

WESTPORT

(From our own correspondent.)

May 23.

The recent social in aid of the Sisters of Mercy's school, held in the Victoria Theatre, realised a little over £17.

At the last Mass at St. Canice's on Pentecost Sunday the Ven. Archpriest Walshe, in referring to the balance sheet of the Altar Society, highly complimented the members on the successful result of their labors during the year.

The contest for a seat in the Borough Council, in place of Mr. F. F. Munro, who was recently elected Mayor, took place on the 19th inst. The vacancy brought out three candidates—Messrs. L. Larsen, D. Harney, and D. Driscoll. The polling resulted in Mr. Denis Driscoll being elected by a majority of 22. Mr. Driscoll, who has had previous experience in the Council, may be depended on as a consistent and enthusiastic supporter of all measures affecting the progress and advancement of the town.

The Altar Society of St. Canice's Church is about to lose the services of one of its most zealous and devoted members. Miss N. Ready, who for the past five years has been one of the hardest working and most active members of the Society, leaves shortly for Petone, where her parents intend to reside. For a period of three years this young lady performed the duties of secretary with conspicuous zeal. An ever-willing and enthusiastic worker in all matters appertaining to the welfare of St. Canice's Church, her departure from the parish is keenly regretted by the congregation. Miss Ready will be greatly missed from the ranks of the Sacred Heart Association, of which confraternity she was a devout and highly-esteemed member.

The proceeds of the carnival in aid of the convent building fund amounted to £830 10s 11d, which is a record for a public entertainment in Westport. After deducting expenses incurred in the production of the brilliant spectacle, there was a balance of £571 12s 4d. The committee, stallholders, and all concerned in the splendid result achieved are to be heartily congratulated on their successful labors.

The usual meeting of St. Canice's Altar Society was held in St. Canice's Church on the 22nd inst. It was reported that the annual collection amounted to £20 17s, which, with a balance brought forward, made £50 15s. The Society expended £48 16s 7d during the year, and have in hand a balance of £1 19s 3d. The varied and beautiful adornments of the altar are a striking testimony to the zeal and enthusiasm displayed by the members of the Society.

The Sisters of Mercy are now zealously endeavoring to lessen the heavy liability remaining on the convent. Two ladies of the Order recently visited Addison's Flat and Charleston for the purpose of collecting for this laudable object, and it is gratifying to learn that their appeals were liberally responded to. The other outlying portions of the parish are to be visited, and it is earnestly desired that all who have an appreciation of the piety, zeal, and charity of the good Sisters whose self-sacrificing labors are so well known, will extend their practical assistance, and thus help to lighten the work of their arduous undertaking.

During the past few months St. Canice's branch of the H. A. C. B. Society has progressed steadily, several new members having been initiated. At a special meeting of the branch held on May 15, a very able report prepared by the management committee was laid before the members. The report set forth the position of the affairs of the branch most minutely, and as a copy has been forwarded to each member, all will be well acquainted with matters of special interest to Irishmen in the district.

Southland News Notes

(From our own correspondent.)

The first meeting of the newly formed debating society was held last week and was largely attended, the president, Mr. Martin O'Brien, occupying the chair. After formal business had been disposed of and the question of affiliation with the Catholic Young Men's Federated Society discussed, a debate on the pros and cons of football, as a sport or pastime, was commenced. Messrs L. W. Martin, T. P. Gilsfetter, D. Corcoran, J. Robertson, J. Welsh, and J. Aitken debated the question at length, and after the chairman had summed up, the majority decided that football was a dangerous pastime.

His many friends in Gore and Timaru will learn with regret that a mishap of a serious nature occurred to Mr. D. Mulvey, of the Telegraph Department, who

played in the Athletic team on the football ground last week. The local press speaks in high terms of Mr. Mulvey's play, and the breaking of his collar bone was a piece of ill-luck for which he had the sympathy of members of local football circles.

Mr. P. Deegan, of Dipton, informs me that the local church is now free of debt—a matter of congratulation for the people of Dipton. It may be mentioned that Mr. Deegan undertook a great work, the task of freeing the sacred edifice from liability, and people of every denomination gladly responded to his pertinent appeal for the good work.

The marriage of Mr. Martin Prendergast, of Bayswater, and Miss Flannagan, of Oreti, took place last week, after which the happy couple left for Wellington.

NEW ZEALAND: GENERAL

We shall be greatly indebted to correspondents and readers who forward us copies of papers containing comments on the Bible-in-schools manifesto.

An Oamaru correspondent informs us that the generally accepted opinion that Mr. Watson, the Commonwealth Premier, was born in South America is incorrect, as he first saw the light of day in Weston, close to Oamaru, and served his time at the printing trade at the local 'Mail' office.

The Wellington Trades Council has decided to enter a protest against the municipal by-law which gives a tramway conductor discretionary power to eject any passenger whose clothes are dirty. It is contended that the by-law sets up a class distinction, and if enforced would prevent workers from using the trams, and compel them to reside in the city.

After an extended leave of absence, necessitated by the effects of a riding accident, whereby one of his legs and an arm were badly broken, Constable Joseph Keaney, of Mataura (says the 'Wyndham Farmer'), is back to home and duty. Part of his furlough was spent in Dunedin Hospital, and the balance at Hanmer and Rotorua, where the curative properties of both these waters were put to the test, and have not been found wanting. Though not quite his active self again, Constable Keaney is as cheery and genial as ever, and we trust it is only the matter of a few weeks when he will be quite set up once more. His numerous friends will be delighted to hear of his recovery from a very serious mishap.

In connection with the departure of Lord Ranfurly and the arrival of Lord Plunket the Wellington City Council has in hand the preparation of addresses, one expressing appreciation of the services rendered to the Colony by Lord Ranfurly, and the other welcoming the new representative of his Majesty to this Colony. The Mayor will invite the citizens to observe the occasion as a holiday, and the Government has undertaken to call out the Volunteers and Garrison Band to add display to the official ceremonies. Citizens are to be asked to take part in the fitting ceremony. It has been decided by the Government that the Departmental Buildings, Parliament Buildings, and General Post Office shall be illuminated in honor of his Excellency Lord Plunket upon his arrival here. The Hinemoa, with the members of the Ministry on board, will meet the Gothic outside the heads, and Lord Plunket will tranship to her and enter port on the Government steamer.

In his speech at the laying of the foundation stone of a new railway station in connection with straightening and duplication of the Wellington-Hutt railway, Sir Joseph Ward said that there seemed to be an impression in other parts of the Colony that this work should not be undertaken, as works of greater importance elsewhere deserved prior attention. This was not the case, as the work on the Hutt-Wellington line was warranted to the fullest possible extent by the development of traffic in and out of the city. With the sale of land consequent on the important reclamations to be carried out the work would cost only £114,000. The Auckland Chamber of Commerce had asked that the work should be postponed until the duplication of the line between Auckland and Penrose. The Government would, however, do nothing of the kind. There were now 70 trains running daily between Wellington and the Hutt, and it was imperative that greater rapidity should be provided, for the revenue on the line from passenger traffic had in seven years increased 100 per cent. When the work now commenced was finished, and he hoped it would be in two and a half years, trains would run at 45 miles an hour, instead of 23, as at present.