

Moor men from the coast of India, Malays, Eurasians, bunglers (descendants of the Dutch and Portuguese who formerly owned the island), and British. The population is now about four millions, that of Colombo being 159,000. The Dean here gave an interesting account of the early history of the island and its people, who had attained a high state of civilisation in past ages as was evidenced by the discovery in recent times of the remains of buried cities and immense water tanks, which were apparently used for irrigation purposes. The most celebrated of these tanks was that at Anuradhapura. What strikes one most on reaching Colombo is the purely Oriental character of the people, the variety, quaintness, and brightness of the different costumes. Their modes of conveyance are a mixture of the old and the new—rickshas, bullock hackeries, gharries, and electric trams. Owing to the failure of coffee towards the end of the seventies the European planters went in for tea, which is now the staple product of the colony. The Buddhists are the most numerous religious denomination in the island, numbering 2,141,000, then come the Hindus, 826,000; Christians (mostly Catholics), 349,000; Mahomedans, 246,000. The Catholic hierarchy consists of an Archbishop and four suffragans. In addition to St. Lucia's Cathedral, there are several Catholic churches in Colombo, which has a Catholic population of 50,000. During his stay in Colombo the Dean was the guest of the clergy at St. Philip Neri's Church in the Pettah, the rector of which was a namesake of the Dean's, and a Dublin man. Among the Catholic institutions visited during his stay were the Good Shepherd Convent and St. Joseph's College, an institution as large as the Dunedin Boys' High School. The progress of education in the colony was next touched upon, and the old methods compared with the new. In conclusion the Dean said that at some other time he would be pleased to give further particulars of his travels.

On the motion of Mr. J. B. Callan, jun., who paid a well-merited compliment to Dean Burke for his interesting and instructive lecture, and congratulated the members on such an auspicious opening for the current session, a hearty vote of thanks was accorded the Very Rev. lecturer.

Dean Burke, in acknowledging the vote of thanks, advised the young men to join one or other of the parish societies, for organisation and combination were the great powers of the present, an example of such being seen by him whilst travelling in Germany.

Rev. Father Coffey announced that Dean Burke had consented to deliver another lecture later on in the season, the subject being a visit to Rome, which would be illustrated with lantern views.

The announcement was received with applause.

During the evening songs were contributed by Messrs. Poppelwell and Jos. Swanson.

## Diocesan News

### ARCHDIOCESE OF WELLINGTON

(From our own correspondent.)

May 2.

At the several churches to-morrow the committee of the new Catholic Club will take the names of intending members.

Business at the Dominion Bazaar during the week has been very brisk. Up to Friday night about £1200 had been taken.

Mr. James Bourke, jun., of Kilbirnie, leaves on Thursday next on a business visit to England. Mr. Bourke, who is a popular figure in wool circles, was entertained at a dinner during the week by the leading wool-brokers of the city.

Mr. Denis Fay, who recently returned from a trip abroad, has just entered into business again as a partner in the well-known carrying firm of J. O'Brien and Co. Mr. Fay has the best wishes of a large circle of friends in his new venture.

The foundation stone of the new church being erected by the Redemptorist Order in Hawker street was laid by his Grace the Archbishop on Sunday afternoon in the presence of a large gathering. His Grace complimented the Fathers on the great progress they had made since coming to New Zealand.

The Catholics of Muritai met on Sunday to receive a report from the rector of the parish, Very Rev. Father Keogh. The report disclosed that the finances of the parish were in a satisfactory position, about

£450 having been raised by a bazaar held some time ago. It was decided, on the motion of Mr. J. C. Kelly, seconded by Mr. A. R. Bunny, that a social gathering be held at the Bay some time in June. A committee, with Mr. Bert Kelly as secretary, was set up to make the necessary arrangements. The resident Catholic community at the Bay is as yet a small one, and it is hoped that the city Catholics will assist the gathering by their attendance.

At the recent Senior Civil Service examinations the pupils from St. Patrick's College secured second place in Latin and French, sixth place in geometry, trigonometry, and commercial geography, and tenth place in arithmetic and algebra. It is worthy of note that outside of members of the Civil Service the only pupils to complete the Senior Civil Service examination at one sitting were two pupils from the college. The Catholics of the Dominion must surely feel that in the college they have a secondary educational institution equal at least to any other establishment of the kind in the Dominion. The Rector, Very Rev. Father Keogh, is deserving of our warmest gratitude for the high standard attained by the college during recent years under the able guidance of himself and staff.

### Blenheim

(From our own correspondent.)

April 26.

Blenheim was represented at the Conference of the Federated Catholic Clubs, at Auckland, by Messrs. Fama (Te Awamutu) and F. Shaw (managing director of the 'Marlborough Herald'), who succeeded in getting Blenheim selected as the locale of the conference next year.

The Holy Week ceremonies were carried out in a fitting manner at St. Mary's Church. On Holy Thursday Solemn High Mass was celebrated at 8 a.m. by the Very Rev. Father Holley being celebrant, Rev. Father O'Sullivan deacon, and Rev. Father Fay sub-deacon. At 10 o'clock on Good Friday a large congregation was present at the Adoration of the Cross and Mass of the Presanctified. Father Holley spoke a few impressive words on the indifference of some Catholics who treated this most solemn day as a day of pleasure, and entreated his hearers not to leave the church and devote the day to pleasure, but to attend the Stations of the Cross in the afternoon and the holy Rosary and sermon in the evening. On Easter Sunday a large number received Holy Communion at the 7.30 a.m. Mass. At 10.30 a.m. Mass was said, the Rev. Father Holley being celebrant, a fairly strong choir singing Winter's Mass in C. The services throughout were very impressive.

### Westport

(From an occasional correspondent.)

April 27.

Notwithstanding the number of counter attractions a fairly large audience was present at the Victoria Theatre on Thursday evening last, when Miss Ruby McDonald, of Sydney, gave a violin recital. The audience were most enthusiastic. The people could not have enough of her playing, and encores were the order of the evening. Her opening numbers were 'Last movement of concerto' (Goddard), 'Souvenir de Sorento' (Pardini), which afforded her ample scope to display her technique. This talented young lady makes the violin a thing of life, and has the gift of making her audience feel the various emotions embodied in the piece. This was specially noticed in her very tasteful rendering of 'Adagio' (Kaliwoda) and 'Yankee Doodle' (Vieuxtemps), each item calling forth hearty applause from all parts of the house. Miss McDonald's other contributions were 'Reverie,' 'Killarney,' 'Patrick's Day,' and as the concluding number of a most enjoyable entertainment she gave 'Brindisi valse' (Allard) and two Scotch dances. Miss Marcelene Boulais, who has a sweet soprano voice, assisted materially in the success of the evening's entertainment, her contributions being 'May morning,' 'The cows are in the corn,' 'Drink to me only with thine eyes' (accompanied by four violins and piano), 'Dear little shamrock,' 'Link divine,' 'Love's old sweet song,' and 'Barney O'Hea.' Miss May Lynch played the accompaniments in a finished manner.

### DIOCESE OF CHRISTCHURCH

(From our own correspondent.)

May 4.

His Lordship the Bishop was at Darfield on Sunday, and goes on from there to Oira.

In response to an invitation, his Lordship the Bishop

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