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### DIOCESE OF CHRISTCHURCH

(From our own correspondent.)

Bro. F. J. Doolan, district deputy for North Canterbury, during January paid his first official visit to the branches of the H.A.C.B. Society in his district. Visiting Leeston early in the month he was present at the half-yearly meeting of the local branch, and installed the newly-elected officers and delivered an address. Keen competition was shown in regard to filling the various offices, a ballot being necessary in each case. It is intended when the harvest season is over to canvass the district for new members. On Sunday, January 15, accompanied by several Christchurch officers, Bro. Doolan visited the New Headford branch. The half-yearly meeting was held in the afternoon (owing to the harvest being in operation), in the presence of Rev. Fathers Drohan, M.S.H., and Gilbert, S.M., and a good attendance of members. Officers were elected for the ensuing term. Assisted by Bros. P. P. Ryan, P.P., and J. McCormick, P.P., the officers were installed by the D.D.

The president (Bro. O'Rourke), who is now filling the office a second time, is probably the youngest presiding officer in the Dominion, and takes a keen interest in the management of this branch. The society is making good progress, and the branch is an important factor for good in the parish.

Considerable satisfaction was expressed both at Leeston and New Headford that an officer was now available to visit branches periodically, and it was freely suggested that the District Executive, as is the case with other friendly societies, should facilitate the D.D. in visiting the outlying branches at frequent intervals. District officers' visits in the past having been few and uncertain.

### DIOCESE OF AUCKLAND

(By Telegraph from our own correspondent.)

February 3.

The Catholic schools opened last week, when the attendances were up to the average.

A mission, to be conducted by three Redemptorist Fathers, is to begin at St. Benedict's on February 19.

Rev. Father Clark arrived yesterday from Sydney to serve in this diocese.

Rev. Father Murphy, Northcote, Melbourne, and Very Rev. Father Carey, St. Mary's, West Melbourne, arrived on Saturday from Rotorua.

A large and enthusiastic meeting was held yesterday afternoon at St. Mary's Convent, Ponsonby, to advance the interests of the bazaar in aid of the Mater Misericordiae Hospital, which will be opened on Easter Saturday.

An old resident, Mrs. Mulquency, died here this afternoon fortified by the rites of the Church. Her daughter is a member of the Sisters of Mercy Order here.

The Prime Minister addressed a very large and enthusiastic meeting here on Saturday night, and was accorded the most cordial reception he has ever received in Auckland.

Owing to unforeseen circumstances the welcome to his Lordship the Bishop from the Hibernian branches of the Auckland diocese, which was to have been held last Wednesday evening, has been unavoidably postponed to a future date.

About 60 of the Marist Brothers Old Boys' Club journeyed by the s.s. Kawau yesterday to Motutapu for a day's outing. The weather was beautiful. The boat left the wharf after the conclusion of the 9.30 o'clock Mass, and arrived about noon, allowing sufficient time for the swimming sports before lunch. The championship swimming was arranged in five heats, there being 42 entries. The final resulted in a magnificent finish between McLervan, E. Mahoney, and J. Sheahan (of Napier), the last named winning by a very small margin. He was in the course of the afternoon presented with a bronze medal. The conditions governing the holding of the trophy require the holder to defend its retention at the club's annual picnic against all challengers.

Rev. Father Wright, who has been appointed temporarily to the charge of Ngarawahia and Huntly, left to take up his duties on Friday. He was last night accorded a send off by the people of St. Patrick's, who presented him with a handsome chalice and a purse of

sovereigns. Father Holbrook made the presentations, and said that Father Wright three years ago came amongst them a stranger, and during that period he had proved a zealous and kindly-hearted priest, with whom it was a pleasure to work. He had endeared himself to them all, and they parted with him with the deepest regret. He would long be remembered with the kindest feelings by the priests and people of St. Patrick's, for whom he had done so much, particularly through the St. Vincent de Paul Society and the Guard of Honor. He wished him every blessing and happiness in which the people of the Cathedral parish unitedly and wholeheartedly joined.

Father Wright feelingly replied, and thanked Father Holbrook for his many kindnesses extended to him from the first day he came to Auckland until the present. He parted with the priests and people of St. Patrick's with regret. In his experience he came across no better or kinder people. He would never, during life cease to think of them, and in the holy Mass, when using the chalice, it would be a constant reminder to him of the good people amongst whom he had labored during the last three happy years. He would be pleased from time to time to revisit them and renew old friendships. He hoped God would reward them, and he asked them to always pray earnestly that he may be granted grace and strength to carry out his mission.

Rev. Father O'Farrell, C.S.S.R., at the last meeting in the Cathedral of the Holy Family Confraternity, began a series of three lectures on Socialism. He traced its origin to over 2000 years ago, but in the last century it developed into a systematic form. Aristotle discussed one form of it, and Plato sketched it as impossible. It was a cardinal feature of the teachings of the Albigenses and Anabaptists. During the eighteenth century the theories of equality had found new life. In the days of the French Revolution the framework of Society was broken up, a new gospel was then preached, conditions of happiness were assured, and comforts to be bestowed to compare with which the world had never yet borne witness. Such a doctrine was bound to find favor with those who feel the pressure of poverty. A great factor in the growth of Socialism was the introduction and perfection of machinery. Monopolies multiplied, and the small man went under, while competition became fierce. Between employer and employee a bitter antagonism sprang up. What is termed the 'deadly parallel'—the contrasts between poverty, luxury, and want flaunt themselves before the eyes in forms that will not be denied recognition, and the Socialist seeks for his proselyte, amongst those whose hearts are touched and whose indignation is aroused by the contemplation. Karl Marx, by his writing, reduced Socialism to a system, and formulated its principles in scientific fashion. This did not find favour in the world for some time, but eventually Marx succeeded. In Germany, England, and America it spread, and owing to the plentitude of cheap literature its pathway was made easy. Followers of Marx determined to capture parliament and the reins of government, and in Germany and France his views are generally adopted at the present day. Socialism carried to an extreme involves a transfer sudden and violent of all capital to the State, and without compensation to the sufferers by the change. Socialism in its extremest form, implying the extinction of private capital and enterprise altogether, would be a huge and intolerable evil, abhorrent alike to the pious Catholic and to every rational human being. The Catholic Church, the divinely-appointed guardian of Truth and Justice, while sternly rebuking the neglect of duty that has caused this social unrest, must also oppose revolutionary Socialism, for the reaction has over-passed justice, and the proposed remedy is almost worse than the disease.

## WEDDING BELLS

FLEMING—HEARN.

A very pretty wedding (writes a Wanganui correspondent) was solemnised at St. Mary's Catholic Church on Wednesday, when Miss Nora Hearn, third daughter of the late Mr. Nicholas Hearn, of Buenos Ayres, Waverley, was united in Matrimony to Mr. John Stuart Fleming, third son of the late Mr. John Stuart Fleming, of Wellington. The Very Rev. Dean Grogan officiated. The bride looked charming attired in an ivory duchess satin gown designed with lover's knots in chiffon, and beautifully draped with Limerick lace, with corsage and sleeves of tucked chiffon. She wore the usual wreath and exquisite Limerick lace veil; the veil being the work of the Sisters of the Mission, New Plymouth. She carried a marriage ring of white flowers with streamers. The bride was given away by her brother, Mr. Martin Hearn, of Pungatua, and was attended by her sister, Miss Tuppie Hearn, and her cousin, Miss Nora Kennedy, of 'Buenos Ayres,' Waverley. The bridegroom was attended by Mr. J. Kennedy, cousin of the bride, and Mr. Selby Morton. After the ceremony, Mr. and Mrs. David Cullinan (sister of the bride), entertained the guests at their residence, St. John's Hill, at a wedding luncheon. The bride travelled in a belted Russian costume of French blue, embroidered in blue and black, and a doubled-up hat of black silk beaver. She also wore a hand-painted scarf of pale blue crepe de chine.