

Very Rev. Father Murray, C.S.S.R., will, within the next week or two, arrive here to conduct the annual retreat of the clergy and the religious of the diocese.

It is intended to hold a bazaar in aid of the Sacred Heart Church and Sisters of Mercy's Convent, Ponsonby. The opening ceremony will be performed by his Worship the Mayor (Mr. Arthur M. Myers), and the date of opening has been fixed for Friday evening, December 22, at eight o'clock. The bazaar will be continued until Saturday night, December 30. The committee have engaged the Foresters' Hall, Newton, and already the ladies connected with the affair have made great headway so far as collection of goods is concerned. The principal feature of the bazaar will be a magnificent tea kiosk.

A highly successful concert and drama was given by the pupils of the convent schools of Parnell last Tuesday night. The hall was crowded, and the audience testified their appreciation of the excellent vocal items, tableaux, and fancy dancing, by frequent applause. A special feature of the programme was the doll dance and Irish jig, rendered by Miss Knight's pupils, the performers receiving an enthusiastic recall. The chorus work of the pupils was exceedingly good. The second part of the programme consisted of a fine rendition of 'Cinderella,' and special praise is due to the really clever portrayal of the leading part by Miss Phyllis Wirth, and remainder of the characters all acquitted themselves well. Mr. Hiscocks efficiently conducted the orchestra, and Miss Atkins made an excellent accompanist.

A well-arranged bazaar and Christmas tree, promoted by the parishioners of All Souls' Church, Devonport, in aid of the church and convent fund, was opened by the Mayor of Devonport (Mr. E. W. Alison), in St. Leo's Academy on Wednesday afternoon. The Mayor, his Lordship Bishop Lenihan, Father Furlong, and Mr. W. J. Napier each delivered short addresses. Fathers Patterson and Holbrook were also present. The hall was decorated with flags and greenery. The stalls contained a splendid variety of useful and ornamental articles. There was a good attendance in the afternoon and evening, and good business was done. The stalls and those in charge were as follows:—Plain stall, Mrs. Boylan, and Miss Fogerty; baby stall, Mrs. Wright, Misses Hayden, and Kenney; curio stall, Mrs. Carson; plainwork stall, Mesdames Amodeo, Harris, Bannon, Crane, Misses Bannon and Coleman; flower stall, Misses G. Ewington, W. Boylan, Hogan, G. Gray, and H. Houghton; refreshment stall, Mesdames Coffey, Hogan, Misses Meehan, Bannon, and Coghlan; Christmas tree, Misses Graham (3), Regan (3), and Mathias (2).

BIBLE-IN-SCHOOLS

THE TEACHERS' VIEWS

On last Saturday the members of the South Canterbury Education Institute met at Timaru. The most animated discussion at the teachers' meeting (says Monday's 'Timaru Herald') took place over the motions notified for the annual meeting of the Institute, regarding Bible reading and religious instruction.

The Hawke's Bay district Institute moves:—'That the introduction of Religious Instruction and Bible Reading into State Schools is not desirable.'

The Wellington Institute moves:—'That the N.Z. Educational Institute strenuously protests against the proposal that primary school teachers of New Zealand shall be asked to give Bible instruction during school hours on the following grounds:—(a) That such a proposal, embodying as it does, a conscience clause for

teachers, is an indirect menace to the security of our tenure. (b) That the carrying of such a proposal is a retrograde action for the State inasmuch as it will logically lead to the re-establishment of denominational schools.'

Mr. Kalauger moved that the South Canterbury delegates be instructed to oppose these remits.

The president said there was a considerable feeling against denominational teaching; but there could be Bible reading without religious teaching.

Mr. Johnson doubted whether Bible reading could be allowed without allowing grants to Catholic schools. That was the position they had to face; and if the Roman Catholics got grants, other Churches would have an equal right to them, and they would have denominationalism back again. At present no one could have any grievance on conscientious religious grounds, but if the Protestant Bible was introduced, a grievance would be provided.

Mr. Smart understood that the supporters of Bible reading proposed that it should be read without comment. He thought that would be worse than useless.

The chairman said they proposed to give the dictionary meaning of words, and to see that the children remembered the facts read. They recognised that it would be impossible to get denominational teaching into the schools.

Mr. Kalauger: That is what they are trying to get in.

Mr. Valentine (one of the delegates): I don't care what instructions you give me. I am going to support the first remit because it refers to religious instruction. Mr. Smart, another delegate, said he also would support it.

The meeting unanimously agreed to support the remits.

Mr. Johnson said that most of the Parliamentary candidates said that if Bible reading was introduced they must vote for grants for Roman Catholic schools. He had not tabulated their replies, but generally the questions and answers seemed to be: Are you in favor of Bible reading in schools?—No.—If Bible reading is introduced would you give grants to Roman Catholic schools?—Yes.

Mr. Kalauger said that apart from the Bible reading question he favored giving grants to Roman Catholic schools.

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