

OBITUARY

MRS. McENTYRE, ARROWTOWN.

On Tuesday, March 1, there passed away at her home, Pleasant View Farm, Mrs. McEntyre, wife of Mr. Thomas McEntyre, of Arrowtown. Deceased lady, who was a native of County Clare, resided with her husband in the Lakes district for a number of years, and was an example of a good, self-sacrificing wife and a true Christian mother. Two of her daughters are members of the Order of St. Dominick. Mrs. McEntyre received the last rites of Holy Church, and was devoutly attended through her long illness by Rev. Father O'Donnell, who also officiated at the graveside.—R.I.P.

MR. KERIN CLAFFY, MACRAES.

Mr. Kerin Claffy, who passed away at Macraes the other day at the advanced age of 82 years, was one of the oldest residents of the district. He arrived in New Zealand from Victoria in 1865, and settled at Macraes, where he commenced business as a storekeeper. A few years later he was appointed postmaster, a position which he held for upwards of 33 years. He was of a quiet and retiring disposition, and was very highly respected throughout the district. The late Mr. Claffy had been practically an invalid for the past two or three years. Deceased leaves two daughters—Mrs. Jas. O'Connell and Mrs. A. Phelan, of Macraes. He was a sincere and fervent Catholic. The missionary priests of the early days always received a hearty welcome from him, and he had many reminiscences of the hardships endured and fatiguing journeys undertaken by these priests in their zeal for the spiritual care of their scattered flocks. He was a native of King's County, Ireland.—R.I.P.

Lower Hutt

(From an occasional correspondent.)

The members of Sts. Peter and Paul's branch of the H.A.C.B. Society, Lower Hutt, assembled in large numbers on Friday, 4th inst., to welcome their new chaplain, the Rev. Father Walsh. The president (Bro. M. J. Hodgins) welcomed the Rev. Father in a very appropriate speech, and Father Walsh in reply thanked the members for the very warm welcome they had extended to him. He said it would always be a pleasure to him to promote the interests of the branch. On Sunday the members approached the Holy Table in a body. The Rev. Father Walsh preached a very instructive sermon on the benefits received from a worthy reception of Holy Communion. The members are to be congratulated on their profession of faith.

Oamaru

(From our own correspondent.)

March 14.

The Right Rev. Mgr. Mackay, V.G., returned last week from Auckland, where he represented his Lordship the Bishop at the funeral obsequies of the late Bishop Lenihan.

The annual general Communion of the St. Patrick's branch of the Hibernian Society took place at 8.30 o'clock Mass yesterday morning, when over forty members approached the Holy Table in a body.

The first round of the tennis tournament at St. Patrick's Club was concluded last week, and the second round commences to-night. Great improvement in the play has been noticeable during the past few weeks. A billiard tournament is also in progress, and causing much interest amongst the members. The great topic of conversation, however, both in and out of the club, is the forthcoming grand dramatic production of 'Arrah-na-Pogue' at the Opera House on St. Patrick's Night. Everything points to an immense success from every point of view, and probably the attendance will eclipse anything seen at an amateur performance in Otago. The members of the Dramatic Society have worked very hard, and their director has not spared himself in any way to make this a memorable event, and it now only remains for their work to be rewarded, as it promises to be at the present time.

On the 16th ult. there passed to his eternal reward, in the person of Mr. Christopher Devine, one whose life was a noble example of steadfast faith, Catholic piety, and ardent devotion to his Church. Mr. Devine was 85 years of age, and for eighteen years he gave voluntary service to the Dominican nuns at Oamaru, asking nothing in return but that he might be allowed to serve them. Many a strenuous day's toil he ungrudgingly gave, and great were the changes he witnessed in that time. His kindly assistance will be greatly missed, and he will be deeply mourned by those with whom he was closely associated. Mr. Devine was born in County Fermanagh, and came to Australia in the early days, later removing to New Zealand, and he finally settled in Oamaru, where his declining years have been spent. A man of a gentle and retiring disposition, he was possessed of great religious zeal, and approached the

Holy Table daily. His last illness was a brief one, and he passed peacefully away fortified by the rites of the Church. Rev. Father Farthing, who attended Mr. Devine during his illness, assisted him in his last moments, and his death was an edifying one. The remains were removed to the Basilica, and thence after a Requiem Mass had been said to the cemetery. The convent boarders, day pupils, and children attending St. Joseph's School marched in procession behind the hearse as a small token of the respect and esteem entertained by them and their teachers to one who so nobly and devotedly served them in life. Right Rev. Mgr. Mackay, V.G., officiated at the graveside, being assisted by Rev. Father Farthing.—R.I.P.

A Great Catholic Work

A visitor at the recent Mechlin Congress might have seen, near the entrance, a bookstand, heralded by certain large posters, and two very energetic priests, who hustled about everywhere interesting people in that same bookstand and its contents (says an exchange). For many this was the first time they had heard of the 'Action Populaire' of Rheims; it will not be the last, if we know aright those same two priests, and if their names are in a certain little notebook.

Only those who know the intense sociological interest abroad now in Catholic Europe can understand the rise of such movements as this one; yet it must be of interest as it works in the different nations.

In 1903 M. l'Abbe Le Roy, a priest working among the people, thought he saw a gap in the social work of France that needed to be filled. What was it to be? Certainly a place unoccupied up to then; but one like the famous German Volksverein? Yes, and no. It was to be a Volksverein, but not one copied blindly from beyond the Rhine; rather one applied to the needs of France.

Socialism, one solution of the great social question, gains the people because it understands and sympathises with their miseries, while good Catholics look on with arms folded, because they do not know the real sufferings of the people, or if they do know are powerless to do anything because they do not know how.

Here is where Abbe Le Roy would step in. He did it with the foundation of the 'Action Populaire.' It was to be an educational effort—one of popular social propaganda; it aimed chiefly at association—not to found, but to help the founders, to second initiative, and especially to give rise to it.

The means would be the printers' ink; the idea to write and publish tracts, pamphlets, social books of all kinds, spread them over the country, put them into the hands of the leaders in every city, town, and village, force these on to the good work of Catholic social and religious reconstruction in France: this is the aim it has before it, a work of popular social education and information. So much for the idea; what has it produced?

The results are startling. The first tract was published January 26, 1903; since then 210 have seen the light. But the sphere of activity has widened enormously; there are now published, besides the tracts appearing every ten days, four annual books of 350 pages or so, two monthly reviews, a technical agricultural library; a series of social biographies; countless post cards and pamphlets; several books and a monthly series of social documents—a daily newspaper is hoped for soon; in all a library of nearly 400 books; 200,000 sold in 1908 alone, 830,000 since the foundation six years ago.

The staff has increased to ten, six priests and four lawyers, one of them an ex-newspaper editor; while in all 200 collaborators contribute their writings to the work.

As for the moral results they are not counted up in numbers; but who can doubt of their vastness? Already hundreds of testimonials are pouring in bearing witness to what is being done, while all the Bishops of France have highly praised the undertaking.

A Wellington message states that the price of flour has been reduced by 10s per ton. It is now £10 per ton at southern shipping ports, which means £10 15s 6d per ton in Wellington.

Substantial increases are announced in the scales of travelling and house allowances as part of the scheme of reform of the Police Department now being carried out by the Hon. Dr. Findlay, Minister of Justice. Hitherto married sergeants not provided with quarters have received a house allowance of 10s 6d per week, and married constables not provided with quarters have received 7s per week. The rates in future will be 14s for sergeants, and 10s 6d for constables. These increases, however, will only be granted in the four centres, as rents are higher there than elsewhere. Under the new scale of travelling allowances the rates will be: Inspectors and sub-inspectors, 12s 6d per day (no alteration); station sergeants and sergeants, 10s (previously 6s); chief detectives, 10s (previously 8s); detectives and acting detectives, 9s (previously 8s); constables, 8s (previously 6s). The changes will take effect from April 1.