

Paeroa

There was a very large gathering of children at St. Mary's on St. Patrick's Day (says the 'Paeroa Gazette'). The number of children attending this year was considerably increased by the large contingents that came in special reserved carriages by the early trains from Waikato, Owharoa, and Karangahake. Punctually at 10 a.m. the procession left the church and proceeded to Mr. W. G. Nicholls' ground, where the of sports was arranged, including races for boys and picnic and sports were held. An excellent programme girls, jumping, etc.

Before leaving the grounds Dean Hackett summoned all the children together and congratulated them on having come in such large numbers to the picnic. The Dean called for three hearty cheers for Mr. W. Nicholls, who kindly gave the use of his grounds, also for all who subscribed or gave prizes for the sports. Special mention was made of Mr. Harris' medal and trophies given by Messrs. Gibson and Moriarty. Cheers were also given for Mr. A. Casey (Hamilton), Mr. T. Gavin (Te Aroha), Mr. Martin (Martinville, Mercer), Mr. R. Brown and Mr. J. Barrett (Rotokohu), Mrs. Lochwood (Puriri) and others, who kindly forwarded cases of fruit, etc., for the picnic. Dean Hackett also expressed his thanks to the Railway Department for having provided reserved carriages for the visiting children on a public holiday, and hoped the same concession would be made next year, when the Catholic children from Waihi and Thames would assemble here with those of Waikato, Karangahake, and Paeroa to take part in the annual demonstration on St. Patrick's Day.

In the carrying out of the sports programme the following gentlemen rendered valuable assistance: Messrs. Gorman and Davidson (Paeroa) and Messrs. J and T. Wall (Karangahake).

Presentation to Father O'Sullivan at Wanganui

St. Mary's Hall, Wanganui (says a local paper) was crowded on Wednesday evening, March 21, on the occasion of the social tendered to the Rev. Father O'Sullivan by the Catholics of Wanganui. The hall had been tastefully decorated with flags and evergreens for the occasion. The Rev. Dean Grogan presided, and the Rev. Father McDonald (Wanganui), Rev. Father McGrath (Patea), and Very Rev. Father Murphy (Victoria) were also present, besides a number of non-Catholic gentlemen. The following programme was presented—Chorus, St. Mary's Choir, song, Mr. G. McCulloch, duet, Mesdames Lloyd and Leath; solo, Mrs. Mechan. At the conclusion of the fourth item of the programme Very Rev. Dean Grogan addressed the audience in an able and eloquent speech. He referred to the many good qualities of Father O'Sullivan, and to the conscientious and able manner in which he had always discharged the duties of his sacred office. He said that the large attendance there that evening was evidence of the esteem in which Father O'Sullivan was held by the people, and he took it to be so because Father O'Sullivan had been a good and zealous priest and a friend to the people. He (the Dean) also participated in the good feeling and esteem which the people manifested towards Father O'Sullivan, and he felt sure that if ever he (Father O'Sullivan) came amongst them again at any time he would be heartily welcomed. In fact, he was sure that they would prefer a welcome to Father O'Sullivan than to be bidding him farewell. The Dean concluded by calling upon the secretary, Mr. Dennehy, to read the following address:—

Reverend Dear Father,—On the eve of your departure, we, the Catholics of Wanganui, desire to express the deep regret we feel at your removal from our midst. During the time you have been amongst us you have endeared yourself to all by your zeal in the discharge of the duties of your sacred calling, and by your genial manner and the kindly interest you have ever taken in all that pertains to the welfare of the people. The affection also of the children of the parish testifies to the active interest you have ever taken in their advancement and in the cause of Catholic education. If at any future time it should please Almighty God to again place you amongst us, we assure you that you will receive from us a hearty welcome. As a small token of our affectionate regard, we beg you to accept the accompanying purse; and, in bidding you farewell, we pray that Almighty God, in His goodness, may ever bless you and may long preserve you to labor in the cause of our holy religion.

Signed on behalf of the Catholics of Wanganui.—M. Grogan, P.P., Dean (Chairman), Thomas Lloyd (Treasurer), Michael Dennehy (Secretary).

At the conclusion of the reading of the address Mr. Lloyd handed Father O'Sullivan a purse of sovereigns. Master Charles Morgan, on behalf of the altar boys, read an address, which was accompanied by a suitable gift. The address was signed by Masters Charles Morgan, S. Stafford, and Joseph Robinson.

On rising to reply Father O'Sullivan was greeted with loud and prolonged applause. In a feeling and earnest speech he thanked those who had been instrumental in getting up the presentation. He referred to the high compliment paid to him by the large attendance there that evening, and to the fact that many amongst the audience were not of the same religion as himself. Father O'Sullivan said that if the Archbishop were to offer him the best position in the diocese he would rather remain in Wanganui than accept the offer. He concluded by thanking warmly those who had contributed items to the musical programme, and also the ladies who had so kindly provided the refreshments. Father O'Sullivan was frequently applauded in the course of his reply.

Refreshments were then handed round by the ladies. On the previous evening the children attending the Catholic schools, together with the Sisters of St. Joseph, assembled in the Sacred Heart schoolroom, which had been tastefully decorated for the occasion. A concert under the direction of the Sisters was given in honor of Father O'Sullivan. During an interval in the programme, Miss Annie Sullivan read an address, which had been beautifully illuminated by one of the Sisters.

Father O'Sullivan replied in a feeling and earnest speech, thanking the children for their kindness in making the presentation, and assuring them that wherever he might go he would always remember with gratitude the children of the Wanganui schools.

Death of Father Mulvihill, Gisborne

(By telegraph from our Auckland correspondent.)

Father Mulvihill, parish priest of Gisborne, died on Friday night. He was born at Tarbert, Kerry, Ireland, in 1867, and educated at Killarney and Maynooth colleges. He was ordained in 1892 by the Most Rev. Dr. Walsh, Archbishop of Dublin, and went to Edinburgh, where he labored at St. Patrick's and also acted as chaplain to the late Marquis of Lute. In the end of 1895, owing to failing health, he was compelled to relinquish his duties, and came out to New Zealand. He arrived in Auckland the year after the death of Bishop Luck, and was appointed curate at the Cathedral, where he labored for two years. He was appointed parish priest of Gisborne in 1898. The 'Gisborne Times' of 21st inst. said: 'Rev. Father Mulvihill passed away after a protracted illness during which he suffered much pain, which he bore with great fortitude. For many years past he had been poorly, and at one time left Gisborne for a period in the hope of a change being beneficial, but he fully acknowledged that he was glad to return to his old home in Gisborne, and being granted assistance in the work of his church he steadfastly remained at his post until he became too weak to continue. His saintly life was an example to all, and while the members of the Church must keenly feel the loss of this great and good man, the feeling of deep regret will be shared in by members of all denominations. He was ever of a retiring disposition, but he was gifted with a magnetic influence and persuasive eloquence, that gave him a great influence over all with whom he came in contact. He had a most kindly and self-sacrificing nature, and a firmness in carrying out his duties, and inspired by the most generous disposition he was a guide, counsellor, and friend, a masterly scholar, and an able preacher, revered by old and young alike. His death can hardly come as a surprise, owing to his critical condition for some time past. He had faithfully fulfilled the work set him by his Master and the end was peace. He was rational till the last. In every respect he justified the confidence placed in him. He was a man of remarkable abilities. Failing health affected him for years, but he bravely and ardently applied himself to the work of the Church, and commanded the respect of all.'

Rev. Father Buckley, of Ponsonby parish, is a relative of the deceased priest, and lived near him at Home, and by the mail last Saturday he wrote the sad news to Father Mulvihill's parents. In Auckland the deepest regret is experienced at his loss.

The funeral, which took place on Monday last, was the largest seen in Gisborne, all the business places being closed as a mark of respect to the memory of the deceased priest.—R.I.P.