

ST. PATRICK'S DAY CELEBRATIONS

AUCKLAND.

(From our own correspondent.)

St. Patrick's Day was fittingly celebrated in Auckland. Active preparations had been in hand for many weeks, and the result was that the demonstration was a complete success from every point of view. In the following terms the Auckland *Star* dealt with what it was pleased to term 'The Spirit of the Irish':—There is only one national saint's day in the New Zealand calendar that evokes a public demonstration of national fervor—St. Patrick's Day. It is Ireland's day, and year after year, irrespective of all obstacles of weather, war, or business, the irrepressible spirit of the Irish springs up green and glowing each St. Patrick's Day in an outburst of national pride. In Auckland this morning St. Patrick's Day broke dull and threatening of rain, and folks who had no particular concern for Ireland or the day, proceeded, with overcoats and umbrellas, to business, for the day was not observed as a public holiday. But no threat of rain could damp the fervor or shackle the spirits of the Irish. It was their day, and there was to be a national demonstration and procession, followed by sports, rain or no rain, public holiday or no public holiday. They rallied their bands, marshalled their children, flew their banners and sported their sprigs of shamrock. And at the appointed time the children's procession moved off from Cathedral square to the Domain. Marshalled behind Mr. P. Gleeson they swung through the streets, with radiant faces, colors flying, and bands (Garrison and Onehunga) playing. All the city and suburban parishes supplied their quotas, and the result was magnificent—a finer body of children it would be indeed hard to find. Rev. Brother George was marshal, and he kept the procession in good order. At the Domain each parish group wended its way to its own tent, from which was liberally dispensed those delicacies dear to the hearts of the little ones. The sports programme was excellently carried out, there not being a dull moment throughout the day. The following were the results:—

Roger Cup (Championship (100yds) A. Page (St. Columba's School) 1. P. Delgrosso (St. Columba's School) 2. Sheffield handicap (120yds) W. H. Bovaird 1, E. Bust 2, G. E. Kinsey 3. Amateur handicap (120yds) G. Hedlund 1, F. R. Carolan 2. St. Patrick's Day handicap (880yds) T. Woods (50yds) 1, H. King (50yds) 2, R. A. Reston (75yds) 3. Sacred Heart College handicap (100yds) R. Duggan 1, O. Jackson 2. Cycling handicap (2 miles) J. Adam (ser) 1, W. J. Stewart (150yds) 2, W. H. Hills (250yds) 3. Open handicap (220yds) R. Clark 1, G. E. Kinsey 2, W. J. McManus 3. Open handicap (1 mile)—T. Woods (120yds) 1, D. Mason (35yds) 2, C. H. Welch (35yds) 3. Hibernian, C.M.C., and Confraternity handicap (100yds)—J. McKean 1, M. Hoggan 2, P. Duffin 3. Cycling handicap (1 mile)—W. J. Stewart (90yds) 1, F. M. Brennan (100yds) 2, I. Holden (70yds) 3. Amateur handicap (half-mile) J. W. Olphert (15yds) 1, B. Bovaird (45yds) 2, W. J. Davidson (ser) 3. Open handicap (440yds)—W. H. Bovaird (25yds) 1, V. Hogg (25yds) 2, C. H. Parker (32 yds) 3. Public schools' invitation race (100yds)—A. H. Fletcher 1, M. Moore 2, L. Stretton 3. Hibernian handicap (100yds)—H. Woodley (ser) 1, E. Hadley (3yds) 2. Hibernian handicap (120yds)—J. Keenan (5yds) 1. Hibernian handicap (440yds)—J. C. Woodley (17yds) 1. Girls' championship:—Under 11 years—Annie Greig (Sacred Heart Convent) 1; under 12 years—Doris Knight (Ellerslie Convent) 1; under 13 years—Ethel McLaughlin (Onehunga Convent) 1; under 15 years—Vera Pohlen (Remuera Convent) 1. Boys' championships:—Under 12 years (75yds)—H. Woodley (St. Columba's School) 1, D. O'Shea (St. Columba's School) 2; under 14 years (100yds)—F. Muir (Onehunga Convent) 1, L. Williams (St. Benedict's School) 2; under 16 years (100yds)—F. Delgrosso (St. Columba's School) 1, J. Godfrey (One-

hunga Convent) 3. Boys' walking championships:—Under 13 years (220yds)—E. O'Donohue (St. Columba's School) 1, J. Brodie (St. Columba's School) 2; under 16 years (440yds)—J. Moynihan (St. Columba's School) 1.

At the conclusion of the sports, seven hundred children were put through some varied and spectacular evolutions, which were greatly admired, and loudly applauded. As a finale they formed themselves into a representation of an immense harp, the bands at the same time appropriately playing 'The harp that once.' It was a very fine spectacle, and the vast crowd gave vent to their feelings in enthusiastic cheers. As a wind up the children drew up in close formation before the grandstand, and, with band accompaniment, sang 'God save Ireland.'

The Concert.

In the evening a national concert was held in the presence of the Mayor of Auckland, the clergy, and an immense audience.

The following was the programme:—Part I.—Overture, 'Irish airs,' Ewart's Orchestra; chorus, 'The tunes we love to hear on Paddy's day,' pupils of Catholic schools; recitation, 'Shiel's reply to Lord Lyndhurst,' Mr. R. Casey; song, 'The Irish folk song,' Miss Mildred Coleman; chorus, 'The harp that once,' pupils of Mount St. Mary's Orphanage; song 'O'Donnell Aboo,' Mr. J. P. Lonergan; violin solo, 'The harp that once,' Master Henri Lissack; song, 'Mountains of Mourne,' Mr. F. G. Bourke; dance, Irish jig, Misses Maud Moynihan, L. Murphy, L. Lillus, J. Lynch, A. Ibbotson, J. Watts, A. Herron, and A. Dickinson; song, 'The Irish emigrant,' Mr. Evan McCormack; chorus, 'Just a bunch of shamrocks,' pupils of Catholic schools. Part II. Orchestra, 'Irish airs,' Ewart's Orchestra; chorus, 'My Irish home sweet home,' pupils of Catholic schools; song, 'Wearing of the green,' Mr. J. P. Lonergan; song, 'Kathleen Mavourneen,' Miss Coleman; dance, sailor's hornpipe, by girls from St. Mary's Orphanage (Onehunga); song, 'Has sorrow thy young days shaded,' Mr. F. G. Bourke; song, 'Ma-cushla,' Mr. Evan McCormack; chorus, 'Don't forget Ireland,' Marist Brothers' pupils; violin solo, 'Last rose of summer,' Master Henri Lissack; recitation, 'The fighting race,' Master Mackle; chorus, 'Ireland, my Ireland,' pupils of Catholic schools; 'God save Ireland,' pupils of Catholic schools. 'God save the King,' Mr. Harry Hiscocks played the accompaniments during the evening.

MILTON.

March 17, the festal day of Ireland's Patron Saint, is celebrated throughout the civilised world, where the sons and daughters of Erin's green isle have gained a footing (says the *Bruce Herald*). The anniversary was celebrated in the time-honored manner locally with a national concert, in the Coronation Hall. The large audience which attended was in an appreciative mood, and the programme of nineteen items was increased to an inordinate length by the multiplicity of encores demanded, and graciously acceded to by the performers. Naturally, on such an occasion, Irish airs predominated. The greater portion of the programme devolved upon a quartet of vocalists from Kaitangata—Messrs. Proctor (2), Edwards, and Bennetts—but these gentlemen proved a host in themselves, and well merited the encores freely awarded their efforts. The other visiting vocalist was Miss Heffernan, of Dunedin, who was not a stranger to a Milton audience, having appeared on similar anniversary occasions. The whole programme was excellently arranged, and its appreciative reception should prove gratifying to the promoters, and the manager, Mr. Wm. Kirby.

The following programme was submitted:—Selection, 'Gems of Irish melodies,' 14th Regimental Band; chorus, 'Kiss me as I fall asleep,' school choir (encored); song, 'Good-bye, Mavourneen,' Mr. W. F. Bennetts (encore, 'Susan Jane'); pianoforte solo, 'Mazurka,' Miss M. Wilson; song, 'Dear old Ireland,'

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