

## THE NEW EMPRESS OF AUSTRIA

With the advent of the new Empress Zita, wife of the Emperor Charles of Austria, curiosity is naturally aroused as to her personality and accomplishments (says the *Catholic Bulletin*). From her early days she has been studious; she is an accomplished musician and is well versed in literature, history, and philosophy. She also is fond of society. Empress Zita was born in the Villa Reale at Pianore, in the Italian province of Lucca, on May 9, 1892, the daughter of Duke Robert and Duchess Marie Antoinette of Parma. She is of Bourbon descent, but rapidly became Viennese owing to the fact that life in the capital on the Danube interested her exceedingly. Her early training was in the hands of the Marquise Della Rosa. Later she entered a Sisters' academy at Zangbert, where she advanced rapidly in music, presiding now and then as organist in the convent chapel. After her father's death the then Princess Zita in 1908 spent some time in the Ryde Abbey, Isle of Wight, where her sister, Princess Adelaide, is a nun. Here among the French Sisters who had been compelled to leave France owing to the infidel persecution, she studied music, literature, Latin, history, and philosophy.

Princess Zita made the acquaintance of Archduke Charles Francis at Franzenbad, Bohemia, in the spring of 1909 while the guest of the Archduchess Maria Annunziata, her cousin. Later, Princess Zita and Archduke Charles Francis met at balls and other festivities at the Hofburg palace and occasionally at the hunting lodge of the Archduchess Maria Theresa. On June 14, 1911, the engagement of the princess and the archduke was announced, and on October 21 of the same year they were married, neither expecting ever to ascend the Austro-Hungarian throne.

The first household of the archduke and archduchess was established at Kolomea, Galicia, where they had occasion to enjoy the splendid hospitality of the Polish nobility. Their first child was born on November 20, 1912, and was named Francis Joseph Otto. He is now heir-apparent to the Austrian throne. The late Emperor Francis Joseph was very fond of this boy. The other children of the couple are the Archduchess Adelaide, born January 3, 1914; Archduke Robert Charles Louis, born February 8, 1915, and Archduke Felix Frederick August, born May 31, 1916, the date on which his father was a victor in the battles at Asiago and Asiago, in Italy.

### Oamaru

(From our own correspondent.)

At the last meeting of the Oamaru branch of the H.A.C.B. Society a very cordial welcome was tendered to First-Lieutenant A. Clark, Main Body N.Z. Expeditionary Force, who has returned from the front invalided. Lieutenant Clark is an ex-pupil of St. Patrick's School and a member of the Hibernian Society, and his abilities quickly earned for him promotion. He fought through the Gallipoli campaign, being severely wounded, and has now returned to take an appointment as instructor at Trentham Military Camp. In reply to congratulatory speeches of welcome at the Hibernian Lodge meeting, Lieutenant Clark gave an interesting account of his experiences since leaving New Zealand, and mentioned that during his travels in the Homeland, no heartier welcome was tendered him than that of the people of the Emerald Isle.

### WANTED KNOWN

PRAYER BOOKS, ROSARIES, and OBJECTS OF DEVOTION, now obtainable from—

MR. AMBROSE DUNNE, SACRISTAN,  
ST. JOSEPH'S CATHEDRAL, DUNEDIN

## COMMERCIAL

Messrs. Stronach, Morris, and Co., Ltd., report for week ended Tuesday, February 6, 1917, as follows:—Rabbitskins.—Our next sale will be held on Monday, 26th inst. Sheepskins.—The position is the same as mentioned in last report. Hides.—We shall hold a sale on Thursday, 8th inst. Oats.—The market remains quiet and there is very little business to report. Stocks in store are almost exhausted and very few lines are offering from the country. Prime milling, 2s 11d to 3s; good to best feed, 2s 9d to 2s 10d per bushel (sacks extra). Wheat.—Fowl wheat is in fair demand and can be sold at from 5s 6d to 5s 8d for best quality, and 5s to 5s 6d per bushel for medium (sacks extra). Chaff.—The market is more heavily supplied and late values are not maintained. The demand is solely for chaff of prime quality, and anything else is hard to quit. Prime oaten sheaf, £4 5s to £4 7s 6d; medium, £3 10s to £4 per ton (sacks extra).

### THE LATEST CRIME AGAINST BELGIUM

The indignation excited in neutral countries, as well as amongst the inhabitants of the Allied nations, by the deportations from Belgium has not caused the Germans to abandon the slave-raiding campaign. They are case-hardened and can now commit no outrage that would make them blush (says the *Catholic Times*). It is none the less the duty of all who have the interests of Christian civilisation at heart to continue to protest against their wickedness, and to hold it up to opprobrium. In a telegram which the Belgian Foreign Minister has sent to the Belgian Ministers to the Holy See and to Spain, explaining the gravity of the wrong inflicted on Belgium, he states that the Germans will soon have deported three hundred and fifty thousand men. The Minister has given instructions that the Holy See and the King of Spain be urged to invite the German Government to reflect on the consequences of its crime against humanity. According to information given by an Italian journal, the Holy Father has been in communication with the German and Austrian Governments on the subject, and it may be taken for granted that he has done all he possibly could do to impress upon the Germans the iniquity of their conduct. The Belgians may have to suffer for some time longer from German brutality, but, as Viscount Grey has assured the Belgian Foreign Minister, the day is coming when they will be liberated once and for all from the dangers that menace them so long as the enemy occupies their country.

### CATHOLIC FIELD SERVICE FUND

We have received 5s for the above fund from Mrs. J. Garr, Pukehiki.

Napier has received a regular salt bath during the last few days, the wind from the sea carrying the salt air all over the town. In some streets the air has been so strong that leaves of trees have turned brown and shrivelled up just as though it was autumn.

Speaking at Hastings in connection with the drawing of the fourth military service ballot, Mr. S. E. McCarthy, S.M., stated that it took them four days to draw the 3000 men in the last ballot, and they anticipated that it would take 10 days to draw the present 10,000.

A JOINT OF MEAT MAY BE TOUGH  
but the delicious MILITARY PICKLE is always tasty. If your grocer is out of this appetiser, send your order to any other Storekeeper. Do it Now.