

sent for the supper, and special mention must be made of Mrs. Morris Hickey, sen., whose services cannot be too highly rated both on this occasion and all other parish socials.

The golden wedding of Mr. and Mrs. H. Devlin was becomingly celebrated in the Kelvin Grove Hall on the 5th inst., surrounded by their 8 children, 22 grandchildren, and 3 great-grandchildren, all hale and happy, and with costly presents too numerous to mention. It is the fervent wish of all their friends and the parishioners generally that they, for many years to come, may enjoy a full measure of health and prosperity. The happy couple were married in St. Andrew's Cathedral, Glasgow, in 1855, residing in that city till 1861, when they left for the United States, then in the throes of the Civil War. They eventually arrived in this Colony in 1874. Till within two years Mr. Devlin was in the Railway Department, from which he retired on pension after 27 years of devoted service.

NELSON

(From our own correspondent.)

June 6.

A general meeting of the Nelson Catholic Society was held last week at St. Mary's Hall, and was well attended. Rev. Father Moloney presided. The report and balance sheet for the past year was read by the hon. secretary, Mr. W. H. Redwood, and was considered satisfactory, the Society now being well established. Several new members were enrolled. The election of officers resulted in the re-election of all who had previously held office, including Rev. Father Clancy as president and treasurer.

WAIMATE

(From our own correspondent.)

June 19.

St. Patrick's School has just been examined by the Government Inspector, and has again passed a very creditable examination. The report, which came to hand at the end of the week, being very favorable.

The friendly societies have initiated a card tournament. The first match was played last Tuesday, when the Hibernians defeated the Fire Brigade by nine games. Mr. J. Sims, on behalf of the Hibernians, thanked the brigade for the pleasant evening they had spent.

It is with regret I have to announce the death of a very old and respected resident of the district, in the person of Mr. Patrick Greelish, of the Hook. The funeral, which took place on Saturday, June 10, was largely attended. The Rev. Father Regnault celebrated a Requiem Mass for the repose of the soul of the deceased, and the Rev. Father O'Connell officiated at the graveside—R.I.P.

A Jewish Rabbi on Bible-in-Schools

At last Monday's meeting of the National Education Defence League in Dunedin, the Rev. A. Chodowski, of the local Jewish Synagogue, spoke in terms of high encomium of the efforts and sacrifices made by New Zealand Catholics in the cause of religious education. Amidst applause, he maintained that their efforts should receive recognition at the hands of the State, whose system of public instruction they were also compelled to support. As a contrast, he quoted the Premier's official returns to show how the present Act was availed of by clergymen of different denominations in giving religious instruction in the State schools after school hours. (We quote here from the 'Star' report):—

Clergymen in New Zealand	1,039
Protestant clergymen	870
State schools	1,751
Schools in which religious instruction is given	156
The rev. gentleman also read a supplementary table showing to what denominations the clergymen giving instruction belong:—	
Church of England	57
Presbyterian	32
Roman Catholic	38
Methodist	16
Baptist	2
Congregational	2
Salvation Army	2
Church of Christ	1
Total	150

That 150 included 38 Roman Catholic clergy who taught outside their own schools. There were thus 112 out of 870 Protestant clergymen in New Zealand who took advantage of the present Act of Parliament and gave religious instruction after school hours in the State schools—i.e., one in every eight. In proportion to their relative numbers, one Protestant clergyman did so to every two Roman Catholic clergymen. The Bible-in-schools clergy were thus, he contended, the most neglectful of their duty in New Zealand (applause). Schoolmasters should not teach religion, for as surely as they did it would lead to a confusion as bad as Babel. Fancy a Presbyterian teaching religion in the Sixth Standard, an Anglican in the Fifth, a Hebrew in the Fourth, a Baptist in the Third, a Salvationist in the next. What a happy state of things that would produce! The Government of New Zealand was a secular institution—for secular purposes only (hear, hear). As to the conscience clause, Victorian experience had shown that it was a sham. He stood for the Bible, which through the centuries had been given into the care of his people, but he claimed that they were more truly religious in opposing the Bible in State schools than were those who supported its introduction (applause). The Government were a secular institution for secular purposes; they have no right to enter into the domain of religion.

NEW ZEALAND: GENERAL

According to the Minister of Railways, the Chinese population of New Zealand has decreased by 1649 since the present Government took office.

During the month of May 6406 bales of flax, weighing about 1287 tons, were graded for export at the Wellington grading stores. There is now 1000 tons of flax on hand awaiting shipment at that port.

Recently a piece of land comprising an acre, situated in Mansfield street, Wellington, was disposed of by a firm of auctioneers for £4300. Reference to the valuation lists of the city for the year 1863 shows that the land was then valued at only £50.

A discovery of pure copper ore is reported from the Whakapirau and Battley districts (Kaipara). The find was made some months since owing to a piece of pure ore being found on the harbor beach. Since then copper has been freely found in the adjacent hills. A Native woman is stated to have gathered a few days back 70lb of pure copper nuggets in a few hours. A local syndicate has the matter in hand.

Sir J. G. Ward, Minister of Railways, said at his meeting at Winton that it was the intention of the department to carry ground lime at the same rate as unground lime—namely, free. The statement was received with applause. 'This,' continued Sir Joseph, 'would be a benefit to many farmers who wished to use the ground lime, and would put them on the same position as those farmers who now enjoyed the free carriage of unground lime.'

On the evening of June 11 (writes a Hokitika correspondent) the members of the Catholic Literary and Debating Society with their friends assembled in St. Mary's Schoolroom, the occasion being to say farewell to Mr. W. A. Dixon, who is leaving Hokitika for Wellington. Rev. Father Aubry was voted to the chair, and briefly explained the object of the meeting. On behalf of the society, he presented Mr. Dixon with a handsome travelling bag, and in doing so referred to the splendid services rendered by him to the society, which would suffer a great loss by that gentleman's departure. The Rev. Father concluded his remarks by wishing him every success in his new home. Several other members spoke in eulogistic terms of Mr. Dixon, and the meeting concluded with the singing of 'Auld lang syne,' and three cheers were given for the departing friend. The members of the society marched in procession from the school to the church on Sunday morning, and approached the Holy Table in a body.

There are various reasons why 'Standard' ready-to-wear clothes should be popular, but the immediate one to the purchaser is that the material is good, the style up-to-date, and the workmanship excellent. Another is that in buying 'Standard' goods the purchaser is supporting a local industry which is finding employment for hundreds of young people. These reasons ought to be quite sufficient to convince any intelligent man of his duty in this matter....