

# Town and Country News

## Camaru Notes

(From our own correspondent.)

December 13.

At the Waitaki High School swimming sports Foss Shanahan, an ex-pupil of the Catholic School, won the junior championship.

At the examination in music, conducted under the auspices of the Associated Board by Mr. Tidmarsh, a pupil of Miss M. Cartwright, L.T.C.L. (David Murray) obtained a pass in the primary division.

Two very old members of the congregation have retired from their positions recently in order to crown their youth of labor with an age of ease.

Mr. James Meehan, a very old and faithful employee of the Oamaru Borough Council, severed his connection with that body. He received a warm tribute from the Council accompanied by three months' pay. Mr. Peter Murray, as well known at the Basilica as he is in the local Railway Service, also retired. He has the best wishes of his friends for a long and pleasant retirement.

Oamaru streets are witnessing quite a procession of motor cars passing through the town on the way to the Exhibition. Tradespeople are picking up a few odds and ends of business as a result of Dunedin's enterprise, for the parties usually made a halt here to view the sights. Visitors who have seen the great show are loud in their praise of its many attractions and magnitude.

The Catholic Men's Club held another of their enjoyable and profitable gatherings on the 5th. It took the form of a mock banquet. The various speeches made evidenced the value of such clubs in giving confidence to men to expound their views in public.

A very old parishioner, Mr. Michael Donovan, died recently: aged 82. He had spent nearly all his life in Oamaru, and was very much respected.—R.I.P.

## Upper Hutt Notes

(From a correspondent.)

December 14.

Our bazaar was brought to a close on the evening of Tuesday, the 8th inst., when the art union was drawn. The net proceeds of bazaar and art union amounted to over £500—a marvellous achievement for such a small parish. Our local ladies are incomparable workers. On the occasion of the drawing, the Maori entertainers from Petone gave their services by presenting a delightful programme of music. Mr. Stan Brice and his Petone team, winners of the tug-o'-war competition, very generously donated their prize of £10 to the funds. Throughout the bazaar Mr. Brice was most helpful with his advice and practical assistance.

Last Sunday was a red-letter day in our little church—

"A simple thing of knotted pine  
And corrugated tin;  
But still, to those who read, a sign,  
A fortress on the furthest line  
Against the march of sin."  
—"John O'Brien."

At the first Mass fifty little children, arrayed in white, made their First Holy Communion. It was a most impressive spectacle, and the reverence and devotion of the little ones reflected great credit on our worthy priest and the devoted Sisters of Mercy. After the second Mass the devotion of the Forty Hours' Adoration commenced. The altar was most beautifully decorated for the occasion. In the evening the Rev. Father John Kelly (Newtown) preached a most eloquent and devotional sermon on the Blessed Sacrament. On the following evening the sermon was preached by Father Hegarty, who had travelled all the way from Carterton. At the two Masses each morning, and at the evening devotions the church was crowded.

Sir Joseph Ward, looking fit after his recent strenuous campaign, has returned to his summer residence at Heretaunga.

Dame Rumor reports that Mr. and Mrs. McCarthy-Reid have purchased a residence in the parish.

Our zealous and esteemed parish priest, Father Vincent Kelly, is about to take a well-earned holiday in Australia immediately after New Year. He is to be present at the reception of his sister in one of the convents in the archdiocese of Melbourne. Father Kelly has not been on an extended holiday since his arrival in New Zealand—towards the end of the war period. He is a most devoted pastor, always insisting on carrying out his priestly duties, even when almost prostrated with sickness. The first years of his ministry were spent as a pioneer priest in the roadless King Country, where he endured untold hardships. During his absence we shall miss his cheery word and his scholarly and eloquent sermons. We all wish him a pleasant voyage, a delightful holiday, and a safe return.

## Obituary

MRS. CATHERINE SISSON, TURAKINA.

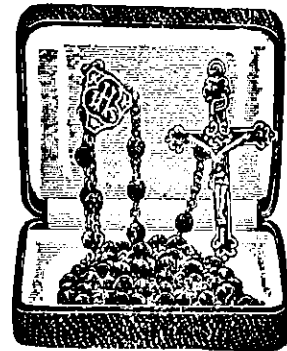
Intense regret was felt when it became known that Mrs. Sisson, of Turakina, had passed away. The deceased, with her mother (Mrs. Collins) and sisters, arrived in New Zealand about forty years ago from Ireland. Throughout the Wanganui district they were all highly esteemed and respected for their exemplary piety and generosity. At her death-bed the deceased had the edification of being surrounded by Rev. Mother Gertrude (sister) and Sister Liguori, Sacred Heart Convent, Wanganui), Mrs. Cochrane (daughter), her husband, and her brother (John).—R.I.P.

MR. DANIEL O'MEARA, RANGIORA.

An old and highly respected resident of Rangiora, in the person of Mr. Daniel O'Meara, died suddenly at his residence, George Street, on November 10. The deceased was one of the pioneers, having arrived in New Zealand by the sailing vessel Star of China in August, 1875. For a number of years he had a farm on the Oxford Road, Rangiora, but had lived a retired life for the past ten years. He is survived

by a widow and four daughters—Mrs. M. Burke (Manakau), Mrs. Steve Ryan (Riccarton), and the Misses Freda and Katip O'Meara. His only son (Michael) died of pneumonia in Featherston Camp during the war.—R.I.P.

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## "Our Lady of Victory Mission"

Let us have a little personal chat. I have been looking up those who have helped Our Mission since our first appeal in N.Z. in 1922, and do you know how many I have found who have not fallen to the Great Reaper, Forgetfulness? If all had persevered and given their mite, what a blessing they would have conferred on us and on themselves too. Owing to the fact that we have had to start a new Mission right from the ground up, "Our Lady of Victory" has been thrown into the huge debt of over £1,000. You will easily see that for a person staggering under this huge debt much mission work is not possible. Can you help us remove this night-mare from our pillow? Help us wipe out this debt. "The little rills make the mighty river." In return, you and yours, living and dead, will share in all the merit and prayers at the Mission. May God share down on you His richest blessings for the favors you have done, and are going to do for "Our Lady of Victory."

Henry I. Westropp.

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