

Town and Country News

New Plymouth Notes

(From our own correspondent.)

August 2.

A children's plain and fancy dress ball was held last night in the Rolland Hall, in aid of the central stall in connection with the approaching bazaar. Mrs. A. Avery, who organised the dance, worked hard to make it the success it was.

A produce mart and sale of work in aid of the West-end stall was held on July 25. It was a financial success. The members of this hard-working committee, ably led by Miss McCarty, are to be congratulated on their achievements.

The tug-of-war committee has undertaken to provide excellent prizes for the competition to take place during the bazaar week (end of August). It is understood that several teams have started training, and keen competition should result.

During the week Mrs. A. Avery was hostess at an "evening" held at her home in aid of the central stall.

Mr. J. Rennie, of the Railway Department, has resigned his position and entered into partnership with Mr. Horton, motor-car painter, of this town. Mr. Rennie, who is the conductor of the well and favorably known Rennie's Orchestra, much in demand at bazaar functions, has the best wishes of the townspeople for success in his undertaking.

Granity Notes

August 1.

(From our own correspondent.)

A very pleasant evening was spent in St. Joseph's Schoolroom on Thursday, July 30, when the members of the Catholic Old Boys' Guild assembled to bid farewell to their president (Mr. Tom Masterson), who leaves shortly to take up duties in the Railway Department at Ohakune. There were present the members of the guild and the Children of Mary and aspirants. In a short speech, Mr. Rob Kelly eulogised the work of the president, and on behalf of the members of the guild presented him with a shaving outfit, as a mark of esteem. Mr. Masterson feelingly acknowledged the gift. The evening passed all too quickly in song and dance, music being supplied by Misses McCormack and Masterson. A dainty supper was handed round, and after the singing of "Auld Lang Syne" the youthful company dispersed.

For some months the Catholics of Granity have been working zealously for the purpose of raising funds to liquidate the debt on church and school. Weekly euchres have been organised with great success. Last week (July 24) a juvenile ball attracted a very large number. About 100 children took part in the "grand march." The little ones looked so charming that the judges found the task of awarding prizes a difficult one. An impromptu orchestra consisting of five different instruments was much appreciated. The members of the committee, under the able secretaryship of Mr. W. P. McCormack, are more than pleased with the finan-

cial result. All these minor efforts are merely to "blaze the trail" for a grand bazaar to be held on August 21 and 22; after which, it is fondly hoped, Granity Catholic school will be free of debt.

The music examinations were held lately. Five candidates were presented; all were successful, four gaining high honors. The examiner paid some nice compliments to the teachers, but the teaching powers of the different convents are so well established that comment is unnecessary. Personally, I do not agree with examiners in all points. The ability of a teacher is measured more accurately by the average success with all pupils, rather than by what is done with a few talented ones.

The children of the local Catholic school are preparing for a visit from the Archbishop for the purpose of administering the Sacrament of Confirmation. The advent of his Grace is unique in the lives of the little Granity-ites, and one sometimes wonders if the desire to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation, or anxiety to see an Archbishop, is uppermost in the minds of the children.

Oamaru Men's Club

(Contributed.)

On Thursday evening, the 30th ult., this newly-formed club held the seventh of its series of popular fortnightly entertainments for the benefit of the local Catholic men. Fathers Ardagh and Fenelon were present, and Mr. W. J. Hogan presided over a good attendance of members. We were particularly fortunate at this entertainment to have the esteemed privilege of meeting—as members of a Catholic Club—his Lordship Bishop Whyte who has been on a visit to Oamaru, and accorded the club his much valued and revered patronage. The programme consisted of musical items by Mr. M. Kerr, a lecture and a prepared debate.

Mr. J. Kearns (one of our own members) who has a practical knowledge of the subject as an officer in the local St. John Ambulance Brigade, delivered the lecture on "First Aid to the Injured." A thorough treatment of common accidents, such as burns and scalds, was first given, then very fully dealt with were—fractures to the different parts of the human body, how to apply bandages, an explanation of the circulation of the blood, the dealing with poisons, and finally, to complete an excellent treatise,—artificial respiration.

The latter portion of the evening was devoted to a prepared debate on "Should Bachelors be Taxed?" Messrs. R. Mathie and F. Cooney (a veteran) for the affirmative and Messrs F. Carrington and W. D. Sloan for the negative were the speakers, while Mr. P. J. Duggan consented to act as judge. On hearing the subject of the debate his Lordship the Bishop humorously remarked that he hoped judgment would not be passed for the affirmative as he was a confirmed bachelor.

In giving his decision on the debate Mr. Duggan said that the speakers had covered

quite a wide field and that several strong arguments were brought forward, a particularly strong reason for the bachelors being that a levy on them would be opposed to the first principles of taxation. Points gained were based on arguments and handling of subject, and the result was, Affirmative 156, Negative 140.

At the invitation of the president, Bishop Whyte rose to say a few words and was greeted with applause. His Lordship said it always gave him great pleasure to hear of the activities of our Catholic clubs and societies. He was especially glad to be present for the first time to hear such a well arranged programme. A lecture on "First Aid to the Injured," was an ideal subject to hold the interest of members and at the same time provide knowledge which could be readily applied and of great value to all those present. It is the little things that count, and if we thoroughly understand the principles of small matters there is little difficulty with matters of great importance. The Bishop was greatly interested in the debate, and stressed the value of preparation and notes.

His Lordship was most emphatic regarding the entertainment, and expressed the hope that the Catholic men of the parish would not remain non-members but derive from future meetings the same pleasure as he himself had derived. (Applause.)

The president then took the opportunity of introducing to his Lordship members of the Club who were present.

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