

BIRTH

GALLAGHER.—On January 6, 1917, to Mr. and Mrs. H. Gallagher, Opoho—a son.

DEATHS

GEARY.—On Wednesday, December 13, 1916, at South Riverton, Bartholomew Geary; aged 81 years.—R.I.P.

McTAMNEY.—On December 24, 1916, at his residence, Main North road, Waikouaiti, James, beloved husband of Mary McTamney; aged 49 years. Deeply regretted.—R.I.P.

McTAMNEY.—On December 24, 1916, at his residence, Waikouaiti, Otago, James, beloved husband of Mary McTamney and dearly loved brother of Mesdames P. Hughes and J. Collins, Cheviot, and B. Crossen, Harewood road, Christchurch.—R.I.P. By request, no mourning.

FOR THE EMPIRE'S CAUSE

SPIERS.—On December 10, 1916 (killed while in action in France), Corporal James Spiers, fourth and dearly beloved son of Mary and John Spiers, Kurow: in his 22nd year.

IN MEMORIAM

CLOSE.—In loving memory of our dear mother, who passed peacefully away on January 9, 1916, at 284 Hazeldean road, Christchurch.

We have loved her in life—
Let us not forget her in death.
Jesus, have mercy upon her soul.

--Inserted by her loving family.

WANTED KNOWN

PRAYER BOOKS, ROSARIES, and OBJECTS OF DEVOTION, now obtainable from the SACRISTAN, ST. JOSEPH'S CATHEDRAL, DUNEDIN

WANTED

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MESSAGE OF POPE LEO XIII. TO THE N.Z. TABLET.

Pergant Directores et Scriptores New Zealand Tablet, Apostolica benedictione confortati, Religionis et Justitie causam promovere per vias Veritatis et Pacis.

Die 4 Aprilis, 1900.

LEO XIII., P.M.

TRANSLATION.—Fortified by the Apostolic Blessing let the Directors and Writers of the New Zealand Tablet continue to promote the cause of Religion and Justice by the ways of Truth and Peace.

April 4, 1900.

LEO XIII., Pope.



THURSDAY, JANUARY 11, 1917.

THE PICTURE CENSORSHIP AT WORK



SOME six months ago, largely, one might almost say solely, as the result of the unremitting efforts of the Catholic Federation, the Government introduced and passed a Kinematograph Films Censorship Bill. New Zealand is the first State in Australasia to initiate this practical attempt to grapple with what had come to be recognised on all sides as a serious evil, and its action elicited warmly approving comment from our Catholic exchanges throughout Australia, England, and America. The Bill passed its final stages on August 1 last, and came into operation on October 1. It is now possible to take a preliminary survey of its working, and the result will be of interest, not only to our New Zealand readers, but also to our co-religionists in other lands who are working in their respective spheres of influence to bring about a similar reform.

The Act provided for the appointment of three censors—one at Dunedin or Invercargill, and one at Wellington and at Auckland—but a single censor, located at Wellington, has been able to overtake the work so far. The appointment fell upon Mr. W. Jolliffe, and in these first three months he has passed under review no fewer than 1,302,734 feet of film. Six of the films submitted have been banned altogether, on the grounds specified by the Act—namely, that 'Approval shall not be given in the case of any film which, in the opinion of the censor, depicts any matter which is against public order or decency, or the exhibition of which for any other reason is, in the opinion of the censor, undesirable in the public interest.' Five of them were, in the censor's opinion, against public order and decency, and the other one was against the public interest, inasmuch as it was calculated to offend one of Britain's Allies. Mr. Jolliffe states that a considerable number of films have been 'cut,' but he has kept no record of the number. Asked by a press interviewer whether, generally speaking, he considers the censorship has been justified, Mr. Jolliffe's answer was emphatic. 'I do, undoubtedly,' he replied. 'The tendency seemed to be to ascertain how far the public was willing to go, and to lead them on one step further, if possible. The result has been the elimination and suppressing of undesirable matter.' In that single sentence as to the tendency of many of the film purveyors to lure the public further and further in the direction of the undesirable, Mr. Jolliffe has summed up the whole situation in a nutshell. The censorship

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