

er), W. Packer, W. Duffy, and P. White. The question at issue was, "Should the State control the liquor traffic?" The Trinity Club favored State control, whilst the St. Columba Club upheld the present system. The judge, in announcing a victory for the St. Columba Club by twenty-one points, said he had been taken by surprise at the manner in which the question had been handled by the various speakers, and trusted that the members of both clubs would endeavor to arrange several contests each year.

The West Coast is, as a rule, remarkably free from bigotry. All sections of the community live very peaceably together. However, a rather disagreeable incident has lately led your correspondent to fear that the leaven of bigotry and narrow-mindedness is gradually being introduced, though he trusts that the better sense of a liberal-minded majority will easily prevent it causing strife. Across the river opposite Greymouth lies the small suburb of Cobden. It is not yet constituted a borough, but its school committee seems to think they are a very important body. Very Rev. Dean Carew, about a year ago, applied to this enlightened body for permission to teach catechism after school hours. After a very long and painfully significant delay, he received an intimation that the use of the school would be granted only on condition of payment of one shilling per visit. It was not much, but it meant a lot, it involved principles; it seemed to imply a bitter opposition to the Dean teaching his children at all. The worthy Dean communicated with the Grey District Education Board. To their credit, be it said, the members of this more important body at once notified the aforesaid Cobden School Committee that in their humble opinion the use of the school should be given free of charge. Another considerable delay followed—very significant also in its length,—and it was only after the recent elections that either payment or the free right of entry was made optional. Of course the Dean took the option of free entry, and had further communication with the Board, which has very properly made it a recommendation to Parliament, that the State schools throughout the Colony should be open after or before school hours free of charge to any minister of religion who wishes to instruct the children of his denomination.

DIocese OF AUCKLAND

(From our own correspondent.)

September 14.

The handsome new brick presbytery at Onehunga is nearing completion.

Rev. Father Farthing arrives here next Sunday from Sydney for this diocese.

The boys at the Takapuna Orphanage have been presented with a fine set of cricketing material by Mr. C. Little. It was a timely and thoughtful act.

Yesterday the Bishop left for Huntly, where Father Clune has been giving another mission. His Lordship will give Confirmation at its close next Sunday.

Rev. Fathers Mangan and King, of Melbourne, arrived last Wednesday via the Islands in the 'Navua.' Yesterday morning both left for Rotorua, and will return in time to catch the steamer leaving here next Monday for Sydney.

In last Wednesday's issue of our local morning journal appeared an interview with a young French lady by one of the staff, 'On the Church and State in France.' To our non-Catholic friends, who get their information from the cables, the news imparted by this young lady must have proved an eye-opener.

His Lordship the Bishop was at Ngauruawahia last Sunday, when he administered the Sacrament of Confirmation to a large number of children and many adults. The Very Rev. Father Clune, C.S.S.R., concluded his mission the same day, which throughout the week was exceedingly well attended. Rev. Father Cahill also assisted towards the close of the mission.

Last Saturday was the fourth anniversary of the ordination of the Rev. Father Holbrook. The children of the catechism class were determined not to allow the occasion to pass without marking their high appreciation of the good work done for them by Father Holbrook. They assembled in large numbers at the convent school. There were also present Rev. Father Murphy, Brothers George and Joachim, and ladies and gentlemen of the parish. Miss Bessie McDonnell, on behalf of the children, read a most beautifully worded address, and afterwards handed a nicely framed picture containing the photos of the various classes with their teachers. Miss Patricia O'Con-

nor then recited a poem appropriate to the occasion. Several useful presents were given Father Holbrook. Rev. Brother George, on behalf of the boys, added his meed of praise of Father Holbrook for his untiring efforts on their behalf. The school had in him a warm and enthusiastic friend. He wished Father Holbrook many years of successful labor in their midst. Mr. M. J. Sheahan also briefly addressed those present, and extolled the good work of Father Holbrook, particularly the great interest always evinced by him in the welfare of the children. Father Holbrook on rising was warmly applauded, especially by the children. He heartily thanked the children for their nice presents, which he would always treasure, and he thanked the good Sisters of Mercy who had arranged the programme for the afternoon, and which was so highly creditable to them and their pupils. He never felt so much at home as when he was with the children. They had appraised too highly his humble efforts. He thanked Brother George and Mr. Sheahan for their kind references to him, and Mrs. Lennardo and other kind friends for their useful presents. Refreshments were passed around, and several musical items were given by the children.

The Church and State in France

A French Lady, who has just come from France to New Zealand to settle, and who was interviewed by a representative of the Auckland 'Herald,' drew a most doleful picture of the internal affairs in her native land, consequent upon the action of the Government in regard to the Church.

Speaking of the North of France generally, and Roubaix in particular, she said, 'You cannot imagine what effect the Government's action has had upon the people. Catholics are placed at a serious disadvantage in everything with which the State has to do, and to be a Catholic is an almost certain disqualification for employment by the Government. Indeed, upon the examination of young men candidates for employment in the Civil Service lads from the Lycee were given the preference over lads from the Church schools, notwithstanding that the latter secured the greater number of marks, but it was the practice to endorse their examination papers with the word "Catholic," as though some sort of stigma attached to it. It seems,' said the lady, 'that the Government is persecuting the Church for two reasons, one in order to make good (to a small extent, it is true) a decreasing revenue; and the other in order to obliterate the Christian religion altogether in France.'

'I myself was present at the attacks made on the churches at Roubaix. The Catholics were determined that profane hands should not be laid upon the sacred things consecrated to the worship of God. A barricade was erected in front of one church and electricity was employed in the defences. The door could not be opened by the military, and the clergy and laity refused to admit them, being determined to hold the position to the end, but the soldiers got in at the windows, which they smashed in with their rifles.'

'One of the most pathetic sights in connection with this wretched business, was the presence of the soldiers in the church. They, poor fellows, were called upon to do duty which was manifestly repugnant to their spirits. Some poor fellows, although on duty, stood in the churches counting their beads, and some of them were in tears. It was most distasteful for them, good Catholics as they were, to have to take their horses into the churches.'

'And what do you think will be the outcome of all this?' the lady was asked.

'Already,' she replied, 'the poor, who derived so much benefit from the religious communities of both sexes, are suffering acutely. The State does nothing for them, and yet it has closed the monasteries and convents, where they used to receive food and clothing and medical attention. The hospitals have been emptied of the devoted Sisters who did the work of mercy of nurses, and the schools maintained by the religious have been appropriated by the State, with no compensation. The Benedictine and Carthusian Fathers, who built up an enormous business in the manufacture of their liquors, have been driven from the country, the former to Switzerland, the latter to Spain. France is the poorer for their departure by many thousands of pounds, for the monks devoted their profits entirely to charitable and religious purposes. As for the future, well, some trades are busy because they are unaffected by the change of front of the Government towards the Church; but others, particularly the building trades, are suffering. Business men fear serious trouble originating out of the persecution of