

There is not one Catholic among the 17 chief postmasters in New Zealand. The statement (published, of course, anonymously) that there only 59 employees in the Chief Post Office, Dunedin, and that as many as 19 of these are Catholics, are both absurd. I have detailed lists before me, which show that the total number of employees is 80. I have also before me accurate lists of the names and occupations of all the Catholic employees of the Post and Telegraph Department in Dunedin and suburbs. They count, as I have already shown, only a little more than one in every nine of the whole number, and only one of them out of a total of 236 employees occupies a position above that of the rank and file. A statement also made anonymously in your issue of Wednesday refers as follows to the chief post office, Dunedin: 'During the last 12 months seven appointments have been made in the post office, of which six were given to Roman Catholics.' Even if this statement were true, it would not, of course, prove that the public service, or the Post Office Department, or even the local post office, is 'stuffed' with an undue proportion of Catholics. But the only true statement in the quoted sentence is just this—that seven appointments have been made in that time. The rest is a fabrication. I have had some delay in getting at the facts of the case; but I have now before me the complete list of the appointments referred to, and, instead of their being six Catholics and one non-Catholic, the actual figures are six non-Catholics and one Catholic. I have ascertained that there is in all Otago and Southland one permanent stationmaster who is a (reputed) Catholic. I intend to publish at the proper time some further curious figures as to the position of Catholics in the Railway and other departments. A great English writer has said that 'few men can resist the temptation to write under a mask things which they would not say with open face.' This will account for the fact that the strictly anonymous writers in your issue of this morning have dished up bogus figures to your readers, and inflicted upon them weary narrations, in which the names of persons and places, dates, and every circumstance that could provide the means of testing them, were suppressed with the most elaborate care.

By reference to the D3 classification list I find that, with increments up to date, the amount expended in salaries and wages on the 171 permanent employees at the Government Workshops, Hillside, reaches, as nearly as I can ascertain it, £448 7s per week. Of this amount, Catholics draw only £28 10s 6d, or a fraction more than £1 in every £16 of the whole amount. Yet our proportion to total population is one in seven. An inquiry (not yet complete) into the local Lands, Survey, and allied departments shows only three Catholics in some 50 employees. In the customs (port of Dunedin, including Port Chalmers) no Catholic occupies any one of the 15 salaried positions, and there are only four Catholic employees, all on wages and in subordinate posts. At the Dunedin Railway Station (goods, passenger, loco, workshops, superintendence, and engineers) there are 90 salaried officials, of whom only seven (or practically one in 13) are Catholics. I have further startling figures upon this question of 'stuffing,' but I do not wish, for the present, to trespass further on your space.—I am, etc.

EDITOR NEW ZEALAND TABLET.

OUR SCHOOLS.

ST. DOMINIC'S COLLEGE, DUNEDIN.

THE annual entertainment by, and distribution of prizes to the pupils of St. Dominic's College took place in the new cloister of the Priory on Wednesday night in the presence of a large number of parents of the children. Among those present were the Very Rev. Mgr. O'Leary, and Rev. Fathers Murphy, Coffey, Cleary, O'Malley, Heenan and O'Reilly.

The entertainment opened with a chorus nicely given by the kindergarten class. This was followed by another chorus, 'The swallow,' contributed by the pupils of the college. A very fine item was a piano selection (three pianos) by Misses Collins, Gawne, and Callan. A violin quartette, a selection from Wagner's 'Flying Dutchman,' by Misses V. Thompson, L. Freed, M. Paton, H. McKay gave an opportunity to the audience to judge of the very high standard of the varied musical education imparted at the college. Miss G. Meenan sang with taste and expression a song by Rubenstein. A duet by Schuloff on three pianos by Misses Carey, Clark, Montague, Jackman, King, and Sweeney was played with an artistic finish which was much appreciated by the audience. An item which attracted much attention was a French dialogue taken part in by Misses Seelye, Meenan, Thompson, and Byrne. The piece was given with a vivacity, and a knowledge of the pronunciation of the French language that reflected much credit on the performers and their teachers. Gounod's Serenade arranged for harp, violin and piano was well executed by Misses H. Ips, Thompson, and Paton. Miss Dunmuir has a well trained voice which was heard to considerable advantage in 'At my window.' Miss M. Paton gave a piano solo which was distinguished for brilliancy of execution, good touch, and expression. Moore's melodious 'Coulin,' with harp (Miss Helpe) and piano (Miss M. Paton) accompaniment, given by Misses Larnach, Meenan, Anthony and Greaves, was sung in a finished manner. A well-played duet by Misses Paton and Curtis brought the entertainment to a close. The accompaniments during the evening were played by Misses G. Larnach, M. Paton, and M. Carey.

At intervals during the programme the prizes were presented by the Rev. Father Murphy, who was assisted by the Rev. Mother Prioresa. The wreath for amiability was given by the votes of the pupils to Miss F. McCluskey. Miss T. Kilmartin secured a gold medal as dux of the school.

At the conclusion of the entertainment Rev. Father Murphy

said he had to apologise for the absence of his Lordship Bishop Verdou, who, to his great regret, was unable to be present. This was to be regretted, as no one took a greater interest in educational matters than his Lordship. Father Murphy then read the annual report, which was as follows:—

'This year has been characterised by exceptional diligence on the part of the pupils: we have rarely seen such enthusiasm for study. As a consequence, in the examination just held of class subjects it was in several cases difficult to discover the best, many papers falling short of the maximum by very few marks. As another natural consequence of this love of study the conduct of the students has rendered our task easy and pleasant. There has not been one troublesome girl in the school. Respect, docility, and polite demeanor have been the prevailing tone throughout. About 40 pupils have gone through the musical examinations of the Royal Academy and Trinity College, London, with gratifying success. In the art studio the work done has been also excellent. Indeed, the marked ability we have found among the students in the various branches gives promise of brilliant successes in the future.' The report, said Father Murphy, was short, but it was certainly gratifying to the pupils and pleasant to the parents of the children and others interested in the college. It was not necessary for him to speak of the secular work of the college, as others more competent had pronounced on that, and their opinion was very satisfactory. One thing he wished to emphasise, the one thing that was brought prominently before all in the report, and that was the excellent conduct of the pupils during the year. This should bring joy to every parent who had the happiness of having a child trained in that excellent institution. It was the duty of the parent to educate the child and prepare it for the battle of life, and more especially to see to its religious training, for a parent who neglected this duty betrayed the trust imposed on him by the Creator. When a child had been given the necessary training to take it through life, and had also received the instruction necessary for its First Communion, then was the time for the parent to see if it had any ability that would be likely to show clearly its path in life, and if the parent had the means at his disposal he should give the child a higher education so as to develop whatever talents God had given it. Only then would the parents have discharged their duties properly. When children were sent to an institution such as St. Dominic's College the opportunities were given them to bring out those qualities which would enable them later on to find out what position in life they were best suited for. This was a grand thing for the child, who would thus be free to make its own selection. It would not fall to the lot of many of those children to follow in the footsteps of their teachers; but there were many other positions in life of great importance for young ladies, for it was said that the hand which rocked the cradle was that which ruled the world. This being so, the fact of educating a child was an important one, for the hand that was to rule the world must be gentle yet firm. This accomplishment was to be got only by a good and thorough religious education. The children in that institution had the example of their teachers always before them—the very air resounded with the praises of God—and if they did not fully realise the advantages at their disposal the day would come when, with more mature minds, they would reflect upon the good and saintly lives led by their teachers, and would try to emulate them. It was a great happiness for those children who were placed under the charge of the Sisters of St. Dominic, or, as they were called in the early days of the Order, 'The Militia of Christ.' For nearly 800 years they had done great work, and had met with many crosses but they overcame them all, and to-day they had the satisfaction that there are very few parts of the world where they had not established themselves and brought forth fruit worthy of St. Dominic and spouses of Christ.

The following is the prize list:—

SENIOR SCHOOL.

Christian Doctrine.—Senior division: Silver medal, Miss T. Kilmartin; hon. mention, A. Plunkett, M. Byrne, N. Kelly, M. Herlihy, F. McCluskey. Christian doctrine.—Junior division: Silver medal, Miss Minnie Collins; hon. mention, W. Power, M. Tobin, M. Murray, M. McDonald, M. Sullivan.

Class Prizes—Class B (intermediate grade): Silver medallist, Miss W. Power; arithmetic, Miss Minnie Collins; French, Miss Mary Tobin; Latin, Miss M. Smellie. Class A (intermediate grade): Silver medallist, Miss H. Sweeney; arithmetic, Miss K. Byrne; French, Miss Maud Collins; Latin, Miss E. Wood. Class B (senior grade, civil service): Silver medallist, Miss N. Kelly; arithmetic, Miss M. Herlihy; algebra, Miss H. McKay; Latin, Miss H. McKay; French, Miss N. Kelly. Class A (senior grade, matriculation class): Gold medallist (dux), Miss T. Kilmartin; arithmetic, Miss J. Kelman; algebra, Miss A. Plunkett; French (silver medal), Miss H. McKay; excellence in literary style (won at a special concursus), Miss G. Wood.

Art Needlework—Silver medal, Miss M. Brennan; hon. mention—Misses Maud Collins, F. Clarke, M. O'Rourke, W. Power, H. McKay, A. McDougall, A. Cutten. Mountmellick and drawn-thread work: Prize, Miss A. McDougall; hon. mention—J. Kelman, M. Tobin, F. McCluskey, M. McDonald, C. Heffernan, M. Murray, N. O'Sullivan, M. Graham, M. Jackman, and M. Smellie. Painting from the east: Silver medal, Miss J. Kelman; water-color painting, Miss A. Cutten; mapping, Miss A. McDougall; penmanship, Miss M. O'Rourke; calisthenics—Miss F. Clarke and R. Rositer; hon. mention—Misses J. Kelman, M. Jackman, M. Walshe, K. Byrne, H. Sweeney, A. McDougall, M. O'Rourke, and M. Herlihy. Excellence in class work, Miss M. Byrne; attendance—Misses H. McKay, J. Millar; wood carving, Miss F. McCluskey; out-door games, Miss F. Clarke; politeness, Miss M. Cutten; good conduct (silver medal), Miss Maud Collins.

Wreath (awarded by the vote of the pupils for amiability), Miss Fanny McCluskey.