

Intercolonial

Under the will of the late John Eastman, of Broken Hill, the Sisters of Mercy, Broken Hill Convent, received £500; and the local Catholic orphanage £200.

At a recent meeting of the United Irish League, Melbourne, Dr. N. M. O'Donnell presiding, it was unanimously resolved to send a delegate from the League to the opening of the Irish Parliament in College Green. The sum of £500 will be raised for the purpose. The H.A.C.B. Society will also send a delegate.

A few Sundays ago his Grace the Archbishop of Melbourne laid the foundation stone of the new school at Flemington, which is being erected on the site secured some years back by the Rev. Father M. P. Carroll. The new building is to meet all the requirements of the Council of Education, and will cost about £3500.

Mr. W. B. Griffin, the Chicago architect, who has been engaged by the Federal Government to supervise the laying out of the Federal Capital site, according to his amended design, has signed his contract to remain with the Government for three years. A salary of 1000 guineas a year is to be paid Mr. Griffin, and he retains the right of practising privately as an architect and town-planner.

The celebration in connection with the golden jubilee of the ordination of the Very Rev. Father O'Neill, C.S.S.R., took place recently at the Redemptorist Monastery, Perth. Solemn High Mass was celebrated by the Very Rev. Father E. Gleeson, and the occasional sermon was preached by the Right Rev. Mgr. Verling, V.G. A presentation was made to Father O'Neill after Mass.

The Hibernian Hall at Maryborough was packed to its utmost capacity on October 14 by a large crowd of citizens, who had assembled for the purpose of bidding farewell to Rev. Father Fitzgerald, who has been transferred to the Esk parish. A more enthusiastic assemblage had never before been gathered in the hall, all denominations being represented. Father Fitzgerald was presented with an address and purse of sovereigns.

The sacerdotal silver jubilee of the Rev. Father J. Walsh, of All Saints', Liverpool, was celebrated in the convent school-hall the other day. The building was crowded with the friends of Father Walsh, who, after a short musical programme had been gone through was presented with a purse of sovereigns and a handsomely illuminated address on behalf of his parishioners and friends. The Boys' Sodality, through Mr. A. Moen, presented Father Walsh with a valuable clock. A silver teapot was the gift of the Children of Mary, and a church gong for the sanctuary the gift of the school children. The address was read by Dr. Beattie, who also spoke warmly in praise of the jubilarian.

His Lordship Bishop Shiel, of Rockhampton, was in Barcaldine recently, and his visit was taken advantage of to tender him a reception. An entertainment was held in the Shire Hall, at which there was a large gathering of all sections of the community. The Rev. W. J. Park (Anglican), E. J. Taylor (Methodist), and H. F. Baaroz (Presbyterian) occupied seats on the platform. The chair was occupied by Mr. Cronin. Bishop Shiel was presented with addresses from the parishioners and the H.A.C.B. Society, as well as addresses of welcome from prominent townsmen and representatives of other Churches. His Lordship delivered an interesting address, expressing his pleasure at the good feeling that existed amongst the people, irrespective of what Church they belonged to. This showed a desire to promote goodwill and harmony among all classes. He urged them to unite as much as possible, and give God the proper place in the lives of the people and the nation. He said no nation could be great without a proper realisation of the overruling providence of God.

Science Siftings

By 'VOLR.'

An Inventive Genius.

A lively controversy has been begun over the discoveries of a young Italian engineer, Signor Giulio Ulivi, who is reported to have discovered the F Rays, by means of which he can cause powder deposits, shells, and ammunition stowed in ships or fortresses to be blown up at a distance, and whose experiments were attended recently at Havre by General Joffre and the officers of the headquarters staff (says the London *Telegraph's* Paris correspondent). Signor Ulivi, though but 33 years of age, is described as a marvel of an inventive genius, something like an Italian Edison, who can invent or discover something new every day. He came to Paris at the age of 27, in the year 1907, and first took a fancy to motoring. He had scarcely learned to drive a car and mastered the mechanism, when he suggested a number of improvements. The proprietors of the garage where he received his first lessons in driving were so pleased that they offered him a contract for a year.

The Theory of Earthquakes.

Among the papers read at the meeting of the British Association was one by Rev. H. V. Gill, S.J., Dublin, on an analysis of a table of 900 earthquakes completed by the late Mr. J. Milne only a few years ago. Father Gill showed how his views are borne out by the records of the years between 1899 and 1909. Although Milne had applied this view to the records of several years, and had come to the conclusion that the theory was true, it was only in the completion of an extended catalogue such as that analysed in the paper that it was possible to examine the theory in all its bearings. In that paper it was shown that the distribution of great earthquakes with regard to time and space is such as to justify the principles relied on by the writer. Father Gill's theory is of importance in being the only one which satisfactorily explains many of the seismic phenomena, and in being the first in which the importance of taking into account the rotation of the earth as a factor in the dynamics of earthquake distribution was discovered.

Foreign Canals.

At the meeting of the British Association at Birmingham Mr. Frank R. Durham discussed the position of the waterways of France, Belgium, and Germany. He pointed out that in these countries large sums were being spent in the provision of additional canals. In France a total expenditure on canals was contemplated of £23,600,000, and on navigable rivers of £2,200,000. Under the Finance Law of February, 1912, a special department of public works had been created to deal with waterways. The average water freight in France was .235d per ton mile, and the railway rate .7d per ton mile. The average tonnage, that was the metric tons divided by the distance, had increased over a period of 40 years from 162,102 to 460,820 tons, an increase of 70 per cent., while during the same period the average tonnage of the railways had increased only 27 per cent. In Germany large expenditure had also been authorised on canals, and the programme of 1905, which was to be completed by 1915, represented an expenditure of 30 millions sterling. Of the total traffic of Germany 25 per cent. was waterborne and 75 per cent. was carried by the railways. A new law with regard to towing on canals came into force in April last, by which public bodies were allowed permission to cooperate with the State.

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