

a lot of the conflicting elements that had been existent in the Empire. He had been a true gentleman, and it was certain that no subject had ever looked upon a better king than Edward VII. His death had come at a critical time. In the days of an Imperial democracy King Edward had by his great powers made himself beloved and respected as a Sovereign and a man, and it was to be hoped, for the sake of humanity, that the fruits of his reign would not be destroyed by the actions of unwise people.

At his special Mass the Rev. Father Daull, of the African Missions, spoke also appropriate of the occasion. He referred to the admirable manner in which the late King preserved the entente cordiale with foreign nations, particularly with France. The sad event of the death of King Edward had plunged the British Empire, but not only so, but the world at large, into mourning. By his death England had lost one of her greatest kings. His was a short reign compared with that of his revered mother, Queen Victoria, but it was throughout benign and peaceful. No sooner had the late King succeeded to the throne of his fathers than his subjects realised that in him they possessed a Sovereign endowed with the qualities of tact, prudence, and wisdom in the highest degree. To-day, through his influence, the most friendly relations existed between England and the Powers of Europe. The late King entertained the highest respect for the religious convictions of his Catholic subjects, and the work of the Church prospered at home and throughout the dependencies of the Empire during his reign.

DUNEDIN.

The Hibernian Defence Cadets paraded on Sunday morning with the Battalion at the Garrison Hall and marched to the Octagon with the companies that attended church parade at Knox Church. From the Octagon they proceeded to St. Joseph's Cathedral, where they occupied the seats reserved for them close to the sanctuary. Pontifical High Mass was celebrated by his Lordship the Bishop, and the occasional sermon was preached by the Rev. Father O'Reilly, in the course of which he said it was fitting that he should voice the feelings of sorrow caused by the news that had reached them on Saturday week. We might still be said to be staggering under the blow of the King's death. It was as yet impossible for us to realise exactly how much the death of King Edward VII. meant. Of this at least we might be sure, in his late-lamented Majesty the world had lost a great monarch, the Empire a good and wise ruler, and all his subjects a kind friend and father. These words might well be applied to the late King. His life was gentle, and the elements so mixed in him that Nature might stand up and say to all the world, 'This was a man!' The preacher concluded by exhorting the congregation not to leave the church without offering up a prayer that there might descend on King Edward's successor the Spirit of God—the spirit of peace and goodwill—so that he too might in his time come to be known by the title so honorably borne by his father—the title of the Peacemaker. At the conclusion of Mass the organist, Mr. Vallis, played Chopin's 'Funeral March.' The Cadet officers present were Lieutenants Callan and Keligher.

Lawrence.

At St. Patrick's Church, Lawrence, on Sunday, May 8, the Very Rev. Mgr. O'Leary, in referring to the King's death, said: Only two short weeks ago he was dining with Russian statesmen and diplomatists, since which time he had been travelling from country to country carrying out his Royal function for the benefit of Empire and the good of humanity. It is said that the late Boer War hastened the death of his august and venerable mother, Queen Victoria, and it was no doubt owing to his great diplomacy and tact that this regrettable war was brought to a close shortly after he ascended the throne. He was a great peacemaker, and, humanly speaking, it is to be deplored that he was taken away at a time when his great wisdom and far-seeing diplomacy was so sorely needed, but we must remember that God's ways are not our ways and submissively bow to the will of the King of Kings. To the Boers who were erroneously looked upon as our natural enemies he was always a true friend, and it is recognised that he used his humane influence to grant Home Rule to South Africa, thus cementing the bond of friendship and unity of Empire in a way that speaks volumes for his wise and far-seeing statesmanship. God grant that his successor, King George, may have the unique privilege of conferring the same honor on Ireland. This great King has been called by public men Edward the Peacemaker, a title he has justly earned by his wise laws and prudent statesmanship. Apart from his kingly power he was a great personality and as such brought to bear wisdom and knowledge of men and nations that has done incalculable good in the cause of the world's peace and progress. Independently of his exalted position of King in which his rule was wise, prudent, just, great, and progressive, he will be missed by the masses of the people nearer Home for his philanthropic and charitable works, as he was at all times a friend to the poor and needy. To his sorrowing Queen-wife and family our hearts go out in sympathy and condolence in their sad and sudden bereavement, and we pray God to comfort and console them in their dark hour of sorrow and affliction.

Gore.

At the 11 o'clock Mass on Sunday (says the *Gore Standard*) the Rev. Father Delany, preaching on the day's

festival, referred to the death of the King. Catholics (he said) mourned in common with others the greatest King of modern times. The King had great wisdom and tact, and possessed in a pre-eminent degree the gift of diplomacy. That was exercised continuously in the direction of peace. That was one reason why Catholics, in common with others, should deeply regret his death. Another reason was that he was a very tolerant King. Although compelled to formally take the Accession Oath in a form insulting to Catholics, there was every reason to believe that he did so unwillingly. Many of his most trusted friends were great prelates and prominent members of the Church. Another reason for loyalty among Catholic Irishmen was his great sympathy and friendship towards Ireland. All classes in that Old Land mourned his loss, and their fellow-countrymen here did the same. In this country the grievances which beset the Old Land were unknown, consequently Catholic and Irish colonists were among the most loyal of the King's subjects. In the spirit of the festival of Pentecost he asked his congregation to pray that the Holy Ghost might bring strength and help to the Queen Mother in her trouble, that He might bring wisdom and spiritual strength to the new King that his reign might be long and like that of his father be marked by justice, tolerance, and peace. The late King had earned the name of the Peacemaker, and when King George died might such a glorious title be his also.

Diocesan News

ARCHDIOCESE OF WELLINGTON

(From our own correspondent.)

May 14.

The May devotions at the various Catholic churches in Wellington are being well attended.

At the initial meeting of the proposed Boys' Club at Thorndon, held on Friday, there was a fair number present.

The Very Rev. Dean Regnault, S.M. (Provincial), is in the Hawke's Bay district, and is expected to return to Wellington at the end of the month.

The St. Anne's Cadets will hold their first parade in uniform on Friday, and the first church parade on Sunday, June 5, when all the cadets are requested to approach the Holy Table.

The following are the officers of the newly-formed St. Stanislaus' Conference:—President, Mr. A. H. Casey; vice-president, Mr. J. W. Callaghan; secretary, Mr. John McGowan; treasurer, Mr. J. Webb.

The usual quarterly conference of the Deanery of Wellington was held in the schoolroom, Lower Hutt, on Wednesday. The Very Rev. Dean McKenna, Masterton, presided. About twenty visiting priests were present. The Rev. Father Herbert was appointed secretary for the ensuing year.

At the usual weekly meeting of St. Vincent's Guild, held on Friday evening in St. Patrick's Hall, there was a fair attendance of boys under the supervision of members of the St. Vincent de Paul Society. The guild is increasing in numbers weekly.

At the monthly meeting of the men's branch of the Sacred Heart Society (St. Joseph's), held last Sunday, there were about 100 members present. The Very Rev. Father O'Shea, S.M., V.G., preached an instructive sermon. Before Benediction five new members were enrolled in the society.

On Wednesday night at the St. Patrick's Hall a very pleasant gathering, held under the auspices of the Wellington Catholic Club, took place. The entertainment took the form of a progressive euchre party, in which a fair number were engaged. The prizes were won by Miss Hyde and Mr. Carl Pfaff.

Mr. J. Rodgers, treasurer of the H.A.C.B. Society, Lower Hutt, has resigned his position, having been appointed assistant master of the Upper Hutt State School. He leaves to take up his new duties on June 1. Mr. Rodgers will be much missed at the Hutt, where he is very popular, having been a most enthusiastic footballer and cricketer.

The fortnightly meeting of the Hibernian Society (St. Patrick's branch) was adjourned as a mark of respect to his late Majesty King Edward VII. after the following resolution was carried:—'The members of the Wellington branch of the Hibernian Society express their deepest sorrow at the untimely death of his Majesty King Edward VII., and desire to tender their heartfelt sympathy to Queen Alexandra, King George, and all the members of the Royal Family.'

The St. Vincent de Paul Society is increasing throughout the Dominion. A conference of the society was opened last week at Wairoa (Napier district), when sixteen active members joined. The conference at St. Patrick's College will be opened next Sunday afternoon, when the election of officers will take place. Besides the above it is expected