

ST. PATRICK'S DAY

WELLINGTON

The Hibernians of Wellington (says the *Dominion*) celebrated St. Patrick's Day in a manner befitting the occasion. It has been the custom to observe the day by holding an annual monster picnic in Father Lane's picturesque grounds at the Lower Hutt, and the outing this year was a great success, due in no small degree to the united efforts of committees representing the Hibernian Society and the Wellington Catholic Club, the presiding genius being Mr. P. D. Hoskins, general secretary of the joint committee. It was in a large measure an outing for the children, and although the day dawned somewhat threateningly, there was little rain to hurt anyone, and the various sports and other attractions organised for the occasion were carried out with complete success. The youngsters attended early Mass at the various churches, and were then mustered in procession to the railway station, where they were entrained for the picnic ground. The principal procession was that which marched from St. Mary of the Angels', Boulcott street, about 500 children and a detachment from the Hibernian Society, in the regalia of their order, being present. The juvenile detachment from St. Anne's, Newtown, numbered about 200, who were taken by car to the station. With the Hutt children added, there must have been well on 1300 children all told. The St. Anne's School children gave a display of club-swinging, and among the numerous dances given were Irish jigs by Misses Amelia Fama, Moana Butler, and Lizzie Coleman. During the day Archdeacon Devoy and the Rev. Fathers Hickson, Venning, Herring, Macdonald, and Lane, and Mr. T. M. Wilford, M.P., were present.

The Town Hall was taxed to its utmost capacity last evening, when the St. Patrick's Day celebrations were brought to an appropriate termination by an excellent concert. There were no fewer than twenty-two items, but as the management committee had had the good sense to intimate that no encores would be allowed, the entertainment, although somewhat protracted, did not tire the audience. His Excellency the Governor (Lord Plunket), Captain Shannon, A.D.C., Lady Ward, and Miss Eileen Ward, his Grace Archbishop Redwood, S.M., his Worship the Mayor (Hon. T. W. Hislop), and Dr. Cahill, were among those present. The excellence of the programme was considerably enhanced by the inclusion of several items by the Canadian Kitties Band. Mrs. Amy Hyde-Woodward sang very sweetly 'An Irish lullaby' (Needham) and 'The shamrock.' Miss H. Lorraine Tansley, despite the fact that she had but just recovered from a severe cold, was in very good voice, and her item—'Kathleen Mavourneen'—was pleasingly and artistically interpreted, the singer being recalled to bow her acknowledgments. Miss Ruby M'Donald (violinist) played an arrangement by Vieuxtemps of the Irish national air, 'St. Patrick's Day,' and her own arrangement of the favorite air, 'Kathleen Mavourneen.' Miss May Driscoll's singing of 'The wearing of the green' was much appreciated, the singer being recalled to repeat part of her song. Two excellent items were 'For the green' (Hermann, Lohr) and 'The little Galway cloak' (also by Lohr), sung by Mr. Ernest Parkes, who was given a most cordial reception, and warmly applauded. Mr. J. Finlay, at very short notice, and at the special request of his Excellency the Governor, recited, with excellent effect, 'Shamus O'Brien.' Misses Maisie and Peggy and Master St. Leger Reeves gave two really good exhibitions, in costume, of national dancing; the Clan Johnstone troupe of dancers also contributed an Irish jig. The cornet solo by Mr. Alfred Cook (conductor of the band) was a very fine item. Other items were given by Master James McCarthy (recitation), Master Rupert Christie (song), and the pupils of the Marist Brothers' School (patriotic choruses).

The accompaniments were played by Miss Amy Remington, Miss Henderson, and Miss Una Simon.

DUNEDIN

The Irish national concert in connection with St. Patrick's Day was held this year in the Garrison Hall, Dunedin, on the evening of March 18, the change of date being due to the fact that no suitable hall was available on the proper day. Notwithstanding the change, there was a very large audience, and the concert from every point of view was an undoubted success. The number of items on the well-selected programme was not unusually large, but when the enthusiastic and undeniable recalls of the audience had been complied with they had increased to close on double the original list. The Mornington Band, which played outside the hall prior to the commencement

of the proceedings, opened the concert with a selection of Irish melodies, which was received with well-deserved applause. The band also contributed the opening item of the second part of the programme, a selection from Verdi's works, in which it was again highly successful. Mrs. R. A. Power met with a very enthusiastic reception, her programme items being an 'Irish folk song' and an 'Irish lullaby.' She gave a finished rendering of both numbers, and, as was natural, recalls followed in both instances. Mrs. Orr-Loring's singing of Gounod's 'Ave Maria' was much appreciated, and an enthusiastic recall followed. Later on in the evening she gave a charming rendering of the bracketed items, 'To my first love' and 'You'd better ask me,' for which she was again encored. Miss G. Meenan contributed a remarkably well-played violin solo, 'Danse,' for which she was warmly encored. Miss Meenan also played an obligato to Mrs. Orr-Loring's 'Ave Maria.' Mr. T. J. Hussey is an old favorite at such concerts, and his appearance was the signal for a warm greeting. His programme items were 'The minstrel boy' and 'The wearin' of the green,' and in both cases he had to respond to emphatic recalls. Mr. J. McGrath was in fine voice, and his singing of 'God save Ireland' met with the warmest appreciation of the audience, who insisted on an encore, to which he responded with 'Off to Philadelphia.' 'Avourneen' was sung with much taste by Mr. E. Y. Priest, who was also recalled. A most enjoyable item was the vocal quartet, 'The meeting of the waters,' by Messrs. A. Binnie, E. Y. Priest, A. L. Alexander, and J. A. Haggitt. St. Joseph's Choir, under the conductorship of Mr. A. Vallis, contributed the 'Soldiers' Chorus' (Faust), and 'The dear little shamrock,' in both of which they were highly successful. The accompaniments, which were remarkably well played, were shared by Mrs. J. Woods and Mr. A. Vallis. The concert on the whole was eminently successful, and much of the credit for this result was due to the energetic secretary, Mr. W. P. Rodgers.

CHRISTCHURCH

There was a record house at His Majesty's Theatre on Wednesday night on the occasion of the annual concert in aid of the funds of Nazareth House (says the *Press*). The musical portion of the programme, which constituted the first part, was excellent. Madame Josephine Otlees sang 'The harp that once,' and gave it very well indeed, and she was good in her encore, 'Love is meant to make us glad.' Mrs. C. M. Brooke, who was in excellent voice, was heard to considerable advantage in 'Kathleen Mavourneen,' and the same may be said of her encore number, 'Molly O'Halloran.' The old favorite, 'The dear little shamrock,' was artistically sung by Miss Laura Treleaven. For an encore she gave an old English song, 'Come, lads and lasses.' Mr. R. Beveridge deserves very great credit for his excellent singing of 'The wearin' of the green.' This he undertook at very short notice in place of Mr. Farquhar Young, who was suddenly called out of town. For an encore Mr. Beveridge gave very successfully 'Off to Philadelphia.' Mr. R. F. Foster's artistic singing of 'The minstrel boy' made it one of the most acceptable items of the programme. He was quite as good in his encore number. Mr. Peake sang 'She is far from the land,' which he gave with much sweetness and delicacy. For an encore Mr. Peake gave 'Oft in the silly night,' which he sang well. Mr. Vere Buchanan's violin solo was an arrangement by Farmer of the well-known melody, 'The last rose of summer.' This was played very finely, all the variations on the theme being given with much effect. A charming composition, 'Prison song,' by Bohm, was given as an encore. The duo for harp and clarinet, by Miss Lottie Barker and Mr. W. H. Corrigan, was a very excellent number. The harp lends itself particularly to Irish melody, and Miss Barker played well. Mr. Corrigan was exceedingly good in his part of the duo, the various Irish melodies which were interwoven together being admirably played. An excellent orchestra of ladies and gentlemen, under the conductorship of Mr. Alfred Bunz, played 'Gems of Ireland,' and a selection, 'Chevalier de Breton,' which were given with considerable effect and success. Mr. R. A. Horne accompanied the songs very efficiently. In the interval his Lordship Bishop Grimes, on behalf of the Sisters of Nazareth, thanked the very large audience for their attendance, and the ladies and gentlemen who had so generously contributed to the musical portion of the programme. The institution was, his Lordship remarked, one which aided and succored the sick, distressed, the orphans, and particularly incurables, without distinction of creed or race, and he felt that the public's liberal support was due to their appreciation of the unselfish devotion of the Sisters. The last part of the programme comprised cinematographic pictures, for which Mr. R. H. Rossiter played appropriate music.

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