

Timaru

(From our own correspondent.)

February 16.

The local press recently commented favorably on the manner in which Master G. O'Meehan carried out his duties as assistant organist at the Sacred Heart Church during the temporary absence of the organist, Miss E. Dennehy, A.T.C.L.

Miss Zita C. Venning, youngest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. Venning, Timaru, received notice from the Royal College of Music, London, last week, that she has secured the 'Victor Harris Gold Medal' for the highest marks obtained in the Dominion for violin playing in 1913.

General pleasure is evinced in Timaru at the local Band having secured the championship in the A Grade division at the Auckland Band Contest. The Catholic contingent in the Band is very strong, and the secretary, Mr. J. McKennah, who is responsible for the organising and finances, is also the bass soloist of the local choir. By a peculiar coincidence, the Invercargill Hibernians, on their way north, broke their journey at Timaru, fraternised with the local bandmen, and both combinations, champions each in its own grade, went north to victory together.

Mr. Garrett Fitzgerald, ex-detective, passed peacefully away on Tuesday last in his 51st year. The deceased was a sterling Catholic, and a much-respected and highly successful member of the detective force for many years. Through failing health he was superannuated some years ago, since when he has occupied several semi-public positions. The deceased was much esteemed by all with whom he came in contact, and being of a kindly, sympathetic nature, he did many acts of kindness, and put many an erring one on the right track, unknown to the world. His funeral on Thursday was largely attended, the Justice Department being represented by Sub-Inspector Cruickshank, Detective Fahey, Senior Sergeant King, Sergeant Crawford, ex-Sergeant Gilbert (Dunedin), and Sergeant Fitzgerald (Wellington), a brother of the deceased. There were also present the Mayor, Mr. W. Angland, the Borough Councillors, and a good muster of Hibernians. The Rev. Father Smyth officiated at the graveside. The funeral was an impressive one, and was largely attended, considering the many important functions held on the same afternoon.—R.I.P.

Wanganui

(From our own correspondent.)

Bro. P. J. Doyle, who was recently laid up with appendicitis, is now about again.

On account of Bro. D. Dwyer, one of the delegates to the district meeting at Auckland on the 25th instant, having important business to attend to in Wellington in connection with the Railway Department, Bro. C. Morgan was appointed in his stead.

The fortnightly meeting of the Hibernian Society was held last Tuesday evening, and a fair number of members were present. Bro. Lavery, of Auckland, and Bro. Stratford, treasurer of the St. Aloysius's branch, Wellington, are at present in Wanganui. The former was present at the above meeting.

Although the weather conditions were anything but good, still, Sunday, December 14, saw the usual good muster for Holy Mass at the pretty little up-river village, Makirikiri. The Very Rev. Dean Holley, S.M., was the celebrant, and at the conclusion of Mass he presented the prizes for the first time in connection with the Sunday school conducted by the Brothers of the Aramoho Conference of the St. Vincent de Paul Society. In all, some 16 pupils were the happier by the usual thoughtfulness of the society. Following the presentation of prizes, the Very Rev. Dean impressed on the minds of the young scholars the importance of continuing in earnest the new and important field of

study that they had now entered on. It would not be out of place to mention that at least five of the children attending, travel a distance of seven miles in order to be present at the class on Sunday afternoons.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

INTERVIEW WITH ARCHBISHOP O'SHEA.

While in Christchurch, his Grace Archbishop O'Shea was interviewed by a representative of the *Lyttelton Times*, and expressed the following views on the education question:—

As regards religious education, he said, the Catholic Church had made great sacrifices to supply this want to the members of its Church. He was not opposed to a national system of religious education, which he thought would be satisfactory to all sections of the community, whether Catholics, Protestants, or others. He would like to see such a system working. The present system of education was not a national one in that it did not satisfy every section of the people. At present there was evidence that the Bible-in-schools movement would not satisfy everybody. Catholics, and even a large number of people outside the Church, would not have their requirements met. Such a proposal, while satisfactory to one section, would inflict a further injustice upon Catholics and agnostics in the public schools.

The Archbishop said that he had met a large number of fair-minded people, who were not Catholics and who believed that the only means of religious education was by way of a national system. In countries such as England, Germany, and Belgium, whose people always took a lead in many things, there were national systems of education which were entirely satisfactory to every section of the people. This system simply provided schools for each religious sect—Catholic schools for Catholics, Protestant schools for Protestants, and in districts where there was a mixed population mixed schools were provided. In Germany, for instance, this worked particularly well, for in that country there were Catholic districts and Protestant districts.

If the people would meet in a conciliatory spirit, he went on, he was sure that a satisfactory solution of the present unrest as far as educational matters are concerned, could be devised, whereby everybody would gain.

To his mind, it would be a mark of true statesmanship if some of the political leaders in the Dominion were to take the subject up and bring about such a system. If all, under this system, were treated alike, it would bring as a result a good feeling amongst the whole of the community.

Another important factor in education, the Archbishop said, was to educate the young people to be worthy citizens. No education could be a correct one which had regards only for the intellectual being. To be a complete system, it must train the moral faculties as well, and only in that way could the young people be trained to be good men and women. In that way, too, a national spirit would be built up, and in his opinion the people of the Dominion could not have this national spirit without religion being taught in the schools.

It takes the constant labor of 60,000 persons to make matches for the world.

Boston's new custom house will be 505 feet high, and has been designed to virtually crown the city's pyramidal sky line.

At the end of September the population of Buenos Aires was 1,457,885, an increase of 64,085 for the twelvemonth. The only cities in the United States out-ranking it in population are New York, Chicago, and Philadelphia. The municipal statistics of the Argentine capital for September give 1,101 marriages, 4386 births, and 1975 deaths.