

the Car Fund. This fund is growing satisfactorily, and it is hoped that before the end of the financial year sufficient funds may be available to get a Ford car. This parish, bordering as it does on the Rotorua Parish in one direction and the Wairoa Country District in another, cannot be worked satisfactorily without a car. There are seven Soldier Settlements in the parish.

The Bishop is holding a Confirmation in St. Andrew's Church on the evening of September 24th, and we hope to be able to arrange another service in Eskdale for the country candidates.

#### St. Mark's, Clive.

Vicar: Rev. R. T. Geddes, M.A.

On August 9th the Clive Branch of the Girls' Friendly Society held their annual social. Everyone present spent a most enjoyable evening, and the greatest credit is due to the joint secretaries, Miss Prewett and Miss R. Cushing. Community singing was indulged in for the first time in Clive, with unqualified success. We were specially pleased to see so many friends from a distance.

We have to thank Mrs Murdoch for coming to us on the 17th, and giving our girls a very helpful address.

A meeting of parishioners is to be called for the 28th inst. to meet the Ladies' Committee and the Vestry to make preliminary arrangements for our annual Sale of Work. We hope that our country parishioners will give us all the help they can.

The Vestry has metalled the drive up to the Vicarage, which is a great improvement.

#### Holy Trinity, Woodville.

Vicar: Rev. G. D. Wilson.

The Bishop was with us for his annual visitation on July 23rd. The day was not quite what one would have wished. There was a cold, wet blanket of fog, which did not clear off until well after mid-day. When it did clear we had a lovely afternoon.

The Bishop celebrated at 8 a.m. The attendance was not large, and no doubt the fog kept many at home who would have wished to be present at the 11 a.m. Holy Communion. The Vicar was celebrant and the Bishop preached and dedicated and blessed the beautiful new altar. This altar of oak, beautifully carved, is the gift to the Church of Mr. W. H. Nelson. It is quite impossible to describe it, as it must be seen to be appreciated. It is certainly the most beautiful wooden altar it has been out lot to see in New Zealand, Australia, or England. In the afternoon the Bishop preached at Evensong at Kumeroa. The Bishop was impressed with the evident care with which the

little schoolroom had been prepared for the service. There was a very good congregation at Holy Trinity Church at 7 p.m. The Bishop administered Confirmation to eight persons, adults and children, and again preached. The church was crowded. The services throughout the day were exceedingly hearty and bright. During his visit to the parish the Bishop was the guest of the Vicar and Mrs Wilson.

#### Otaūg.

Vicar: Rev. G. W. Davidson.

The parish must congratulate our valued secretary and lay-reader, Mr W. Spargo, on so successfully disposing of his business and being chosen as Town Clerk to the Otane County Council—also on the addition to his family of a bonny wee girl—all doing well.

The Committee has decided, in spite of the state of finance, to have the woodwork of the Vicarage painted and some minor improvements done. Omakere centre has had two most successful social evenings and gathered by them sufficient money to provide a full set of Church service books and also organ books as well. The socials have also brought about increased attendance at services and at Confirmation classes, which is good.

The great event in the parish this month will be the marriage of Miss Joyce Williams by the Archbishop at Pukehou on the 7th of September, and on Saturday the laying of the foundation stone of the new Te Aute College permanent buildings, celebrating at the same time the jubilee of the College.

The Vicar's temporary assistant, the Rev. B. R. Brierley, leaves at Synod time to become assistant to the Rev. Canon Rice at Napier. He has made quite a place for himself in the district during his few weeks with us, has helped the Vicar greatly, and we wish him God speed to his new Vicar, who needs good help badly.

#### Waiapa.

Vicar: M. W. Butterfield (Canon), B.A., B.D., Th.Schol.

The Girls' Club Bazaar and Sale of Work was held on Wednesday, August 23rd, and a concert and limelight lecture on the following evening in aid of the funds of the Club. The girls had prepared some very attractive articles and had a successful sale. We are greatly indebted to Mr Horace Cottrell and Mr Headlam Greenhow for their kindness in coming from Napier to provide the concert and lecture on Thursday evening. Dr. Madison is giving the members of the Club some most interesting and in-

structive lectures on alternate Monday evenings on Home Nursing.

It is with great regret that we record the death of Phyllis Blake (aged 12) on August 14th. She had been in very delicate health for a long time.

### Congregational Singing.

The great success of community singing in the principal centres of population and even in the smaller towns should encourage us to make a serious attempt to restore congregational singing in our churches. It is plain that a great many people enjoy singing together. Why have we failed hitherto in eliciting enthusiasm in Church hymn singing? The Germans and the Welsh, we are told, enjoy hymn singing just as much as the singing of secular music. Is it possible to make our congregations as enthusiastic as others? Why are our congregations dumb?

First of all, of course, it is the men who make community singing successful. Now, men do not make up a large proportion in our congregations—perhaps there would be more of them if our services were more congregational. The secrets of success in community singing are probably:—

1. The freedom, the abandon, the absence of musical precision. We cannot, of course, adopt methods such as those which prevail in a "community sing," good humored banter and the setting of side against side in competition. The application of such methods by the Salvation Army always strikes us as utterly irreverent and inconsistent with the nature and purpose of sacred hymns that are intended as an act of worship.

2. The admixture of the serious with humorous or rollicking songs and choruses. Here again the nature of Church music precludes the introduction of light or frivolous music or words.

3. The community sing is a "sing" purely and simply. It has no other motive than pure healthy recreation and amusement and the encouragement of camaraderie, and there is nothing in it corresponding to devotion unless it be the singing of patriotic songs.

But is it possible to get a similar result without these methods? What are the things which stand in the way? First, no doubt, we have killed congregational singing by having trained choirs placed in such a position in the church that they are cut off from the congregation. It may be proper in Cathedrals for the singing to be left to people specially trained to do it artistically and correctly; but surely the case is different in our smaller parish churches. It would be