

Greymouth

(From our own correspondent.)

March 20.

Two hundred men received Holy Communion on Sunday week, the occasion of the annual Hibernian breakfast. The ladies of the parish, under the direction of Mrs. Donovan, provided the breakfast, which was served at the Columba Hall. The branch president of the Hibernian Society (Bro. E. King) occupied the chair. The following toast list was honored:—"The Day We Celebrate" (Bro. M. Daly); "The Clergy and Religion," proposed by Mr. F. Doogan and responded to by the Rev. Father Long; "Catholic Education," proposed by Bro. H. McKeowen and responded to by the Rev. Brother Herbert; "Kindred Societies," proposed by Bro. F. Deere and responded to by Mr. T. O'Donnell (president of the Marist Old Boys' Football Club) and Mr. T. Barry (president of St. Columba Club); "The Ladies," and "The Press," proposed by Bro. H. McKeowen and responded to by Messrs. M. Daly, M. Stanley, and F. Doogan.

At the annual meeting of the St. Columba Club the secretary (Mr. A. McSherry) stated that the club is in a strong position, and that members might look forward to a most interesting year for 1922. After hearing Mr. H. Belshaw explain the history and objects of the W.E.A. it was decided that the club should apply for affiliation with the association. The election of officers resulted as follows:—President, Mr. T. Barry; vice-presidents—Messrs. F. Bayley, C. Hall, and A. McCarthy; secretary, Mr. A. McSherry; assistant secretary, Mr. J. McMahon; treasurer, Mr. L. O'Neill; librarian, Mr. W. P. McCarthy; executive committee, Messrs. M. Keating and W. O'Neill.

St. Patrick's Day celebrations opened with the celebration of Solemn High Mass. Father P. Madden was celebrant; Father McMonagle, deacon; and Father T. O'Regan, subdeacon—all recent arrivals from Ireland. Father Long, Adm., was master of ceremonies. A full choir, under the directorship of Mr. H. F. Doogan, sang the Mass of St. Francis. Miss Maureen Griffen was organist. The most demonstrative feature of the celebrations was the annual procession, which marched through the business section of the town to Victoria Park, where the sports were held. All arrangements passed off most successfully, a tribute to Mr. Harry McKeowen, the energetic secretary. At the national concert many were turned away. Among the performers were Miss E. G. O'Connor and Mr. Phil Jones, of Christchurch. A great day ended with the Hibernian ball.

There is a magical change in the Marist Brothers' Monastery. Under the deft hands of the painter and the gardener this once dingy building is a vision of brightness, and almost a worthy home for the self-sacrificing men who dwell within.

With the addition of the Rev. Father Madden, and, later, the Rev. Father McMonagle, the staff of St. Patrick's Church is now complete, and is none too numerous for the large parish, extending as far as Otira, which the Rev. Father Long, Adm., has under his care. The priests are settling in their new sphere, and quickly securing the goodwill of the people.

A proposal has been made locally to institute a fund, which, when sufficiently large, will provide a permanent "nest egg" from which the salaries of the Marist Brothers and the Sisters may be paid, independent of any strain on parish finances. A similar fund, it is understood, is in existence in Wellington.

Kaikoura

The bazaar recently held in aid of a proposed new church at Kaikoura town was most successful, the nett result amounting to £540. This sum was realised as follows:—Fancy stall (Father Arkwright), £141 13s 8d; Christmas tree (Mrs. O'Malley and Miss McGrath), £117 13s 5d; sweet and tobacco stall (Mrs. McSwigan), £100 2s 3d; fancy stall (Mrs. Chisnall), £66 7s 10d; refreshment room (Mrs. Beaton and Mrs. B. Mackle), £44 0s 8d; per Mrs. Renner and Nurse Doherty, £34; produce stall (Mrs. H. Mackle), £13 14s 8d; per Mrs. Parsons, £15; admission, £20 0s 6d; other sources, £26 8s 6d. Expenses amounted to £38 17s, leaving a credit balance of £540 4s 6d.

Mount Carmel Convent, Milford, Auckland

LATEST INSTITUTION OF THE SISTERS OF MERCY.

The Sisters of Mercy of Auckland have lately purchased the beautiful property of Mrs. Shakespere, at Milford, near Takapuna, a growing suburb across the harbor from Auckland City, for the purpose of establishing a holiday hostel for single women, business girls, and others who may feel the need of a restful home, and for those who, after illness or hospital treatment, require attention during convalescence. Besides its ideal situation, the new institution possesses two notable features—its inclusion of a flower farm, and immediate proximity to the extensive Milford beach. The property also adjoins the Sisters' farmlands, which were given to the Order nearly 20 years ago by Mrs. Shea, the daughter of the late Thomas Poynton, the Catholic pioneer of the Dominion. The Sisters also intend to establish a school of music, and, as soon as the necessary buildings are erected, the usual educational work of their Order. The central building—a handsome brick structure—has a frontage to Shakespere Road on the Lake Takapuna tram system.

This newest institution to be established for the benefit of Catholic girls completes the chain of the works of the Order of Our Lady of Mercy in the Diocese of Auckland, including schools and colleges, orphanages, and hospitals, all of which the Sisters have made notable successes. It is hoped to have the new institution in working order shortly after Easter.

CORRESPONDENCE

[We do not hold ourselves responsible for opinions expressed by our correspondents.]

COUNSEL FOR THE DEFENCE.

TO THE EDITOR.

Sir,—The *Tablet* will, I know, with its usual Irish fair play, allow me to refer to certain good things that can be said in favor of Sir Robert Stout, notwithstanding his appalling bigotry on the education question. *Inter alia*, when it was almost as unfashionable and treasonous to support the cause of Irish nationalism, as it was such a short time ago for you to advocate Sinn Fein, Mr. Robert Stout (as he was then) took the platform for the Irish delegates of the day and gave them his loyal and unswerving support, nobly daring the thirteen devils of Dunedin Orangeism. Men like John Dillon have long since expressed their admiration of Stout's stalwart assistance. And further, if you asked many a young Catholic lawyer, court official, or policeman who has of all the members of the bench been most courteous and encouraging to him, he would answer—Sir Robert Stout.

He has never been known, even in his busiest moments, to refuse to attend an Irish national concert (when shoneens were giving them the go-by), and to be the most enthusiastic and appreciative member of the audience.

Let us hope and pray that the Chief Justice's prejudices may not be invincible.—I am, etc.,

JUNIOR BAR.

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