

reputation for producing magnificent national spectacular displays is so well known in the chief towns of the Colony, has been specially engaged for the occasion. He has selected 'The Birth of the Empire' for production in Westport, and those who have been privileged to witness this beautiful patriotic representation know that it is highly attractive and will be a novelty on the West Coast. Over 150 performers will take part in this production, and costumes, scenery, music, and all the other accessories incidental to a successful performance will be on a lavish scale. The object in view is a most praiseworthy one, and it is to be earnestly hoped that the enterprise displayed by the promoters in engaging Signor Borzoni will be rewarded by crowded houses during Carnival Week.

The first annual meeting of the subscribers of St. Canice's Catholic library was held in the schoolroom on the 15th inst. The Ven. Archpriest Walshe presided, the Rev. Father Malloy being also present. A vote of thanks was passed to Mr. Slowey, the retiring librarian and secretary. Mr. Slowey was a most energetic and courteous librarian, and his enforced retirement from office will be much felt by subscribers. The appointment of a new librarian and secretary resulted in Mr. Swanie being elected to the position. At present the list of subscribers is small, and contrasts most unfavorably with the liberal support accorded such institutions in many of our smaller centres. Apart from the mental enjoyment derived in leisure hours, it is of the very utmost importance that our Catholic youth should be well grounded in the teachings of the Church, more especially nowadays, when numbers of books are circulated for the one vile purpose of assailing our holy religion.

DENNISTON.

(From an occasional correspondent.)

May 20.
The anniversary ball, under the auspices of the St. Columbkille branch of the H.A.C.B.S., was held in Brown and McGrane's Hall on the 15th inst., and was in every way an unqualified success. A large number of visitors from all parts of the district was present, including representatives of the society from Reefton, Westport, and Charleston. Special praise is due to those responsible for the very tasteful and artistic decorations of the hall, and also to the ladies, who provided an excellent supper. The electric light was kindly supplied by the Denniston Coal Company, under the able supervision of Mr. R. Elliott.

DIOCESE OF CHRISTCHURCH

(From our own correspondent.)

May 25
The latest association locally is a Ladies' Walking Club, designed to revive an exercise which, since the advent of the bicycle, has comparatively ceased to be undertaken so far as recreative purposes are concerned. Devotees of the club's pursuits are required to wear a simple, becoming, and what is claimed to be, suitable style of dress and other attire.

His Lordship the Bishop visited Addington and Halswell on Sunday, celebrating Mass in each place, and enlisting the sympathy and assistance of the parishioners regarding the carnival. The Bishop is to open the new church at Makihiki on next Sunday week, June 7. An episcopal visitation to Westland is projected in the near future.

The executive committee of the projected carnival in aid of the Cathedral building fund met on last Thursday evening, his Lordship the Bishop presiding. It was decided to open the event on Thursday, November 5, and continue for two or three weeks, thus taking in Carnival Week, and to engage the Canterbury Hall for the occasion. On Sunday afternoon there was a meeting of the general committee, his Lordship the Bishop again presiding, when there was a large attendance, the principal business transacted being in connection with stalls, stallholders, etc.

Empire Day is being observed locally as a partial holiday amongst business people generally, by transferring the usual weekly half-holiday from Thursday to Monday. Banks, insurance offices, etc., are, however, closed all day. The only event of importance transpiring in connection with the day is the unveiling of a statue of her late Majesty Queen Victoria, by Mrs. Wigram, Mayoress—a semi-military function and one in which early colonists occupy a prominent position. This will also be the first public act taken part in by Mr. Wigram in his capacity of Mayor of Greater Christchurch.

DIOCESE OF AUCKLAND.

(From our own correspondent.)

May 21.
The Right Rev. Mgr. Mackay passed through Auckland on Monday en route for Europe. While here he was the guest of the Rev. Father Patterson, Adm., at St. Patrick's.

The concert held in the Sacred Heart schoolroom, Ponsonby, in aid of the presbytery debt fund, was a most unqualified success, both in regard to the high merit of the performance generally and the attendance of the public. In the orchestra were his Lordship the Bishop ('cello') and Dr Egan (flute).

His Lordship the Bishop was at Cambridge last Sunday, having left town by the express train on Saturday

morning. He administered Confirmation to a large number. Thence he visits Hamilton, Rotorua, Te Aroha, and is due back in Auckland on next Tuesday. His Lordship has received an invitation to go north to open a new church. This will probably be the last visitation of the Bishop into the province until after winter.

Dr. Neligan, the newly-appointed Anglican Bishop of Auckland, in an interview at Wellington prior to coming on here, referring to the subject of education, spoke thus: 'He was very glad to hear that the members of the Church of Rome felt so strongly as they did, and acted on their convictions upon the subject of elementary education. He respected any man who believed sublimely in his religion to pay for it, and to run risks for the sake of it.'

The opening of the new Sacred Heart College, Ponsonby, erected by the Marist Brothers' Order, has been fixed for Sunday, June 21. A general meeting of the clergy and the laity, convened by the Bishop, is to be held on Sunday, May 31 to decide what form the opening should take. The Order has gratuitously spent upon this fine edifice the princely sum of nearly £6000. The building has now to be furnished, and this means a further monetary expenditure. The Brothers, not unnaturally, look for assistance in this respect, and it is to be hoped that the people, looking at the great boon they possess in the college, at no cost to themselves so far, will rally around the good Brothers and, with no niggardly hand, contribute towards the furnishing of the college with which we are all so pleased.

The Late Father Bogue

(From our Christchurch correspondent.)

Although not unexpected, the intelligence of the death of the Rev. Father Bogue, parish priest of Ross, after a protracted illness, caused the sincerest sorrow here. The deceased priest was a native of the diocese of Clogher, Ireland, was educated in Carlow College, and, together with the Rev. Father Cooney (Lyttelton), was ordained to the priesthood in 1897, on the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, by his Lordship the Right Rev. Dr. Grimes in Dublin for this diocese on the occasion of his Lordship's last visit to Ireland. Immediately after ordination, in company with the Rev. Father Cooney, he left for New Zealand. Shortly after arrival he went as curate to Ashburton, and afterwards succeeded the Rev. Father Hyland in charge of the parish of Ross, where he labored with conspicuous success during three years. The district, extending as it does to the utmost limits of Westland, is recognised as one of the most trying in the diocese, if not in the Colony. It was during one of the long journeys, necessitated by duty, that the deceased first caught a severe cold, which, bringing on other complications, terminated in long suffering and ultimate death at the early age of 31 years. As the parish of Ross has two churches, one at the centre and one at Rimu, with several outlying stations, whilst many of the parishioners reside in remote parts, it may therefore be imagined what a devoted priest, single-handed, had to accomplish. Since being incapacitated from duty, the late Father Bogue has been relieved by another young priest, not long from the Old Land—the Rev. Father O'Connor. The late Rev. Father Bogue accomplished in the district a great amount of useful and enduring work, and his death comes as a distinct loss to the diocese. This loss will be more keenly felt as within a few months there has been removed by death two of the most promising young priests in himself and the late Rev. Father Malone. The late Father Bogue was held in the very highest possible esteem by his fellow-priests, and was visited during his last illness by several from Canterbury, including his Lordship the Bishop, and those of Westland.

During the Bishop's memorable tour of South Westland the late Father Bogue was of inestimable service, and the hardships and privations he on that occasion endured, so as to ensure the success of the visitation, remain gratefully remembered by his Lordship. The Bishop and local clergy much regret that time will not permit of going to the funeral obsequies, but it is anticipated that there will be a large attendance of those on the Coast at the last sad ceremonies, which take place at Ross on Tuesday.—R.I.P.

Mrs. Margaret Neave, the well-known centenarian, died at Guernsey early in April in her 111th year. She had entertained in her house (and well remembered it) Napoleon's Generals before the battle of Waterloo.

One of the reasons why the Emperor of Austria is well liked by his people is to be found in what we are told of his accessibility and affability to all his subjects, poor as well as rich.—'Twice a week he gives audience to any of his subjects who may wish to consult with him. Their letters asking for an audience are sent in to the Emperor's private secretary. Inquiries are made as to the truth of their contents, and, if satisfactory, the writer, of whatever rank he may happen to be, is granted an interview with his sovereign alone. Nothing has done more to endear the Emperor to his subjects than these informal audiences, through which countless wrongs have been quickly redressed, troubles smoothed away, assistance rendered, as well as frank, soldierly advice, and more distress relieved than the world will ever hear of.'