

Intercolonial

The Rev. Father Cooney, who succeeds Captain-Chaplain Lonergan at Bathurst, was entertained by the residents of Oberon, prior to his departure for the mission, and presented with a valedictory address and a cheque.

News was received in Queensland recently that Mr. Austin Lennon had distinguished himself while on active service in France. For his bravery he had been awarded the Military Cross. Prior to enlisting he held a responsible position in the Bank of New South Wales (Queensland). He is a son of the Hon. William Lennon, Minister of Agriculture, who was attacked for his Irish sentiments the other day. In the Legislative Assembly Mr. James Tolmie (leader of the Opposition) offered his congratulations to the Minister, and his felicitations received the unanimous endorsement of all present.

Speaking the other day at Hamilton (Queensland), his Grace Coadjutor-Archbishop Duhig said that Catholics were all proud of the part which their boys were playing in the war (says the *Sydney Freeman*). They were proud to claim as a Catholic the man who won the first V.C. for Australia—Corporal Jacka. They were also proud to claim as a Catholic the winner of the last V.C.—Private Martin O'Meara, of West Australia. Catholics, the Archbishop declared, had done as well as any one could expect. Archbishop Duhig went on to refer to the part played by the priests of France and Belgium in the war. Regarding the Commander-in-Chief of the British forces—General Sir Douglas Haig—they might say there was no one more proud of him to-day—apart from his mother, if she was still alive—than his brother, who was a devoted Redemptorist priest in London.

Fifty golden years ago Rev. Father Cleary, C.S.S.R., offered the Adorable Sacrifice of the Mass for the first time (says the *Melbourne Advocate* of October 7), and rarely, very rarely, has he failed—through sickness or journeys only has he failed—to offer up the Holy Mass daily. During these fifty years he has worked as a zealous missionary, and at times occupied the important and responsible positions of Director of the Juvenile in Limerick, Novice Master in Australia, and Rector of Waratah (N.S.W.). At present he is a member of the Ballarat community. Amongst the very many messages of congratulation and felicitation he received, he prizes two of them in a very special manner—the one an autograph blessing, with Plenary Indulgence attached, from our Holy Father the Pope, and the other a most cordial letter of congratulation from his Excellency the Apostolic Delegate. He is still hale and hearty, and we wish him *ad multos annos*.

In a letter to a friend in Adelaide, dated August 7, Mr. W. J. Denny, the well-known Catholic member of the South Australian Parliament, who was one of the few of our politicians who volunteered for active service, states that the Australians are praised by friend and foe alike, and quotes some of the opinions expressed by English and German war correspondents. He says: 'It is, of course, impossible for us or anyone else to conjecture the length of the war. The end does not yet seem to be even in sight. To us who see the really vital facts it seems clear that the German has lost his offensive—and that, of course, must be the beginning of the end—and many instances in proof can be given; but the road to Tipperary appears just as long as it was at the beginning of the war. That the Hun will eventually be driven back to his lair is never doubted. It is sufficient for us to know, however, that every Britisher will answer every call that the defence of the country renders necessary. Every available man is needed at the front if the fight is to be won, and the initial mistake of Gallipoli is to be avoided. I was therefore extremely sorry to hear that there was a slump in the enlistments in South Australia. Surely that must be rectified, and at once.'

Science Siftings

By 'VOLR.'

Lofty Lake.

Lying at an altitude of 12,545 feet, Lake Titicaca, partly in Peru and partly in Bolivia, is the highest steam-navigated body of water in the world. The lake is 80 miles long by 40 wide, and is divided into two unequal parts by the peninsula of Copacabana, the southern division, called the Lake of Huaqui, being united to the larger body by the narrow Strait of Tiquina. The principal islands of the lake are Titicaca and Coati, near the above-named peninsula. Near the southern shore of the lake are located the famous ruins of Tiahuanacu, relics of temples and palaces built by a people whose rule must have ante-dated that of the Incas by hundreds of centuries, and of whose culture and civilisation nothing remains save these specimens of their remarkable masonry and a few carved stone idols that have been unearthed in modern times.

Living Aeroplanes.

It would be a mistake to suppose that the bird's wings enable it to fly. If wings spelt flying, any of us could attach a pair and soar into the air. The hollow bones make light bodies, but they are attached to a rigid backbone, which forms the main feature of the bird's body. This gives the central firmness, and the muscles do the rest. The wings balance their owners, and the tail acts as a rudder for steering. Often enough the bird seems to use its tail as a sort of brake. It is interesting to compare the bird with the product of man's skill—the aeroplane. To begin with, there is no aeroplane made which copies the up-and-down motion of the bird's wing, all our machines having fixed wings, or planes. But, naturally, man first tried to copy the living fliers around him. He made wings of feathers, etc., connected them with his shoulders and legs, and found that his muscles could not raise him an inch. The muscles, or motors, which now drive him through the air are as strong as 200 horses, so no wonder he failed at first. Even the bird, with a body so perfectly formed for flight, has flying muscles equal in weight to all its other muscles put together.

Briar Pipe Industry.

The war has given an impetus to the briar-pipe manufacture, which as a commercial industry in England had its inception in 1859, though its age on the Continent antedated that period considerably. The French white heath, whose roots furnish the pipe material, flourishes in all countries bordering upon the Mediterranean and grows to a height of 38 to 45 inches. Around Florence, Italy, it is the custom to cut the long, tough, young shoots each year, bind them together, and sell them for use in sweeping streets in cities and towns. Outside of this, the plant is allowed to grow for three or four years, when the roots will have developed sufficiently to permit cutting them, enough of the plant being left to permit cuttings every three years. The roots most in demand for pipe-making, a certain aroma and brightness of wood being the test, are those obtained from the Tuscan Maremma in the neighborhood of Follonica, Cecina, and Grosseto. They are preferred by manufacturers to those from any other part of Italy, or from Algeria or the Orient. Most of the land in the Tuscan Maremma growing these roots is owned by French and British concerns, who maintain warehouses and work-shops on or near their lands where the roots are washed, boiled, and roughly shaped, after which they are sorted by size, color, and quality.

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