

## Sad Drowning Accident

A most distressing drowning fatality occurred at Waihola on Tuesday afternoon, resulting in the death of two boys—Ernest Mullaney and Thomas Curran—who were attending the Catholic Schools' picnic. It appears that three small boys, the lad Curran being one of them, were bathing in some shallow water close inshore on the lake, when a flat-bottomed dingy came floating by. The dingy was floating bottom upwards, and the boys got on to it, and amused themselves in this way for some time, unconscious of the fact that the dingy was drifting into deep water. The three boys, it appears, eventually realised the position, and jumped or slid off the bottom of the dingy, and found themselves in 7ft of water. The boy Curran, who was about 12 years of age, and who resided at Kensington, on getting into deep water became frightened and lost confidence, and one of the other boys went to his assistance, but owing to the depth of the water and the struggles of Curran had to let him go and swim to the shore to save himself from drowning.

Ernest Mullaney (a son of Sergeant Mullaney, of Port Chalmers), who was bathing by the shore, saw the danger, and promptly went out to the distressed boy's assistance. For this purpose he swam out, and succeeded in reaching Curran, but was unable to bring him ashore, and both boys sank together and were drowned. Mullaney, who was a strong swimmer, was 14 years of age, Tuesday being his birthday.

When the news of the accident became known, all the available boats on the lake were immediately put in requisition, and the place where the accident occurred was dragged with fishing nets and other appliances, and at about 5 o'clock both bodies were recovered, when it was found that Curran had his arms firmly clasped round Mullaney's neck.

The sad occurrence, as was to be naturally expected, cast a gloom over the people present, and the deepest sympathy was expressed on all sides for the parents and relatives of the boys drowned.—R.I.P.

## ASHBURTON

(From our own correspondent.)

February 12.

The new Catholic presbytery is well nigh completed.

Owing to the departure of Mr. A. J. Muller from this district, Mr. M. J. Burgess has taken over the conductorship of the choir, which is doing exceptionally well under his able guidance.

Mr. H. P. Madden has been appointed to represent the local branch of the H.A.C.B. Society at the triennial movable meeting to be held at Auckland in March.

The weather for some time past has been exceptionally dry, and business in connection with the sheep market is practically at a standstill. Many grass fires have occurred of late, one farmer having the whole of his crop burnt.

The Catholic Literary Society held their annual meeting a short time ago, when the following officers were elected:—President, Mr. S. Madden; vice-president, Mr. W. Moriarty; treasurer, Rev. Father McDonnell; secretary, Mr. L. Madden; librarian, Mr. Jos. Moison; council, Messrs. M. J. Burgess, T. O'Carroll, D. McDonnell, M. Fitzgerald, and E. Hanrahan; auditors, Messrs. F. Fitzgibbon and Jas. Murphy.

On Thursday, February 7, the Literary Society gave an 'at home' to which they invited their friends. There was a large attendance, and Mr. S. Madden (president) occupied the chair. The programme consisted of games, music, and recitations. Those who assisted were:—Songs, Misses Brankin, Hamill, C. Madden, A. McDonnell, and E. McKenna, and Messrs. Jas. Hanrahan, T. and J. Healy, and T. Brophy; pianoforte solos, Mrs. Scerif, Misses Brankin and Cartwright (Oamaru), and Mr. Fernandez; recitation, Mr. F. K. Cooper. During the evening opportunity was taken to present three diplomas of merit from the Executive of the Federated Catholic Young Men's Societies to Messrs. F. K. Cooper, M. J. Burgess, and D. McDonnell for distinguished services to the society. Mr. Burgess was also presented with a diploma as first prize in the local club's oratorical competition. Mr. Madden in making the presentation made a few complimentary remarks, especially congratulating Mr. Burgess on his speech. The recipients suitably responded.

## Interprovincial

The new convent at Akaroa for the Sisters of Mercy will be blessed and opened on Sunday by the Very Rev. Father Le Menant des Chénais, V.G.

Miss Mary O'Rorke, Convent High School, New Plymouth, passed the Civil Service examination. She was the only pupil presented.

Owing to a blasting accident at Milburn on Saturday, two men were killed, and three injured. Mr. William Casserly, who was killed, was the son of Mr. W. Casserly, of Fairfax, Milton, and was 22 years of age. His brother, Mr. P. Casserly, was seriously injured.

We have to acknowledge receipt of the 'High School Annual' of the Convent of Our Lady of Good Counsel, Rockhampton. The annual devotes most of its space to accounts of the various events which took place during the scholastic year. There are some creditable original contributions in prose and verse, and a number of illustrations, all of which make up a very readable magazine.

A sad accident occurred at Waimate on Thursday evening. Dr. Barclay was driving a motor car, in which were his son and his groom, a youth named James O'Connor, about 18 years of age. Coming down the Mile road the car ran into a trap coming in the opposite direction, and threw the three occupants out. The shaft of the trap struck O'Connor on the breast, and he died a few minutes later. Dr. Barclay and his son were not injured. The men in the trap were not thrown out, and the only damage to the vehicle was the breaking of one end of the shaft.

A very pleasant gathering (says the Christchurch 'Press') took place at the office at the Lyttelton Gaol on Thursday evening, January 31, for the purpose of saying farewell to Mr. John Joyce, who, after 17 years' service in the gaol, and who during the last few years has acted as clerk, has resigned in order to take up farming in the North Loburn district. There was a large number of the gaol officials present, on behalf of whom, Mr. M. Cleary, governor of the gaol, presented Mr. Joyce with a purse of sovereigns and a handsomely illuminated address. In making the presentation Mr. Cleary referred to Mr. Joyce in terms of the highest appreciation, and voiced the great regret felt by all the gaol officials at the departure of so popular an officer after many years of service. On behalf of the staff Mr. Cleary wished Mr. Joyce every happiness and prosperity in his future life. Mr. Joyce feelingly responded and heartily thanked Mr. Cleary and his brother officials for their valuable gifts and kind wishes. Mr. Joyce was also the recipient of an address from the visiting justices, who expressed their high appreciation of the qualities of tact and courtesy he had always displayed in the discharge of his duties.

In the course of an interview in Sydney Sir J. G. Ward said:—'We have never had anything approaching the record for the nine-months of the present year. Our revenue is more than £600,000 higher than it was for the corresponding nine months of last year. And there is nothing abnormal in it, but, on the contrary, a steady growth of business, and the development of the interior and of the towns and cities, to account for this increase. Our revenue has grown in every department of the public service excepting in territorial revenue—and in respect of this it may be explained that the cause of the decrease is found in the fact that we have not been disposing of anything like the same quantity of land as in previous years. In our railways, stamps, Customs, post and telegraphs, and marine, there has been this increase; in fact, every branch of the public service gives a reflex of what is going on in the country generally. But in no sense can one say there is a boom. Our revenue has been increasing steadily for some years; and I predicted, when speaking in Wellington the night before leaving, that at the end of the present quarter, when the financial year will end, our country will have had a record year for revenue—exceeding, I think, £8,276,000, or £700,000 better than in last year.'

A young lady desires position as organist....

Mr. W. Sey, painter and decorator, Colombo street, Christchurch, draws attention to his comprehensive stock of new season's wall papers, beautiful in design, rich in coloring, and carefully selected from the best British manufacturers. He has also a large selection of other artistic decorative materials....