

THE NEW DOMINICAN CONVENT, OAMARU.

The foundation stone of a new Convent for the Dominican Nuns at Oamaru will be laid on Sunday, May 27, by his Lordship Bishop Verdon. The following particulars of the new building will be of interest to our readers:—The new Convent will stand on the vacant space between the present Convent and the Basilica, but on a terrace considerably higher than that occupied by either of those buildings. The terrace in front will be reached by means of a double set of concrete steps, 7ft wide, forming a semicircle and landing on the verandah which will occupy the space between the two wings of the building. The whole building will be very plain in its external detail, but strongly built of Oamaru stone, standing on a cemented concrete base, and having all its external walls hearted with cement and concrete to keep out the damp, the whole tied together with iron bands. The front of the building will have two gables on each side, finishing the north and south wings, the body being recessed back and finished with a verandah and balcony of timber and cast iron. A similar verandah and balcony will extend along the whole length of the north flank to give space for exercise to the community during all weathers. The roof will be finished with French tiles, a more permanent roofing material than either slate or iron, and affording a better contrast with the Oamaru stone. Particular attention has been given to the sanitary arrangements of the building and everything relating to drainage, ventilation, water supply etc., is designed upon the most modern, up-to-date systems. No drains or other pipes will be carried under the ground covered by the building except through a tunnel of sufficient size to admit the entrance of workmen for inspection or repairs. Hot and cold water will be laid on all over the building, circulated from one of Messrs. Barningham and Co's., 6ft. ranges. This firm will also supply all the cast iron necessary for the verandahs, balconies, and the ventilation scheme. The whole building will be divided into two distinct parts—one devoted to the community and the other to the work of the school and the accommodation of the boarders. For the first part the accommodation will consist of the following rooms:—Parlor, 14ft by 19ft; community room, 23ft by 19ft; refectory, 18ft by 19ft; choir, 19ft by 25ft with a sacristy 10ft by 7ft; lay Sisters' room, 12ft by 15ft; kitchen, 25ft by 16ft; scullery, 15ft by 10ft; all on the ground floor. On the upper floor will be a study, 19ft by 20ft; 11 cells, 14ft by 9ft; together with three bath rooms, a dressing room and other conveniences. The second or school part of the building will have a refectory, 19ft by 19ft; class room, 19ft by 25ft; kindergarten, 19ft by 21ft; with an entrance porch, 7ft by 9ft all on the ground floor. On the upper floor will be a dormitory, 47ft by 9ft and 16ft high; pantry, 16ft by 32ft; two bath rooms, wardrobes, etc. All the ground floor will have a ceiling height of 14ft, and those rooms on the upper floor of 12ft. The whole of the interior of the building will be finished in a plain but substantial manner, some of the principal rooms will have zinc ceilings, all the rest of the building will be finished in plaster. Mr. F. W. Petre of Dunedin is the architect, and Mr. Alex Gillies of Oamaru is the contractor.

NEW ZEALAND: GENERAL.

MR. L. HANRAHAN presided at the last meeting of the Ashburton Catholic Literary Society when there was a large attendance of members. The evening was devoted to the reading of papers contributed by the junior members, the subjects dealt with being some great soldiers and their deeds. Mr. P. Hanrahan gave a sketch of Robert Bruce; Mr. D. Moriarty, Wellington; Mr. P. Gorman, Lord Roberts; Mr. J. Moriarty, Napoleon. The papers showed evidence of considerable research and industry on the part of the writers.

SPEAKING at Masterton last week the Hon. J. G. Ward said he recognised that it was the duty of the Government to return the people of the Colony as much as possible out of the earnings of the railways. With that end in view concessions would shortly be announced which would show that the Government were sincere in their intention to use the railways for the benefit of the people as a whole. The Government would also endeavor to cheapen the cost of sending produce to the seaboard.

The rabbit industry is assuming vast proportions in Maniototo just now (says the *Mount Ida Chronicle*). One day during the week a representative of this journal saw at Ranfurly a waggon containing 5300 rabbits. Estimating the rabbits at 3lb each, this would make a total of over seven tons of rabbits in one lot. It took nine horses to draw the load. A few days previous 13,000 rabbits left Ranfurly. The rabbit exporting industry, combined with the large quantity of dredge material now being sent up country, makes Ranfurly a rather busy centre just now.

AN accident, which unfortunately resulted fatally, occurred at Temuka on Thursday last. Nicholas O'Connell, a well known young man, was engaged in assisting to stack clover for Mr. E. Carr, of Arowhenua, and whilst forking from the dray to the stack, the handle of the fork he used, snapped, with the result that Mr. O'Connell overbalanced and fell heavily from the load. When picked up it was seen that he was severely injured, and the services of Dr. Hayes were at once procured. Mr. and Mrs. Carr, as well as other sympathising friends, did all they possibly could for the sufferer, but he succumbed to his injuries on Friday morning. Additional sadness (says the *Leader*) is felt in connection with this accident as deceased was about to visit the Old Country, and had already secured his passage. He contemplated travelling with Mr. J. Fitzgerald, who is a near relative. *R.I.P.*

In addition to the proceedings reported in our last issue the celebrations in connection with the Very Rev. Dean Mahoney's

Jubilee of his arrival in Nelson were continued on May 4, when the children of the convent presented the Dean with a beautiful illuminated address. In the afternoon an entertainment was given in his honor, at which were present besides the Dean, the Ven. Archdeacon Devoy, V.G., the Very Rev. Father Lewis, Adm., and Rev. Father George Mahony. An excellent programme was provided by the pupils, consisting of musical items and operetta and a farcical sketch. In addition to the addresses the Dean was presented with a handsome gold-plated chalice on behalf of the children, on which was inscribed 'Presented to Very Rev. Dean Mahoney by the pupils of St. Mary's Schools, on the occasion of his Silver Jubilee, May, 1900.' Dean Mahoney returned his sincere thanks, and expressed his gratification at receiving the beautiful present, which he would always look upon with much pleasure. After the entertainment the children partook of tea in the new hall, and during the evening selections were given by Mr. Balting on the phonograph, and a farce was enacted by the boys. The Children of Mary also presented Dean Mahoney with an address, the work of the Sisters of the Convent. Earlier in the day Dean Mahoney and party visited St. Mary's Orphanage at Stoke. The Boys' Band played a few selections on arrival, and subsequently congratulations were offered to the Dean by Bro. Loetus on behalf of the institution. Dean Mahoney and Archdeacon Devoy made short addresses, and before the party left the boys were presented with a sum of money for the purchase of footballs. Amongst those who sent letters of congratulation to the Dean was the Bishop of Nelson, who regretted his inability to be present at the social on Wednesday. The purse presented to the Dean that evening contained 100 sovereigns.

O B I T U A R Y.

MRS. JAMES DALTON, INVERCARGILL.

There died at Invercargill on the 5th inst. one of the earliest Catholic colonists in the person of Mrs. James Dalton. The deceased was a native of Cahir, Tipperary, and came out to Sydney in 1855. Three years later she was married in Launceston, and with her husband came to New Zealand in 1863. Mr. and Mrs Dalton went to live in Queenstown in the early seventies, where they remained for about 10 years. Later on they settled down in Invercargill. The deceased leaves a husband and a family of six children to mourn their loss. The funeral was attended by a large number of old settlers of Invercargill. The service at the residence of the deceased and at the graveside was conducted by the Very Rev. Dean Burke.—*R.I.P.*

The separationists in Western Australia have been in sad trouble over their petition to the Throne, signed by nearly 30,000, going astray. It transpired that the Governor did not intend taking the petition to England with him. It is now lying at Government House in the casket. The Albany petition is also lying there. Copies of each petition have been furnished to the Ministers, who will make their comments thereon, and the petitions will then be forwarded to Sir Gerard Smith, who has consented to present them to the Secretary for State.

A pleasing and highly gratifying fact (says the Melbourne correspondent of the *Sydney Freeman's Journal*) is constantly obtruding itself on public notice, viz., the progress great, solid, far-reaching, of the Catholic Church in this colony. Week after week, the daily and weekly papers report the fact of some further provision to meet the ever-increasing Catholic congregations, and school buildings are being erected or enlarged to receive the teeming population of Catholic children. On a recent Sunday, the somewhat common spectacle was witnessed of three dioceses being engaged at the same hour in the work of opening or laying the foundation-stone of new churches, viz., the Archdiocese of Melbourne, and the suffragan dioceses of Ballarat and Bendigo. The Archbishop was at Ormond laying the foundation-stone of a new church, the Bishop of Ballarat performing a similar function at Camperdown, and the deputy of the Bishop of Sandhurst was re-opening his enlarged church at Chiltern. These works combined represent an expenditure of something like £6000, and about one-fifth of this amount was received on the occasion referred to. These are agricultural centres, and it speaks trumpet-tongued for our worthy Irish and Irish-Australian yeomanry that they are keeping well up to the best traditions of the Irish race which has earned for itself the title of 'a church-building people.'

Witches Oil cures pains and aches, neuralgia, headache, sciatica, rheumatism. Price, 2s 6d. Try it.—*.

Messrs. Herbert, Haynes and Co., Dunedin, direct attention to their new stock of gloves, suitable for the season, in dogskin, Russian leather, deerskin, etc. besides which they have just received a special line of evening white Sueda gloves. Messrs. Herbert, Haynes and Co. have also just opened a select shipment of ladies' wearables, which, for variety and style, cannot be surdassed.—*.

MYERS AND CO., Dentists, Octagon, corner of George street. They guarantee highest class work at moderate fees. Their artificial teeth give general satisfaction, and the fact of them supplying a temporary denture while the gums are healing does away with the inconvenience of being months without teeth. They manufacture a single artificial tooth for Ten Shillings, and sets equally moderate. The administration of nitrous-oxide gas is also a great boon to those needing the extraction of a tooth. Read advertisement.—*.