of about £600. The result is highly satisfactory, and all concerned are to be congratulated on the success of the fete. A list of the winning numbers appears in our advertising columns. Of the principal stall prizes the Home Rule screen (Miss Staunton's present) fell to Mr. Collins, of the Gladstone Hotel, the Leinster screen to Mrs. Tynan; the Munster screens to Mr. M'Nair and Constable Williams respectively.

## NEW ZEALAND: GENERAL

Lord Plunket has sailed for New Zealand. He saw the King in Ireland, who regretted Mr. Seddon's indisposition.

The census of Geraldine town as taken by the Town Board overseer recently by a house to house canvass, shows that the population stands at 920, or 80 short of the required number to form a borough.

The Premier, whose health has not been good for some time, left on Friday for a month's cruise in the Hinemoa around the northern lighthouses. Friend and foe alike hope that Mr. Seddon may return completely restored to health.

Miss Aileen Ward, daughter of Sir Joseph Ward, who, when barely 15 years, sat for a competitive Australasian examination organised by the London Trinity College of Music, was one of three—the others are Australians—who have been successful. She got 94 per cent. of marks. By the last mail she received a prize of nine guineas.

The estimated population of the Colony on the 31st March was 894,389 persons—473,493 males and 420,896 females. The Maori population included in the foregoing estimate was 43,143—23,112 males and 20,031 females; and the population of the Cook and other Pacific Islands annexed in 1901 is also included—viz., 12,292—6369 males and 5923 females.

The annual report of the Government Life Insurance Department shows the total income for the year to be £403,380. New premiums amount to £33,462, as compared with £21,968 last year. Interest earnings totalled £152,353, as against £147,486. The expenditure was as follows—Death claims, £117,414, as against £121,882; endowment payments, £77,023; cash bonuses, £12,350; annuities, £12,326; surrenders, £31,252; loans leased by surrender, £19,050; commission, £16,867; taxes, £9524; and expenses of management, £38,332, against £36,168. Accumulated funds show an increase of £129,214. In the accident branch the premiums totalled £24,387 claims, £13,230; commission £3364; salaries, £2287; expenses of management, £784. The result of the year's operations show accident funds at £1255, an increase for the year of £248.

During the hearing of a charge against the master of a Home steamer at Wellington last week, the Stipendiary Magistrate had occasion to remark, owing to the free and easy air with which defendant conducted his case, that he seemed to think because he was master of a vessel he was also Premier of New Zealand. At a later stage, the Magistrate considered it necessary to inform defendant that the court was his Worship's quarterdeck, and not defendant's. The captain was fined £5 and costs for employing a greaser without first entering into an agreement with him and placing him on the articles.

An open-air meeting was held under the auspices of the Auckland Trades and Labor Council to protest against Chinese labor in South Africa. The following resolution was carried—'This mass meeting of citizens of Auckland emphatically protest against the introduction of Asiatic contract labor into South Africa, believing that to do so would endanger the stability of the Empire and be unfair to the white and colored subjects of the Empire already in South Africa.' There was a large attendance, and the resolution, which was moved by Mr. Fowlds, M.H.R., and supported by Mr. Baume, M.H.R., was carried unanimously.

According to a return compiled by the Dunedin agent of the Government Tourist Department the number of persons, who visited Dunedin from outside New Zealand during the year ended March 31, was over 1900. Of these 480 were from England, 85 from Scotland, 27 from Ireland, 2 from Wales, 82 from the United States, 402 from Victoria, 426 from New South Wales, 63 from Tasmania, 79 from Queensland, 85 from Western Australia, 106 from South Australia, 15 from South Africa, 12 from India, 7 from Canada, 15 from Germany, 5 from

France, 3 from Japan, 3 from China, 2 each from Austria, Fiji, and Noumea, and 1 each from Italy, Sweden, Belgium, Russia, and Madagascar.

## Death of the Rev. Father Chastagnon

A letter has been received in Sydney from the Very Rev. Canon Curtin, of the famous Madeleine Church, Paris, announcing the sad intelligence of the death of the Rev. Father Etienne Stephen Chastagnon, which took place on January 9 last at a sanatorium for ecclesiastics at a place called Ciboure, near St. Jean de Luz, in the Pyrenees. Father Chastagnon (says the 'Freeman's Journal') will be remembered as one of the best known priests both here and in New Zealand. He was stationed at Rydal, near Bathurst, from 1868 to 1871. While in charge of this district he built a handsome stone church in the township of Rydal, then the terminus of the Western railway. After leaving Rydal he went to Dubbo, where his zeal was again in evidence from 1871 to 1875, undertaking as he did the building of the present sacred edifice that adorns the town. This work was well commenced under his guidance. From Dubbo he went to the diocese of Christchurch, N.Z., and was stationed at Darfield by Bishop Grimes. There he ministered until he left for Europe early in 1903. He graduated B.A. at Montpellier, and was educated in Paris, being ordained at 22 by special dispensation. He spent only a few months in New Zealand before he came to Bathurst diocese. He was complimented by the Circuit Court for his splendid work in the bushranging days in the Fish River district. He remained in New Zealand, whither he went after leaving Dubbo, until failing in health sent him home last year to France to recuperate. His Darfield parishioners made him a presentation on leaving. Canon Curtin says:—'I made his acquaintance in Paris through one of the priests of the Madeleine, whose niece is married to his nephew, Charles (Chavignie, at Bort (Correze). It seems that after spending some time with his people in Auvergne, he selected the climate of Ciboure, in order to spend the winter there. He did not believe that he was very ill, and although advised to do so by the priests and nuns of the establishment he made no will and left no instructions of any kind. The many who remember the departed Father in Australia and New Zealand will join in mourning his death.—R.I.P.

## OBITUARY

SISTER MARY BERNARD, WANGANUI.  
(By telegraph from our own correspondent.)

May 9.

It is with sincere regret that I record the death of Sister Mary Bernard of the local convent. The deceased religious had been a member of the Order of St. Joseph for twenty years and labored faithfully and well in the various stations connected with the Order in this diocese. Up to a short time ago the late Sister Bernard was regarded as one of the most vigorous members of the Order, but she was seized a few days ago with a sudden illness, which ended in her death on Sunday morning last. The deceased was a great favorite, not alone with her co-workers, but also with the children, on whose behalf she spent her life. The late Sister Bernard was a Miss Brownlee, and many of her relatives reside in this district. To these and the Sisters of the convent the sincere sympathy of the Catholic community is tendered in their sad bereavement. The funeral took place this afternoon (Monday) and a large number paid their last tribute of love and respect by following the remains to their last resting place.—R.I.P.

MRS. J. HIGGINS, GREYMOOUTH.

The death of Mrs. Higgins, wife of Mr. John Higgins, County Engineer, Greymouth, caused a feeling of deep and genuine sorrow in the town of Greymouth, and all over the Coast from Reefton to Ross, especially as the deceased left a family of seven children, all being young and one being only a few days old. Deceased was the daughter of Mr. John Kennedy, of the Ahaura, and was born at Invercargill in March, 1865, consequently she was 39 years of age. Mr. Kennedy was then engaged in the carrying business. Some time afterwards he settled in the Ahaura, where he remained ever since, the family being widely known and respected. The deceased was of a most kindly and engaging nature, and her numerous friends will learn of her untimely death with profound regret. The funeral took place