

Intercolonial

Mr. John McCormack, the famous Irish tenor, was welcomed in Brisbane by the Queensland Irish Association.

Mother Gabriel Hayes, Superioress of the Ursuline Nuns at Armidale, died at the convent there on September 22. Though she had been ailing for some time, the illness which caused her death attacked her only on September 15. She was the first Australian to enter the Ursuline Order, of which she has been Superioress at Armidale—the only community in New South Wales—for the past two years. She was in the 38th year of her age, and the 20th of her religious life.

The Coadjutor-Archbishop of Melbourne was accorded a civic reception at the City Hall, Ballarat, by the Mayor of the city (Cr. Brokenshire), on the occasion of his first visit to Ballarat. He was accompanied by the Archbishop of Melbourne, their Lordships Dr. Reville (Bishop of Bendigo), Dr. Higgins (Bishop of Ballarat), and a number of clergymen. In the party also was a representative assemblage of the Catholic laity of Ballarat and adjoining parishes, together with the ex-Mayor (Cr. Croker), and others representing Protestant denominations.

The late Mr. T. G. Macarthy, of Wellington, New Zealand, was a former resident of Geelong, Victoria (says an Australian exchange). In his will he stipulated that £1000 was to be divided among Geelong charities. A cheque for that amount has reached the Mayor of Geelong, who has distributed it as follows:—Geelong Hospital, £300; St. Augustine's Orphanage, Geelong, Protestant Orphanage, St. Catherine's Orphanage,

Ladies' Benevolent Association, St. Vincent de Paul Society, District Nursing Society, and Geelong City Mission, £100 each.

On September 24 a large and representative deputation, representing the Catholic Federation, waited on the Premier of Victoria to place before him the resolutions which were carried at the monster public meeting held in the Town Hall, Melbourne, on August 10. Mr. F. E. O'Connell, president of the Federation, in addressing the Premier, said that the deputation represented 350,000 Catholics, and they looked to the Government for some relief from the present unjust educational burden. Dr. A. L. Kenny, C.S., K.S.G., pointed out that for forty years Catholics had borne a double educational tax, and in 1905 and 1910 additional burdens were placed upon their shoulders by the Registration of Teachers Act and by the Amending Education Act. Catholics, who were 22 per cent. of the population, were not amongst the richest classes. Moreover, they were called upon to give their Catholic teachers a higher standard of efficiency than was required by the State school teachers. Catholic schools were thus made a part of the State system. The Director of Education had admitted that 190 teachers who would not be permitted to teach in Catholic schools, on the ground of their want of full qualifications, were employed in the State schools. In the archdiocese of Melbourne alone, in 1912, there were 24,463 children on the rolls of the Catholic schools, the sum of £31,631 had been expended on new schools for the same period, and on repairs, £3920; on maintenance, £30,220. From 1890 to 1912 new schools cost £165,000, the sum of £27,500 was spent on repairs, and on maintenance £457,000 was expended.

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