

## COMMONWEALTH NOTES

## NEW SOUTH WALES.

The Very Rev. Father J. Rossiter, M.S.S., returned to Sydney a few weeks ago after a tour of Victoria and Tasmania, and left by the Eastern on his way to China and Japan.

The Rev. Father P. J. Murphy (Adm., St. Mary's Cathedral) has received a letter from his Grace the Archbishop of Sydney from Colombo, stating that he had arrived there after a pleasant voyage, and that his Lordship the Bishop of Cooktown (Right Rev. Dr. Heavey, O.S.A.), who was slightly indisposed at the time of his departure from Sydney, was much improved in health. His Grace arrived at Naples on March 20, and a cable message of recent date conveyed the news that his Grace had received an audience with the Holy Father.

His Excellency the Apostolic Delegate, accompanied by the Rev. Dr. O'Donnell, of the Goulburn diocese, left Sydney by the Melbourne express recently, on an extended tour of the West. His Excellency will travel by the trans-continental railway to Kalgoorlie, where he has arranged to spend a few days. From there he goes to Perth, New Norcia, Geraldton, and the Kimberley Vicariate. Possibly, his Excellency will then visit Java, and from there take steamer for Port Darwin and Thursday Island. His Excellency does not expect to be back in Sydney before the end of June.

His Lordship the Right Rev. Dr. Hayden, Bishop of Wilcannia-Forbes, has appointed the Right Rev. Mgr. Killian Administrator of the diocese during his absence in Europe. His Lordship will join the R.M.S. Orontes at Adelaide. Archbishop Spence, Archbishop Barry, and Bishop O'Connor, of Armidale, will travel on the same boat.

## VICTORIA.

Preparations are being made in Melbourne for a great farewell to Archbishop Mannix, who leaves on the 15th of next month for Europe. It is believed that had his Grace accepted the proposed testimonial of £50,000, at least £100,000 would have been readily subscribed.

The following cable message was despatched during the week to the Prime Minister of Great Britain (Mr. Lloyd George), the leader of the British Liberal Party (Mr. H. H. Asquith), and the leader of the British Labor Party (Mr. J. R. Clynes), says the Melbourne *Tribune* of April 8:—"On behalf of themselves and 10,000 Australian soldiers who marched in procession through Melbourne at the St. Patrick's Day celebrations, 14 Australian holders of the Victoria Cross passed the following resolution:—"That we 14 Victoria Cross winners and 10,000 Australian soldiers urge that self-government on the lines demanded by an overwhelming majority of the Irish people be given to Ireland. We fought for liberty, and we claim that Ireland should not be denied.—(Signed) Sgt. J. W. Whittle, V.C., D.C.M.; Sgt. G. J. Howell, V.C., M.M."

## QUEENSLAND.

During the celebration of early Mass on Easter Sunday morning, at St. Stephen's Cathedral, Brisbane, his Grace Archbishop Duhig announced that after many difficulties and much waiting, the project of carrying out the completion of St. Stephen's Cathedral were now sufficiently advanced to permit of the calling of tenders for the work. This, he remarked, would greatly relieve the congestion, as the extensions would give accommodation for 400 additional worshippers, representing an additional 2000 at the five Masses on Sunday. The work would be carried out in stone of similar quality to the existing portion of the Cathedral. The completion of St. Stephen's, his Grace added, would not interfere with the project of erecting a much nobler structure on the "Dara" site for cathedral purposes a few years hence. The Elizabeth Street edifice would, in the meantime, continue to serve all necessary purposes. The Apostolic Delegate, Most Rev. Archbishop Cattaneo, would probably visit Brisbane in July next, to open the new convent of the Sacred Heart Nuns at Stuart-holme, and it was probable that he would also consent to lay the foundation stone of the extension of St. Stephen's about the same time.

From unexpected quarters (writes the Brisbane correspondent of the *Catholic Press*) we hear now and again unstinted praise to our bishops and archbishops for their prescience, wisdom, and genius for selecting the finest sites for our churches, schools, convents, etc., and the latest tribute from the *Telegraph* is well worth quoting: "The visitor to Brisbane must be struck with the evident plan of the Catholic Church to build for itself imposing build-

ings on prominent sites in this city. Rome is 'The City of the Seven Hills,' but Brisbane is a city of a hundred hills—if we would use them rightly. Give to the Hawkesbury but half the legends haunting the Rhine, and you have a far nobler, far more majestic river. Wherever you wander in Brisbane or its suburbs, you see on the crest of a hill a church or a convent or a college, built by Catholics. When it has come to a question of appearance of these edifices foresight has been taken. . . . The authorities of the Catholic Church look to the hills for sites for their churches, convents, and colleges. In doing so they add to the beauty of the city, and they show an example which might be widely followed."

## WEST AUSTRALIA.

On Friday evening, March 19, Bishop Kelly returned to Geraldton, thus bringing to a close a tour of the fields which had begun towards the end of January. Had he been given a choice (says the *W.A. Record*) he would hardly have selected the middle of summer for his journey, but it was necessary to go without loss of time, and at its conclusion he had the satisfaction of feeling that the main object with which he set out had been accomplished. His companions were the Vicar-General, Mgr. Graber, and Guilfoyle, the chauffeur, and although they travelled nearly 1600 miles, and experienced a temperature almost constantly above 100, and sometimes running as high as 114 and 116 degrees, they returned well and happy, and even gained weight during their wanderings. They are extremely grateful to all who supported them and helped them during those weeks, and whose kindness enabled them to report a successful termination of their mission almost unhopd for at first.

## TASMANIA.

Most Rev. Dr. Barry (the Coadjutor-Archbishop of Hobart) returned to Hobart on the evening of the 23rd ult., after visiting all the parishes in the North-West Coast districts. His Grace was away nearly three months. Dr. Barry leaves for Sydney early next month, to take his departure for Rome. During this visitation Archbishop Barry earned the gratitude of his flock in those parishes. This manifestation is quite understandable, when it is known that several of the parishes had not been visited by a prelate for many years (says an exchange). One parish—Kimberley—visited by Dr. Barry had not been favored similarly for 74 years. The last prelate to visit Kimberley was Bishop Willson, of Hobart, who went there in the year 1846—74 years ago!

## Oamaru

(From our own correspondent.)

April 26.

Prior to the 11 o'clock Mass on Sunday, Anzac Day, Father Foley asked the prayers of the congregation for the repose of souls of our soldiers who were killed in Gallipoli and France, for whom he was about to offer the Holy Sacrifice. At the conclusion the organist,—Miss K. Cartwright, played the "Dead March" from "Saul."

We were extremely sorry to hear last week of the death of Father O'Connell's father. Another victim of the ever prevalent "flu" was Miss Selina Eason, who contracted the disease when on a holiday in the south. Our sympathy goes out to their bereaved ones.—R.I.P.

The ranks of the local branch of the Hibernian Society continue to be augmented by the accession of many new members. At the last fortnightly meeting, presided over by the president (Bro. J. McKone), five new members were initiated. So far nothing has been done towards securing donations for the Irish Self-Determination Fund. On the motion of Father Foley it was unanimously decided that the society undertake the work at once. Father Foley is treasurer, and all those wishing to contribute towards this noble cause are earnestly asked to send along their donations without delay.

A strong appeal was made by Father Foley on Sunday for a generous support next Sunday when the Hibernians will take up a collection for the Irish Self-Determination Fund. Country sympathisers are asked to send their subscriptions for that date.

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