

advantages. The restrictions upon national freedom under British rule were bad precisely because they hindered the pursuit and attainment of popular welfare.

Article II. is, however, vitiated by one serious defect. Some members of the Drafting Committee, particularly Professor Alfred O'Rahilly, tried hard to have the name of God put into the Constitution. It could have been easily and appropriately inserted in Article II., by the addition of one short phrase. "Are derived [under God] from the people," would have sufficed. "Are derived from [God through] the people," would have been better. Just why the majority deliberately omitted the name of God is a mystery. However, it can be inserted by the Dail. That the British Government would object to such an amendment is quite unlikely. That Catholic Ireland should adopt a constitution with the name of God left out, would be an irreparable scandal.

ARCHDIOCESE OF WELLINGTON

(From our own correspondent.)

December 22.

A new branch of the Hibernian Society was formally opened at Island Bay last Wednesday evening by Bro. P. D. Hoskins, district deputy. Among those present were Rev. Father Mark Devoy, S.M., who extended a welcome to the members of the other branches. He apologised for the absence of the Ven. Archdeacon Devoy who had just returned from Greenmeadows. Both the Archdeacon and himself welcomed the formation of a branch of the Hibernian Society at Island Bay, and he exhorted all to live up to the motto of the society: "Faith, Hope, and Charity"; by so doing they would further the progress of the branch and set an example for good amongst their fellow-Catholics. In conclusion he wished the branch every success. The district deputy then addressed those present and traced the history of the society from its formation. He explained the benefits and privileges, and after formally initiating the new members and installing the officers he declared the branch open. The branch will be known as St. Francis de Sales' branch. The following office-bearers were elected:—President, Bro. J. L. Murphy, P.P.; vice-president, Bro. V. A. Dallow; secretary, Bro. A. Scanlon; treasurer, Bro. W. P. Dowling; warden, Bro. Geo. Saunders; guardian, Bro. Keating; sick-visitors, Bros. T. Pender and J. Walker; auditors, Bros. P. D. Hoskins and M. J. Kennedy; trustees, Bros. Tim Herlihy, S. Hoskins, and J. L. Murphy.

The sixth annual meeting of the Marist Brothers' Old Boys' Association, was held at the clubrooms, Vivian Street, on Wednesday evening last. Mr. L. Sievers presided over a large attendance of members. Among those present were Rev. Father Murphy, Rev. Brothers Louis and Dyoynsuis. The chairman reviewed the progress and activity of the club during the past year, and made an eloquent appeal to the members to support their executive and thus enable them to secure greater success in the coming year. The annual report and balance sheet were read and adopted. Following are the office-bearers for the ensuing year:—Patrons, his Grace Archbishop Redwood and his Grace Archbishop O'Shea; vice-patrons, Rev. Brother Justin and Rev. Brother Louis; president, Mr. L. Sievers; spiritual director, Rev. Father M. Murphy; hon. secretary, Mr. F. J. O'Driscoll; assistant secretary, Mr. F. Burton; hon. treasurer, Mr. R. D. Hickey; assistant treasurer, Mr. T. Crotty; hon. auditors, Messrs. P. D. Hoskins and Humpries; librarian, Mr. A. Lancred; executive committee—Messrs. J. Boyce, A. Costello, G. Davis, J. Devlin, E. Fitzgerald, J. Fitzgerald, W. Hannifin, S. Hoskins, M. McElligot, J. Lancred. It was resolved that honorary members be admitted to the association at a subscription of £1 ls per annum. In order to supplement the resources of the association the meeting recommended the executive to hold a bazaar sometime during the winter of next year, when it is hoped the people of Wellington will recognise the efforts of the association in bettering the lot of the Catholic youth of the city, and render that financial assistance which is so necessary for the welfare of the club.

The annual reunion of the members of the Old Boys' Association with the Marist Brothers, took place last Monday evening at the Alexandra Hall. Mr. L. Sievers

presided over a fair attendance. Amongst those present being the Rev. Fathers S. Mahony, S.M., Ryan, S.M., and Murphy, S.M., Rev. Brothers Basil, Louis, and Anslem. A toast list appropriate to the occasion was honored, and the following contributed to a musical programme:—Messrs F. Whittaker, E. B. L. Reade, A. Fogarty, and E. Lee. Mr. F. Halley was accompanist.

DIOCESE OF CHRISTCHURCH

(From our own correspondent.)

December 27.

Catholic Christmas celebrations in Christchurch may be best described as beautiful manifestations of faith. Every church in and around the city was crowded at every service, the congregations at the low Masses being almost wholly communicants. This extraordinary devotion has not been confined to Christmas Day, but has been consistently followed throughout Christmastide and is a glowing tribute to the work of his Lordship the Bishop and his devoted clergy.

On Sunday evening, the eve of Christmas, Rev. Father Lynch, C.S.S.R., occupied the pulpit at St. Mary's and delivered a most interesting and instructive lecture on the Holy Land, very prettily taking his hearers to wind up at Bethlehem, in anticipation of the morning's Feast.

Midnight Mass was celebrated at Mt. Magdala (His Lordship the Bishop), Nazareth House, St. Joseph's Home, the local convents, Lewisham.

Rev. Father Herring, S.M., preached at the Cathedral on Sunday evening.

Rev. Brothers Francis and Marcellin, of the local teaching staff, have gone to Auckland for their annual Retreat. The Brothers' Retreat, to take place in Christchurch, opens on January 6, and will be preached by Rev. Father Walsh, C.S.S.R.

A very happy day was spent at Diamond Harbor on Boxing Day by the Christchurch Cathedral Children of Mary and their friends, on the occasion of their annual picnic. Beautiful weather, races, and games all helped to make a most enjoyable day.

The numerical strength of the diocesan clergy has recently been augmented by the arrival of Rev. Fathers Healy, Joyce, and Quinn from Ireland, all of whom are from Kilkenny College.

The old pro-Cathedral has been sold for removal. The work of demolition has already begun, and incidentally the removal of perhaps the most respected landmark in the city.

As a result of the big earthquake on Christmas Day the tower at Nazareth House has been cracked. The damage, however, is considered by experts as not to have serious consequences.

Timaru

(From our own correspondent.)

January 1.

The Masses on Christmas Day were largely attended, and over a thousand manifested their faith by approaching the Holy Table. Father Hurley at all the Masses tendered his cordial wishes and those of his fellow priests to the congregation for the happy occasion. The altar and sanctuary were beautifully adorned for the great Feast, and reflected great credit on the young ladies whose privilege it is to do this beautiful and meritorious work.

The Rev. Father Magan, S.J., conducted a Retreat last week for the community at the Sacred Heart Convent. He will also conduct a Retreat for ladies, to commence on January 2 and end on the 5th.

The Rev. Father Magan preached at the Sacred Heart Church last Sunday night on the Nativity, to a very large congregation.

The Catholic Club has just concluded a very successful year, according to the statement given to the parishioners yesterday. The total receipts from all sources were £244. The chief items of expenditure were interest on loan, £42; amount paid off principal, £50; furnishings, £60; stage, £30; heating apparatus, £20; sundries, £39; leaving a credit balance of £3. The members of the executive of the club have arranged to meet the parishioners in front of the church on the next three Sundays, to collect the annual subscription (2/6), and it is expected that the membership will be largely increased.

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