

Papal chair by Pope Pius X., a most unique work of art, both as regards the covers and the interior illumination and embellishment, has been prepared in the shape of an address to the Pope from the clergy, religious, laity, and children of the diocese. It is in book form, and the style of covers is what is known as monastic Grolier, being perhaps the finest exemplification of this class of the highest artistic work ever seen in the Colony. The task of designing and carrying out the work was entrusted to the bindery department of the 'Press' Company, and has been executed in a manner deserving of the highest praise. The binding is of old red Russia, which has a magnificent effect when contrasted with the beautifully colored enamels of various emblematical designs, which are magnificently worked out, and have a fine effect. In the centre of the front cover is a royal purple shield, bearing the following inscription—'Address to our Holy Father Pope Pius X., from the clergy, religious, laity, and children of the diocese of Christchurch, on the occasion of the first visit of the Right Rev. Dr. Grimes, S.M., Bishop of the diocese, A.D. 1906.' The address and embellishments, beautifully executed by the religious of the Timaru Convent, fill fifteen leaves, which are attached to the covers by fawn calf points. There are also four photographs of the exterior of the Cathedral at the opening ceremony, and five of the interior, together with an enlarged photograph of Pope Pius X., and one of his Lordship Bishop Grimes. Each leaf is most artistically ornamented round the sides and at the bottom with hand paintings of New Zealand flora and birds, some of the former being specially beautiful. The covers are lined with cream watered satin. The address, which will be specially conveyed to Rome, is signed on behalf of the clergy by the Very Rev. Father Le Menant des Chesnais, S.M., V.G., Deans A. Martin, D. P. Carew, J. C. O'Donnell, and P. Regnault, and for the laity by Messrs. H. H. Loughnan, E. O'Connor, Felix Campbell, and P. M. Caiffine. The address will be enclosed in a beautiful casket of inlaid New Zealand woods. There are 408 different pieces of wood in the casket, comprising rewarewa (honeysuckle), mo'o (currant wood), ramarama, puriri, konini, totara knots, and kauri. The work is very artistically done, the design being excellently carried out. The casket itself is lined with silk.

Hokitika

(From an occasional correspondent.)

The Catholic Debating Society held the first meeting of the session on Tuesday, May 22, when a debate was held on the question, 'Should members of local bodies be paid for their services to such institutions?' Mr. James Toomey occupied the chair. Mr. W. Cuttance spoke in the affirmative, whilst the negative contention was supported by Mr. M. Daly. A good many of the members present took part in the discussion, which proved very interesting. The affirmative side won on the casting vote of the chairman.

There was an excellent attendance present at the meeting of the Catholic Literary and Debating Society on June 5. Mr. T. McGuigan occupied the chair. The question box formed the programme for the evening. Some keen discussions took place on various subjects, which were both interesting and instructive, the junior members taking a prominent part.

DIOCESE OF AUCKLAND

(From our own correspondent.)

June 8.

The Bishop leaves to-morrow for Waiuku, where he is to open a new church dedicated to St. Antony on Sunday. On the following Sunday he will open a new presbytery at Puhoi.

The Cemetery Board held its regular quarterly meeting last Monday evening at St. Benedict's presbytery, Very Rev. Father Gillan in the chair. It was shown that during the last three months much work was carried out in Symonds street Cemetery. The paths were tarred and sanded, the gorse and grass cut down, and the fences fronting Symonds street and East street repaired and two coats of paint put on, the whole costing about £40. As the source through which revenue is obtained is limited, because the cemetery is only available to those who have relatives buried there, and the old generation is thinning down, the committee has an uphill fight to keep the place in order. Under the circumstances it does very well indeed. Messrs. Larkin, Paterson, and Nerheny devote much time and attention to the work, and this may also be said of the Very Rev. Father Gillan.

At the close of the public meeting of the Catholics of the city last Sunday afternoon, over which the Bishop presided, the following resolution was carried:—Mr. J. J. O'Brien, J.P., moved and Mr. Maurice

Casey, J.P., seconded that "This meeting, representative of the Catholics of the city of Auckland, heard with feelings of deep regret of the death of Mr. Michael Davitt. His work and sufferings for the cause of Ireland are indelibly written in the hearts and memories of the Irish race. As members of that race, far apart from our dear Ireland, we are sad at heart at the irreparable loss sustained by Mrs. Davitt, her family, and our countrymen and countrywomen through the death of Michael Davitt." The Bishop before putting the motion spoke in sympathetic terms in regard to the late Mr. Davitt, and requested Mr. M. J. Sheahan to forward to Mrs. Davitt the resolution. The resolution has been sent, as requested, to Mrs. Davitt.

Very Rev. Father O'Neill, of Milton, arrived here yesterday on a visit to his sister, who is a resident of this district.

His Worship the Mayor of Auckland (Mr. A. M. Myers) has kindly written a letter to the Mother General of the Sisters of St. Joseph in Sydney, in which he speaks in highly eulogistic terms of the good work accomplished in Auckland by the Sisters of St. Joseph. The terms in which the Mayor refers to the Sisters' labors does him infinite credit, and is highly complimentary to the good Sisters of St. Joseph. The work of erecting the new brick convent for the Sisters at St. Benedict's is in a very forward state, and will shortly be ready for occupation.

On all sides the Bishop is receiving encouragement in his work of completing St. Patrick's Cathedral.

Brother Kane, D.S. of the H.A.C.B. Society, returned from the south last Tuesday. He visited Blenheim, and opened new branches at Hawera and Manaia.

Thames

An impressive ceremony (says the 'Thames Star,' June 1) took place at the Church of St. Francis last evening, when his Lordship Bishop Lenihan administered the sacrament of Confirmation to over fifty candidates, amongst whom were a number of adults. There was an overflowing attendance, and accommodation was taxed to the utmost. The following clergy were present:—Right Rev. Mgr. O'Reilly, Very Rev. Dean Hackett (Paeroa), Rev. Father Broomfield, Rev. Fathers Clune and McDermott (Redemptorist Order), and Father Holbrook (Auckland). His Lordship, previous to administering the sacrament, catechised the children, and their prompt response showed how carefully and thoroughly they had been instructed. In a simple but direct address he urged them to guard themselves against the temptations that would assail them in their every day life and by their good example to prove to others that their faith was no idle boast. His Lordship paid a high tribute of praise and appreciation to the missionary work of the Fathers Clune and McDermott. He congratulated the parishioners on the possession of a pastor, who was revered and beloved for his probity and charity, not only in his diocese, but throughout New Zealand—Monsignor O'Reilly. He had worthily upheld the honor of the clergy, and was a model for young priests to follow.

A branch of the H.A.C.B. Society was opened at Manaia on May 31, by the district secretary, Bro. W. Kane (Auckland), assisted by Bros. Hickland (Christchurch) and Landers (Wellington). The branch bids fair to become a strong one, judging by the enthusiasm displayed. The following are the officers for the ensuing term:—President, Bro. Chas. Garrigan; vice-president, Bro. Francis Mourie; secretary, Bro. J. J. Hodgson; treasurer, Bro. Michael Ryan; warden, Bro. Jno. Keneally; guardian, Bro. G. Hurley; sick visitors, Bros. James Bourke and Kavanagh; branch trustees, Bros. Chas. Garrigan, Mourie, and Keneally; auditors, Bros. Jas. O'Donnell and Bourke. The branch is to be called the St. Patrick's, and the meeting nights are fixed for every alternate Thursday.

A highly important sale of valuable freehold property is announced elsewhere by Messrs. Mark Sprot and Co. That firm, under instructions from Mr. H. Erickson, will submit for absolute sale on the 27th inst., at Totara Flat the well known Midland Railway Hotel, public hall, cottage, stables, and out houses, also spring cart horses, hacks, traps, harness, etc. The auctioneers in directing attention to the sale point out that the property is in the heart of a large agricultural district and within a few yards of the railway station, dairy factory, etc. The building, which has eighteen rooms, was erected by the Midland Railway Company and built on up-to-date lines. Full particulars regarding terms and conditions of sale can be obtained on application to the auctioneers. They also state that immediate possession will be given and that the buyer will take the furniture and stock at valuation....

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