

was also departing for the front, was unable that evening to be present to participate, along with his comrades-in-arms and fellow clubmen, in the 'leave taking' those who, perforce, were obliged to remain had arranged. The prayers and best wishes of all would accompany those now going to do their part in the great world struggle, with the sincerest hopes that in the near future a far greater re-union would be possible and a welcome home extended with the peace of nations restored.

The Rev. Father Murphy also spoke briefly. His Lordship the Bishop, on behalf of the club, presented Messrs. McAleer and O'Connell with useful gifts. In some appropriate accompanying remarks his Lordship referred to the spirit of duty which had actuated the Catholics of New Zealand and of the Empire generally in the supreme crisis the world was now experiencing. He hoped those now going would have a safe return, and wished them every blessing and success. His Lordship added that he, too, would look forward to that greater and happier re-union forecasted by the president, when not alone those now leaving but also those already in the trenches and on other battle fronts would again be united with their families, friends, and fellow club members.

Timaru

(From our own correspondent.)

January 8.

The yearly retreat of the Nuns of the Sacred Heart commences on Monday evening. The retreat is to be preached by the Rev. Father Boylan, S.J.

Rev. Father Venning, S.M., preached at the evening devotions on Sunday. There was Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament all day and after the sermon the monthly procession took place.

The annual spiritual retreat for ladies, which was preached by Rev. Father Boylan, S.J., began at the Convent of the Sacred Heart on Monday evening, January 1, and was very largely attended. The retreat was brought to a close on Saturday morning with the imparting of the Papal Blessing and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament.

Miss Dorothy Mason, L.A.B., has received word from Mr. E. C. Cachemaille, resident secretary in New Zealand for the Associated Board, that her pupil, Veda Townsend, gained the highest marks awarded in New Zealand in the Elementary Division in the recent examinations of 1916. This little girl, who is just ten years of age, gained full marks in exercises, correctness of fingering, and sight-reading, and gained a grand total of 138 out of a possible 150.

CATHOLIC GIRLS' PRIMARY SCHOOL.

On Friday, December 22, the scholastic year was brought to a close. A little concert was given by the pupils, and the prizes were distributed by the Very Rev. Dean Tubman. Generous donations towards the prize fund had been made by his Lordship the Bishop of Christchurch, Dean Tubman, and Mrs. T. W. Lynch. The prize list is as under:—

Standard VI.—Gertrude Lynch, Annie McAuley, Lucy O'Brien.

Standard V.—Margaret Jobson, Veronica King (2), Kathleen O'Meeghan, Lucy Neeson, Kathleen Roper, Winifred Fitzgerald.

Standard IV.—Hilda Lack, Kathleen O'Connor, Mary Quinn (2).

Standard III.—Gertrude Kearns (2), Rita Leeming, Patricia Lynch, Mary Mallouk.

Standard II.—Mildred Fountain, Winifred Geaney (2), Mary McAuley (2), Fionika Ogden, Eileen Quinn (2), Rita Richardson.

Standard I.—Upper Division: Freda Battersby, Margaret Conlon (2), Teresa Kirk, Mary Martin (2), Phyllis Neil, Phyllis O'Brien (2). Lower Division: Murtagh Mallouk (2), Veronica Goddard, Teresa Kyle, Kathleen McAuley (2), Nancy Ryan (2).

Special Rewards.—Standards VI. and V.—Winifred Fitzgerald, Kathleen O'Meeghan, Margaret Johnson, Lucy Neeson, Grace Fountain. Standards IV. and III.—Teresa Kent, Kathleen O'Connor, Annie Flint, Margaret Stirling, Eileen Rothwell, Eileen Delury. Standards II and I.—Teresa Kyle, Mildred Fountain, Mary McAuley, Nellie Mellor, Annie Kyle, Winifred Geaney, Fionika Ogden, Kathleen McAuley, Nancy Ryan, Murtagh Mallouk, Teresa Kyle.

DIOCESE OF AUCKLAND

(From our own correspondent.)

January 5.

The Marist Brothers from the North Island districts are now assembled in Auckland, and this evening at the Sacred Heart College, Richmond road, entered upon their annual retreat, which is being conducted by Rev. Father O'Shea, S.J., from Australia.

Rev. Father Taylor this evening addressed the women's branch of the Holy Family Confraternity and gave an outline of the various duties and arduous and exacting courses through which ecclesiastical students pass in their preparation for the high and holy office of the priesthood.

Rev. Father Corcoran, S.J., preached at St. Patrick's Cathedral last Sunday evening on the great festival of the Nativity. The rev. preacher spoke of the lessons to be derived by mankind from Christ's thirty-three years' labors on earth. On Monday, January 8, Father Corcoran commences the retreat for ladies at the Sacred Heart Convent, Remuera.

On the vacant allotment behind the Sacred Heart Church, Ponsonby, a new, commodious, and up-to-date presbytery is about to be erected. In this connection Father Carran has made arrangements of a most advantageous character, and priests and people are to be heartily congratulated upon their good fortune. In connection with the Ponsonby parish it is interesting to chronicle that the total Communicants for the past year amounted to 28,400.

Rev. Father Henry, S.M., of Wellington, delivered the weekly address to the Holy Family Confraternity on Tuesday evening last. The subject was love and respect for Almighty God. In this was true greatness, and not in the acquisition of material advancement and riches. The names of those saintly men and women who had given their lives in the service of God, and for the betterment of those amongst whom they had labored in this world would be remembered and cherished when the name and fame of those who had wrought worldly renown would be forgotten.

His Grace Archbishop Carr, of Melbourne, the Right Rev. Dr. Phelan, of Sale, and the Rev. Father Martin, of Kilmore, Victoria, arrived in Auckland at an early hour on last Wednesday morning. They made a short stay in the city and left for Te Aroha this morning, *via* Thames, where they purpose staying until Saturday next, owing to the crowded nature of the accommodation houses at Te Aroha. They are due at Te Aroha on Saturday, where they will remain for a few weeks, returning thence to Auckland and on to Australia. While in Auckland they stayed at the Bishop's Palace, Ponsonby.

Two important statements have, within the last few days, been placed before the Auckland public—one from the Acting Minister of Finance (the Hon. A. M. Myers, M.P.), which showed that in the calendar year of 1915, the Customs returns yielded £3,199,612, and beer duty for the same period £137,726. For the calendar year 1916, Customs, £3,833,427, and beer duty £189,001. Customs increase in 1916 over 1915 amounted to £633,815, while the increase in the beer duty was £51,775.

The Minister, despite his buoyant revenue, uttered a solemn warning to the public to conserve their means, and to practice habits of economy and thrift. The other statement has been issued by the Auckland Racing Club, and in view of Mr. Myers' admonition to exer-