

DIOCESE OF AUCKLAND

(From our own correspondent.)

January 2.

Rev. Father Hannigan, C.S.S.R., having completed the retreat for the Marist Brothers at the Sacred Heart College, Ponsonby, opened the retreat for the Sisters of the Missions in Hamilton on December 27, and on completion of same will conduct the retreat for the Sisters of St. Joseph at the Convent, Grey Lynn, about January 13.

At the conclusion of the retreat for the Sisters of Mercy, the Very Rev. Father M. J. O'Reilly will spend a short holiday in Rotorua.

His many friends will be grieved to learn that the Right Rev. Mgr. Gillan, V.G., is in a precarious state of health, and is still a patient in the Mater Hospital.

During the absence of Rev. Father Carran, Adm., on holiday, the Rev. Father Dore, of Hamilton, is assisting at the Sacred Heart Church, Ponsonby.

A delightful day was spent recently by the large gathering at Mrs. McHugh's fine grounds at St. Helier's Bay. The proceeds, which reached the sum of £100, are in aid of the church fund. The presence of Very Rev. Dean Cahill, Fathers Doyle, Kelly, and Hunt, was greatly appreciated.

Christmas in Auckland was, from many points of view, the brightest and gayest for several years. The city has been thronged by thousands of visitors from all parts of the Dominion: the commercial life has been the busiest since the year before the war, and if the spending power of the thousands be judged by the immense crowds who visited the racing carnival at Ellerslie during the three days, when the totalisator registered £337,062, must surely be a record.

Mr. J. Ford, a deservedly popular business man, who for the past 20 years has been in the employ of the firm of Stewart Dawson, was farewelled by the staff and from them received a valuable presentation. He has been appointed manager of one of Pascoe's fine shops in Queen Street, and we feel sure that there his many friends will help him to make a success of his new sphere in life.

Oamaru

(From our own correspondent.)

January 4.

On Christmas Day there was the usual large congregation in the Basilica for Midnight Mass, of which Right Rev. Mgr. Mackay was celebrant, Fathers Foley and O'Connell deacon and subdeacon respectively. The boys from Holy Cross College, who are home for their holidays, assisted in the sanctuary. The choir rendered music suitable to the festive occasion. At the early Masses on Christmas morning large numbers approached the Holy Table.

We have had quite a number of visitors in Oamaru during the holidays; amongst others, Rev. Dr. Kelly, back from Australia, Father Peoples, from Waimate, and Father Gondringer, from St. Patrick's College.

Mass will be celebrated at the following country stations during January:—On the 11th, at Kurow at 9 a.m., Pukuri at 10 a.m., and Duntroon at 11 a.m.; on the 18th, at Windsor Park at 9 a.m. and Ngapara at 11 a.m.; on the 25th, at Duntroon at 9 a.m. and Kurow at 11 a.m., also at Taipo and Alma at 8.30 and 11 a.m.

TO THE ELECTORS OF DUNEDIN SOUTH

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,—

I desire to express my GRATEFUL ACKNOWLEDGMENTS to you for a VICTORY which is the greatest I have won since I have been in public life. It is not to be measured by my majority at the last election. The larger the majority then obtained with Labor's assistance, the harder the task on this occasion, with the President of the Labor Party opposing me. Had it not been for the loyalty of many of my old friends I could not have won. Among the reasons which militated against my candidature must be included the fact that I announced my retirement and subsequently reversed my decision.

I fully recognise that I now represent those who voted both for and against me, and I shall do my utmost in the future, as in the past, to deserve your confidence by faithful service.

I have the honor to be your obedient servant,

T. K. SIDEY.

GERMANS IN AUSTRALIA.

The following letter to the editor of the *Evening Post*, Wellington, over the signature of Mr. P. J. O'Regan (December 19), appeared recently:—I have read your editorial comments hereon in to-night's *Post*, and I note that you have omitted certain historic facts which, though not fatal to your conclusions, are not without interest nowadays. Neither you nor your Sydney correspondent are aware, evidently, that many thousands of German immigrants were induced to settle in Australia by certain persons who professed the most intense loyalty to the Empire. Years ago these worthies sounded a loud note of alarm at the influx of Irish immigrants. One John Pascoe Fawcner, a member of the first Victorian Parliament, proclaimed the necessity of meeting the insidious Romish propaganda by inducing German immigration on an extensive scale; indeed, he described the Germans as "our kinsmen in race and religion," and great was his indignation when he found, after their arrival, that many of his kinsmen were of the Catholic faith! In the sister colony of New South Wales the agitation was headed by a much abler man, John Dunmore Lang, D.D., a distinguished Presbyterian divine, who is remembered nowadays as the first advocate of an Australian Republic. Dr. Lang published a pamphlet apropos of the alleged Irish invasion, entitled *Shall Australia Become a Principality of Popedom?* He, too, favored the German antidote, and, to be certain that none but good Protestants were selected, the reverend gentleman himself visited Germany and selected the colonists. Evidently, however, not all the men he selected were proof against Popish wiles, for he has told himself in the second volume of his *History of New South Wales* that some of them deserted at Monte Video when en route to Australia, having been tempted by the wages offered by some planters there who desired to utilise their skill as viticulturists! This fact notwithstanding, thousands of Germans were settled at Moreton Bay through Dr. Lang's activities. Tropical Australia, he argued, was admirably fitted for the production of cotton and wine—Dr. Lang was no Prohibitionist—and German settlers would produce abundance of these good things, and at the same time save Australia for Protestantism! Alas, how times have changed!

A FIGHT AGAINST TYRANNY.

In the matter of crime this country (says an English exchange) has unfortunately no ground for boasting, and the efforts made by the *Morning Post* and other reactionary journals to persuade the Americans that the Irish are exceptionally criminal only excite ridicule and contempt. The Americans cannot be deceived. The Irish-Americans have made them familiar with the general character of the treatment to which the Catholics have been so long subjected by British Governments, and to-day they receive object lessons day after day as to the tyrannical manner in which the country is misgoverned. The Americans have no sympathy and never will have any with oppression, with outrages on freedom, with spying—with the administrative methods adopted by the Government in Ireland. Such a condition have the outrages on liberty reached that now priests' pockets are searched by the police, and Irish Catholics are presented with the spectacle—a spectacle the effects of which can be imagined by those who know how profound is their respect for the clergy and their reverence for the Mass—of Father O'Donnell, an Australian Army Chaplain, being imprisoned in Richmond Military Barracks for having expressed his opinions freely in conversation and marched to a church under military custody to celebrate the Holy Sacrifice. What wonder that Lenin, the leader of the Bolsheviks, in an interview with Mr. Goode, the *Manchester Guardian's* correspondent, denounced the British Defence of the Realm Act and claimed that the Bolsheviks are more liberal-minded than the British Government.

A little boy had been praying for a dog to draw his cart, when an unusually large bulldog came along. The little fellow, much alarmed, altered his petition: "Yes, a dog—but not a bulldog."

Les Nouvelles Religieuses states that a miracle took place recently at Lourdes during the French National Pilgrimage. A soldier named Henri Lhorloge, aged 32, who lived at Amiens, was wounded in the right eye at Chemin des Dames whilst the war was raging. Since then he has been in hospital, and also in a school for the blind. The man had an extraordinary confidence that he would be cured, and made a promise that he would visit Lourdes. His desire was gratified, and at the conclusion of the procession of the Blessed Sacrament he was cured.

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