

What he himself had done he would always be prepared to do. He felt that everyone should try to be of some use to his fellow man, and that had been his object throughout. In no place in which he had ever lived had he been so happy and contented; and he had proved to himself that one only needed to come into contact with the people of this district to find their true worth. He could not find words to express his gratitude for the very kind feeling expressed towards him on this occasion.

Three hearty cheers with musical honors brought the interesting function to a close. Subsequently the gentlemen, numbering about twenty, who took part in the ceremony on the stage, were the guests of the Rev. Father Servadei at the presbytery.

MASTERTON

(From our own correspondent.)

October 28.

Inspector Bakewell, M.A., who examined St. Patrick's School last month, when 140 pupils were presented, has just furnished his annual report, which is as follows:—The teachers are both capable and hard-working, and were they not teaching under such manifest disadvantages I should expect good, all-round work from them. As it is the results in pass subjects on the whole were not less than satisfactory, but much of the work (writing and oral work in particular) suffers from the crowded condition of the room. However, I understand from Dean McKenna that the necessary additional accommodation will be provided before the New Year, in which case I confidently anticipate greatly improved results in those subjects requiring brisk and animated oral treatment. I again note the exceptionally good behaviour of the children during the examination.

The friends of Mr. J. Prendeville will be pleased to hear that he is sufficiently recovered to be about again, after his severe illness.

The committee who are organising the convent bazaar, to be held next February, are meeting with splendid support, so there is every prospect of the bazaar being a great success.

NEW ZEALAND GENERAL

We have to thank the Registrar-General for a copy of the 'Official Year-Book' for 1904.

An Avon road ratepayer states that, while he had been poisoning hundreds of birds with grain supplied by the Avon Road Board, and paid for out of the rates, the children had been going round his paddocks collecting the poisoned birds and selling their heads to the Road Board.

Mr. Seddon will visit Christchurch next week, and during his stay will present a charter to the city branch of the Liberal and Labor Association. The Premier has also informed the Chatto Creek branch of the Liberal Federation that if he is present at the opening of the Ophir-Ida Valley section of the Otago Central railway he will then present the charter to the Chatto branch.

A proposal is afoot in Gore for the erection of a building combining a municipal hall, reading and waiting rooms, gymnasium, etc., for the use of town and country people of both sexes. The proposal is to be submitted to the Borough Council by its promoters, who have moved in the matter in order to meet the want of some public building where country and town people may meet together for the transaction of business or social intercourse.

Mr. Bell, the contractor for the erection of St. Patrick's Church tower (says the Greymouth 'Evening Star'), has made a start with the job. The time allowed for the completion of the contract is six months. The total height from ground to top of the spire will be 125ft, and as the church is on high ground, it will be a conspicuous object from a long distance.

A totara tree was recently felled at Mr. G. J. Denistoun's bush, Mt. Peel (says the 'Ashburton Mail'), which cut up as follows:—70 large strainers at 10s, £35; 307 large posts at 1s 3d, £19 3s 9d; 100 stakes £1; 8½ cords firewood at 10s, £4 5s; total £59 8s 9d. These are estimated values at Mount Peel. This is the more remarkable, as the tree in question has had its branches and top blown off some time previous to its being felled.

The executive of the Catholic Young Men's Club, Wellington, have decided to found a scholarship in memory of the late Brother Mark, whose work as an educationist is well-known. A preliminary meeting was held last week when a good beginning was made, and the gentlemen, who have the matter in hand, are sanguine that the many friends and admirers of the deceased Brother will assist them in bringing the proposal to a successful issue.

At a public meeting called by the Wellington State Schools' Defence League on Friday night, the following resolution was carried:—That this meeting protest against the question of religious instruction in the State schools being submitted to the referendum, because (1) it is outside the function of the State to deal with matters of religion, and (2) if such religious instruction is given it will imperil the existing system of State education, and must inevitably impose a religious test on teachers.

On Tuesday afternoon the Legislative Council killed the Referendum Bill by 22 votes to 7. The measure was very severely handled by the Hons. G. McLean, Louisson, and Carncross, the last-named remarking that it was entirely subversive of representative government. If it were passed members would no longer be representatives of the people, but hired delegates waiting to see what the people thought, and then recording their votes. It was not a democratic measure. Some members wanted to draw their money as representatives of the people and yet not accept the responsibilities of the position.

It is most gratifying (says the Greymouth 'Evening Star') to see the number of young men's clubs that have sprung into existence in our town during the past twelve months. One of the most enthusiastic of these is that in connection with the Catholic Church, known as the St. Columba Club. It is but five or six months since the informal meeting was held, and since that time the club has gone ahead by leaps and bounds, and today the members are the proud possessors of a beautiful building built on the grounds of St. Joseph's School. The dimensions of the building in question are 60ft by 30ft, and it consists of two rooms—a social hall 40ft by 30ft, and a billiard room 30ft by 20ft, each room being beautifully finished.

Mr. Alfred Saunders, ex-M.H.R., returned to Christchurch the other day after five years' sojourn in England. A great mass of people had, he believed, lost confidence in Mr. Balfour's foreign policy. One effect of the preference agitation had been to divert attention from the education question. The majority of the people had always been more or less indifferent about the question. Efforts to arouse interest had been attended with much success. New Zealand was attracting a very large share of attention at home, and Mr. Seddon was the most discussed of colonial politicians. People who had never heard of Barton or Reid, or even of Sir Wilfrid Laurier, appeared to know all about New Zealand's Premier, and most of them looked upon him as a very capable man. Newspapers were not always complimentary in regard to New Zealand, but they admitted the force and originality of Mr. Seddon, and many of them applauded his achievements.

Mr. T. O'Rourke, who has just retired from the police force after 21 years' service, 16 of which he spent in Otaki, was entertained at a banquet the other night and presented with an illuminated address by the residents of the district. There was a very large attendance at the banquet, its representative character being a testimony to the popularity of Mr. O'Rourke with all classes. Mr. Sincox, senior justice of the peace for the district, occupied the chair. After several toasts had been duly honored the chairman proposed that of the guest, and in doing so paid a high compliment to the zeal, ability, and impartiality displayed by Mr. O'Rourke in the discharge of his duties during his long residence in the district. As Clerk of the Court he had from time to time given very valuable assistance to the justices of the peace, who were often saved from making mistakes by his knowledge of the law. The justices of the peace of the district and the public generally felt that the present was a fitting occasion on which they should show their high appreciation of the services of the guest of the evening. The chairman then presented Mr. O'Rourke with an illuminated address, signed by fourteen justices of the peace, members of the legal profession, and several of the general public. Mr. O'Rourke suitably responded, and thanked the chairman and others for their flattering remarks. He believed he had the esteem of the public, and he had the pleasure of knowing that he was retiring with a clean sheet, which he mostly prized.

Report of social gathering held by St. Mary's Literary and Social Club (Milton), unavoidably crowded out, will appear next week.