

nising the new republic, made a more favorable treaty, which, as the Hay-Bunau-Varilla Treaty, was ratified in February, 1904. Under the provisions of this treaty the prodigious undertaking has been pushed forward with an army of 40,000 employees.

The effect that the canal will have upon the commerce of the Pacific will increase from year to year. Commodities exist on both sides of the ocean, and a more convenient interchange of them will naturally build up a trade. If wise means be used to restore to the American merchant marine its former prestige, economic results of the most satisfactory nature will result. The importance of the canal in time of war is one of the surest pledges of a continued peace. The prediction of Scotland's adventurous son in 1698 has waited long, but it now seems near realisation.

Diocesan News

ARCHDIOCESE OF WELLINGTON

(From our own correspondent.)

July 9.

There was Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament at St. Mary of the Angels' Church last Sunday from the last Mass until Vespers.

Lieutenant-Colonel Bauchop inspected the St. Anne's Senior Cadet (Catholic) Corps last Wednesday at Newtown. He was very pleased with the condition of the corps.

The Rev. Fathers O'Connell, S.M., and Kimbell, S.M., who gave missions at Otaki and Levin during the past fortnight, will commence a mission at Northland on Sunday, July 10, and at Petone on Sunday, July 17.

The quarterly general meeting of the various conferences under the jurisdiction of the Particular Council of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul will be held on Sunday afternoon, July 24, in the Guilford Street Schoolroom, Thorndon.

His Excellency the Governor, accompanied by Captain E. M. Crichton-Maitland and Lady Beatrice Clark, paid an informal visit to the Home of Compassion, Island Bay. His Excellency was received by the Rev. Mother Mary Joseph Aubert. He expressed very great pleasure at the general excellence of the institution, and hoped on Lady Islington's arrival to pay another visit to the home.

Last Friday evening, in St. Patrick's Hall, there was a large attendance of boys of the St. Vincent Guild. Six boys signed their declarations as members of the St. Vincent Rifle Cadets. The election of non-commissioned officers of the Rifle Cadets took place. The Rev. Father O'Connell, S.M., visited the hall, and was pleased to see such a large number of boys present.

Master Bennie Hart, one of the Marist Brothers' pupils and a prize-winner in the recent *New Zealand Times* Children's Golden Competition, at the afternoon tea function kindly given by Mr. A. A. Corrigan on Friday afternoon, thanked the *New Zealand Times* and Mr. Corrigan on behalf of the children who were successful in obtaining prizes. Master Hart won two watches.

Mr. Daniel Ryan, who has been connected with the local office of Huddart, Parker, and Co. since its establishment sixteen years ago, and held the position of chief clerk, has been appointed manager of the branch the company intends establishing in Auckland. Mr. Ryan is well known and popular in Wellington. He was educated at the local Marist Brothers' School and St. Patrick's College.

The annual social in connection with the Catholic schools in Te Aro parish took place on Wednesday evening in the Town Hall. The large hall, which was tastefully decorated, accommodated about 1000 people. A large supper room had been erected by the gentlemen of the committee. The ladies' committee worked most energetically, with the result that the supper was all that could be desired. The first part of the evening was devoted to the showing of cinematograph pictures, which were highly appreciated by the audience. The function proved a great success, and it is expected the Catholic schools fund will be augmented by about £150.

Amongst the activities attached to the thriving St. Anne's Club at Newtown is that of physical culture. Endeavors are being made this winter to establish the boxing class in connection therewith on strong lines, and the present prospects are encouraging. On Tuesday evening, in order to give a fillip to the sport, pupils of Mr. Tracey's school gave an exhibition of boxing in the club room in the presence of about fifty spectators, including the Ven. Archdeacon Devoy and Father Goggan. Mr. B. Guise intimated that the services of a competent instructor had been engaged for members of the club, and it was hoped they would show their appreciation thereof by taking an active interest in the class.

St. Thomas's Hall, Newtown, was crowded on Thursday evening with boys of the St. Aloysius' Club and their friends, when a very enjoyable concert was given by boys belonging to the club. The following contributed items to

the programme:—Mrs. O. K. Fennell, Misses A. McAteer, U. Simons, M. Murray, F. Hickey, N. Strickland, Messrs. C. McErlan, G. T. Foote, Bernado, Masters F. O'Sullivan and Jas. McCarthy, and several pupils from the Marist Brothers' School. The accompaniments were played by Mrs. O. K. Fennell. During the interval several of the cadets were presented with medals by Captain Martin. The proceeds of the concert will go towards the fund for the expenses of the cadets who are taking part in the military competitions at Palmerston North.

Mother Mary Joseph Aubert left Wellington on Saturday morning on a visit to the Foundling Home, Auckland, and will be absent about ten days. There are now nineteen babies being cared for in that institution, although since its establishment in January last about a hundred and fifty applications for admission have been received. Five Sisters from the Home of Compassion, Island Bay, have been transferred to the northern home during the year. This has reduced the number of Sisters at the Island Bay home to twenty-four, and their time is fully occupied in attendance on the eighty-two children inmates, whose ages range from five weeks to ten years. Mother Aubert desires to acknowledge with thanks the receipt of £166, from Mrs. Moynihan, of Shannon, proceeds from a bazaar held at Shannon in March last. On August 3 a concert is to be held in the Town Hall in aid of the funds of the institution, on which there is still a liability of £4000. As the Home of Compassion is financed purely by private means, and does such noble work, the concert should appeal to the general community. In St. Joseph's Home for Incurables, Buckle street, there are at the present time forty adult patients, of whom eleven are women.

The half-yearly meeting of St. Patrick's branch of the Hibernian Society was held on Monday, July 4, at St. Patrick's Hall, Bro. J. W. Callaghan, B.P., presiding over a large attendance of members, and visitors from Thorndon, Newtown, and the Hutt branches. The Rev. Fathers Hickson, S.M., and Venning, S.M., were present. The election of officers resulted as follows:—President, Bro. W. J. Feeney; vice-president, Bro. J. J. L. Burke; secretary, Bro. P. D. Hoskins (re-elected); assistant secretary and treasurer, Bro. J. O'Sullivan (re-elected); warden, Bro. J. McKeowen; guardian, Bro. J. McLoughlin; sick visitors, Bros. Condon and O'Callaghan; auditors, Bros. H. McKeowen and F. J. McDonald. The following names were selected for submission to the branches of the Wellington District for their choice for the position of District Deputy:—Bros. P. D. Hoskins, J. W. Callaghan, and J. O'Sullivan. A very able, interesting, and instructive paper on 'The Hibernian Society in New Zealand,' prepared by the Rev. Father Venning, S.M. (chaplain), was read, and the Rev. Father was thanked for his kindness and interest in the society. The president (Bro. J. W. Callaghan) welcomed the visiting brethren for their attendance. Bros. G. J. Sellars and Rev. Father Hickson (Thorndon), Hodgins (Hutt), and Giles (Newtown) briefly replied, and extended invitations to members to visit their respective branches. The balance sheet and secretary's report for the June quarter were read, and disclosed a very satisfactory state of affairs both as regards membership and finance. A net increase of 13 was added to the membership, and £10 to the funds. The benefits paid out were as follow:—Sick pay, £55; funeral claims, £60; doctors and medicine, £60; district funeral fund, £16. The branch lost by death during the quarter three old and respected members in the persons of Bros. John Stratford (past president), John McLoughlin, and John Conroy. The receipts of the evening amounted to £30, whilst claims aggregating £79 were passed for payment. Bro. J. W. Callaghan, who did not seek re-election owing to pressure of business, was awarded a framed past president's certificate for his services. Owing to the amount of business, the installation of officers was postponed until July 18.

RETREAT FOR LAYMEN.

For the first time in New Zealand the idea of a continuous retreat for laymen has been successfully put into operation. On Friday evening, June 24, by the kindness and courtesy of the Very Rev. Dr. Kennedy, S.M. (Rector), a number of Catholic laymen—old and young, rich and poor—mustered at St. Patrick's College, Wellington, for the purpose of attending the retreat. Rev. Father O'Reilly received the participants on their arrival, and so hearty and cordial was the welcome which he extended to them that one and all immediately felt quite at home. Each guest was allotted a comfortable room to himself, in which a writing-table, with pens, ink, and paper, had been placed. In fact, nothing which could have added to the privacy of the rooms or comfort of the men had been forgotten or omitted.

Shortly after 8 o'clock the college bell (which played an important part in the proceedings) was rung for the first time, and everybody assembled in the chapel. After Rosary and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament, the director of the retreat (Rev. Father E. Kimbell, S.M.) delivered a short address, explaining the objects of the retreat and outlining the exercises (from those of St. Ignatius Loyola) to be undertaken in the following programme: 6 a.m., rising; 6.30, morning prayer and meditation; 7.15, Mass; 8, breakfast; 9, free time; 10, meditation; 11, free time; 12 noon, examination of conscience; 1 p.m., dinner;