

The fire insurance risks amount to £50,000,000. The British juices are the hardest hit.

The commander of the San Francisco Fire Brigade stated on Thursday evening that more than two-thirds of the city had been destroyed.

It was decided on Friday to dynamite all the residences on the east side of Van Ness avenue, between Golden Gate and Pacific avenues, a distance of a mile. This is the most fashionable quarter.

Despite the dynamiting of a mile of residences on the east side of Van Ness avenue, the fire spread to the westward, involving the whole of the millionaires' mansions and the suburbs.

Great guns bombarded the millionaires' quarter for hours, and unsparing destruction was wrought. Eventually the progress of the fire was stopped.

The Mayor of San Francisco hopes that one fourth of the city will be saved, chiefly the suburbs, but the best and richest sections have been destroyed.

Arrangements have been made to bake 50,000 loaves daily in the undamaged area, also to deliver daily 10,000,000 gallons of water.

The disaster to the Agnew Asylum is minimised. Eleven officers and attendants were killed, and 120 injured. Fifty-five patients were killed, and 120 injured.

Several New York firms have each subscribed from £2000 to £15,000.

All cities are vying in their contributions, and already 10,000,000 dollars have been raised.

The Hamburg-American line cabled offering a gift of £5000, but President Roosevelt declined the offer with warm thanks, the Cabinet having decided that foreign assistance is not needed in view of the bountiful response made by Americans. The Dominion House of Parliament has voted 100,000dol, and the San Francisco, Carnegie, and Standard Oil Trusts have each donated 100,000dol.

The Right Hon. the Premier has cabled his sympathy to the President, and has offered to forward £5000 to the relief fund, on behalf of the people of New Zealand.

Catholic Statistics.

San Francisco is one of the great archdioceses of the United States, and it is noted for the number of its beautiful churches, Catholic colleges, and institutes of charity. As the archdiocese does not cover a large area, comparatively speaking, forming a strip along the coast both north and south of San Francisco, and therefore within the zone of the terrible visitation, it is to be feared that it has sundered a loss which will not be fully repaired for many years. The present archbishop is the Most Rev. Patrick William Riordan, D.D., who was consecrated Coadjutor-Archbishop in 1883, and succeeded the late Dr. Alemany in the following year. The Catholic population of the archdiocese is nearly 250,000 and as the greater part of this was located in the city and the adjoining towns, all of which suffered from the awful catastrophe, it is to be feared that many hundreds of our co-religionists have been swept into eternity with very little warning, whilst numbers who escaped this fate have been rendered homeless, and have lost their all in the terrible conflagration. The clergy of the archdiocese (secular and regular) numbered 280; churches, 160. There are 17,000 pupils in the parochial schools (boys and girls), 96 students in the ecclesiastical seminaries, 1700 children in the orphan asylums, 250 inmates in industrial and reform schools, there being 25,000 children altogether under Catholic care. The other charitable institutions include an infant asylum, protector for boys, deaf-mute asylum, three hospitals, home for aged poor, etc. Among the religious Orders of men in the archdiocese are the Jesuit Fathers, whose fine church and college (St. Ignatius) have been destroyed; Marist Fathers and Marist Brothers, Franciscans, and Dominicans. The Sisters of Mercy have a Magdalen asylum, hospital, home for the aged, and schools in the city; the Sisters of St. Dominic have a convent, conduct an academy, and have schools in the city; the Sisters of St. Joseph are at Oakland, across the harbor. Other religious Orders having houses in the city and suburbs are the Sisters of Charity, Sisters of Notre Dame, Ladies of the Sacred Heart. There were over 300 students in the Jesuit College (St. Ignatius). Of the churches, 35 are situated within the city limit. Nearly one-half of the clergy were attached to the city churches or were connected with the colleges. The staff of the Jesuit College consisted of 25 professors, and the students numbered over 300.

Of the Catholic newspapers published in San Francisco, the 'Monitor' is the best known and the most generally quoted by its contemporaries. As its offices

were situated in Mission street, it is to be feared that it has been overtaken by the general ruin which, it seems, befell everything in that district.

On Friday evening (says the Christchurch 'Press'), though busily occupied in preparations for his visit to Europe, his Lordship Bishop Grimes courteously accorded an interview to a member of the 'Press' staff on the subject of the Church of St. Ignatius in San Francisco, which is reported to be amongst the buildings destroyed.

'When I was in San Francisco in 1898, said the Bishop, 'on my way home after having visited Rome, it happened to be the Patronal Feast of the Church of St. Ignatius. The Jesuit fathers asked me to sing Pontifical Mass in the church, and I did so. The church, which was situated on Hayes street, was a beautiful one. It was not the Cathedral of San Francisco, but it deserved to be from the majestic character of the building. I sang Pontifical Mass on the Feast Day as requested, and one of the staff of the Jesuit College composed some excellent Latin verses in my honor. In these reference was made to New Zealand, and to my labor here. There was a college connected with the church, having a staff of 21 professors, 12 scholastics, and 328 students. After this, I visited San Jose, and one of the professors took me over the Lick Observatory. He made reference to the museum in Christchurch, which he said he had heard was a very fine one. The Marist Fathers have a large parish in San Francisco, with churches, schools, etc. As these were situated in the centre of the city, I am afraid they have all been destroyed. I visited them when in San Francisco, and inspected the various buildings and schools, which were splendidly equipped.'

Diocesan News

ARCHDIOCESE OF WELLINGTON

(From our own correspondent.)

April 21.

The All Nations' Fair has been well patronised during the week. To-night additional attractions in the way of some interesting side-shows are to be provided.

The commission appointed to consider the question of church music in the archdiocese consists of Very Rev. Dr. Kennedy, Very Rev. Father Power, Rev. Fathers T. Walshe, Ainsworth, Kinnell, and Molloy, and Messrs. R. A. Loughnan, M. C. Rowe, S. Cimino, and A. Bunny. The commission met on Wednesday and Thursday. Their deliberations are not yet public, but I understand that some radical changes are recommended.

The Catholic members of the University party, who went to Christchurch at Easter, speak in glowing terms of the kindness they received at the hands of his Lordship Bishop Grimes and the Rev. Fathers Hickson and O'Connell. In fact they everywhere received a kindly welcome from their fellow-Catholics in Christchurch. They are specially indebted to Mr. Hayward and members of the Catholic Club for their kindly interest, and for the way in which they made their stay so pleasant.

The services of Holy Week were carried out with becoming ceremony in the several parishes. The attendances throughout were very large, the numbers assembling for the veneration of the Cross affording a most edifying spectacle. The Rev. Father Herbert, S.M., who recently returned from Sydney, was master of ceremonies at Buckle street, and also preached an eloquent sermon. At the Sacred Heart Basilica the discourses were delivered by his Grace the Archbishop, Ven. Archdeacon Devoy, S.M., and Rev. Father O'Reilly, S.M.

On Wednesday last at St. Joseph's, Buckle street, Miss M. Carrigan was married to Mr. T. Madden. The ceremony was performed by Rev. Father O'Shea, S.M. Mr. J. Madden acted as best man, and Misses C. Carrigan and M. Madden as bridesmaids. After the ceremony breakfast was partaken of at Godber's Rooms, Cuba street, where a large number of friends joined in wishing prosperity and happiness to the happy couple. In the evening Mr. and Mrs. Carrigan entertained a large number of friends at their home in Austin St. in honor of the event. A large number of varied and costly presents were received from all parts of the Colony.

The fifth annual conference of the Federated Catholic Young Men's Societies began in St. Patrick's Hall on Saturday last, and was concluded on Monday. There was a good attendance of delegates, and the several

GEO. T. WHITE
NOVELTIES AT LOWEST PRICES

Importer, Watchmaker, Manufacturing Jeweller, Medalist, etc.
LAMRTON QUAY, COLOMBO STREET, CHRISTCHURCH.
Established ... 1875