

# Notes

## N.Z. Religious Statistics

The great mass of returns that were fed pell-mell into the statistical hopper at the census in April, 1906, has been gradually coming out at the other end of the machine assorted, catalogued, labelled, and tied up (so to speak) in bundles. The latest batch of assorted figures published in the 'Gazette' refers to the religious professions of the people. The total population of the Colony (exclusive of Maoris) was 888,589. We may throw into tabular form as follows the extent to which the principal religious denominations are represented in the country, together with their numerical and centesimal increase since the census of 1901:—

Denomination.	Number of Adherents in 1906.	Increase since Census of 1901.	
		Numerical.	Centesimal.
Church of England ...	366,828	52,804	14.33
Presbyterians ...	203,597	27,094	13.30
Roman Catholics ...	126,109	17,149	13.59
Methodists ...	89,038	12,867	14.43
Baptists ...	31,086	2,748	8.84
Salvation Army ...	8,369	417	4.98

Between the census of 1901 and that of 1906 the general population of New Zealand increased numerically by 115,870 (equal to 13.30 per cent.). Presbyterians have increased in exact proportion to the population; Catholics, Anglicans, and Methodists at a higher rate; while Baptists and Salvationists show, with an absolute increase, a comparative decline. Judging by the sources from which the vastly greater part of our immigration has come, Catholics have probably gained most of all these creeds by natural increase and least by new blood from the older lands. Our proportion of total population has for thirty years kept almost constantly at 14 per cent.—rising slowly from 13.94 in 1886 to 14.19 in the year of grace 1906.

## Diocesan News

### ARCHDIOCESE OF WELLINGTON

(From our own correspondent.)

January 13.

The Rev. Father Goggin and Mr. Raupert, of London, have been staying at Muriwai as the guests of the Very Rev. Father Keogh.

The Rev. Father Moloney, of Thorndon, has been on a short visit to his home in Dunedin. His place was taken by Rev. Father Goggin.

The members of the Hibernian Society here have decided to join with the Catholic Young Men's Club in celebrating next St. Patrick's Day by holding a sports gathering on the Basin Reserve.

At the athletic championship meeting on New Year's Day nine events were won by our Catholic young men. The first meeting of the newly-formed athletic club in connection with the Catholic Young Men's Club took place in the Basin Reserve on Wednesday evening.

Miss Jennie Gallagher, third daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James Gallagher, of Marion street, is to be married on the 30th inst. to Mr. Michael Gleeson, son of Mr. and Mrs. Gleeson, of Napier. On the same day Miss Annie Ready, of Devon street, is to be married to Mr. Myers, also of this city.

I am pleased to write that the Rev. Father Macdonald, of Boulcott street, who has been in a private hospital for some time recovering from an operation for appendicitis, returned to the presbytery to-day.

The recent changes in the location of the Marist Brothers cause us the loss of Brother Paul, who, as head of the Boulcott street school since the departure of Brother Mark, has done good work and gained the confidence of parents. We can only console ourselves by the reflection that his successor, Brother Justin, is a man of great attainments, and one well calculated to keep the reputation of the Brothers' School as high as ever.

At St. Mary of the Angels' Church, Boulcott street, on Wednesday, Miss Chrissie Ross, third daughter of Mrs. W. F. Ross, of Oriental Bay, was married to Mr. G. Farre, of Wellington. The ceremony was performed by the Rev. Father Kimbell. The bride, who was given away by her brother, Mr. W. F. Ross, was attended by Misses E. and A. Ross (sisters of the bride), and Misses M. Hyde and G. Ross (her nieces). Mr. Alf. McDonald was best man, and Mr. A. Ross was groomsmen. The 'Wedding March' was played as the bridal party left the church. A reception, attended by some two hundred guests, was held subsequent to the ceremony in Godber's rooms.

### Wanganui

(From our own correspondent.)

January 11.

The members of the ladies' branch of the Sacred Heart League received Holy Communion in a body on last Sunday.

Mr. C. J. McCarthy has, on behalf of the Wanganui L.V. Association, sent a donation of 15 guineas towards the Garrison Band's contest. He congratulated the members of the Band on their high position in musical circles and trusted that their efforts at the coming contest will be crowned with success.

His Grace Archbishop Redwood officiated at the Catholic church, Taihape, on Sunday. In the morning he confirmed about thirty candidates. In the afternoon he blessed the handsome presbytery, recently erected, in the presence of a large congregation. In the evening the church was crowded to hear him preach.

### DIOCESE OF CHRISTCHURCH

(From our own correspondent.)

January 14.

On one of the recent holidays, the members of the Cathedral Christian Doctrine Society and friends arranged a picnic at Governor's Bay. The event was greatly enjoyed.

Mr. F. F. McEvedy, of Leeston, now studying for the medical profession at Guy's Hospital, London, has passed the M.B. and B.S. examination of the London University.

The Rev. Father O'Connell intends to re-commence his mission and collecting tour in aid of the Cathedral debt liquidation fund immediately after the clergy retreat. His attention will be directed to the Westland portion of the diocese.

A mission by the Redemptorist Fathers was commenced on Sunday morning at St. Mary's, Manchester street, by the Rev. Father Bannin, C.S.S.R. The Rev. Father Lowham, C.S.S.R., joined him in the evening.

The Very Rev. Father Gillan, V.G., of St. Benedict's, Auckland, was a visitor to Christchurch last week, and a guest at the episcopal residence. He spent much of his time at the Exhibition, and is greatly impressed with it.

Miss Lottie Barker, who played so excellently the harp passages in the 'Danse des Sylphes' in the Exhibition Orchestral concert on last Tuesday afternoon, is an A.T.C.L. on the piano. She gained the highest marks in the Colony last year, and was a pupil of the Sisters of the Missions' High School in this city.

Owing to the numerous engagements of his Grace Archbishop Redwood, it has been found necessary to postpone the opening of the new convent at Rangiora until the first Sunday in March. The Rev. Father Hyland hopes to clear off, by subscriptions between now and on the opening day, the liabilities on the building, which represent a considerable amount.

As a result (says the 'Press') of Miss Gertie Campion's stay in the Cambridge Sanatorium, she is quite recovered in health, though it will be impossible for her to take to the stage again. A concert is being promoted to take place in Auckland, the proceeds of which are to be applied to placing Miss Campion and her sister in a little business in that city.

The chief attraction at the Exhibition this week was the arrival and first performance of the renowned Besses of the Barn Band. There was an enormous attendance within the sports ground and exhibition enclosures to hear and see the band give its opening programme. The music rendered by the band is a revelation, and as a combination for the production of sweet artistic sounds the members seem to have practically attained perfection.