

Argentine Republic from Chile, and commemorates the arbitration by both nations of the boundary question that more than once endangered their mutual peace.

It is only a few weeks ago since the new President-Elect of the Argentine, his Excellency Dr. Rogue Saens Pena, was received in audience by Pope Pius X. The Holy Father spoke in warm terms of the Catholic spirit that obtains in the Argentine and of the progress and prosperity that continue to characterise the Republic.

### Generation of Prosperous Government in Belgium

Apropos of the recent elections in Belgium, Baron Jehan de Witte contributes a paper to *Le Correspondant* (Paris). As will be remembered, the results on May 22 last were entirely in favor of the Government, which for the past twenty-six years has given Belgium the benefit of its counsels and activities. It still retains the confidence of the country, notwithstanding many predictions to the effect that the Liberal (really anti-Catholic) Party was likely to turn the tables on the party that has had so long a tenure of power. There was a reduction of the majority by just two votes that are said to have gone over to the enemy for considerations of money.

Belgium, small though she is, is the fifth power in the world in point of foreign commerce; but in respect of her position according to her population she is the first. The census of 1908 returns the number of her population as 7,500,000, an increase of 1,000,000 over the figures of 1898.

The experience of the past century has proved beyond a doubt that Belgium is an essentially Catholic as Ireland, and that only a regime which is avowedly Catholic can make an appeal to or successfully impress its authority on the Belgian people. Even its exchequer balances have varied for good or bad according to the Government. From 1871 to 1878, under a Catholic Government, there was a surplus in the Treasury at the end of the seven years of nearly £1,600,000.

A deficit of nearly £240,000 was the result of the succeeding Government of the Liberal Party from 1879 to 1884. From 1885 to 1908 under the Catholic ministry there accrued to the coffers of the Treasury a surplus of nearly £8,000,000. Also, notwithstanding the increase of expenditure and many other causes which entailed extraordinary expenses within the past decade, the State grants old-age pensions, has lowered the tax on imports, and the one and only tax raised has been the tax on alcohol.

An object lesson, if you will, says de Witte, to France, her nearest neighbor, whose governmental policy in these latter days is built on the idea that 'clericalism is the canker in the nation.'

The Belgian school laws of various periods within the past generation were ever enacted, bearing this first principle in mind—namely, that 'the general character of the teaching must be Catholic, even as the country is Catholic.' In the case of the so-called Free Schools there is (as in France and England, for example) no bias in the instruction given, and where instruction in moral conduct is given to the children it is on the distinct understanding, as laid down by the law, that 'children whose parents do not wish them to have such instruction shall be excused from attending the classes.' It is not to be denied, says de Witte, that in the commercial colleges and schools there is much anti-clerical and anti-religious bigotry and hatred. But, he explains, the amount of damage done is almost exclusively effected among a class of people who would under any circumstances never have given their attention to the teachings of the Church nor followed its discipline or practices.

## Diocesan News

### ARCHDIOCESE OF WELLINGTON

(From our own correspondent.)

November 12.

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

The devotion of the Forty Hours' Adoration will commence at the Basilica of the Sacred Heart, Thorndon, on Sunday, November 20.

The Marist missionaries, Rev. Fathers O'Connell, Kimbell, and McCarthy, S.M., will leave Wellington at the end of the month for Hobart, with the object of giving missions in Tasmania.

The Very Rev. Dr. Kennedy, S.M., Rector of St. Patrick's College, left for Hobart by the Ulimaroa on Thursday for the purpose of conducting a retreat for the clergy in that city.

His Grace Archbishop Redwood, who attended the Eucharistic Congress at Montreal, is expected to arrive in Wellington from Sydney on Wednesday. His Grace will be welcomed back at a conversazione in the Town Hall on Friday evening. Mr. P. D. Hoskins is secretary of the reception committee.

The St. Anne's Defence Cadets have completed their competition for trophies presented by Messrs. J. W. Heavey and W. Carroll. Sergeant L. Turner won the latter and Corporal J. Heavey (son of the donor) the prize presented by Mr. J. W. Heavey, the aggregates being (three matches out of four)—Turner, 133; Heavey, 131; Hopkins, 126.

The retreat of the Children of Mary was brought to a close last Sunday evening at St. Joseph's Church, when Rev. Father O'Connell, S.M., who conducted the retreat, preached an eloquent sermon on devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary. After the sermon seventeen aspirants were admitted into the confraternity, and a procession of the Blessed Sacrament took place.

On Thursday afternoon the members of the staff of the Post and Telegraph Department, Lower Hutt, gave Mr. C. J. O'Brien a present in connection with his marriage. The members of the St. Peter and St. Paul's branch of the Hibernian Society, Lower Hutt, also presented Mr. O'Brien with a splendid sideboard on the occasion of his marriage, which took place on November 3. The presentation was made by Bro. Hodgins, P.P.

The Catholics residing in Hautere and Te Horo have long been under the disadvantage of having no church. Now, through the energy of the parishioners, a church will be built, and subscriptions are being received. Mr. G. Cately has kindly given a site, while the cost of the building is to be defrayed by Mrs. Wildsmith. The church, which is to be commenced at once, is to be in the early style of Roman architecture, and will be an ornament to the district.

In the senior grade (Boys' Cricket League) the St. Vincent Club were defeated by the Boys' Institute Club by 21 runs on the first innings, the scores being 42 and 63. Coleman (13) and Galvin (10) were the highest scorers, and F. Ryan (four wickets for 15) bowled well for St. Vincent Club. In the junior grade the St. Vincent Club defeated the Northlands team by 95 runs, the scores being St. Vincent 23 and 110, and Northlands 13 and 25. The highest scorers for the winners were Sullivan (29), Casey (25), and Jepson (10). P. Jepson bowled splendidly, obtaining seven wickets for 9 runs in the first innings and eight wickets for 10 runs in the second innings.

Several thousand people were present at Newtown Park on Saturday afternoon, the occasion being a sports carnival and general gala, in celebration of the Rev. Mother Mary Aubert's Golden Jubilee. The splendid response on the part of the public bore eloquent testimony to the self-sacrificing work done at the Rev. Mother Aubert's homes, and those who spent so much time and labor in making preparations for the carnival had every reason to be gratified with the result. Among the spectators were Sir Joseph Ward, Prime Minister, and Lady Ward. Beautiful weather prevailed, and the gathering proved to be entirely successful.

The usual meeting of the Sacred Heart branch of the Hibernian Society was held in the Guildford Terrace School-room on Thursday evening, where there was a good attendance. Four new members were admitted, and six candidates proposed. At the close of the meeting the Rev. Father Hickson, S.M., Adm., gave a humorous reading, which was much appreciated. It was decided that a social reunion of members and their lady friends be held on next meeting night, when the Wellington district deputy will give a short address on the aims and objects of the society and the many advantages of membership, with the special purpose of enrolling lady members.

At the St. Vincent Boys' Guild Club rooms on Friday evening the boys of the St. Aloysius' Club, Newtown, were the guests of the St. Vincent Guild under the management of several brothers of St. Mary's Conference of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, who gave their visitors a hearty welcome. The evening was mainly devoted to a concert, when items were contributed by the following boys:—Masters P. Dec, M. Horning, E. McCarthy, J. McCarthy, E. Newton, and F. Walshe, and Mr. F. Eller. The guild's pianist, Mr. W. J. Serimgour, capably acted as accompanist. At the conclusion of the entertainment Mr. Peters, manager of the St. Aloysius' Boys' Club, thanked the St. Vincent Guild for kindly inviting the boys to be present, and said he hoped that it would be the forerunner of many similar gatherings.

The devotion of the Forty Hours' Adoration began in St. Anne's Church, Newtown, on Sunday, November 6, with the celebration of High Mass, at which there was a very large congregation. Rev. Father Herring, S.M., was celebrant, Ven. Archdeacon Devoy, S.M., being deacon, and Rev. Father Bartley, S.M., subdeacon. The Mass was efficiently accompanied by the choir under the direction of Mr. E. B. L. Reade. A feature of the service was the procession of the Blessed Sacrament through the church grounds. This was taken part in by the several societies and the children, the congregation following. The route was lined by the members of the St. Anne's Cadet Corps of the parish, over sixty being on parade. Prior to the Mass the cadets marched from the Basin Reserve to the church, headed by the Garrison Band, thirty strong. The High Mass was a military one, the cadets presenting arms at the Elevation, the general salute being given on the bugle by Bombardier-Bugler Johnston, of the Permanent Artillery. An eloquent sermon on the Blessed Sacrament was preached at the evening service by the Rev. Father