

## Diocesan News.

### WAIHI NOTES.

(From our own correspondent.)

December 13.

After a slump of a few years this place is again starting to boom in mining matters. Great activity is now shown in repegging out all the old abandoned claims, and Waihi stocks have a much healthier tone on the share market. As the floating of 'wild cats' was played out at the last boom, no doubt these claims will be properly prospected, and give a large amount of employment.

The activity in the building trade seems to never cease, and at present, among the numerous handsome buildings being erected, the largest are Mr. Power's new hotel, a public hall, and the National Bank building. Among other large buildings wanted at an early date may be mentioned a new Catholic church, the present St. Joseph's being not nearly large enough to hold the present Catholic population, which is rapidly increasing.

The Waihi Brass Band are to take part in the Christchurch Jubilee contest, and as they have always acquitted themselves creditably at former competitions, their friends have every confidence that the same will be the case at the forthcoming one.

The question of Waihi residence site titles is still a much vexed one, and appears no nearer solution than ever. Another burning question is that of forming Waihi into a borough, a great number of ratepayers wishing to do so, while the Ohinemuri County Council are doing their best not to lose such a splendid source of revenue.

### REEFTON.

A packed house (says the *Inangahua Times*) amply rewarded the efforts of those who took part in the Convent pupils' annual entertainment, which was of a most entertaining description. The opening item, a pianoforte trio, afforded Misses Horne, McDonald, and Horton a good opportunity of displaying their proficiency as pianistes. A similar opportunity in the dancing line was afforded Misses McMasters and Knowsley, who acquitted themselves to great advantage in the 'Sailor's hornpipe.' This was followed by an action song, 'The motor car,' given in a very creditable manner by the senior boys attending the Convent school. Next came a recitation, 'The Goblins,' by Miss Lilly McKitterick, a tiny girl of five or six summers. Miss Ruby McDonald's violin solo was nicely played, and she was honored with an encore. A skirt dance by Misses Sutherland, Whitten, McMasters, Knowsley, Crowley, De Phillippi, Fitzmaurice, and Scarlett elicited much applause. An action song by the junior boys, another violin solo by Miss Ruby McDonald, and an Irish jig, danced with grace by Misses Malloy, Duffy, Okeby, and Knowsley, and Masters Kilkenny, Moore, Corbett, and Duffy, brought the first portion of the programme to a close. Miss Horne opened the second part with a pianoforte solo. Miss Scoltock rendered a vocal solo with her usual success, and Misses McMasters, Knowsley, Crowley, Whitten, and Sutherland brought down the house by their performance of the 'Hunters' dance.' Miss McDonald again drew forth rounds of applause by another violin solo, which was encored. Miss Anderson, a tiny maiden, gave the audience a pleasant surprise by her clever rendering of a pianoforte solo; and last, but by no means least, came an operetta entitled 'The Gleaners,' by young lady pupils. This piece was a pretty conclusion to a highly successful performance from which all present derived the greatest enjoyment and satisfaction.

### OAMARU.

The concert given in St. Joseph's Schoolroom last evening (says the *Oamaru Mail*, December 14) was in every way a splendid success. The audience was quite as numerous as the comparatively small accommodation would admit of. Of the items the choruses by the children were all exceptionally good, and showed much more respect for time and tune than is usually evinced by those so young. The solos to these came as a surprise, sung by maids of very limited summers with the utmost *sang froid*, and sung very well. Of the choruses, the pick was 'Birdie,' and although the action song 'Fairy moonlight' was very cleverly and prettily executed, the evolutions militated, as they must do, against the volume of sound. A pianoforte duet by Misses O'Grady and Potter showed that careful training and preparation for which the convent has been so long famed. This indeed, and much more, may be said of all the pianoforte items. Perhaps the best of these was that so prettily and artistically played by Miss Hannon. We have all heard Mrs. Lynch sing and know how to appreciate her fine voice, but not only must her singing, but also her kindness in journeying from Timaru to perform, be appreciated. As her solos Mrs. Lynch chose those best suited for such a performance, namely 'The greatest gift,' and, as an encore, 'The last rose of summer.' Her second song, 'She wore a wreath of roses,' came in for greater applause than its predecessor, and then Mrs. Lynch sang that song which, without doubt, is the greatest favorite with the children of Hibernia, 'Killarney.' As a third song, the same soloist chose 'The Kerry dance,' and the audience, appreciating the splendid rendering, again claimed an encore, which was supplied in the form of 'Dublin Bay.' The best known of all farces, 'Cox and Box,' in which Miss Fagan and Messrs. Hanning and Byrne took the respective parts, dismissed the audience in a happy frame of mind. The whole performance reflects the greatest credit on the Sisters for their indefatigability in organising such an entertainment. Referring to the exhibition of work in St. Joseph's schoolroom on Friday last the same paper says that the numerous visitors could not fail to be impressed with

the value of the work carried on in Oamaru by the Dominican Nuns. The exhibition of works of art fully demonstrate the careful training the pupils receive at their hands. Such an array of work on the tables and pictures on the walls shows the result of months of determined work, and the excellence attained must be more than satisfactory to both teachers and pupils. There were quite a number of cushions, cosies, etc., worked with very natural raised flowers in every conceivable material, with lovely tints in poona. The many articles worked in arrasene, floeselle, and rococo all added to the variety. Then there were pen and ink drawings on linen done by tiny little scholars, who surprise their own parents by developing an aptitude for such accomplishments. The pictures and drawings for the art union were also exhibited, and assisted in making the exhibition a most interesting one. The articles of needlework and the wonderful drawings of little Horace Benson were extremely original. The nuns deserve great praise for the patient, zealous labor bestowed upon the training of the youthful mind and the fact that the pupils are loth to sever their connection with the school is an evidence of the good feeling and lasting friendship that exists among all.

### CONVENT SCHOOL, INVERCARGILL.

THE attendance of parents and friends of the pupils at the Convent School, Invercargill, conducted by the Dominican Nuns, when the annual distribution of prizes took place was very large. The Very Rev. Dean Burke, who officiated (says the *Daily News*) complimented the children on the good work they had done during the year. In conduct they had been particularly good; no fault had been found with them either by teachers or others. Those who were not to return to the school would, he hoped, do credit to the convent, and he was sure they would always remember their teachers with gratitude. He hoped all would spend a pleasant holiday and return to their work with renewed health and strength.

An inspection of the work of the pupils—paintings in oil and water colors, carving, overmantels, stools, cushions, and all descriptions of plain and fancy needlework—was then made, and elicited general encomiums. The work as a whole was tasteful, and in several instances skill of a high order was manifested. During the afternoon songs were given by Misses J. McLeod and Vanini, piano duets by Misses Feldwick and Herlihy, L. Godby, and Collins, and piano solos by Misses Alice Collins and Carrie Sheehan.

The following is the prize list:—

Cours superieur: Edith Feldwick, Metallist (senior grade B), Ngaio Wilkin; next in merit, Nellie Shepherd. Metallist (intermediate grade A), Lily Godby; next in merit, Cora Feldwick. Metallist (intermediate grade B), Alice Collins; next in merit, Frances Enright. Prize (junior grade B), Mavora Vyner; next in merit, Vera Wilkin.

Religious knowledge (senior), Edith Feldwick, Nellie Shepherd; do (junior), Maggie Griffin. Politeness, E. Feldwick and Florence St. Paul; hon. mention, Cora Feldwick, Maggie Griffin. Fancy needlework, Teresa Enright, Alice Cushen; hon. mention, Ethel Kingsland, F. Enright, Mabel Feldwick, N. Shepherd, C. Feldwick, Ethel Price, Susie Roche, D. Forde, Mary Herlihy, Lily and Lorna Godby, Alice Collins. Improved application, Susie Roche. Short-hand, Mary Herlihy. Wood carving, Lorna Godby. Music: senior grade, extern pupil; junior, Alice Collins. Improvement, Mary Herlihy. Drawing, Ida McKenzie; hon. mention, Lily Godby. Painting (senior), extern pupil; junior, May Wilkin; hon. mention, Ngaio Wilkin, Lorna Godby. Nuns' conduct prize, Edith Feldwick; hon. mention, Jane Roche, Ida McKenzie, Ngaio Wilkin, Delia Forde.

Wreath awarded by the votes of her companions to the most amiable girl in the school, Nellie Shepherd. Misses Carrie Sheehan and Ethel Kingsland were mentioned as having passed the Royal Academy examinations in music.

Junior and kindergarten prizes—Politeness, Janet Millar; gentleness, Intisil Jackson; amiability, Nellie Burke; class work, Eileen Mahoney; geography, Daphne Vyner; good conduct, Madge Turner; kindergarten, Ethel Murray; painting, Kitty Farrell; mat weaving and arithmetic, Edna Mohr; attention to lessons, Johanna Burke; plain sewing, Dorothy Norton; drill, Ethel Grace; gentleness, Muriel Kingsland; first gift, Mary Affleck; good conduct, Lena Jackson; third gift, Hilda Norton; kindergarten, Marjory Murray; singing, Fred Wood; reading, Willie Steans; writing, Jack Mahoney.

### CONVENT SCHOOLS, NELSON.

St. Mary's School Hall was crowded on the occasion of the annual distribution of prizes to the pupils of the Select and High School. The Mayor (Mr. J. A. Harley) presided, and Mr. J. Graham, M.H.R., Mr. Trask, Very Rev. Dean Mahoney, and Very Rev. Dr. Kennedy, Meane, were among those present. An excellent entertainment (says the *Colonist*) was given by the pupils, which comprised vocal and instrumental music, recitations, an operetta entitled 'The triumph of virtue,' and choruses. The following was the programme:—

Song, junior pupils; duet (4 pianos), Misses Crisp, Mercer, Lodge, O'Brien, Vaughan, J. Thompson, Neilson, and Ferguson; duet (harmonium and violin), Miss Egan (harmonium), Miss Gibbs (violin); accompanists, Misses Mercer (piano), Light (harp), and McMahon (guitar); chorus, senior pupils; accompanists, Misses Mercer (piano), Wimbett (harp); trio (5 violins), Misses Gibbs, McMahon, McCarthy, Gardner, Parmenter; accompanist, Miss Rapley; duet (4 pianos), Misses Gapper, Kelly, Stewart, Hailes, Rapley, A. Eden, Wiesner, and S. Eden; solo (3 violins), Misses Gibbs, McMahon; accompanist, Miss Stewart. The characters

**THE FAMOUS "VICTORY" SEWING**  
for Catalogue (mention this paper).

**MACHINE.** EASY TO WORK, EASY TO LEARN EASY  
TO PURCHASE on our Special Terms. Write  
6 PRINCES STREET, DUNEDIN.