

The Opera House proved quite too small to hold the great crowd that gathered in the evening, despite the rain, for the Irish national concert, a considerable number being unable to secure admission. The programme proved a brilliant one, and every performer did splendidly. The applause was frequent and free, and the audience thoroughly enjoyed the evening. Father Quinn in returning thanks, specially referred to Mr. Pat Fitzgerald as the organiser of the concert; also the various performers and thanked the public for their attendance. He read telegrams from Bishop Brodie, Dean Regnault, and other leading ecclesiastics, the executive heads and several branches of the Hibernians and others congratulating the local branch on its jubilee. The singing of "God Save Ireland" by Miss E. O'Brien and Mr. T. Clarke, the audience joining in the chorus, concluded a memorable concert.

Subsequently there were socials at the Druids' Hall and St. Columba Clubrooms, bringing to a close a day's celebrations that will be long remembered by all who participated in them.

KAIKOURA.

The celebrations in honor of St. Patrick's Day were held under most favorable weather conditions, and the beautiful grounds of Mrs. J. W. Harris, where the sports gathering was held, presented a very gay appearance. Nothing was left undone by the officials to ensure the thorough enjoyment of the large crowd in attendance. A refreshment stall, under the management of several ladies of the congregation, and a sweets stall in charge of Mrs. McSwigan, were very freely patronised. Mr. J. J. Mackle proved to be a most energetic and capable secretary. Others who rendered good service were Messrs. F. J. Monk, E. Wallace, and G. Hamilton (judges), P. Smith (starter), and N. C. Vale and M. Mackle (handicappers). A number of sports events and several guessing competitions were got off during the day.

In the evening the Drill Hall was crowded for the Irish national concert, over 800 persons being present. An excellent programme was presented, and the rendition of the various numbers by quite a large party of performers gave general satisfaction. Towards the conclusion of the programme Father Kelly expressed his gratitude for the splendid patronage accorded the concert and sports gathering. He felt (he said) deeply grateful to the performers, especially those of other denominations, for their much appreciated services. The National Anthem was sung at the close of the programme.

LEESTON.

Notwithstanding the disagreeable nor'-west wind, a large number of members of the Catholic congregations at Leeston and Southbridge, together with many other friends, met at the Ellesmere Domain on Monday, March 17, in celebration of St. Patrick's Day. The outing took the form of a picnic-sports, and was run on similar lines to the gathering held last year. It was a thoroughly representative assemblage, for there were people present from all parts of the Ellesmere district and a few from Christchurch and other places at a distance. It was certainly a happy gathering; everybody was out to spend a good time and to give everybody else a pleasant outing.

The picnic was arranged primarily in the interests of the children and no effort was spared to make the occasion a memorable one for them. A sum of over £25 was raised at Southbridge and Leeston to provide prizes for the races, and the prizes given were very liberal, more so than at any similar gathering held in the district for a long time.

At night the celebrations were continued, a very successful concert being held in the Catholic Hall, under the auspices of the St. John's branch of the Hibernian Society. The hall had been very tastefully decorated, the colors of the Emerald Isle predominating. Mr. Joseph Carroll, jun. (president of the society), made an able chairman, and there were with him on the platform Fathers Creed and Berger and several members of the social committee. In thanking the performers, Father Creed said that the concert from start to finish had been thoroughly enjoyable. Indeed, the concert would have done credit to any town in the Dominion. The talent in this district was, he considered, as good as in any other district he knew of. They were especially indebted to the visiting performers for the part they had taken. After supper had been served by the ladies a social was held. The musicians were Mesdames Marshall and Delargey. Altogether the St. Patrick's Day celebrations were a great success.

CARTERTON.

The King's Theatre was crowded on the occasion of the celebrations in honor of the feast of the Apostle of Ireland, testifying to the popularity of the annual St. Patrick's concert in Carterton, and to the efficiency of the organisation of its promoters. Mr. J. A. Dudson was in charge of the stage. Proceedings commenced with a piano-forte overture, Litz's "Rhapsody," by Miss Ruby Curran, played in artistic style and encored, "Home, Sweet Home" being given in response to a recall. Miss Berrill sang several numbers most successfully. Miss Dolly Dudson played very sweetly a violin solo, "The Harp That Once," and had to respond to an enthusiastic encore, Miss Dudson playing the accompaniments most effectively. Mr. Fraser followed with a song, and so greatly pleased the audience that he had to respond to double encores. "The Irish Emigrant," by Miss May Stannaway; "The Little Shawl of Blue," by Miss Curran; the duet, "Parted," by Miss and Mr. Welch, were all well rendered and encored, as was also "The Dance of the Allies," gracefully performed by Miss Eila Liardet. The second part of the programme was opened by an overture by Mr. Fraser. Mr. Welch sang with good effect "For the Green"; Miss Stannaway gave the ever-popular "Kathleen Mavourneen"; Miss Dolly Dudson again pleased the audience with her violin, this time with "The Carnival de Venice"; Miss Liardet gave a fine exposition of the toe dance, and Miss Welch sang "Soul of Mine." All the performers were encored. The concert section of the programme being ended, the floor was quickly cleared for the social, and a further enjoyable time was spent to the music of Hayden's orchestra, a bountiful supper forming a decidedly important item in the proceedings. The 1919 St. Patrick's Day concert and social was thus one of the best yet.

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