

successes are achieved, what a shame it is that many Catholic parents and guardians ignore our Catholic colleges and send their children and charges to institutions where secular training is no better and religious knowledge is under a ban. The Sacred Heart College will re-open on Monday, February 5.

Both local journals state, through their Wellington correspondents, that Mr. P. J. Nerheny is likely to be offered a seat in the Legislative Council. In Hibernian circles throughout New Zealand he is well and favourably known.

Not to be outdone, our Harbor Board, under its new engineer, Mr. Hamery, is rapidly putting in hand permanent works. Ferro-concrete wharves, in particular, are a feature. The one on the eastern side of the city now well on to completion, is an object of great interest, especially to visitors.

Our energetic Mayor, Mr. Arthur M. Myers, in pursuance of promise has formulated a scheme for a Greater Auckland. Of course the proposals are of a tentative nature, but they will afford food for reflection and discussion for the next few months in the city and its surrounding twelve local bodies. Anyone who knows the configuration of Auckland must admit the wisdom and necessity for a central authority on a more splendid scale.

## TIMARU

(From our own correspondent.)

January 28.

Rev. Father Tubman, who has been confined to his bed for the last fortnight, is now convalescent, and was able to leave for Rotorua on Wednesday last. Rev. Father Venning, who happened to be spending the past few weeks at the Priory, gave him every assistance with the parish work during his illness.

Word was received yesterday that Master T. Lynch, son of Mr. T. Lynch, was successful in the St. Patrick's College examinations, carrying off one of the four scholarships offered. He was prepared for the examination by his teacher, Rev. Brother Martin, Superior of the Marist Brothers' School.

An enthusiastic meeting was held in St. John's Hall yesterday afternoon to take steps to celebrate St. Patrick's Day. Rev. Father Finnerty occupied the chair and stated the object of the meeting. Mr. Mangos was unanimously elected secretary, and representative committees were appointed. It was decided to hold the annual picnic and sports on the Caledonian Grounds, Timaru, if available. The celebration will take place on Thursday, as this is the weekly half-holiday here, and the annual concert will be held the same evening.

## The Home Elections

The most sanguine Liberal could scarcely have hoped for the overwhelming defeat which has been suffered by the Conservatives in the elections now proceeding in the United Kingdom. A few months ago—before Parliament adjourned—Mr. Balfour, the late Premier, had a working majority of 70 in a House of 670 members. After the election of 1900, he had a nominal majority of 131. The Conservatives and Liberal Unionists together numbered 402, whilst the Opposition could only muster 268—186 Liberals and 82 Nationalists. The Labour Party in Great Britain were represented in the last Parliament by 10 members, the latest returns show that the workers have realised their power, and have acted accordingly. The rout of the Conservatives and the Liberal Unionists has been made more emphatic by the defeat of so many of their leaders.

The latest returns give the position of parties as follows:—Liberals, 375; Nationalists, 83; Labour, 51; Unionists, 152; total, 661.

The Nationalists have improved their position in Ulster by winning West Belfast, for which Mr. J. Devlin has been returned, and which was represented some years ago by Mr. T. Sexton, now managing director of the Dublin 'Freeman's Journal'; and Tyrone North. On the other hand they have, it appears, lost one of the Dublin seats.

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## CRUELTY TO CHILDREN

### DAIRYING AND CHILD-SWEATING

The high prices being paid in many instances in the north for land for dairying purposes (writes the Wellington correspondent of the 'Otago Daily Times') makes it almost impossible for the purchasers to make a good living if they have to pay for labor. Accordingly the children of the family in many instances have to do the drudgery connected with the dairying, and there can be little doubt that occasionally this has led to great hardships having to be endured by the very young children. The 'Post' has for some time past been taking a special interest in this matter, and schoolmasters and others have forwarded facts in connection with it. In Monday's issue a schoolmaster who has had three years' experience in a dairying district gives two very marked cases of the 'sweating' which came under his notice—cases which, he says, 'cause a feeling of revulsion when one realises that such an awful state of affairs is allowed to continue unchecked in this highly-legislated country of ours.' Here is his first case; it is that of a little girl of 12 years' of age who attended the school of which he had charge. 'She was rather a weak child, small of stature, and, in my opinion, totally unfit to do even half the work which she was called upon to perform. Her father had leased a 90-acre section, off which were milked 22 cows. Work at this particular farm began at 5 o'clock in the morning, and at that early hour this little girl had to arise and go out in

#### All Kinds of Weather

into a poorly-built cowshed, where she milked regularly her 12 cows. This duty over she had to run off to her breakfast, prepare herself and frequently her little sisters for school, to which she had to travel two miles over a rough road. She was often late, and when at her lessons appeared weary and tired, and lacked the freshness of her more fortunate schoolmates. School over, she had to walk home and again go through the drudgery of a task similar to that of the morning. She usually retired at 8 o'clock, having been on the move for 15 hours during an average day. I had occasion once to draw this unfortunate child's attention to the way in which her writing was falling off, and on my asking her the reason she showed me her hands. The tiny things were stiff and hard, but, worse than all, they were cracked across the palms and in the finger joints, exposing the raw flesh, and causing her most irritating pain. Upon my questioning her as to how her hands got into such a state, she replied that it was caused by milking. This little one was in the Fifth Standard, and was striving hard to do satisfactory work in order to be promoted at the end of the year and so leave school, the Truancy Act making it compulsory that no child shall leave school until he has reached the age of 11 years or shall have passed the subjects of the Fifth Standard. Legislation demanded this child's attendance at school, but no legislation prohibited the distressing and deplorable state of affairs under which the unfortunate child lived and worked in her home.' This is

#### A Specially Bad Case,

but the other example is not much better. It is useful to illustrate a specially regrettable aspect of the question. 'The other case,' he says, 'is that of a 12-year-old boy who, having been promoted to the Sixth Standard, was taken from school to work on his father's section. He was bright and intelligent, and was making fine progress in school, despite the fact that he milked his eight cows night and morning, besides frequently bringing the cows in preparatory to milking. To my mind this boy would have made excellent progress in whatever walk of life he took up in which literary attainments were a qualification, but his father told me, upon my remonstrating with him for taking his boy from school so soon, that he required his help on the farm. I learned afterwards that his daily work, beginning at 5 in the morning, consisted of bringing in the cows, 30 in all, milking 8 to 10, morning and evening, taking the milk to the factory, mustering cattle when necessary, and assisting in such work as repairing fences and outbuildings, cutting firewood, and in the many odd jobs to be done about a farm, ending the day by retiring at about 9 o'clock—and this boy was only 12 years of age.'

The boarding and day school in connection with the Monastery of the Sacred Heart, Christchurch, and conducted by the Religious of Notre Dame des Missions, re-opens to-day (February 1).

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