

Ashhurst

(From an occasional correspondent.)

A very enjoyable social was given to ex-Constable Franklin, who had been recently retired from the service on pension, after serving 26 years in the police force. The social was held in Duley's Hall, which was nicely decorated for the occasion, the tables being heavily laden with the best of good things. The chair was taken by Mr. Lynch, of Ruma, who proposed the toast of 'The King,' which was responded to by Mr. Peterson. The toast of the evening was that of the guests, Mr. and Mrs. Franklin, who were presented with an illuminated address, the work of Master Duley, 'which is a credit to a boy of only fifteen years of age. Mr. Franklin was also presented with a gold chain and pendant, which were made to order, and Mrs. Franklin with a pearl and sapphire pendant.

In replying to the address Mr. Franklin said it was a difficult matter to reply to the farewell message contained therein, and the very kind remarks of the chairman and other friends; he could not express the feelings he felt, and thanked his Ashhurst and Pohangina friends for the kindness they had always shown him, which he could never forget.

The presentation was made by Mr. F. West. The address to Mr. Franklin was as follows:—

'On behalf of the residents of Ashhurst and Pohangina, we desire to express the regret we feel at your departure from our midst, and express a hope that wherever you may go you may be as highly esteemed as you have been here. While regretting your departure from us we would express a wish that yourself, Mrs. Franklin, and family may enjoy good health and prosperity.'

The address was signed by sixty-seven of the principal residents of Ashhurst and Pohangina.

On Saturday night the Ashhurst Brass Band, under Bandmaster Curreen, played a number of selections in honor of Mr. and Mrs. Franklin, who left for their new home at Manaia on March 15.

Wanganui

(From an occasional correspondent.)

The annual concert in connection with St. Patrick's Day was held in the Opera House on March 16. There was a very large attendance, and the concert was quite up to the usual standard. Miss Pinches sang 'Sweet Asthore' with much taste and expression. Another excellent item was Miss Kiely's 'Dear Land,' for which she was recalled. Madame Morley sang 'Kathleen Mavourneen' and had to submit to an encore. Mr. A. C. Lennard contributed 'The dear little shamrock' in his usually finished style, and in response to a demand for more repeated the last verse. 'Believe me' was nicely sung by Mr. McGonagle, who as an encore number contributed 'The city of sighs and tears,' and Mr. Harris Trigger sang 'Come back to Erin.' In the instrumental part of the entertainment, a violin solo was given by Father McDonald, whose artistic playing was greatly enjoyed. A violin solo, 'Killarney,' was also played by Mr. Gilby, and Mr. E. Baldrey scored a well merited encore for his banjo solo. St. Mary's choir contributed three choruses. The Irish jig was spiritedly danced by three boys of the Marist Brothers' School, to the accompaniment of the bagpipes, and the comic element was supplied by Mr. Groombridge, who scored an encore for his contribution 'Trifling occurrences.' Last on the programme, but not least, was Mr. Harris Trigger's performance of feats of strength. Mrs. Lloyd and Mrs. O'Hara played the accompaniments in their usually artistic style, and a very enjoyable evening's entertainment was brought to a close with 'God Save the King.'

Palmerston North

(From our own correspondent.)

March 18.

St. Patrick's Day passed off very quietly in Palmerston, numbers attending at Holy Mass at 9 o'clock in St. Patrick's Church. The usual St. Patrick's Day sports were held at Raumai and at Awahuri, and were largely attended.

We are about to lose the services of Bro. Stephen John Barry, V.P. of the Hibernian Society, and delegate to the Friendly Societies' Council, who has been promoted by the Railway Department to New Plymouth. Bro. Barry was the recipient of a silver match-box at the last meeting of the Friendly Societies' Council on severing his connection with that body.

At a general meeting of the men of the parish, held in the Zealandia Hall on Friday last, the Rev. Father Costello in the chair, the following were elected as a parish committee: Messrs. C. A. Loughnan, M. Kennedy, W. Devine, H. Aisher, P. Garrity, M. Hodgins, P. J. Redwood, W. Scanlon, E. Higgins, L. Hanlon, J. Hurley, J. McLean, A. Rickard, W. Brophy, M. Power, Hy. Butler, M. Hickey, A. McKewan, W. Ryan, V. A. Dallow, R. Mulnooney. At the close of the meeting the rev. chairman made a few remarks as regards the financial position of the parish, and thanked all for their attendance and the interest they had evinced in parish affairs, and for electing such a splendid body of men to assist him in the financial part of the work of the mission. He said he had quite enough to do to look after their spiritual wants in such a large and fast-growing parish, and that in taking their own affairs into their own hands the various debts and liabilities of the mission would soon be a thing of the past. At a meeting of the newly elected committee Mr. C. A. Loughnan was unanimously appointed chairman, with Mr. M. Kennedy and Mr. W. Devine as secretary and treasurer respectively. The following sub-committees were set up:—Finance—Messrs. R. Mulrooney, F. Aisher, N. Hanlon, M. Hodgins, P. Garrity, and J. Hurley; hall—Messrs. F. Aisher (chairman), W. Scanlon, W. Devine, A. Rickard, and M. Hickey.

The Late Constable Keaney, Mataura

A correspondent supplies us with the following particulars of the career of the late Constable Joseph Keaney, of Mataura, whose death, due to taking a carbolic lotion in mistake for medicine, was briefly reported in last week's issue of the 'N.Z. Tablet':—News of the sad event was received with feelings of the keenest sorrow throughout the various parts of Southland, where deceased was well known and highly respected. The late Mr. Keaney was the eldest son of the late Hugh Keaney, of Drumshambo, County Leitrim, and was 48 years of age. He arrived in the Colony in 1878, and soon after proceeded to Grey-mouth, which was the first scene of his labors, and from thence to Christchurch. Joining the police force 25 years ago, he was stationed at first in Invercargill, then in Orepuki, and finally in Mataura, where he was for the past 15 years. He was highly esteemed by all who knew him, and his many kind acts will be long remembered by the people of Southland. He was a practical Catholic, and was always foremost in works of religion or charity. He was an ardent supporter of the 'N.Z. Tablet,' and none of Ireland's exiled sons loved the land of their birth dearer than he. Telegrams of condolence were received by his sorrowing wife and family from all parts of the Colony. The funeral was largely attended, mourners being present from all parts of Southland, Dunedin, and Wellington. Members of the local lodge of Oddfellows carried the coffin to the railway station, and Inspector Mitchell with 27 men in uniform met the remains at Invercargill, when six of the men acted as pall-bearers. Rev. Father O'Donnell, of Gore, officiated at the graveside. The deceased leaves a widow and five children to mourn the loss of an affectionate husband and kind father. He is also survived by two brothers and two sisters—Mr. P. Keaney, Rotorua, and Sergeant J. Keaney, Roscommon, Ireland, and Mrs. J. McWilliams and Miss E. Keaney, Wellington.—R.I.P.

The concert and sports at Kaikoura in connection with St. Patrick's Day were very successful.

Misses Mary and Teresa Rasmussen, pupils of the Sisters of Mercy at Refton, have been successful in obtaining a partial pass in Class D. examination for teachers, and this without any training in the practical part of the teachers' work. This is quite an exceptional result for schoolgirls. They and their teachers are to be complimented on the brilliant success they have achieved.

The Railway authorities notify that excursion tickets in connection with the Easter holidays will be issued on the Hurunui-Bluff section from April 10 to April 16, and available for return up to May 15.

Particulars of the Steward Settlement, North Otago, will be found in our advertising columns. The settlement has an area of 21,345 acres, and is subdivided into 42 farms and 5 small grazing runs.

Messrs. Johnstone and Haslett, chemists and opticians, Manso street, Dunedin, call attention to their special medical preparations for headache, indigestion, and for the hair. These preparations have been tried by hundreds, who speak very highly of them....