

**Hokitika.**

(From our own correspondent.)

July 9.

A pleasant little function took place on Monday evening last in St. Mary's Clubrooms, when the Catholics and other friends assembled to bid farewell to Mrs. T. Ralfe and Miss Byrne, who have been residents here for many years, and who are leaving to take up their respective residences in Dunedin and Whangarei. The president of the club (Mr S. Wormington) occupied the chair, and in the course of his speech referred to the sterling qualities of their two lady guests, and made special mention of the untiring zeal of both ladies on behalf of the church and club. He said all the functions in which they had taken part had proved highly successful, and he said he regretted the necessity which deprived the parish of their services. The president then called upon Mrs. W. Kellar to make the presentations. Mrs. Kellar, in a few well-chosen words, made eulogistic reference to the excellent work rendered to the Church by these ladies, and then handed to Miss Byrne a jewel case and to Mrs. Ralfe a silver teapot. Mr. T. Ralfe suitably responded on behalf of Mrs. Ralfe and Miss Byrne. The rest of the evening was devoted to a musical programme. The following contributed items during the evening: Mrs. Richardson, Miss Bryne, Miss Daly, Miss A. Stopforth, Mr. T. Stopforth, a violin solo was rendered by Mr. Gardiner, a pianoforte solo by Mr. R. Hayes, and a musical monologue by Mr. J. Downey. Supper was then handed round by the ladies, and with the singing of 'Auld lang syne' a most enjoyable function terminated.

**Westport**

(From our own correspondent.)

July 13.

The Westport musical and elocutionary competitions, controlled by St. Canice's Club, were not as successful financially as in previous years, though the standard of work was much higher. The management was all that could be desired, and the president (Mr. J. S. Matthews) and secretary (Mr. J. J. L. Pearce) are to be congratulated on the perfection of the arrangements. At the conclusion of the competitions the musical judge (Mr. C. Helliman) declared Miss B. Doyle winner of the special trophy donated for the competitor in the vocal and instrumental sections showing the most temperament. The special trophy for the competitor gaining the highest aggregate of marks in the elocutionary section was won by Mr. F. M. O'Gorman, who gained five first and two second prizes. Before leaving Westport, Mr. Byron Brown, who adjudicated in the elocutionary sections, generously donated £5 towards the club funds.

The half-yearly meeting of the local branch of the H.A.C.B. Society was held in the clubrooms on Wednesday evening last, the president, Bro. P. Niven, occupying the chair. The election of officers resulted as follows:—President, Bro. W. Lauder; vice-president, Bro. P. Hughes; treasurer, Bro. G. Organ; warden, Bro. J. Power; guardian, Bro. W. Calnon; sick visitors, Bros. P. Niven and D. Qualter; auditors, Bros. J. Radford and F. M. O'Gorman. On Sunday morning a special meeting of the branch was held in the clubrooms to make preliminary preparation for the reception and entertainment of delegates to the triennial movable meeting of the society, which is to be held in Westport in 1916. The president, Bro. W. Lauder, presided over a large attendance of members, and the proceedings were of an enthusiastic nature. During the meeting the president, in a eulogistic speech, presented Bro. P. Niven with a gold medal awarded by the branch for the member proposing the greatest number of new members during the year. Bro. Niven, in replying, mentioned that he had in his possession a medal which was presented to his father by the members of the Brighton branch thirty-eight years ago.

**Lawrence**

(From an occasional correspondent.)

July 7.

A very large meeting of Catholics was held in St. Patrick's Schoolroom on Sunday, the Very Rev. Monsignor O'Leary presiding. In the course of his remarks the Monsignor said that no one would object to moral teaching based on religious principles being taught in the State schools, but Catholics objected to a plebiscite on the proposed introduction of the so called Bible in schools as suited to certain denominations only—and offensive to others. A strong resolution of protest was passed against the introduction of the Bible-in-schools Referendum Bill. Copies of the resolution were forwarded to the Prime Minister and Minister of Education.

The Hon. Mr. Massey replied as follows:—'Your telegram received regarding referendum Bible-reading in schools, and representations noted.'

The Hon. Jas. Allen also wired as follows:—'Your telegram forwarding protest against Bible-in-Schools Referendum Bill received and contents noted. I shall be glad to give the representations of your Federation my careful consideration when the Bill is being discussed in Parliament.'

Resolutions have also been forwarded from Waitahuna and Kononi.

The parish committee elected for the year are: Very Rev. Monsignor O'Leary president, Messrs. H. Hart and J. J. O'Connor vice-presidents, A. Hart secretary, T. Crowley, D. J. Roughan, R. Barron, M. Fahey, J. Gregan, Misses J. Mills and A. Higgins.

**Tuakau**

(From an occasional correspondent.)

On Sunday, July 12, High Mass was celebrated at 11 o'clock by the Rev. Father O'Hara, who delivered a very fine sermon on 'Intemperance.' After Mass a meeting of the congregation was held to elect a new committee for the Catholic Federation here, the following being appointed:—President, Rev. Father O'Hara; vice-presidents, Messrs. J. J. Dromgool and M. Black; committee Messrs. F. McGuire, T. Murray, J. J. Dromgool, M. Black, J. Quinlin, T. B. McGahan, Mrs. J. S. McGahan, Mrs. B. G. Geraghty, Messrs. H. McGuire, G. O'Connor, M. B. Geraghty, W. De Goff; hon. secretary, Mr. T. B. McGahan; hon. treasurer, Mrs. B. G. Geraghty (re-elected). Rev. Father O'Hara and Mr. T. B. McGahan were appointed to represent the branch at the Diocesan Council meeting held on July 15.

**HONEST AND TRUE**

True heart's 'welcome,'  
Soul's burden lightens;  
Falsehood's 'hail chum'  
Its grasp but tightens.

True eyes' sweet smile  
Deep sorrow brightens;  
False fawn's covert guile  
All pain but heightens.

Honest handshake  
Much harm oft rightens;  
False love, like coil of snake,  
Strong friendship frightens.

Pure lips' soft kiss  
Black record whitens;  
Dark lie's mulled hiss  
God's sun e'en nightens.

'Twixt thee and me, friend,  
In all we do,  
Grasp we but one hand,  
Honest and true.

—BATAVUS.

Rotorua.