

Town and Country News

WANGANUI NOTES

(From our own Correspondent.)

June 5.

Castlecliff had its first social of the season one Saturday night lately, a most successful affair, a real night out for everyone, organised by Mrs. H. W. Johnston and a committee consisting of Mesdames Marsden, Dobson, Treader, McKeague, Rogers, Dowdall, and McKenzie. It just happened that five boats, including the Union Co's overseas vessel, the Kaiwarra, were weatherbound at the Cliff on that particular night, and St. Vincent's social came in quite handy. The evening started off with euehre, Mrs. Dobson and Capt. Johnston having charge of the tables. The prizes, given by Mrs. Oliver (ladies'), Mr. McTabbs (gents'), and Mrs. McKenzie (consolation), were won by Mrs. McDougall, Capt. Williams of the Holmdale, Mrs. Walker, and Mr. Aiken. There was a much-enjoyed and delicious supper, quite up to date with fox-trotting to the sweet music of a gramophone lent by Captain Williamson of the Kaiwarra. After supper there was more dancing, the musicians being Miss Anderson (piano) and Miss Rata Johnston played extras: Mr. Claude Hibbard (string instrument and Kentucky whistle). Altogether and in every way, the evening was specially good, and a fine start for the season.

Things are not quite so festive at Castlecliff now, and Capt. Johnston, as Acting Pilot, is kept busy with the Cyrena, which met with a nasty accident at the entrance to our port. They're very hopeful of getting her off, but the weather is not much good so far. On King's Birthday, hundreds were down watching operations, and they got thrills a-plenty, for someone was washed off a boat, and someone else risked his life in the seething main to rescue the end of a rope. Anyhow, there it is, there's always something exciting happening in or round our little city.

Big football match on King's Birthday, a vilo day, but over 4000 people thoroughly enjoyed the tussle between Taranaki and Wanganui. It was a good match, ending in a draw and a banquet at night, at which our Father Mahony was a guest. Anyone knowing Wanganui will be interested to hear that the three-cornered section opposite the Recreation Ground—it used to be a lupin paddock which went on fire several times every summer—is now all tidied up and turned into a parking ground for motor cars. A decided improvement to the neighborhood and a relief to motorists.

Gouville is busy too, and it's got something to be busy about now that the church-school is in working order. Mass is celebrated there regularly on two Sundays in the month, sometimes more, and school every day. The attendance is somewhere about 60, and more are waiting to come along as soon as more desks and things can be bought. The men down there are having working bees to fix up pathways and the grounds generally, and in time they'll have it looking very well indeed. It's a delightful spot anyhow, a beautiful building on an ideal site. Indeed, as one parishioner said quite innocently, "It's just like a bit of paradise to be down there at Mass in the early morning, with that beautiful view of the blue sea through the windows!"

Gone from Gouville lately, Mr. and Mrs. Dave Gordon, to make their home at Frankton Junction, where Mr. Gordon is to be Goods Foreman. Mrs. Gordon has been such a great worker for Gouville, and the old committee felt they could not let her go away without wishing her good luck, so, a "surprise party" made its way round to the residence of Mrs. Capt. Connor, sen., where Mrs. Gordon was spending her last few days at Gouville. It was a real surprise—some euehre, supper, and then Rev. Father Mahony, on behalf of the committee and himself, presented Mrs. Gordon with a beaded bag and a handsome prayer book, saying at the same time some very nice and perfectly true things about her good and faithful work on the committee. Mr. Leo Fromont also spoke, and replies were made by Mr. Gordon, Capt. Connor. Sorry though we are to lose the Gordon family, it is good to know they have moved on to promotion, and that they are so much appreciated by their friends. Incidentally, Mr. Gordon's railway associates presented him with a set of valuable pipes, a silver tea service for Mrs. Gordon, and a silver pencil for Jacky.

Up-river at our Maori settlements, big things are being attempted. On Pentecost Sunday, Rev. Father Venning, amid a concourse of natives, blessed the foundation stone of a new church at Parikino. This is likely to be finished about mid-July, and £250 is still needed to pay for the completed building. The church is to be dedicated to St. Madeleine Sophie Barat, Foundress of the Sisters of the Sacred Heart. She has shown already a wonderful patronage. The natives at Jerusalem are working hard to pay off a debt on their church of St. Joseph. They're having a concert and sale of work on June 9. The Kawhaiki Maoris are organis-

ing socials to raise funds to build a church-school and convent there, and they hope to hold a bazaar in February next. Kawhaiki is the first Catholic mission station on the Wanganui River; it was founded by Rev. Father Lampila, S.M. There are 60 children ready for school there. Donations will be received gratefully if anyone wishes to help in this direction.

NEW PLYMOUTH NOTES

(From our own Correspondent.)

June 6.

On May 26, Miss Mary Barry left for Wellington, there to join the Athenic, en route for England. Prior to her departure she was the guest of honor at several "farewell evenings" given by friends, and being the recipient of mementos, tangible proof was given of the esteem in which she is held by a large circle of friends. Miss Barry intends to spend some considerable time at Home, including a visit to Ireland and the Continent.

The members of the local branch of the Hibernian Society, by means of their weekly euehre parties and social evenings, continue to swell the bazaar funds. At present they are working in conjunction with the various stall-holders, and their combined efforts are meeting with a fair measure of success.

The opening of the bazaar has been fixed for Monday, August 31. Father Minogue is working very hard to ensure its success. He is organising a tug-of-war competition, full details of which will be given later. It is understood that valuable prizes will be offered, and it is hoped to receive entries from far and wide as well as from local organisations. Intending competitors would be wise to commence training as soon as possible. Rev. Father Minogue, who, by the way, has been appointed treasurer of the bazaar committee, has several other competitions and money-making enterprises in view, details of which shall be given in due course. As mentioned above, the bazaar is not far distant. The necessity of hearty co-operation to ensure its success should be apparent to all. Money is urgently needed, chiefly to obtain satisfactory Catholic educational facilities.

Mr. E. Whittle, jun., has returned from an extended holiday in Australia.

The members of the choir are holding a social evening in the "Burwood" on June 18. The object is to raise funds to defray expenses incurred in connection with the organ. As they are always ready to assist in all good works, it is to be hoped that they will receive the support of the parishioners in this, one of their few appeals on their own behalf.

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