

WEDDING BELLS

MURPHY—CONAGHAN.

A quiet but pretty wedding took place at St. Columba's Church, Balfour, on April 19, when Mr. Jeremiah Murphy, second son of Mr. John Murphy, Kerriytown, was married to Miss Margery J. Conaghan, eldest daughter of Mrs. J. Conaghan, Balfour. The ceremony was performed by the Rev. Father Keenan, in the presence of a number of relatives and friends of both parties. Misses Johanna and Mary Conaghan (sisters) were bridesmaids, and Mr. Frederick Murphy (brother) was best man. The bride, who was given away by her brother (Mr. W. Conaghan), wore a costume of cream embroidered voile, and the customary wreath and veil. After the ceremony the party drove to the residence of the bride's mother, where the wedding breakfast was laid, and at which Rev. Father Keenan presided. The customary toasts were duly honored. The bride and bridegroom were the recipients of several useful and valuable presents. In the afternoon Mrs. and Mr. Murphy left for Dunedin on their way to Timaru, where the honeymoon is to be spent, taking with them the best wishes of their many friends.

RYAN—O'CONNELL.

A pretty wedding took place in St. Patrick's Church on April 20 (writes our Masterton correspondent), when Miss Vida Mildred O'Connell, fourth daughter of Mr. M. C. O'Connell, of 'Kingswell', Renall street, Masterton, was married to Mr. Patrick J. Ryan, of Napier, second son of Mrs. E. Ryan, of Mitchelltown, Wellington. The bride, who was given away by her father, looked very becoming in a lovely robe of white silk taffeta, trimmed with chiffon embroidery. She wore a most beautifully hand-embroidered veil falling from a coronet of orange blossoms, and carried an exquisite bouquet of white roses, lilies, and dahlias, and maiden-hair fern. The bride was attended by Miss Elsie O'Connell (sister) and Miss Bessie Hammond as bridesmaids. Mr. G. Henderson, of Wellington, was best man, and Mr. P. Cooke, also of Wellington, acted as groomsmen. The ceremony was performed by the Very Rev. Dean McKenna, assisted by the Rev. Father Sanderson, a Nuptial Mass being celebrated in connection with the event. The church had been beautifully decorated for the occasion by the numerous girl friends of the bride, and as Mr. and Mrs. Ryan left the church Mendelssohn's 'Wedding march' was played on the church organ by Mrs. A. R. Bunny. A reception was subsequently held at the residence of the bride's parents, at which there was a very large gathering of friends and relatives. Dean McKenna, in proposing the toast of the 'Bride and Bridegroom,' voiced the sentiments of all present for the happy couple's future welfare and prosperity. The bridegroom presented the bride with a very handsome turmaline and gold pendant and gold bangle, to Miss E. O'Connell he gave a gold brooch and ring, and to Miss Hammond a pearl and amethyst brooch. The large number of costly presents the young couple received testified to the high esteem in which they were held by a large circle of friends. Mr. and Mrs. Ryan left by the afternoon train for Wellington, en route to Australia, where the honeymoon is to be spent.

Otaguhu

(From our own correspondent.)

April 22.

A social held here in aid of the convent funds was a great success, the hall being well filled.

On Sunday, April 17, a meeting for the purpose of starting a Catholic Young Men's Club in this district was convened by Rev. Father Paterson, who has recently taken charge of the parish. On the motion of Father Paterson it was decided to form a club in Otaguhu. The following officers were elected for the ensuing year:—Patron, Right Rev. Mgr. Gillan, Adm.; president, Rev. Father Paterson; active vice-presidents, Messrs. J. Stackpole and G. Haydon; hon. secretary, Mr. J. O'Connell; hon. treasurer, Mr. C. Brady; executive, Messrs. J. Haydon, H. Doyle, N. McEvoy, F. Willsted, G. Rogers, T. O'Connell, E. Freeman, and D. O'Connell; auditor, Mr. N. McEvoy. The appointment of hon. vice-presidents was deferred. Several rules and by-laws were considered and adopted. Ways and means of raising funds, etc., were also considered.

Hokitika

The substantial set of rooms which St. Mary's Catholic Club has recently erected in Stafford street, Hokitika, were formally opened on the evening of April 20 (says the *West Coast Times*), when the building was crowded with an enthusiastic gathering of the members and their friends in honor of the occasion. Early in the evening Bishop Grimes made his appearance, in company with the Very Rev. Dean Carew (Greymouth) and Rev. Fathers Ainsworth, O'Connor, and Hyland, and shortly before 8 o'clock his Lordship performed the opening ceremony. Father Ainsworth briefly explained the nature of the evening's proceedings, and introduced his Lordship to the gathering.

In the course of an eloquent speech, the Bishop pointed out the many advantages which an active men's club conferred on the congregation in which it existed, and he mentioned the expansion of the club movement among Catholics in all parts of the world, particularly in New Zealand, where every year they were increasing, and already between twenty and thirty of them had joined the Catholic Clubs' Federation. It was therefore a great pleasure to him to be with them on the present occasion, and to see that the Catholics of Hokitika had come into line with those of other similar towns in establishing their club on a solid basis by providing it with club rooms. This work, and then the new presbytery likewise, certainly showed that their pastor, Father Ainsworth, had made excellent use of his time among them, and it was very evident from the various improvements he had effected that their good priest's administration of the parochial affairs had been crowned with great success. He had no doubt, however, that the several good works which Father Ainsworth had already accomplished would not be the last he would carry out in Hokitika. He wished St. Mary's Club a most successful future, and had much pleasure in declaring their admirable club rooms open.

After the Bishop's address the committee speedily had the euchre tournament in progress, the social room being completely occupied with the numerous special card tables, which the club has procured. When the results were ascertained it was found that the lady's prize fell to Miss A. Owens, and the gentleman's to Mr. P. Daly. Supper was served by the ladies' committee, assisted by the club committee. Father Ainsworth, prior to the conclusion, on behalf of the club thanked all who had assisted in promoting the success of the gathering, and announced that the club had that day contracted for a billiard table to be installed in the rooms as speedily as possible.

Interprovincial

It is stated that the Land Purchase Board has decided to purchase 600 acres of good agricultural land from Mr. M. J. Corrigan at Makikihi (South Canterbury). The land is suitable for close settlement.

There was a big sale of Angora goats at Napier recently, 250 animals being offered. The prices realised for the purebreds were: Billies, 10 guineas; nannies, 4½ guineas. Of the total number, 150 were purchased by four Taranaki farmers.

The secretary of the North Island Beekeepers' Association states that there are 74,400 hives in the Dominion, and not half the odd 4400 are under inspection. He complained to the Prime Minister that no other industry was so much neglected by the Government.

On Thursday morning of last week an accident which proved fatal occurred at the Deep Creek farm of Messrs. Frost Bros., of Studholme Junction (says the *Waimate Advertiser*). Mr. Michael Frost, aged over seventy, along with his son and a farm hand named Green, were engaged carting straw. Mr. Frost, sen., was riding upon a loaded spring cart, seated at a considerable height, when he appeared to fall head first to the ground. He was picked up unconscious, and medical aid was summoned. Dr. Barclay, who attended, found that Mr. Frost had sustained hemorrhage of the brain and paralysis. Mr. Frost remained unconscious, and expired at 9.30 o'clock in the evening. Deceased was a highly-respected settler, and had, with his brother, been in the district for many years. In the early days they were road contractors. His family will have wide sympathy.—R.I.P.

The banking returns recently issued were referred to by Mr. Harold Beauchamp, chairman of directors of the Bank of New Zealand, in the course of a conversation with a *New Zealand Herald* representative. The returns, Mr. Beauchamp said, disclosed a complete reversal of the position as it was twelve months ago, when, owing to the serious drop that had occurred in the value of the Dominion's primary products—wool, frozen meat, etc.—customers were leaning so heavily on the banks. The present satisfactory position had been brought about by the magnificent prices realised during the late season for wool and other products. 'It will be remembered,' continued Mr. Beauchamp, 'that six or seven months ago mutton and lamb in the London market were selling at practically 40 per cent. lower than the prices now obtaining, and it is gratifying to hear that, despite the heavy shipments in transit, the values are likely to be maintained. With regard to wool, I think it will be shown that the estimate I formed at the commencement of the present season will be realised—namely, that we shall obtain at least £2,500,000 more for last season's clip than for the clip on the one immediately preceding it. Further, the large amount of money now available for investment is also due to the great falling-off in imports from the United Kingdom and the Empire. I shall probably deal fully with this point at the next general meeting of the Bank of New Zealand, which takes place in June, when the figures for the year ended March 31 will be available.'

'Catholic Marriages.' The book of the hour. Single copies, 1s posted. Apply Manager, *Tablet*, Dunedin.