

The St. Patrick's Day Celebration Committee are meeting regularly, whilst the various sub-committees are busily working up details connected with each separate department. The tickets are now widely distributed, and no effort will be spared to insure complete success.

The Ven. Archpriest Le Menant des Chesnais, S.M., of Leeston is appointed parish priest of Temuka, replacing Rev. Father James Goggan, S.M., who is appointed pastor of Napier. The Rev. Father S. Mahony, also of Leeston, goes to Wellington. Rev. Father Hills, S.M., late Vice-Rector of St. Patrick's College, is appointed parish priest of Leeston. Rev. Father Ainsworth, from Wellington South, is appointed parish priest of Hokitika. Rev. Father O'Dwyer, now at Hokitika, replaces Rev. Father Lepretre at Wairoa (Hawke's Bay), the latter going to Europe on holiday leave. Rev. Father Finnerty goes to Wellington from Timaru, and is replaced by Father A. McDonald, of Wellington. The Rev. Father O'Connell, S.M., of the Cathedral, Christchurch, is appointed Superior of a missionary section of the Marist Order, with whom will be associated the Rev. Father Kimbell, S.M., of Wellington.

Ashburton

(From an occasional correspondent.)

February 10.

The Catholic schools re-opened after their annual holidays on January 27.

The Rev. Father Creed, of Kumara, paid a short visit to Ashburton last week.

The Rev. Mother St. Clement has been transferred to another district. Her place has been filled by Mother St. Winifred.

During the retreat of the clergy in Christchurch, the Rev. Father Lowham, C.S.S.R., was in charge of the parish.

The Hibernian Society held its fortnightly meeting last Monday week, when Bro. Jas. Murphy, president, presided over a large attendance. Two candidates were proposed. The Society is in a very flourishing state.

The Catholic Club held its weekly meeting last Tuesday evening the programme being a debate: 'Should the Conciliation Board accede to the demands made by the farm laborers?' Mr. D. McDonnell led off for the negative and Mr. W. Cunningham for the affirmative. After a lengthy debate a vote was taken and resulted in favor of the affirmative by a bare majority.

Timaru

(From our own correspondent.)

February 10.

The parochial schools re-opened on Monday last with a good number of pupils. The Sacred Heart Convent commences its scholastic year to-morrow (Tuesday).

Word has just been received of the transfer of the Rev. Father Finnerty to Wellington. The Rev. Father has been in Timaru for the past two years, and during that time he has endeared himself to all. He is particularly popular with the young people of the parish. The news of his transfer has been received with feelings of regret.

An open-air garden concert will be held on the girls' school lawn on Wednesday evening next, 12th inst., the object being to defray the expenses of altering the school building. The leading vocalists and instrumentalists of the town have volunteered their services, and the evening should be a most enjoyable one.

The greatest fire that has been witnessed in Timaru during the memory of the present generation took place on Wednesday last, when the offices and warehouse of the Canterbury Farmers' Co-operative Association were completely gutted. At 5.30 p.m. the last of the employees, just as they were leaving, noticed a thick haze of smoke issuing from the drapery department. The alarm was at once given and, notwithstanding the efforts of the full strength of the Fire Brigade, by 8 o'clock the fire had swept through the buildings from Strathallan to Beswick street, only leaving standing the four colossal outside walls to mark the site of what had been a few hours previously the largest and most heavily stocked warehouse in South Canterbury. The insurance totalled about £60,000, and beyond the unavoidable dislocation of business no great loss will be suffered by the Association's shareholders. All the books and papers were saved, the members of the staff, under the direction of Mr. A. Wilson (accountant and acting manager) and Mr. Lack (cashier), being responsible for this. The

employees were all at work again next morning, business being resumed in the old premises, Cain's Terrace, which had been vacated six and a half years ago.

Hokitika

(From our own correspondent.)

February 7.

Once more it has been effectively proved that our Catholic schools can hold their own with the best of the State aided schools. The return of the Junior Civil Service examination shows that Misses May and Una Sullivan, and Violet Wright, pupils of St. Columbkille's Convent, were successful in the examination.

Father Aubry left for Waimate on Thursday evening, and was tendered a hearty send-off at the local railway station. Father O'Dwyer is acting locum tenens until such time as a successor is appointed to Father Aubry.

DIOCESE OF AUCKLAND

(From our own correspondent.)

February 7.

Next Monday evening the municipal electric light in Auckland is to be switched on by the Mayoress.

Rev. Father Tormey has been transferred to the charge of Otahuhu, Howick, Panmure from Ponsonby.

His Eminence Cardinal Moran will be accorded a great reception, and given a fine Sunday afternoon it will be an event to be remembered in this city.

Two acres of land have been purchased in Vermont street, Ponsonby, by the Bishop for the use of the Ponsonby parish. The present church, in addition to being entirely too small, is on the main road, and suffers from the noise and dust of the tram cars and other traffic.

Last Sunday his Lordship the Bishop preached at the second Mass at the Cathedral, and took occasion to reply to Sir Robert Stout's letter to the press, in which the latter condemned the University Senate for accepting the bequest of the late Mr. D. O'Sullivan, of Timaru. 'During the week' (said his Lordship) 'we were informed that a bequest had been made by Mr. O'Sullivan, of Timaru, to enable Catholic students to win renown at the New Zealand University. This news was most gratifying to us, and if any such bequests are made to any other denomination they will also be interesting as an assistance to the cause of education. Subsequently, however, Sir Robert Stout took it upon himself to adversely criticise the wisdom of the Senate when it accepted the bequest, and in so doing posed as the adviser of Catholics. If Sir Robert Stout would, or could, leave every such matter relating to Catholics severely alone it would be better for us, and better for the general goodwill and peace of this Dominion, which we all so earnestly desire.'

At the 11 o'clock Mass on Sunday at the Cathedral the Bishop blessed the three new stained-glass windows. The two behind the high altar represent the Ascension of our Lord, and the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary. The other presented by Rev. Father Mahony and his sister and brother, represent St. Margaret and St. Edward. In a few brief remarks the Bishop extolled the great work done in the past for the diocese generally by Mr. and Mrs. Mahony. In the evening his Lordship gave a most interesting account of the steps he had taken for the decoration of the Cathedral. Windows had now been presented by Mr. M. H. Walsh, Mesdames Hackett and Payne, and by the Dignan and Mahony families. The two behind the high altar would no doubt be donated to the church before long. The total value of the windows amounted to £1000. The small stained-glass window in the baptistry was given by the Lundon family. The Bishop then told of the origin of stained-glass windows, when they were first used, and how they were so universally adopted as a means of encouraging the devotion and reverence of the faithful for all things sacred. After the sermon a procession of the Blessed Sacrament took place. There was Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament from the 11 o'clock Mass until Vespers, and was largely attended by the faithful.

Rotorua

(From our own correspondent.)

January 29.

Hot weather is being experienced in Rotorua, and for five weeks rain has not fallen.

Trout fishing is the favorite sport of large numbers of our visitors, and the various fishing camps are all full.

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