

opened these schools his joy will be very great. The members of the local Education Department, especially Inspector Brock, have been most helpful in their suggestions for the arrangement of the building and have been in a large measure responsible for the thorough up-to-dateness of the design. I am very interested to learn that only £3000 is owing, and although, as his Excellency remarked, this is not a large sum when we see the work which has been done, yet we have to take into consideration that we have no financial aid from the Government. I may inform his Excellency that it was customary for the Government to help all schools in some measure, and even a small measure was appreciated, but in 1887 there was passed an Education Act which withdrew all help from denominational schools. Were it not for our Catholic faith we could close our schools, and parents could send their children to the State schools where they have to pay nothing for them. But remember there is a principle at stake: we believe, and base our belief on centuries of experience, that if you divorce religion from education you are weakening faith and destroying religion. To de-

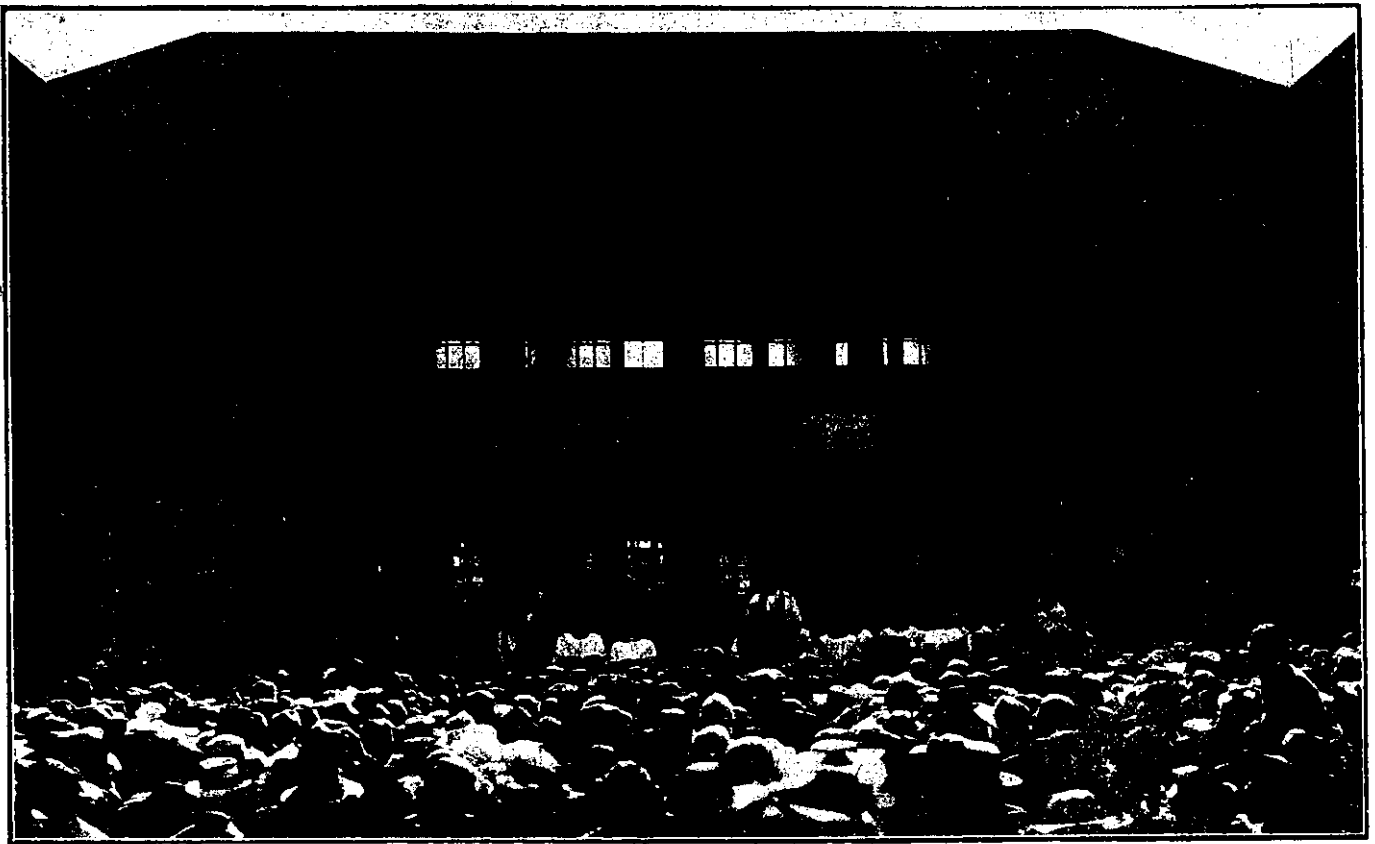
velop the mind on right lines it is essential that religion be taught in the schools, therefore it is our aim to have a Catholic school in each parish. What has been done during the past six years in the cause of Catholic education alone speaks for the generosity and strong faith of our people; the sum of over £60,000 has been spent in the work. I will just detail items so that your Excellency may see what has been spent. The following list will show what is being done:—Woolston new school (building and equipment), £950; Villa Maria, convent and novitiate for Sisters of Mercy (cost of land and building), £7000; St. Bede's College (purchase of land and erection of building), £22,000; St. Mary's Convent and High School (cost of building and equipment), £13,000; Cathedral parish schools (land and building), £7500; St. Mary's parish school, £7100; Addington new school (building and equipment), £1100; Addington, purchase of land and building for convent, £1700; Papanui new school (work in hand), £800. Total, £62,150. This does not include work in adjacent parishes, which during the next four years will keep up

to an average expenditure of over £10,000 per annum. I must confess that it is a big outlay, but the generosity and earnest faith of the Catholic people of the diocese will continue as in the past.

I am deeply grateful to your Excellency for your presence and for your words of encouragement; I congratulate the priests and people of this parish in having a school which will be a fitting monument of their interest in the cause of Catholic education and to those sons and brothers who fell during the late war. I have been delighted to be present and to have the honor of assisting in the opening and blessing of these schools to-day.

His Excellency said:—I am very glad and my heart is always full of joy when I am asked to bless and take part in opening buildings for education and religion. I have seen large crowds here yesterday and this morning and especially now. I am very honored by your enthusiasm and the large numbers show that it is deepness and earnestness of faith and deep religious sentiments and not only something of to-day. So it is I am very glad to

### *St. Mary's Memorial School, Christchurch*



*His Excellency the Apostolic Delegate Addressing the Assemblage at the Opening Ceremony*

be here and to know that you have provided for the education of the children of this parish by such a magnificent building, and I have a great sentiment of admiration for what you have done. Father Kerley says that it is due to the presence of the Delegate that you are here in such large numbers but I think it is that you take such an interest in everything, and I think I pay you no compliment more than you deserve when I say that you are anxious to give to liquidate the debt. Father Seymour says this is a big debt, but I am accustomed to £8000, £20,000, and even £25,000. I note you are well off in New Zealand: you have no droughts, no floods, and especially in this province of Canterbury you are very rich. I have seen how prosperous is the country, and so I suppose it will not be difficult to pay the debt.

About £120 was collected on the ground.

At the conclusion of the ceremony his Excellency officiated at Pontifical Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament at St. Mary's Church and afterwards imparted the Papal Blessing.