

M.B.O.B. CLUB, AUCKLAND**VISIT TO WESTPORT**

(From our own correspondent.)

May 17.

The Marist Brothers' Old Boys' Concert Company arrived on May 9, after a pleasant passage from Wellington. The concert party were met at the boat by members of the executive of St. Canice's Club, and escorted to the club rooms, where the members of the local club had assembled in strong force to give the visitors a hearty welcome. Mr. F. O'Gorman (president of the club), in proposing the toast of the visitors, extended to them a hearty welcome to the West Coast. He assured them they would be pleased with the reception awaiting them. Mr. P. Clarke, musical director of the company, and formerly of Westport, in responding, said he felt it very difficult to reply to such a warm welcome after an absence of over twelve years. Mr. F. Adeane (business manager) and Mr. F. Bourke also replied to the toast. Musical items were contributed by Messrs. F. Bourke, F. Adeane, and some of the visitors. Rev. Fathers Creagh, C.S.S.R., and McMenamain also extended a welcome to the visitors. On Thursday morning the company visited the local convent, where they were warmly received by the Sisters of Mercy and shown through the new boarding school. On Thursday afternoon the visitors were taken to Cape Foulwind, a free pass having been kindly granted on the Harbour Board railway by the board's secretary (Mr. C. N. Greenland). At Cape Foulwind they were shown the quarries, and a visit was also made to the lighthouse and the beautiful Cape beach.

On Thursday evening the company gave the first concert of the tour at the Theatre Royal, which was crowded. The large audience were expecting a musical treat, and they were not disappointed. The choruses were rendered in fine style, and all the soloists were in good voice.

On Friday the company left by train for Denniston, accompanied by Messrs. J. Radford, J. Dougherty, and F. O'Gorman, members of St. Canice's Club. The weather was beautifully fine, and the scenery was much enjoyed. At Denniston the visitors were met by Mr. R. Murphy (secretary) and members of the H.A.C.B. Society. In the evening there was a good audience at the Volunteer Hall, when the company gave another of their delightful entertainments. Arrangements were made by Mr. N. Milligan (mine manager) for the company to visit portion of the coal mines next morning, but as the company had to appear again at Westport on Saturday evening, advantage could not be taken of the kind offer.

A good audience again greeted the company at the Theatre Royal, when a change of programme, which gave every satisfaction, was presented. After the concert the company were the guests of St. Canice's Club at supper in the club rooms. Mr. F. O'Gorman presided, and was supported by Messrs P. J. Clarke and F. Adeane. Musical items were contributed by Messrs. L. Fennell, T. Jenkins, J. Stirton, and an Irish jig by Mr. C. Dod of the concert party. Several toasts were honored, the speakers being the chairman, Messrs. C. Gray, P. J. Clarke, F. Adeane, J. Radford, T. Q. O'Brien.

After the eight o'clock Mass on Sunday the visitors, accompanied by a number of members of the local club, were driven to Charleston, the drive being much enjoyed by all. A lunch was provided by St. Canice's Club at Constance Bay, which marks the spot where many people coming direct from Melbourne landed in the days when Charleston was most prosperous. The following morning the members of the company left by coach for Reefton, taking with them the best wishes of every member of St. Canice's Club. As a result of the concerts the local club's funds will benefit to the amount of £20, in addition to a small credit balance, from the various social functions in honor of the visitors.

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