

himself, referred to the good times they had had in Riccarton, the many friends they had made, and their unfeigned regret at severing their connection with the district. No matter where they might be they would always remember the good friends they left behind in Riccarton.

By last Home mail, the Sisters of Notre Dame des Missions, Lower High street, received advice from the Phonetic Institute, Bath, that their pupils have been successful in obtaining certificates for Pitman's shorthand as under: First-class speed certificates--120 words per minute, Gwendoline Wilson, Dorothy Mc-Inerney; 100 words per minute, Irene Mahon; 80 words per minute, Rita Bradford, May O'Donoghue; Theoretical certificate, Hilda Haydon. Full certificate theoretical and practical knowledge, 100 words per minute, Clarice Bell.

At the Cathedral on Sunday in anticipation of the Feast of the Apostle of Ireland, upwards of 200 members of the H.A.C.B. Society (St. Patrick's and St. Mary's branches) approached the Holy Table at the 7 o'clock Mass, celebrated by the Rev. Father Long (branch chaplain). At the conclusion of Mass all (in regalia) marched in return to the Hibernian Hall, presenting a very fine spectacle. At the hall the annual breakfast was partaken of, being served by a number of the young lady friends of the society. The president (Bro. J. Griffin) presided, the Rev. Father Long and Bro. Calixtus (principal of the Marist Brothers' School) being present. A lengthy toast-list was honored. Quite a feature of the function was the address on Catholic Federation given by Mr. G. Girling-Butcher. After Vespers an eloquent panegyric of St. Patrick was preached by the Very Rev. Father Graham, S.M., M.A., Rector of St. Bede's College.

Timaru

(From our own correspondent.)

March 15.

On Sunday last, Rev. Father Murphy, S.M., went to Orari to celebrate Mass for the Catholic members of the Territorials who are in camp there.

The ladies of the Altar Society held their usual monthly meeting yesterday. Their director (Rev. Father Murphy) presided. The annual balance sheet, which was read, showed that the finances of the society were in a very satisfactory state. The resignation of Miss A. Knight, who has for many years held the position of secretary, was accepted with regret. The election of officers resulted as follows: President, Mrs. Doyle; treasurer, Mrs. O'Connor; secretary, Miss K. Donovan; delegates to Catholic Federation, Mrs. O'Connor and Mrs. A. Kane.

Hokitika.

(From our own correspondent.)

March 5.

Mrs. A. E. Stapleton, the wife of Mr. A. E. Stapleton, of Revell street, passed away at her residence yesterday. For some time past the deceased had been suffering from a severe illness, and her death was not altogether unexpected. She was a daughter of Mr. J. Kirk, formerly borough inspector, a native of Hokitika, and 35 years of age. A young family of three daughters and two sons are left to mourn their loss, and to them and the bereaved husband the sincere sympathy of the community is extended. -R.I.P.

The sixty-five nuns at the Convent of the Sœurs Oblates, about five miles from Louvain, have sheltered and fed for weeks 400 homeless children whose parents are either lost or dead. But at last food failed. Fortunately, delegates of the Commission for Relief were able to supply provisions and save the children and the nuns from starvation.

The Nelson *Mail* states that the average price which is being paid in the Motueka district for the best sorts of apples for export to South America is 5s per case. The growers are required to pick the fruit and provide the cases.

DECREE OF POPE BENEDICT XV.

ACTA BENEDICTI PP. XV.

DECRETUM.

PRECES PRO PACE CERTIS DIEBUS DICENDAE
PRAESCRIBUNTUR.

(OFFICIAL VERSION)

Decree of Pope Benedict XV., appointing Sexagesima Sunday (February 7) in all European countries, and Passion Sunday (March 21) in all dioceses outside of Europe as a Day of Expiation and Intercession for Peace.

DECREE.

His Holiness our Sovereign Lord, Pope Benedict XV., in deep affliction at the sight of a war which destroys thousands of young lives, brings misery to families and cities, and rushes flourishing nations to the brink of ruin, yet bearing in mind that Almighty God, whose prerogative it is to heal by chastisement and through pardon to preserve, is moved by the prayers which spring from contrite and humble hearts, desires ardently that above the clang of arms may be heard the voice of Faith, Hope, and Charity, alone capable of welding together the hearts of men in one mind and one spirit. Therefore, while He exhorts the clergy and the faithful of the whole world to works of mortification and piety in expiation for the sins by which we have called down upon ourselves the just wrath of God, the Holy Father has ordained that throughout the Catholic Church solemn prayers shall be offered in order to obtain from the mercy of Almighty God the peace which all desire.

For this purpose it is hereby decreed that in every Metropolitan Cathedral, Parochial and Conventual Church in all European countries, on the 7th day of February next (being the Sunday called Sexagesima), and in all dioceses situated outside of Europe on the 21st day of March (being Passion Sunday), there shall be celebrated special religious functions in the following order:

In the morning, immediately after the Conventual or Parochial Mass, the Most Blessed Sacrament shall be exposed with all solemnity, and duly incensed: after which the Psalm *Miserere mihi, Deus* (Ps. 50) shall be sung with the Antiphon: *Da pacem, Domine, in diebus nostris, quia non est alius qui pugnet pro nobis nisi Tu, Deus noster*, followed by the V. *Fiat pax in virtute tua, R. Et abundantia in turribus tuis*; and the Collect, *Deus, a quo sancta desideria*, etc.

The Most Blessed Sacrament shall then remain exposed to public veneration till evening: and it is desirable that arrangements be made whereby children also should take due part in the public adoration.

In the evening, previously to the deposition of the Most Blessed Sacrament, the third part of the Rosary is to be recited, followed by the annexed prayer, expressly composed by His Holiness in order to obtain the benefit of peace: then the Litanies of the Saints, according to the form prescribed for the devotion of the Forty Hours' Prayer in the *Rituale Romanum* of the year 1913. Immediately after the Litanies shall be sung the *Parce, Domine, parce populo tuo; ne in aeternum irascaris nobis*, with the Versicles and Prayer usually recited after the Procession *in quacumque tribulatione* as in the *Rituale Romanum*, with the addition of the Collect *Deus, a quo sancta desideria*. The sacred function shall conclude with the *Tantum Ergo* and Benediction of the Most Blessed Sacrament, *more solito*.

In the hope that Almighty God may pour forth in yet greater abundance His Divine Grace, the Sovereign Pontiff exhorts the faithful to approach the Sacrament of Penance and to receive Holy Communion, and grants to all those who, after Confession and Communion, shall assist at one or other of the sacred functions as above ordered, or shall pray for some time before the Mr. Chase, in responding on behalf of Mrs. Chase and