

A meeting, thoroughly representative of the men of the Cathedral and St. Mary's parishes, was held at the episcopal residence on Sunday afternoon last in connection with the celebration of St. Patrick's Day. Rev. Dr. Kennedy, Adm., presided, and in his opening remarks apologised for the unavoidable absence of Very Rev. Dean Regnault, and Mr. J. R. Hayward, both of whom expressed their keen interest in the project. Owing to the fact that hundreds of intending patrons have in previous years been unable to gain admission to the Theatre Royal, it was decided to hold this year's concert in the Coliseum, which is capable of accommodating a much larger audience. The committee was unanimous that the programme be purely national, and that the concert be held on Monday, March 17 (St. Patrick's Day). Messrs. M. Grimes and J. McNamara were elected joint secretaries, and a programme committee was appointed. The proceeds will be devoted to Nazareth House.

Invercargill

February 10.

A grand Irish national concert will be held in the Municipal Theatre on Monday, March 17 (St. Patrick's Day). The tickets are now in circulation, and intending patrons would be well advised to book their seats in advance at the Bristol.

It is with regret that I have to record the death of Miss Mary Ellen Caulfield, which occurred at her home at Pakahouka, on January 26. The deceased was the second daughter of the late John and Margaret Caulfield, and was well known in the district as an exemplary Catholic. Very sincere sympathy is extended to the surviving members of the family who, during the last twelve months, have lost father, mother, and sister.—R.I.P.

On Sunday afternoon the Hibernian Band, under Conductor A. R. Wills, played an enjoyable programme of music at the Rose Garden at Victoria Park. This park is a magnificent asset to the city, yet, strange to say, a number of Invercargillites are ignorant of the fact that quite a transformation is being effected there. Some few years ago this spacious recreation ground benefited to the extent of £20,000 by a bequest in the will of the late John Feldwick.

At the 11 o'clock Mass on Sunday the Very Rev. Dean Burke, V.F., referred to the fact that the representative of the *Tablet* was at present in Invercargill, and he urged the members of the congregation to subscribe to the paper. The Dean went on to speak about the power and influence of the Catholic press, and quoted the writing of the late Pope, and Pope Leo XIII. concerning the matter. The bishops of the Church at all the great councils had (he said) always urged the faithful to have a Catholic paper in the home.

PRESIDENT OF FRANCE.

Raymond Poincare, President of France, has entered upon his last year of office (says the *Daily Mail*). The French President, according to the Constitution, is elected every seven years. Foch should be a hot favorite for the chief position the Republic has to offer. No soldier has held the post since Marshal MacMahon resigned in 1879. He held the post for three years only. But Foch's position, if fortune should call him to the Presidency, would be different from MacMahon's. MacMahon was surrounded by every conceivable difficulty, threatened by numerous internal intrigues, accused of a design to restore the monarchy, and called upon to face the menace of a new war of aggression from Germany in 1875. If Foch is elected he will have a nation solidly behind him, a constitution which has stood the test, and the prestige of victory instead of the memory of disaster.

THE LATE FATHER D. P. CRONIN

At a meeting of parishioners of the Carterton parish held recently (writes a correspondent) it was decided to erect a monument over the grave of their late lamented pastor, Father Daniel Patrick Cronin, who, while ministering to the spiritual wants of those



afflicted with the recent epidemic, contracted the disease which led to his death on November 24 last. Those among whom he labored so zealously are anxious to perpetuate the memory of his heroic self-sacrifice, and invite subscriptions towards this good work. All contributions sent to Mr. Chapman, honorary secretary of the church committee, will be gratefully acknowledged.

SEA PRAYERS.

(For the *N.Z. Tablet*.)

God send a shining wind to blow
Upon a little town I know
That, softly strayed from sea and ships,
May touch its truth to heedless lips;

That one there born of fishermen
May think on weed and rock again,
And never know the penalty
Of one who hath forgot the sea;

That she, within that solemn town,
May treasure less the song flung down
By missel thrush and meadow lark
Than moan of gulls against the dark;

And let the spring in her great hour,
Come with wet bud and almond flower
To wake a troubled memory
Of sails upon a windy sea.

Let not this sea-child give her hand
Forever to the servile land,
Lest she should slight infinity,
And break her faith with majesty.

God send a shining wind to blow
Upon a little town I know,
That one there born of sea and south
May know its salt upon her mouth.

—E. D.

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