

Totara Flat and Cross Creek, and later was transferred to Carterton and Featherston. After four years at Featherston he was transferred to Dunedin as relieving officer, and he spent some years on relieving work in the district. From Dunedin he was transferred to Invercargill, where the "star turn" was the visit of the Prince of Wales. During his stay in Invercargill he had enjoyed a particularly pleasant term of office, and he was indebted to the many officers who

had assisted him in the execution of his duties.

During the evening an excellent musical programme was given, items being contributed by the guest of honor, Mr. M. Miller (recitation), and Messrs. S. C. Doyle (song), S. Richards (song), J. Shepherd (recitation), E. Newman (song), W. Smith (song), C. Jenkins (song), M. Stevens (song), Mr. E. Perry made an efficient accompanist.

not be offered amid such surroundings. As a result Mr. Maurice Fitzgerald and myself made out a plan of campaign, the good

The Church in New Zealand

THE CHURCH IN TARANAKI: A SKETCH PREPARED FOR THE JUBILEE OF THE PARISH OF HAWERA.



RIGHT REV. MGR. POWER.
Present Pastor of Hawera.

HAWERA (Continued).

The present Monsignor Power, who came to Hawera in May, 1898, is still parish priest. On the day of his arrival he was able to purchase and present to the parish a strip of land running from the reception room in the presbytery down to what is now Mr. Biggin's section in Victoria Street. It is fortunate for the parish that he was able to make this purchase, even though it was against the unanimous resolution of his Church committee, because it now enables the Sisters to get to the new school and play-ground in Little Regent Street without going by the public thoroughfare. The opposition from the committee arose from the fact that they thought the priest was being victimised. Only that afternoon the vendors had purchased the property of which this was part for £350, and they now gave the priest only two hours in which to buy it back from them at £400, even refusing the option of buying back only

the strip that was necessary. In addition to this there were very special reasons why the arrival of the new priest should have been awaited before the first sale was made. The committee were indignant at this, but though there was cause for their indignation, the repurchase of the land was imperative. The name of a parishioner was freely mentioned in this matter, but after an exhaustive enquiry I was able to exonerate him from blame.

From this on I shall find it easier to write in the first person singular, and in reminiscent mood.

On Monday, May the ninth, I made my first visit to the school, and to my horror found ninety-six children and five teachers in a long, narrow room. Father Pertuis' church enlarged by Dean Grogan; it was about 70 feet long by 17 wide. The Gothic windows were very beautiful, but there was not a single pane of glass that could be opened. There was no provision whatever made for ventilation, and the place was stifling that mid-winter day. That night at ten o'clock when everything was still I broke the pane at the apex of every one of the windows. Next morning the Sisters came to me with the stones and the news of the disaster. I sympathised with them as best I could and had the holes cleaned out and covered with perforated zinc. This may be seen still on a couple of the windows which we have preserved. I also had a pane framed and hinged in the centre of each window. I often found these shut afterwards: one can get used to anything. After a few weeks the foundation stone was laid of a new school which was opened the following February and dedicated to St. Columba, the great Irish monk and founder of the schools of Iona.

I was evidently fated to have a busy time in Taranaki. On my first Sunday I said Mass in Manaia at nine o'clock, and then set out for Kaponga to say a second Mass there. How I got there it would be hard to tell, the mud and the ruts were beyond description; midway between Manaia and Kapuni I was dug out by a friendly farmer. When I got to the hall in Kaponga I saw everywhere around me the evidences of a dance that had been held the previous night. I preached on the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass and stated rather strongly that it should



FATHER PERTUIS,
Founder of the Parish of Hawera.

people were, as they are still, easy to rally, and the result was that before Christmas his Grace the Archbishop blessed the present fine church. The departure of Mr. Fitzgerald for Auckland has been a great loss to the Church in South Taranaki. On my way back to Hawera for Vespers I called to Blitham for afternoon devotions, found a similar state of things there, and only a few of the Catholics of the place to meet me. But amongst them was Frank McGovern, now of Remuera, one of the most sterling and generous Irish Catholics it has been my good fortune to meet. He rallied the people, so successfully that on the 23rd October, the Feast of the Most Holy Redeemer, that is, within five months, the Archbishop was able to bless the first church, now the parish hall. This was built on a three-acre section, two of which had been given by an old friend, the late George Brown of the Upper Hutt. The debt on the church when completed was under £70, that on the church in Kaponga under £80. That I had come amongst a fine people is proved by the fact that within eight months of my arrival three substantial buildings were erected and practically paid for.

The people of Hawera were not idle during these months: Before I was three months in the parish, Miss Haughey, Mrs. Whitaker, and the late Mrs. Flynn had raised about £200 towards the parish debt by entertainments. This was not the only time the priest and the parishioners were indebted to these good ladies; for years they had been, and for years later continued to be amongst the best workers in the parish.

Now the burning question was: What will they do at Manaia? A convent school was a necessity there. Yes, they would all like to have one, but was there not a debt of £120 to be first removed? I suggested that this could be gradually wiped out by little monthly collections, which suggestion was

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