

WANGANUI NOTES

(From our own correspondent.)

February 26.

Recently a presentation was made to Rev. Father Riordan, from his schoolmates and friends of the Aramoho parish. It took place at the "Villa Maria," Rev. Father Mahony presiding and in a nice little speech making reference to his impressions of Father Riordan as a schoolboy, later as a seminarist, and now was a priest. The presentation was made by Mr. Luxford, and consisted of a good leather Gladstone bag, a similar Brief bag, a set of Military brushes and a cheque. Rev. Father McGrath was also present, and Brother Francis who was visiting here at the time, and a number of Wanganui and Aramoho Vincent de Paul members. A presentation was also made to Rev. Father Boyle from his school-friends, their gift being a cheque, and they too had a little function to top things off. In passing, I mention that we in Wanganui never do things quite as other people do them. We either do things, not at all, or "in triplicate," like the British Army of Bainsfather fame. Our War Memorial is a striking example of that. First, and for a long time, we had none, and then we quarrelled horribly about a site. Now we have two memorials, in the making, and neither of them of any use to the living or the dead.

The Children of Mary held their first meeting of the year on a Sunday lately, and there was a most encouraging attendance. Quite a lot of new girls have joined up with the old veterans, and more have promised, so that everything points to a good fresh start for 1923.

Died at the Hospital on Thursday, February 15, after a long and very painful illness, Mrs. Eugene Provost of Aramoho, at the early age of thirty-four. The late Mrs. Provost who was the eldest daughter of Mr. Dowling of Aramoho, was overtaken by serious illness some months ago, and there seemed but little hope of recovery from the first, but the poor sufferer lingered on surprisingly, death coming finally as a happy release. Requiem Mass was celebrated at St. Mary's on Saturday morning by Rev. Father Dowling, Christchurch (brother), Fathers McGrath, Riordan, and Gimisty being in the sanctuary, and Mr. Maurice Dowling (Greenmeadows) another brother, the burial taking place immediately after. Our sincere sympathy is extended to Mr. Provost and his little son, also to members of the Dowling family.—R.I.P.

The tragic death of Mr. Cecil Howard was a great shock to all as the deceased was so well-known about town. Only a week or two I mentioned in my notes that the Cabs had gone off the stand at the end of January, and Mr. Howard, whose death we now recorded was one of the men concerned. After giving up the work he had been doing for most of his life—he was about forty years of age—Mr. Howard took up employment at the Castleliff wharf, going practically straight to his death. A widow is left and four young children for whom much sympathy is felt.—R.I.P.

And Mr. Timothy O'Neill, Wilson Street, died too during the week. Well-known among the settlers on the West Coast of the South Island Mr. O'Neill had lived in Taranaki, Oroua and in the Wanganui district for many years. Mrs. O'Neill died some four or five years ago, and a grown-up family of four sons and three daughters are left.—R.I.P.

Spent a few days in Wanganui recently Mr. and Mrs. Frank Kennedy (Greymouth) and Miss Kennedy. They had all been holidaying up this way, having a final look round before Mr. and Mrs. Kennedy return to their home in New York. Well-known in the "Gas World," the Kennedy family have lots of old friends in this Island who were interested to hear of doings at the other side of the world. Mr. and Mrs. Kennedy, accompanied I believe, by Very Rev. Dr. J. Kennedy leave by the Niagara early in March. A pleasant trip to them all.

Smart Spelling

Three Catholic school boys and one Catholic school girl sat in the selected seats recently and were decorated and photographed as the champion spellers out of 200 contestants, representing 15 schools in the town of Cicero, near Chicago, Ill. Two of the schools that entered pupils in the town's annual spelling test were Catholic parochial schools, and the other 13 public schools.

WEDDING BELLS

BRADLEY—MURPHY.

The wedding was solemnised with Nuptial Mass at St. Patrick's Church, Palmerston North, by Rev. Father Fitzgibbon (Levin) on January 4, of Robert William, second son of Mr. Robert Bradley, of Levin, and Margaret Rayne (Nurse), daughter of Mr. J. J. Murphy, of Wakari, Dunedin. The bride, who entered the church on the arm of her brother (Mr. M. Murphy, of Palmerston North), was attended by her niece (Miss Ngarita Murphy) as bridesmaid. Mr. R. W. Cassidy, of Napier (cousin of the bride) was best man. The "Wedding March" was played as the newly-wedded couple left the church. Wedding breakfast was served at the Balmoral tea rooms, Mrs. M. Murphy acting as hostess. Mr. and Mrs. Bradley are at present residing at Levin.

RYAN—FRASER.

The wedding was solemnised on February 1, at St. Michael's Church, Northcote, Auckland, by Rev. Father Brady (who also celebrated a Nuptial Mass), of Patrick James, sixth son of Mrs. Ryan, of Manaiia and the late John Ryan, and Aileen Stella, only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. George Fraser, of Northcote. The bride, who entered the church on the arm of her father, wore a simple frock of white satin with over-dress of georgette embroidered in pearls. The veil was held in place by a coronet of orange blossoms, and she carried a beautiful bouquet of white flowers. The bridesmaids (Misses Gwen Symmans and Mary Ryan) wore pale green satin frocks with over dress of silver tulle. They also wore black hats, and carried bouquets of white and pink flowers. Mr. R. Tyrer was best man and Mr. C. Symmans groomsman. After the ceremony a reception was held at the residence of the bride's parents, the guests being received by Mrs. Fraser. The newly-wedded couple left later for the South.

McKEEFRY—CHURCHER.

A wedding of considerable local interest was solemnised at the Church of St. Joseph, Te Kuiti, on November 29, the contracting parties being Leo Francis Michael McKeefry, son of Senior-Sergeant and Mrs. McKeefry, of Oamaru, and Ida Winfred Churcher, youngest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. G. Churcher, of Te Kuiti. Rev. Father O'Flynn officiated and celebrated a Nuptial Mass. The bride, who entered the church on the arm of her father, was gowned in white satin, together with the conventional wreath of orange blossoms and veil, and carried a bouquet of white carnations and lilies interwoven with maiden-hair fern. The bridesmaids were Misses Lorna Oliver, of Te Kuiti, and Gladys Smith, of St. Heliers Bay, Auckland. Miss Oliver was daintily frocked in lemon crepe-de-Chine and georgette, and carried a bouquet of lemon roses. Miss Smith's frock was of amethyst crepe-de-Chine with a lace overdress of pale helio. She carried a bouquet of helio sweet peas. Mr. James E. A. McKeefry (brother of the bridegroom) was best man, and Mr. Thomas Were groomsman. As the newly-wedded couple were leaving the church the "Wedding March" was tastefully rendered by the organist, Miss Frances Sheehan. The reception was held at the residence of the bride's parents, where a dainty breakfast was laid out on tables charmingly decorated with Canterbury bells, arum lilies, and bride's blossom. Rev. Father O'Flynn, who presided, proposed the health of the bride and bridegroom, after which, the other customary toasts being honored, the newly-wedded couple left by the 9.40 train for Auckland en route to Whangarei. The bride's travelling costume was of slate-grey gaberdine with toque and shoes to match. The presents were numerous and handsome, and included several cheques. The presents to the bridesmaids were a gold pendant and chain set with amethysts, and a gold brooch set with rubies and pearls.

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