

For the benefit of the Hanmer Catholic church fund a concert, promoted by the Rev. Father Price, was given in the Choral Hall, Christchurch, on last Thursday evening. Many of our leading vocalists and musical people most cheerfully and generously gave their assistance, thus enabling the preparation of a really excellent programme. Among those present were the Very Rev. Vicar-General and local clergy. Recalls were frequent throughout the evening, and in nearly every case the performer had to return and give an additional number before the audience was satisfied. The following vocalists sang:—Mrs. Gower-Burns, 'My dearest heart' and 'Haymaking'; Mr. Chas. Read, 'I dream of thee' and 'My kingdom'; Miss Laura Treleven, 'Vorra!' and 'A happy song'; Mr. H. S. Hobbs, 'The windmill' and 'Molly Ochone'; Mr. Claude Allan, 'Oh, oh, hear the wild winds blow' and 'Love, could I only tell thee.' Mr. E. Fitts, who appeared by special permission of Mr. J. C. Williamson, sang 'My beloved queen,' and also shared with Mr. Read the duet 'Excelsior.' Mr. Vere Buchanan played a selection from Ernst as a violin solo, and Mr. W. M. Coombs one from the opera 'Lucia di Lammermoor' as a cornet solo, the latter item being particularly acceptable. An instrumental trio by Messrs. Buchanan, Coombs, and Horne was also included in the programme. The accompaniments were capably played by Miss Katie Young and Mr. R. A. Horne. During the evening the Rev. Father Price, in a brief speech, thanked all those participating in the concert for their trouble, mentioning particularly Messrs. Horne and O'Connor.

Greymouth

(From our own correspondent.)

June 14.

The cable messages announcing the death of Mr. Seddon came as a painful shock to the entire community, and caused a feeling of profound grief. Here on the West Coast, where Mr. Seddon was so beloved by the people, we feel that we have lost not only a true friend, but a dear relative.

At the meeting of the St. Columba Club last Monday evening feeling reference was made to the death of Mr. Seddon by most of the members present. The Rev. Father Taylor paid a high tribute to the memory of the departed statesman. The meeting was then adjourned as a mark of respect to Mr. Seddon's memory.

At a meeting of the members of the Grey Catholic band Mr. R. Phillips was appointed conductor. Mr. Phillips, who is also conductor of St. Patrick's choir, is always to the fore in all musical matters here, and under his able baton the band should soon attain its former high state of efficiency.

Last Sunday being the day of the quarterly Holy Communion of the St. Columba Club, the members of the Hibernian Society united with the club in making a general Communion. A procession was formed from the club rooms of the combined members, to the number of about eighty, who marched to the church in a body. It was a most edifying sight.

During last month the Catholic Club has had the misfortune to lose two of its most valuable members, Mr. D. Phillips, who has been promoted to New Plymouth as assistant Clerk of the Court in that town, also Mr. John Devonport, who has received an important position in the Government Life Insurance Department, Christchurch. Mr. Devonport, who was one of our ablest debaters, will be greatly missed in that department of the club. We wish both gentlemen every success in their new homes.

Rev. Father Herbert, who has been absent from Greymouth for nearly two years, and who has been relieving Rev. Father Gallais at Reefton for the last month, took the opportunity of calling on his old friends before returning to Wellington. Rev. Father Herbert visited the club rooms and expressed his pleasure at the marked advance made during the last two years. The Rev. Father Herbert preached eloquent sermons to crowded congregations at Mass and Vespers last Sunday. The rev. gentleman left on Tuesday on his return to Wellington.

The second progressive euchre tournament of the season in connection with the St. Columba Club was held last Wednesday. The attendance was exceptionally large, over one hundred members and their friends being present. Mr. Carl Pfaff, of the Wellington Club, was present, and said he never spent such an enjoyable evening before, and expressed his intention of introducing such evenings into the Wellington Club. At the interval refreshments, kindly provided by the ladies, were handed round. The rest of the evening was devoted to songs and recitations.

The members of the St. Columba hockey team were again successful in their second match last Saturday, when they defeated the Grey team by nine goals to nil.

DIOCESE OF AUCKLAND

(From our own correspondent.)

June 15.

To-morrow the Bishop goes to Puhoi, Rev. Father Meagher's parish, to open the new presbytery on Sunday.

A new church at Te Karaka, in Gisborne parish, of which Rev. Father Lane is pastor, is nearing completion.

Very Rev. Father O'Neill, of Milton, arrived from North of Auckland this morning and left by the express for Rotorua, where he will stay for a few days prior to going south.

The fine new brick presbytery at Onehunga is very nearly finished. It is a handsome structure and worthy of the late Very Rev. Mgr. Paul's old parish, which he loved so well.

Very Rev. Father Clune and Rev. Father McDermott, Redemptorists, finished their missions in this diocese last Sunday, and left for Wellington during the week. They open a mission at Nelson next Sunday. They are expected to return to Auckland in the early spring.

Mr. Walker, Government Assistant Inspector of Industrial Schools, visited the Industrial Schools at Takapuna and Ponsonby and expressed himself highly pleased with all he saw and heard, there being absolutely nothing with which fault could be found. To all concerned this is gratifying.

An entertainment in honor of the Rev. Father Cahill's anniversary to the priesthood was given at St. Patrick's Convent last Tuesday evening by the members of the Society of the Children of Mary, of which the rev. gentleman is spiritual director. During the evening the guest was presented with a beautiful alb, subscribed by the members of the society. Rev. Father Cahill, who is immensely popular, thanked the members for their beautiful and useful present. An enjoyable concert programme was gone through.

To say that grief pervaded Auckland last Monday, when the news of Mr. Seddon's death arrived, very inadequately conveys what occurred. His praises as a statesman have been well sounded, but by Catholics he will be kindly remembered for his noble defence of the persecuted Marist Brothers when the flood gates of bigotry and intolerance sought their destruction even in the place where it was least expected, viz., Parliament. The first bell to toll in the city on receipt of the news was St. Patrick's. At the Bishop's palace a flag was flown half-mast.

The following telegram was sent to-day by Mr. P. J. Nerheny to the Hon. W. Hall-Jones:—At a meeting of the executive of the New Zealand District Hibernian Australasian Catholic Benefit Society, held in the Hibernian Hall, Wellington street, last evening, the following resolution was carried: 'That this Council in meeting assembled place on record its profound sense of sorrow at the sudden and unexpected death of Mr. Seddon, New Zealand's beloved Prime Minister, and friendly societies' powerful advocate. It is with deep sorrow, on behalf of the Hibernians of New Zealand, we offer our heartfelt regret and unspeakable grief to Mrs. Seddon and family. We pray that God in His goodness may sustain and comfort her and family in this hour of unexpected bereavement.'

At Waiuku last Sunday the new church was blessed and opened by his Lordship Bishop Lenihan, who delivered a very fine sermon appropriate to the auspicious occasion, taking for his text, 'They shall build Me a sanctuary, and I shall dwell in the midst of them.' In the evening a large congregation assembled. The collections totalled £26 9s 6d. The cost of the new church amounts to £350, of which £170 has already been paid off. It has a situation facing Kent street, and is 54ft by 23ft, and will accommodate a congregation of about 200. A tablet at the front of the church bears the following inscription: 'St. Anthony's Church was blessed and dedicated to the service of Almighty God by his Lordship Bishop Lenihan, on Sunday, June 15, 1906. The Rev. Donald McMillan, Rector.' The Bishop visited Awhitu, and returned to Auckland last Wednesday evening.

The publication of an advertisement in a Catholic paper shows that the advertiser not only desires the patronage of Catholics, but pays them the compliment of seeking it through the medium of their own religious journal. So says an esteemed and wide-awake American contemporary. A word to the wise is sufficient.

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