

DIOCESE OF CHRISTCHURCH

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

May 10.

Mr. W. Hayward, sen., of the Rink stables, who recently entered a number of horses for the Sydney Royal Show, secured a notable record of wins for the Dominion. These include a first prize for four-in-hand teams, first for a carriage pair, first and second for cobs, second for tandem team, third for dog-cart horse, and third for gig horse. The whole number of exhibits were subsequently disposed of at satisfactory figures.

Mrs. François Narbey, an old resident of Long Bay and Akaroa, passed away recently at the age of seventy-four years. The late Mrs. Narbey was of Irish descent, and her childhood was spent in England. She arrived with her parents in 1851, and walked from Lyttelton to Banks Peninsula. On arrival at Long Bay the family resolved to stop, and began dairying under great difficulties. They persevered, however, and prospered. In 1856 she married Mr. François Narbey. They had a family of eighteen children. The late Mrs. Narbey was a generous benefactor to the Church, of which she was an ardent and faithful member.

The funeral of the late Rev. Mother Marie St. Benedict took place at Ashburton on last Tuesday morning, and was very largely attended. At 10 o'clock the remains of the deceased religious were removed from the convent to the Church of the Holy Name of Jesus, where a Requiem Mass was celebrated by the Very Rev. Dean O'Donnell. The following clergy were present:—Very Rev. Dean Ginaty, S.M., V.G. (representing his Lordship the Bishop), Very Rev. Dean Bowers (Geraldine), Rev. Dr. Kennedy (Cathedral), Rev. Fathers Tubman, S.M. (Timaru), Hyland (Rangiora), Tymons, and Ahern. At the conclusion of Mass the funeral procession, headed by cross-bearer and acolytes, and followed by the school children, the Children of Mary (in regalia), and members of the Congregation, moved to the cemetery. The funeral procession was the largest ever seen in Ashburton, and extended from the convent to the railway station. The Very Rev. Dean Ginaty officiated at the interment.

Great interest is taken on both sides of the dividing range in regard to the progress of the huge tunnel which is to connect Canterbury and Westland. Some particulars of the methods adopted and work already accomplished were given by Mr. Murdoch McLean, one of the firm of contractors to a *Lyttelton Times* reporter. At the Otira end, he said, favorable progress was being made, and the men were quite satisfied with the conditions under which they were employed. The plant for making concrete blocks had been installed, and the blocks for lining the tunnel were being made. When the concrete was set, they would begin to line the widened portion of the tunnel with the blocks. The progress at the heading was particularly good, and between 41 and 42 chains had been done. It was hoped that the distance driven would this week be between 78ft and 80ft, and if that were accomplished the men engaged on the works would get a bonus of £12 or £14. With the bonus system the men were quite satisfied. At times the ground driven through was particularly hard, and though the men worked with great vigor, they were unable to advance more than 60ft or 66ft a week. In portions of good ground they could do 70ft to 80ft a week, and for everything in addition to 66ft they received a bonus, and by that means they got the full benefit of the ground. If the conformation of the soil did not allow more than 66ft to be cut out, the men received the same wage, and no decrease was made for the 'bad lands.' Mr. McLean said the employees were of a good class, and if they did not get a bonus they would do just as much work as they could. It had been said by labor agitators that the men by doing extra work and by exerting themselves were robbing other men of work. As it was, it happened to be a matter of fact that no more men could be employed, owing to the nature of the work. They were confined within narrow limits. The hydro-electric installation at the Otira end of the tunnel was working with marked success, and ever since it had been placed in position it had been driven without a hitch. At the Bealey end of the work a good deal had been done, though the very hard work at the cuttings on the face and the great work of fixing the pipe line to the water supply from the Devil's Punch Bowl had caused a good deal of delay. The pipes were now laid to the mouths of the tunnels at the top of the rise, and the flumes through the tunnel which was to convey the water to the pipe-head were nearing completion. The power-house, compressor-house, generators, pelton wheels, and compressors were all in position, and the cables had been placed on the connecting poles. It was probable that in a couple of weeks work would be started at the heading at the Bealey end.

DIOCESE OF AUCKLAND

(By Telegraph from our own correspondent.)

May 10.

The annual meeting of the Old Boys' Club will be held next Thursday night.

Right Rev. Mgr. O'Reilly left by the Mokoia to-night for Sydney, on a trip for the benefit of his health. His many friends in the Dominion hope and trust that his recovery may prove speedy and lasting.

A fortnight's mission, conducted by Rev. Father Tigar, O.P., was concluded last evening at Avondale. Throughout it was most successful, the attendance being remarkably good.

At the opening of the Rugby football season on Saturday the Marist Brothers' Old Boys' team in the first junior competition won handsomely, and are to be complimented on the form displayed. In the second grade junior competition the Marist Brothers' team was defeated by the narrow margin of two points at the end of the game.

The last social held at St. Benedict's will, it is expected, turn out a great financial success. Rev. Father Meagher presided over the meeting at Ailsa House after Vespers last evening, when a large gathering of ladies and gentlemen decided to hold a series of socials, commencing on May 25. The interest shown in the proposal augurs well for its ultimate success.

His Lordship the Bishop entertained the choir and collectors at the Cathedral at a social gathering on last Wednesday evening at Ailsa House, adjoining the Cathedral presbytery. Rev. Fathers Holbrook, Meagher, Zana, and a large muster of guests were present. A choice musical programme was given by the choir. The Bishop assisted the performers on his 'cello. The accompaniments were played by the organist, Mr. Harry Hiscocks. At an interval his Lordship addressed those present, and expressed his pleasure at having round him the conductor and choir. He knew and highly appreciated, as also did his clergy and people, the onerous duties performed so ungrudgingly and willingly by the choir for years past. He had heard many choirs during his wide and varied travels, and he was proud to tell them that the Cathedral choir did not suffer in comparison. He took this opportunity of thanking Mr. Hiscocks and the members, and wished them long life and good health that they might use their talent in doing honor to Almighty God and His Church. His Lordship took occasion to say that while recently in the South he met several who expressed delight at the efforts made in Auckland to make their schools free, and they promised to assist in the matter. A gentleman had promised him a block of land on the northern shore of Waitemata, to be devoted to freeing our schools. Another offer for the same purpose came from a gentleman who was preparing what promised to be a big local entertainment. All this was most gratifying to him, as it would be to the priests and people of the diocese generally. His Lordship then presented to every member of the choir a medal, which he procured in Rome, and upon which was engraved the effigy of St. Cecilia, Patroness of Music. Rev. Father Meagher, at the request of Mr. Hiscocks, replied on behalf of the choir, and thanked his Lordship for his eulogistic remarks, and for the thoughtful presents, which were highly appreciated by every member. While absent his Lordship often thought of his choir, and he (Father Meagher) could assure his Lordship that they often thought of him, and were delighted to have him back with them. The gathering was brought to a close by the choir singing the 'Hallelujah Chorus' from the 'Messiah.'

It is interesting to note (says the *Auckland Herald*) the growth per head of our European population in exports and imports. The value of exports has risen from £9 4s 10d per head in 1895 to £18 6s 6d in 1907, whilst the exports have only risen from £12 7s per head to £21 16s 9d during the same period. What are the reasons for this portentous change in the difference between imports and exports? There are two reasons. The minor one is, no doubt, the higher and more expensive style of living so common today. The major one is the difference in the proportion of primary producers per head of our population. Nearly seven-eighths of the exports of this country are represented by agricultural products, consequently, to put the matter briefly, the reason why our exports have not kept pace with our imports is due to the fact that land settlement and farming have not kept pace with the growth of our population.