

members of the literary and debating class took part. The toast-list was as follows:—'The Pope and the King,' proposed by Mr. E. W. Spain; the 'Ladies' Club,' with which was coupled the name of the secretary (Miss Marion Munro), proposed by Miss R. Johnston, and responded to by Miss M. Munro; the 'Parliament of New Zealand,' proposed by Miss M. Duhig, responded to by Miss Puecheguéd; the 'Gentlemen,' by Miss E. Munro, responded to by Mr. E. W. Spain, and the 'Clergy,' proposed by Miss J. Duhig. All the speakers acquitted themselves remarkably well, and if the confidence and fluency of practised speakers were lacking in some cases, the ideas were not. A programme of work for the coming evenings was mapped out, and included in it are impromptu speeches, prepared readings, essay writing, and debates.

Timaru

(From our own correspondent.)

June 10.

Yesterday morning forty-four children received their First Communion from the Very Rev. Dean Tubman at the 9 o'clock Mass. Seats were reserved for the children just outside the sanctuary, and a large congregation of parents and friends was present. After Mass the usual breakfast, provided by St. Ann's Guild, was laid in the Girls' School, the Very Rev. Dean Tubman presiding over the function. In the afternoon, which was summer-like, the annual Corpus Christi procession was held. Over one thousand of the parishioners were present. Dean Tubman carried the Blessed Sacrament under a canopy borne by four gentlemen. The Rev. Fathers Berger (Waimate) and Murphy assisted. The route of the procession was round the beautiful convent grounds, where two temporary altars were erected, and Benediction given, and then through the Priory grounds to the parish church. The procession consisted of the following societies, each carrying distinctive banners and wearing regalia:—Altar boys, St. Ann's Guild, Altar Society, Children of Mary, school boys, Marist Brothers, school girls, convent pupils, nuns of the Sacred Heart, H.A.C.B. Society, Celtic Club, Young Men's Club, cadets, Sacred Heart Society, and general body of parishioners. On entering the church the Rev. Father Berger preached a sermon on the day's festival, after which there was a renewal of Baptismal vows by the children. Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament brought to a fitting close a most memorable day. It may be mentioned that a brass band, under the conductorship of Mr. M. Mara, played appropriate music during the procession, and, with the choir, greatly helped the congregational singing.

Catholic Men's Club, Hokitika

(From the club correspondent.)

June 8.

A very pleasant and instructive time was spent in St. Mary's Clubrooms last evening, when Mr. F. L. de Berry, M.A., recently appointed rector of the High School, Hokitika, addressed the members on the manner of procedure for the elocutionary competitions to be held in Greymouth in October. Mr. Neil Warren was in the chair. Mr. de Berry went through the 'Book of words,' and lucidly explained all matters that intending competitors would find useful in connection with the various items. He illustrated, in a capable manner, several speeches given at the last competitions. At the conclusion of his address, Mr. de Berry was accorded a hearty vote of thanks, on the motion of Mr. G. Wormington, which was seconded by Mr. J. Hanrahan. It was suggested by Mr. de Berry that elocutionary competitions be held in Hokitika at an early date, which suggestion was enthusiastically received by the members.

It was chiefly owing to Mr. de Berry and some members of the Trinity Club, Greymouth, that elocutionary competitions were first held there, and he has brought to Hokitika the same untiring zeal, which is

to be used on behalf of the intellectual advancement of the young men of Hokitika.

OBITUARY

MRS. MARGARET HEFFERNAN,
SOUTH DUNEDIN.

Sincere regret was felt by a large circle of friends when it became known that Mrs. Margaret Heffernan, South Dunedin, relict of Mr. Thomas Heffernan, had passed away on June 4. The deceased, who was predeceased by her husband by about six weeks, was a native of County Galway. She married the late Mr. Heffernan in Dunedin, and later on they settled in South Dunedin, where they had been residents for many years. The late Mrs. Heffernan leaves four sons and five daughters to mourn their loss. The interment took place on June 6 at the Southern Cemetery, when the Rev. Father D. O'Neill officiated at the graveside.—R.I.P.

Interprovincial

A *Gazette* extraordinary was issued on Monday summoning Parliament for the despatch of business on Thursday, June 27.

There is still a considerable quantity of oats in stook between Outram and Clarks (says the *Tairi Advocate*), and one or two paddocks still to cut.

The driving of a tunnel nearly one and a-half miles long, for the Westland Gold-mining Syndicate, was completed at Addison's Flat on Saturday week.

We are informed on reliable authority (says the *Orepuki Advocate*) that the Orepuki Shale Works will be in active operation by the new syndicate within the ensuing twelve months. Now that oil is in such ever-increasing demand every possible source of supply will be worked, and Orepuki has therefore a bright future before it.

The demand for labor continues good (says the *Southland Times*), and there are very few unemployed at present in Invercargill. Skilled workers are kept busily engaged, and unskilled men do not need to remain long looking for work. The scarcity of farm labor is still pronounced and domestic workers are also required, but none are offering. The sawmill industry is kept busily going.

A leguminous product new to this Dominion is the 'Soya Bean,' samples of which are being shown by the Ruakura Farm of Instruction at the Waikato winter exhibition (says the *Auckland Star*). It is a large dark bean of prolific growth, containing oil properties which are said to equal those of linseed. After this has been extracted for manufacturing purposes the residue is usually made into oilcake for cattle fodder purposes. If preferred the crop can be cut as green feed or made into ensilage. Being a leguminous growth it possesses valuable properties for the improvement of the soil.

Some modifications of the gaol system of the Dominion (says the *New Zealand Times*) have already come into force, in accordance with the desire of the Minister of Justice to bring the system into line with thoroughly modern penal systems. The practice of sending prisoners' letters to relatives and friends in the official envelopes marked outside 'H.M. Gaol' has been discontinued, for it brings needless humiliation upon the recipients. Ordinary official envelopes, not distinguishable from those in general use in the Government service, are being supplied to the prisoners. The scale of sentence remission is to be liberalised in special cases recommended by head gaolers, as an encouragement to prisoners of exemplary conduct and industry.

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