

## SISTERS OF MERCY, HOKITIKA

## SILVER JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS

There was a large gathering last evening in St. Mary's schoolroom on the eve of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the profession in religion of three members of St. Columbkille's Convent—viz., Mother Mary Ita, Sister Mary Xavier, and Sister Mary Gertrude, those present having assembled to do honor to them on the occasion of the silver jubilee (says the *West Coast Times* of June 20). The Very Rev. Dean Carew (of Greymouth) presided, having on his right the guests of the evening, while the Rev. Fathers Clancy, O'Connor (Ross), and Lacroix (Greymouth), the Sisters of Mercy, and many ex-pupils and friends of the jubilarians were among the gathering. The proceedings opened with a chorus 'Jubilee greetings,' by the whole of the Convent pupils, after which three ex-pupils—Mrs. T. Crowe, and Misses M. Daly and M. Ward—presented the Sisters, on behalf of St. Mary's parishioners, with an address and purse of sovereigns. The address, which was as follows, was read by Miss Daly, and Mrs Crowe made the presentation—'Dear Sisters,—On behalf of your pupils, ex-pupils, and friends, both far and near, we offer you our heartiest congratulations on this the occasion of your silver jubilee. For over twenty-five years you have labored unceasingly in our midst, and by your lives of prayer, your good example, and your kindly advice, you have endeared yourselves to all. We cannot allow the occasion to pass without showing our appreciation of your good work in the parish, and we beg of you to accept the accompanying gift as a small token of our gratitude and esteem. We fervently pray that Almighty God in His goodness may long spare you to continue your labours amongst us, and that He may shower down abundantly upon you His choicest blessings. Signed on behalf of your many friends, MARGARET DALE and MAGGIE DALY, Hon. Secs. Hokitika, June 19, 1911.'

The Rev. Father O'Connor then made a further presentation to one of the jubilarians, Sister Mary Gertrude (Superior of the Ross Convent), stating that it gave him the greatest pleasure to tender to the worthy Sister, on behalf of his Ross parishioners, a purse of sovereigns, as a slight token of their warm esteem. The present, he said, was from the people in all parts of his very extensive parish; from the left bank of the Hokitika River to the Otago frontier, and one and all had been glad of the opportunity thus afforded to signify their high appreciation of the splendid services given in their interests by the Sisters of Mercy. Father O'Connor, after referring to the high value that he placed on the advice which he had in his labors often sought and obtained from the Sisters, went on to refer to their praiseworthy work in educating the rising generation. In his parish there were men, amongst the finest in the Dominion, whom the Sisters had taught, and who were a credit to them. The Sisters' former pupils were always glad to give expression in their mature years to the feelings of respect and regard for them with which they had been inspired in their school days. After complimenting the Sisters on the success of their schools in his parish at Rimu and Ross, Father O'Connor concluded by congratulating the guests of the evening on the attainment of their silver jubilee; and in handing over the presentation, he wished the jubilarians many more years of life, happiness, and success.

The Rev. Father Clancy returned thanks on behalf of the jubilarians in a happy speech, and said that the splendid gathering that evening, the general expressions of good wishes, and the handsome presentations would remain always a pleasant memory with the recipients. He was very glad himself to have the opportunity to join in the celebration, and he congratulated the guests of the evening on the happy occasion. Father Clancy went on to refer to the good work of the Sisters, and especially that of the three whom they were gathered there to honor. He concluded by thanking one and all for making such a success of the function.

The following well-rendered and varied programme of musical and other items was then given, every contributor to which met with a good reception:—Song, 'Will my soul pass thro' Ireland,' Miss K. Crowe, chorus, 'The boatman's song,' junior girls; vocal duet, 'The lily and the rose,' Misses Dorrington and Devaney; dance, Highland reel, Misses Stopforth, K. M., and B. Crowe; song, 'The songs of the old church choir,' Miss E. Hatch; action song, 'The picninnies,' Miss Maudie and Master A. Duncan; song, 'Dear little isle of the west,' Miss Devaney; song, 'The boy in the sailor cap,' boys; dance, sailor's hornpipe, Miss A. Stopforth; selection, 'Gems from the emerald isle,' orchestra—violins: Misses N. O'Connor, E. Hatch, N. Crowe, and Kitty Hewitt; Masters W. Martini and T. Stopforth; cello, Miss Ella Dorrington; piano, Miss M. Devaney. The second part of the programme consisted of a cantata, 'Soot and the fairies,' in which the characters were sustained by Misses Irene Dunphy, May Cron, Therese Pearn, Maggie Crowe, Doris Hawken, Jean Ross, and Mary Hutchinson. The cantata was admirably rendered, every performer taking her part in a most capable manner, and the item was one of the best of the evening. The singing of the Convent pupils of a chorus brought to a conclusion a most successful and enjoyable function.

## Opening of a New Convent at Kumara

For some considerable time past (says the *Kumara Times* of June 16) we have watched with interest the erection in our little town of a new convent of the Sisters of Mercy. The work has been completed, and on the Feast of Corpus Christi, the solemn opening of the handsome building took place.

The ceremonies began at 10 a.m., when a Solemn High Mass was celebrated in St. Patrick's Church. The celebrant was Rev. Father Finnerty, S.M. (Greymouth), Rev. Fathers O'Connor (Ross) and Gilbert, M.S.H. (Ahaura) being respectively deacon and subdeacon, and Rev. Father Clancy, S.M. (Hokitika), master of ceremonies. In addition, besides Rev. Father Creed (Kumara), there were also present Very Rev. Dean Carew, S.M., and Rev. Father Lacroix, S.M. (Greymouth).

The Very Rev. Dean preached an eloquent sermon appropriate to the occasion. He dwelt on the great benefit that the Catholics derive from the Sisters of Mercy, on the efficiency of the education imparted by these Religious, and showed how from the dawn of Christianity it has been essential to the success of the Church to make use of those whose vocation is to labor wholly and solely for the salvation of their own souls by assisting those about them. He begged of the very large congregation present to be loyal to the good Sisters, and to support them in every way they were able.

At the conclusion of the Mass a very impressive part of the ceremonies took place—a procession of the Blessed Sacrament from the parish church to the new convent. On reaching the convent the children formed into two lines and knelt. Between the files the Blessed Sacrament was carried, then brought into the convent, and returned to the verandah where an altar had been prepared, and from which Benediction was given to the large and reverent assembly. The procession was again formed and returned to the church in the same order as it had come.

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament was kept up through the day in the parish church. At evening devotions Rev. Father Finnerty, S.M., gave an impressive discourse on the love of Jesus for mankind as shown in the institution of the Blessed Eucharist. Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament concluded the ceremonies of the day.

The altar and parish church were artistically decorated by the ladies of the altar society, and the whole space in front of the new convent was tastefully adorned with fern trees and creeping plants. During the day the new convent was visited by numbers of local people as well as by the many visitors who came from the neighboring towns. All seemed highly pleased, and the day will long be remembered by those who had the pleasure of taking part in the functions.

If the leaders of the Tory Party ever really entertained the hope that the Parliament Bill was not intended to produce practical results, it is well that Mr. Asquith took the earliest opportunity of impressing them with the fact that their hopes were vain (says the *Catholic Times*). That Mr. Balfour can have imagined the Government spending so much time and energy on a Bill to no purpose is what we do not for a moment believe. He knows that the Parliament Bill would be used to curtail the powers of the Peers, and, after that was done, to pass measures of great importance which could not be passed until the Veto of the Lords was abolished. Among these measures is the grant of Home Rule to Ireland, and Mr. Asquith's clear announcement of that fact can scarcely have come as a surprise to a politician like Mr. Balfour, whose indignation may be treated as useful rhetoric, consoling to his followers. Nothing but good can result from Mr. Asquith's statement of his determination to employ the Bill as a means of securing Liberal and progressive measures. We now know authoritatively that Home Rule for Ireland is to be granted without undue delay, and that nothing can stop it going through Parliament. We are heartily glad, and believe that both England and Ireland will benefit by the removal of that unfriendliness which was as injurious to the Empire as it was regretted by the best and fairest minds at home and in our Colonies. Home Rule will bless the receiver and the giver.

A cardinal virtue in any medicinal preparation is purity of ingredients. An aromatic alcoholic beverage that is recommended by eminent doctors and by scientific journals and has the hall mark of public approval of over 70 years is Wolfe's Aromatic Schnapps. It is manufactured exclusively in Holland, and is warranted by the proprietors to be not only pure from every injurious property, but that it is of the best possible quality. Owing to its method of preparation, Wolfe's Schnapps possesses medicinal properties that render it of service in any ailments that require stimulative, carminative, and diuretic action, and is therefore of great help in cases of gravel, flatulence, and colic, and also for kidney and bladder troubles. The agents of Wolfe's Schnapps have asked us to draw our readers' attention to the necessity when purchasing to particularly mention 'Wolfe's' Schnapps, as there have lately been some imitations placed upon our market....