

success. After suggesting practical steps in inducing others to join, he cordially wished the society here and throughout the Dominion every prosperity.

At this stage the president (Bro. Grimes) invested Bro. J. R. Hayward, P.P., and district representative, with a handsome presentation collar, and in a neat speech voiced the sentiments of appreciation and kindly regard of members towards the Brother they were honoring. Bro. Hayward (he said) was president in 1897, and trustee for about eight years, quite recently retiring from that position, in which his best business abilities were exercised. The gift was intended to be a memento of the present occasion and of past duties well performed.

Bro. Hayward thanked the branch most sincerely for its handsome gifts. He had (he said) tried to do his duty as a Catholic citizen to an admirable Catholic society, bound by other than purely monetary considerations, and was proud of the fact that what little he had accomplished was deemed worthy of their kindly recognition. Were the main body of members to back up the very efficient officers, the society would have but little to fear.

The toast of the 'H.A.C.B. Society' was proposed by the *Tablet* representative. Bro. F. J. Doolan (secretary), in replying, gave an account of the founding of the society in Australia, and subsequently in New Zealand; its affiliation to kindred organisations in the limited States and Ireland rendering Hibernianism world-wide, with an impressive numerical strength. For the four years ending 1909 the local branch had paid out £682 6s 8d in sick pay, £160 funeral allowance, and £67 16s 10d in benevolence, a grand total of £910 3s 6d practically given back to members, exclusive of medical attendance and medicine, which accounted for another £721 14s for the same period. Whilst the funds had increased to the extent of £492 11s 6d now in credit to the branch, the membership roll had increased from 130 in 1906 to 220 in 1909. This referred to benefit members only, there being a considerable number of honorary members also.

The toast of 'Kindred Catholic Societies' was proposed by Bro. Getson in a happy speech, and responded to by representatives of the St. Vincent de Paul Society and Catholic Club.

The thanks of the gathering were tendered to the president and officers responsible for the arranging and general success of the function.

Greymouth

(From our own correspondent.)

March 10.

The Children of Mary held their annual picnic at the Ten-mile (North Beach) last week, when they had a most enjoyable outing.

The quarterly Communion of the St. Columba Club and Hibernian Society took place at St. Patrick's Church last Sunday morning, when upwards of 100 members of both societies approached the Holy Table.

The annual general meeting of the St. Columba Catholic Club was held in the club's rooms last Monday evening, when there was a record attendance of 73 members, and the greatest enthusiasm prevailed. The president (Mr. R. C. Heffernan) extended a hearty welcome to Rev. Father McCarthy. The secretary was instructed to convey to Rev. Father Taylor (late spiritual director) the club's appreciation of the valuable services rendered by him to the club, and regret at his departure from Greymouth. The secretary was also instructed to write to Auckland, conveying the club's heartfelt sympathy in the loss sustained by the death of Bishop Lenihan. A committee was appointed to make arrangements for entertaining the delegates from the various clubs of New Zealand at the conference to be held here during Easter week. The report and balance sheet, which were read and adopted, showed the finances of the club to be in a flourishing state. The assets of the club amount to £691, including a cash balance in the bank of £157 19s 8d, whilst the liabilities are nil. A feature of the meeting was the keen competition for seats on the executive, all the seats being contested with the exception of that of secretary and vice-secretary. The following were the results of the election:—President, Mr. A. F. O'Donoghue; hon. vice-president, Rev. Brother Alfred; vice-presidents, Messrs. J. W. Hannan, T. Keenan, and R. C. Heffernan; spiritual director, Rev. Father McCarthy; hon. secretary, Mr. C. A. Carmine (re-elected); vice-secretary, Mr. M. J. McGilligan (re-elected); treasurer, Mr. M. Keating; librarian, Mr. B. Rasmussen; steward, Mr. Wm. Meates; committee, Messrs. A. McSherry and P. C. Heaphy. The retiring president (Mr. R. C. Heffernan) presented the gold medal which he promised at last annual meeting to the member nominating most new members during the year. It was won by Mr. A. F. O'Donoghue, who proposed fourteen members. Judging by the enthusiasm shown at the annual meeting, the coming session promises to be the most prosperous since the formation of the club.

WANTED KNOWN—That Bill-heads, Circulars, Cards, Programmes, and General Printing of every description are executed at the *Tablet* Office. Moderate rates.

Invercargill

(From our own correspondent.)

The Very Rev. Father O'Sullivan delivered his second lecture in the Victoria Hall on Thursday, the 10th inst. The hall was packed to the doors, and the interesting and instructive lecture on 'Palestine' was thoroughly enjoyed by the large audience.

The members of the local branch of the Hibernian Society will approach the Holy Table in a body on Sunday next. By kind permission of the Dominican Sisters, a breakfast will be provided after Mass in St. Joseph's School-room.

The annual meeting of the Athletic Football Club was held last week, there being a fair attendance. The report and balance sheet proved the club to be in a very flourishing condition, and prospects are bright for the coming season.

Mr. A. R. Wills, conductor of the Hibernian Band, received a right royal welcome on Saturday night on his return from the Trentham and Christchurch rifle meetings. Mr. Wills won the South Island Championship at Christchurch, for which he was awarded the Championship Belt. Other prizes included £23 10s cash, the Rhodes Cup, a rug presented by the Kaiapoi Woollen Company, a gold medal, and a rifle presented by the Defence Department.

Mr. L. W. J. Morton, assistant Town Clerk, who has been a very prominent member of all the Catholic societies in Invercargill for a great number of years, leaves for the North Island to-day on account of ill-health. Great regret is expressed on all sides at the necessity of Mr. Morton's departure, he having to resign his position after fourteen years of faithful service. He has been the recipient of several presentations and expressions of goodwill, and he takes with him the best wishes of the whole of the community of Invercargill.

DIOCESE OF AUCKLAND

(By Telegraph from our own correspondent.)

March 14.

The Right Rev. Mgr. Gillan returned last Friday from Wellington, where he had been on a short visit.

Mr. J. Nerheny, City Councillor, is a candidate for the Auckland Hospital and Charitable Aid Board, elected upon the municipal franchise. He is one of the four candidates selected by the Citizens' League, and has good prospects of election.

Rev. Fathers Holbrook and Wright at all the Masses and Vespers at the Cathedral yesterday announced the presence in the city of the *Tablet* representative (Mr. Moriarty), and earnestly urged every family to have in their homes that splendid Catholic paper.

Very Rev. Father Buckley leaves next Wednesday to catch the Vancouver mail boat at Fiji, by which he goes Home. Nobody has better earned a respite from his labors than Father Buckley. For the fifteen years since his ordination here Father Buckley has been totally absorbed in his work, and his many friends hope that he will have a pleasant trip and an enjoyable holiday in the Old Country.

The St. Patrick's Day celebrations actually begun here yesterday, when the Auckland branch of the Hibernian Society, with the district officers, and several members from the Onehunga branch, received Holy Communion at the Cathedral at the 9 o'clock Mass. They occupied the front seats, before the large statue of St. Patrick, which was beautifully decorated. One of the largest musters for years took place. Rev. Father Holbrook welcomed the members, whom he addressed as 'my brother Hibernians.' He exhorted every eligible man in the community to join the society. After Mass the officers and members marched in procession to the Hibernian Hall, where the ladies of the Sancta Maria branch had prepared breakfast, over which the president presided, supported by Rev. Father Holbrook (chaplain) and the district president (Brother Nerheny). Speeches were made by the above-named brothers and Mr. Cattan (president of Onehunga branch), the Hon. Brother Beehan, and Messrs. Flynn (2) and Sheahan. Three important suggestions were made—namely, to free our schools, to establish a Hibernian scholarship at the Sacred Heart College, and to erect a memorial window in the Cathedral to the late Bishop. In the evening the panegyric of St. Patrick was preached at the Cathedral by Rev. Father Holbrook, when the Hibernians attended, occupying the front seats. The preacher delivered an eloquent discourse, treating of Ireland under pagan rule, the advent and the glorious achievement of the National Apostle, and the indelible mark made upon the Irish people, which defied effacement through long centuries of persecutions, trials, etc. They should cherish the memory of Ireland, condole with her in her sufferings and sorrows, rejoice with her in prosperity and happiness, and always impress on the minds of the rising generation love for the noble and devoted race from which they had sprung. All honor was due to those societies which place in the forefront those principles, particularly the Hibernians. That night, with millions of our race, in every country throughout the world, we hold up our hands in prayer and in defence of faith and fatherland, and from our hearts exclaim, 'God save Ireland.'