

# The Church in New Zealand

SOME HISTORICAL NOTES.

## An Old-Time Land Deal

An historic Maori deed concluding a property sale by a chief near Kororareka (now called Russell) over 90 years ago, has come into the possession of an Auckland (says a daily newspaper). It is a modest enough document in size, being about as large as a leaf of an ordinary book, but has a certain artistic effect that is never found in a deed of to-day. A few simple sketches that are the tattoo marks of the Maoris who negotiated the contract and a list of signatures in well-written English alongside three thumb impressions in black ink, constituted the deed of purchase and sale. In the good old times, it is said, the Maori landholder always signed his name with his tattoo mark, a process which made the deeds of that era quite respectable works of art. The document in question is a page of a deed dated February 23, 1834, by which a certain Akiwa and his people transferred a block of land to one William D. Brind, of the "good ship Torrance Castle." The land was a block of "600 English acres" near Kororareka, and the cost was "four double-barrelled guns and two hundred-weight of powder." The deed came into the hands of Mr. T. Winton Smith, of Melbourne, who is deeply interested in Maori lore, and has many interesting exhibits of early land transactions in New Zealand, and was posted by him to a friend in Auckland.

## Some Otago and Southland Parishes

From the *Cyclopedia of New Zealand*, published in 1903, we extract the following information (officially supplied) regarding various parishes in the diocese of Dunedin:

### INVERCARGILL.

The parish of Invercargill originally included the whole of Southland, and continued to do so from its foundation in 1863 till 1882. In the latter year it was divided into three parishes—namely, Invercargill, Riverton, and Gore. In 1893 Winton was made a separate parish, and Riversdale and Wrey's Bush in 1900; so that there are, in all, six parishes in Southland. The parish of Invercargill as now constituted includes the town, and extends from the Bluff to the West Plains. The Church of St. Mary occupies a site which has a frontage to Tyne and Eye Streets. It was erected in 1904 in the Byzantine style of architecture, and is of brick with white stone facings. It has seating accommodation for 700 persons, and the building, without the land, cost £6000. St. Joseph's Girls' School, the parish school, and St. Catherine's Convent School adjoin the church. The original church in Invercargill was erected in 1863, a wooden building capable of seating 400 persons. This building, which stands on a half-acre site in Clyde Street, adjoins the old presbytery, and is now used for the Marist Brothers' School, founded in 1897. St. Catherine's Dominican Convent occupies a pleasant and convenient site facing the beautiful public



REV. FATHER HIGGINS, formerly attached to the Parish of Invercargill.

gardens of the city, and adjoins the new Basilica in Tyne Street. The convent is a fine two-storey wooden building surrounded by its own grounds.

The conditions above mentioned were very materially altered by the fine range of buildings erected during the past two years. A much esteemed friend, since passed away (R.I.P.), supplied the present writer with the following additional particulars relating to Invercargill:—

"St. Joseph's School was built for the nuns when they went to Invercargill in

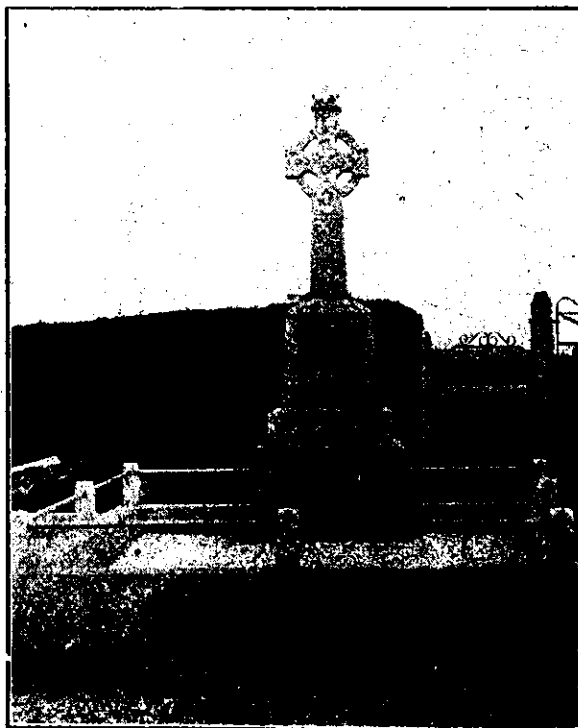
1882. On each Sunday and holyday of obligation the early Mass was celebrated in it, and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament given in the afternoon; second Mass was celebrated in St. Mary's, and there were Vespers and Benediction at 6.30 each Sunday. It was "the church" until the Basilica was opened."

### WINTON.

"The settlement of Winton, situated on the Fortrose-Kingston railway, and on the great North Road leading to Lake Wakatipu, may be said to date from 1862, when the first portion of the town was surveyed. About 1876, Winton was created a municipality.

"In the early period of settlement at Winton Mass was celebrated, and other services were held by Father Carden in the Oddfellows' Hall. With the growth of the parish the necessity arose for a suitable building, and the present Church of St. Thomas was partially erected in 1884, at a cost of £500, which was secured chiefly by the exertions of the late Bishop Moran, assisted by Father Kehoe, and with the ready co-operation of the people. When the late Father Vereker took charge of the district it soon became necessary to enlarge and complete the church, which was accomplished at a cost of £700. A fine spire 80ft in height was erected and gives the whole structure a handsome and striking appearance. The Rev. Father P. O'Neill, formerly of South Dunedin, succeeded Father Vereker." Some time after the death of Very Rev. Father O'Neill a year or so ago, the Very Rev. Father Hunt was transferred from Alexandra as pastor of Winton, taking the place of Father Ardagh, who was meanwhile acting as parish priest.

(To be continued.)



BEAUTIFUL CELTIC CROSS MONUMENT

Erected in the Winton Cemetery over the tomb of the Very Rev. P. O'Neill, late Pastor of Winton.

Geo. Hay GENT'S OUTFITTER Hats from all the leading English makers; also the Famous Stetson. 50-52 PRINCES STREET Dunedin