

claim it as of right, so that no injury is done to his independence and self-respect. If, however, as Mr. SEDDON says, the country could not possibly afford the sum necessary for that purpose, and if the choice is between the partial pension and none at all there should be no hesitation in cheerfully accepting and making the best of what the country can afford to do. It is at least a beginning and is almost certain to lead to the development of a more perfect scheme later on. We note that the principle of the partial pension has been accepted by the House by a large majority, the proposal to make the pensions universal having been negatived by 36 to 21. The remaining provisions of the Bill are really matters of detail as to which, if members are genuinely anxious to adopt the scheme, there should be no occasion for serious difficulty. It is rumoured that as the Bill is a money Bill and the Legislative Council are not at liberty to amend it they will absolutely reject the measure. That, however, remains to be seen. In any case it must be admitted that Mr. SEDDON has made a serious and earnest attempt to grapple with this great question, and has shown himself ready to give full and fair consideration to every reasonable amendment proposed. If the measure be wrecked or rejected the blame at least cannot be laid at the Premier's door.

At Vespers at Joseph's Cathedral on Sunday night the pulpit was occupied by the Very Rev. Dean Burke who gave a very able sermon on "The Reunion of Christendom."

We need scarcely again remind our Dunedin readers of the entertainment to be given by the pupils of the Christian Brothers' school at the City Hall on Friday night. The programme is a capital one and we are sure there will be a crowded house.

DURING the past week we have received parcels of used stamps for Father Kreymborg's mission from the following:—Miss Macedo, Dunedin (who also sent 4s worth of unused stamps); and Thomas L. Cagney, Oamaru, (aged 14).

THE following subscriptions to the South Dunedin Catholic Orphanage have been received during the week:—Mr. J. Fox, £1; Mrs. Collins (Gore), 10s; Mr. P. McEnroe (Addison's Flat, West Coast), £1. Contributions towards the erection of the Orphanage will be thankfully received by the Sisters of Mercy, South Dunedin, and by the Catholic clergy of Dunedin, and will be duly acknowledged in the columns of the TABLET.

CONSTABLE HENDRICK, of Seddonville and late of Dunganville, after being in the police force for over thirty years, has retired from the service, compensation being granted. He has been located at Seddonville for about six months; it is his intention to enter into farming pursuits at Hokitika. The name of his successor has not been disclosed.—*Grey Star*.

It is with extreme regret (writes our Hawera correspondent) that we record the death of Sergeant James Slattery, of this town. For some time past he had been suffering from an affection of the heart, and despite all efforts of the doctors he gradually sank until the end came on last Thursday. During the time the deceased gentleman resided in Hawera he made many friends, who now sympathise warmly with his widow and family. He was attended most faithfully throughout his illness by the Rev. Father O'Shea, and made a most edifying preparation for death, his resignation to God's holy will being exemplary. Truly his was the death of a Catholic who had faithfully observed the rules of his Church during life. On Saturday the funeral took place, leaving St. Joseph's Church at noon. It was followed by Inspector McGovern and several members of the police force. The "Dead March in Saul" was played by Miss Flynn as the funeral cortege left the church. Rev. Father O'Shea officiated at the grave. On Sunday the late Mass was offered for the repose of the soul of Sergeant Slattery.—*R.I.P.*

At the close of the very successful performance at Oamaru, which is fully reported in another column, the Very Rev. Dean Mackay, in proposing a vote of thanks to the performers, said:—He had been asked, on behalf of the children, to thank them for their attendance in such numbers, and for their kind encouragement shown by their generous applause. Personally, however, he thought that both himself and the audience had more reason to thank the children for the delightful treat they had afforded them that night. It was only just to give praise when praise was due, and the children had honestly earned a large meed of it. Their performance had far exceeded his most sanguine expectations, and he could assure them that they might travel far over the colonies, and enter many educational establishments, and not hear the equal of what had greeted their ears that night. It was something to

fill the hearts of parents with honest pride and joy, but above all of gratitude towards those who had laboured so hard, and he was happy to say so successfully, to develop the talents of those little ones to produce the magnificent result of that evening (prolonged and hearty applause).

ON Friday last, Mr. Martin P. Kenny, of 270 Colombo street, Christchurch, had a confidential meeting by appointment at the Government Buildings, Cathedral Square, with Col. Pole Penton commander of the forces in New Zealand, relative to the "Kenny gun." Col. Penton, who is an artillery officer of great repute, has promised Mr. Kenny to do all he can to assist him in having his invention given a trial, and will calculate pressures, velocities, etc., as far as possible, till a working model can be made. As the gun and its shell are entirely new departures very little can be done till a company is formed to make the model gun and a few projectiles. Mr. Kenny would be glad to meet persons who take an interest in this sort of thing, and who would be willing to join or form a company to carry it out, as he himself is not in a position to do so. The gun is intended to throw a large charge of explosives a considerable distance, mainly for attacking battleships and cruisers in harbour, even though they are protected by booms and netting. Its range will be greater than the Furnie Torpedo (now used), its destructive power will be the same. It can be carried by small vessels such as the present constructing T.B. destroyers, and as it passes through the air instead of the water, it cannot be stopped by the present mode of defence. This is the sort of invention that now brings money, Brennan, of torpedo fame, having got over £50,000 and a fine position for his, and now his is almost obsolete, as the netting stops it. The Zalinski only throws a small shell, as also the latest gun of this type the Sims-Dudley. The idea of this mode of attack was suggested to the inventor's mind last year while watching in Bantry Bay, County Cork, the ineffectual attack by torpedoes of the Special Service Squadron. Booms stopped all but the smallest vessels, one of which jumped it, and the crinoline or netting stopped all the torpedoes; while, if attacked by his gun, having got the range, the vessel carrying it could lie in shelter out of machine or heavy gun fire and destroy the fleet at its anchorage.

OWING to pressure on our space we are compelled to hold over till next issue our notice of the exhibits of Messrs. Morrow, Bassett and Co. and of a number of other firms at the Agricultural Show, together with correspondence from Wanganni and from Tuapeka Flat.

Diocese of Christchurch.

(From our own correspondent.)

ON Sunday week and on the three following days, the services were of a very impressive character at St. Mary's. On Sunday morning week at eleven o'clock Solemn High Mass was celebrated, the celebrant being the Rev. Father Marnane. The altar was tastefully decorated, and at the conclusion of the Mass there was a procession of the Blessed Sacrament around the interior of the church. All the societies of the parish took part in the sacred rite. The music was particularly good, and Farmer's Mass in B flat was effectively sung by the choir, under the conductorship of Mr. H. Rossiter. The solos were sung by Misses Lucy Ryan, L. Grady, N. Oakes, and C. O'Brien, Messrs. A. H. Blake, C. Goggin, and A. O'Brien. During the offertory Miss Mary McLaughlin sang a very pretty "Ave Maria." The forty hours' adoration was commenced, and in the evening the Vicar-General preached to a crowded congregation. At the High Mass on Tuesday the celebrant was the Rev. Father Galerne, who was assisted by the Rev. Fathers Marnane (master of ceremonies), Aubrey (deacon), and Goggin (sub-deacon). There were also present in the sanctuary the Vicar-General and the Rev. Fathers Melu, Haualt, Rafferty, and Salvador. Mr. W. Hine was assistant master of ceremonies. The music for the Mass was again excellently rendered by the choir under Mr. Rossiter. After Mass the Vicar-General addressed a few words to those present, and explained that he had been late in coming owing to having been called to administer the last Sacraments to the Rev. Mother Gabriel, assistant Rev. Mother at Mount Magdala. He asked all present to unite in prayer for the religious who was so devoted a follower of the "Good Shepherd," and the appeal was heartily responded to.

ON Thursday evening last the formal inauguration of the female branch of St. John the Baptist, in connection with the H.A.C.B.S., took place in the Hibernian Hall in this city. Brothers G. J. Sellars, P.D.P., and P. Burke, P.P., were deputed by the district officers to open the new branch. They were assisted by Brothers J. Gresham, P. C. Courtney, V.P., J. R. Courtney, P.P., G. Dobbs, P.P., J. McCormack, W. J. Doolan, G. and J. Finnerty, G. The Vicar-General was also present. Brother Sellars presided, and having delivered the usual address prescribed for the opening of a new branch, he read the Dispensation, and then on behalf of himself and Brother Burke declared the branch formally opened. He next read the declarations and medical certificates of 17 candidates, who were elected and initiated. Sixteen other candidates, who have received certificates, were unable to be present. Nominations were then taken for the different officers, and resulted in the election of the following—president, Sister M. F. Courtney; vice-president, Sister Mary Ryan; secretary, Sister Julia Rennell; treasurer, Sister M.

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