

the children. Closely protected from competition, State education in New Zealand, like all protected articles, is, there is reason to believe, extravagantly costly as well as defective in quality, and there is difficulty in understanding how a remarkably practical community fail to realise that this is the case, and that the old proverb 'a little learning is a dangerous thing' has special application to the future citizens trained—if the word can be aptly used—in the public schools of New Zealand. We are not now taking the ground of the total absence of religious teaching, in regard to which, our opinions are no secret, but we assert that the secular instruction, which is vaunted to be so perfect, is very much of a failure, ignoring altogether most important subjects, and by no means tending to the intellectual development of the pupils and the independent exercise of their natural faculties. It is indeed significant that after the lapse of all these years since the Education Act was passed, and the continual flourish of trumpets over the brilliantly successful results, the Premier of the Colony should consider it to be his duty to bring down a Bill (we quote the title) 'To make better provision for manual, technical, and commercial education.' With his practical sagacity the right honorable gentleman has ever since he has been in his highly responsible position recognised the more glaring defects of the established educational system and its inefficiency for the intended purposes, and has endeavored to remedy this so far as to make provisions for the manual and technical instruction of the youth of the Colony.

Because, however, he refused to exclude from the benefits of such provision children attending other than State Schools, he has been subject to bitter opposition, up to the present time been defeated in his efforts, and no comprehensive measure of reform has been effected. The Minister for Education in his last report remarks with regret that nothing has been done in the matter. It is not, he says, in the improvement of manual processes alone that the general introduction of manual and technical training would produce good results but in the gradual recasting of the whole educational system that it would involve—in the more complete adjustment of our intellectual and practical life to our actual environment, which an enlightened scheme of this kind would certainly bring about.

In moving the second reading of the Bill, the Premier confined himself to briefly explaining the more important operative provisions, and was at once attacked, as noted above, by Mr. MEREDITH, who, with dramatic fervor, expressed his conviction that 'the terrors of denominationalism lurked under the harmless-looking clauses,' and declared himself the uncompromising enemy of any proposal to subsidise instruction of any kind given in other than the State schools. In replying on the debate as a whole, Mr. SEDDON took the member for Ashley sharply to task for the narrow-minded illiberality of his views, taunting him also with the conspicuous ignorance he had displayed as to the circumstances. If, said the Premier, they were to depend upon the Education Boards for technical instruction, they would have none at all except in the schools at Wanganui and Wellington. He intended, he said, to put the Bill on the Statute-Book this session in spite of the obstinate opposition of certain members.

In the form in which it has passed the House of Representatives, the Bill practically precludes Catholic schools from advantages under its provisions. The crux of the measure is that 'every controlling authority of classes under this Act (not being school classes) shall be entitled to receive, by way of capitation, payment out of the public funds in respect of the attendance of pupils' at classes for manual instruction, technical instruction, or at continuation classes. 'Controlling authority' is defined to mean the Education Board or the governing body of a secondary school and of a university college; and 'secondary school' means a secondary school named in Part I. of the first schedule to the Bill. 'University College' means a college affiliated to the University of New Zealand, and named in Part II. of the same schedule. Neither part of this schedule contains the name of a Catholic educational institution. We have consequently no concern with or interest in the details of the measure beyond in so far that it purports to remedy a striking defect in the State educational system.

Diocesan News.

ARCHDIOCESE OF WELLINGTON.

(From our own correspondent.)

October 6.

The annual social in aid of St. Joseph's Orphanage takes place in the Skating Rink on October 17.

In connection with the Old Boys' Literary Society Mr. Reichel will shortly deliver a lecture on 'Electricity,' and will illustrate it by some interesting experiments.

Rev. Father Ainsworth is to assist the Rev. Father O'Shea until the return of his Grace the Archbishop from Sydney. Their next mission will be held at Otaki.

His Lordship Bishop Grimes, Very Rev. Dean Kirk, Right Rev. Mgr. O'Reilly, and Rev. Father Ainsworth arrived in Wellington on Thursday from Sydney. Mr. M. Kennedy, who was also attending the Congress, returned by the steamer Waikare.

A very enjoyable social evening was spent by the members of St. Mary of the Angels' choir and their friends at Spiller's Hall on Tuesday evening. Two very fine selections were given by St. Mary's orchestra. The Rev. Fathers O'Shea and Tymons (Palmerston) were among those present.

The tramways were handed over to the City Council on Monday last. The amount of the cheques handed to the company's representative was £19,382. The councillors rode the whole length of the line in a decorated car, and in honor of the event the public were granted free use of the service for the remainder of the day.

The Marist Brothers' Old Boys' Literary and Debating Society held its weekly meeting last Thursday, Mr. J. Kays in the chair. Some very interesting and humorous readings were given by the members. At a meeting of the Old Boys' Committee, held after the debate, it was agreed to postpone their annual picnic, owing to the celebrations to be held in Wellington on November 9.

I regret to record the death of Mr. Moses McCarthy, of the Cambridge Hotel, Wellington. Hailing from the south, where he was known as an ardent athlete, he settled in Wellington eight years ago. His funeral, which was one of the largest seen here for some time, took place on Sunday last, the service at the church being conducted by the Rev. Father O'Shea, and at Karori by Rev. Father Moloney. As the funeral left the church the organist, Mr. D. Kenny, played the 'Dead March.' Deceased was 38 years of age and unmarried.—R.I.P.

The football match between the juniors of St. Patrick's College and the boys of the Marist Brothers' School, played last Wednesday, created considerable stir among the pupils of both institutions. The college team was drawn principally from the ranks of the preparatory school. In the first spell the Marist Brothers' boys had much the better of the game, but in the second half the college boys' combination and superior knowledge of the game, combined with judicious handling of the team, left them winners by 14 points to three. For the college, Ahfeld, who played a dashing game as wing forward, and J. McDonald were most conspicuous, while for the losers J. Mahar and Walsh showed good form. The match is to become an annual one.

Until Thursday last, when Rev. Father Clancy received a letter from one of the Fathers there, nothing had been heard in New Zealand for over 10 months from the National College at San Simon, Colombia, South America. The college is conducted by the Marist Fathers, and consequently grave anxiety was felt for the safety of the professors and students during the civil war which broke out in the State about 12 months ago. It now appears that the senior students were called on to defend the Government, and in the encounters which ensued seven of their number were killed and 11 wounded. The professors, who escaped uninjured, acted as chaplains and ambulance bearers to both sides. At the time the letter was written great hopes of peace were entertained, the triumph of the Government being practically assured.

On Monday and Tuesday evenings last the Marist Brothers' Old Boys Dramatic Club staged the three-act comedy, 'Time will Tell,' St. Patrick's Hall, in which the entertainment was given, was well filled on both occasions. The proceeds, amounting to £10, will be devoted to the purchase of scientific apparatus for the Brothers' school. The following was the cast of characters:—John Carr, Mr. G. Adams; Duke of St. Lozels, Mr. J. Flanagan; Lord Fainiant, Mr. J. Furlong; Mr. Specklebury, Mr. T. Marshall; Smart, Mr. J. M. Norden; Lettice Grey, Miss L. Contessa; Count Czernocski, Mr. J. M. Pike; Thomas Clodworth, Mr. D. Kelly; Lord Adolphus Vaurrian, Mr. J. Guthrie; Edith Ravenshaw, Miss E. Reid; Lettice Green, Miss A. Scanlon. The scenery for the piece was painted by Messrs. Hoskins and Russell and reflected great credit on the artists. I may mention that these gentlemen gave their services gratuitously, an act for which they were heartily applauded by the audience. The entertainment passed off very successfully. The Rev. Father O'Shea addressed a few words to the audience and on his motion a hearty vote of thanks to the performers and scenic artists was carried by acclamation.

The Hon. Dr. Grace, M.L.C., on whom practically the whole management of the Tramway Company has rested for the last few years, was entertained by the trustees of his late partners at a dinner in the Empire Hotel on Tuesday last. Mr. T. K. McDonald, representing the Greenfield estate, occupied the chair, and after referring to the good fellowship which had existed between the trustees and their guest, paid a tribute to the business ability of Dr. Grace, and said that the citizens of Wellington owed him a debt of gratitude. He had much pleasure in handing Dr. Grace, on behalf of his co-proprietors, a service of solid silver plate as a mark of their appreciation of the many services rendered and the great consideration always extended to them. The presentation plate

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