

Diocesan News

ARCHDIOCESE OF WELLINGTON

(From our own correspondent.)

July 22.

The members of the tennis club in connection with the Catholic Young Men's Club met on Wednesday evening, and decided to hold a social in the Alexandra Hall early next month. A committee was set up, with Mr. Maurice O'Connor as secretary.

The social in aid of the Thorndon Catholic school was held in the Sydney street schoolroom on Wednesday. There was a very fair attendance, and a pleasant evening was spent. Several vocal items were contributed by the Rev. Father Moloney, Miss Twohill, and Messrs. Carr and Gamble, and were much appreciated. The arrangements, which were most satisfactory, were in the hands of an energetic committee, with Mr. H. O'Leary as secretary.

His Excellency the Governor has offered to endow the Victoria College Debating Society with a gold medal as a yearly prize for oratory. In connection with Trinity College, Dublin, there is a similar medal in memory of the first Lord Plunket, and his Excellency desires to establish a link between one of the oldest and one of the youngest universities in the Empire. Needless to say the students have accepted the offer, and have asked his Excellency to be present at the meeting when the competition for the medal will take place.

The half-yearly meeting of the St. Aloysius branch of the H.A.C.B. Society was held on Tuesday evening. The following officers were elected and installed:—President, Bro. E. J. Fitzgibbon; vice-president, Bro. J. Ryan; secretary, Bro. J. J. Casey; treasurer, Bro. J. Chambers; warden, Bro. J. Murphy; guardian, Bro. A. Guthrie; sick visitors, Bros. S. Philpott and D. O'Mara; trustees, Bros. S. Philpott, P. Guthrie, and R. W. Collins. The congratulations of the members were extended to the retiring president, Bro. James Delaney, who was recently married to Miss Nellie Carrig, eldest daughter of the late Patrick Carrig.

The accommodation of the Victoria Hall was taxed to its utmost on Wednesday evening last, the occasion being a social to provide funds for the erection of a shelter shed for the pupils of the Wellington South Convent school. The first part of the evening was devoted to a highly enjoyable concert programme. The social from every point of view was the best ever held in the parish, and the committee and Father Ainsworth are deserving of great credit for the success achieved. The ladies of the parish were as usual to the fore in the providing of refreshments. The secretarial duties were ably discharged by Mr. R. W. Collins.

A portion of Mr. Millar's remarks during the debate on the second reading of the Bible-in-schools Referendum Bill are well worthy of production. Commenting on the clerical agitation for the introduction of the Bible into schools, he said that if the clergy supporting the measure had expended on the religious instruction of the children one-tenth of the energy they had expended on an endeavor to make the school teachers impart religious instruction, thousands of those whom they now designated as 'godless' would be beyond the reach of that reproach. Mr. Fisher also showed himself a strong opponent of the measure, and referred to the question of the Catholic schools.

The debating tournament organised by the Wellington Debating Societies' Union was opened on Monday evening by a contest between the Catholic Young Men's Club and St. Peter's Anglican Club, held in the former's rooms, Boulcott street. The chair was occupied by Mr. J. J. Devine. The representatives of the Catholic Young Men's Club, Messrs. A. H. Casey, F. McDonald, and P. J. Moran, had to affirm that 'The operations of commercial trusts are conducive to the general welfare of mankind.' They argued that the tendency of the trust system was to benefit producers, consumers, and workers, and that with proper legislative control the evils existing under the American system would disappear. The opposing side, Messrs. G. T. Hall, R. Low, and Hunt, regarded the motion as affirming the beneficial operation of existing combinations, and argued accordingly. The judge, Mr. J. W. Black, awarded 'pride of place' to St. Peter's Club. He experienced much difficulty in coming to a decision, and finally allotted the points as follow: St. Peter's Club, 233, and Catholic Young Men's Club, 229. The officers of the Debating Union will be entertained by the members of the Catholic Club on Monday evening.

Feilding

(From an occasional correspondent.)

Our co-religionists in the progressive town of Feilding are about to supply a want long-felt in the district, especially in regard to Catholic education. Although possessing a convenient and substantial little church (St. Bridget's) and a new and up-to-date presbytery, the need of a school and community of teaching Sisters has been for some time occupying the attention of the genial pastor, the Rev. Father O'Meara, and his devoted parishioners. With reference to the particular Order of religious who should be selected for the new foundation, the choice has been accorded in favor of the Sisters of St. Joseph, and the community at Feilding will be a branch of the Wanganui convent. Plans have been prepared and tenders invited for the erection of the Feilding convent, which when completed will be well worthy to rank among similar institutions in the country towns of the Colony, and an imposing addition to the architecture of this particular centre. The building will occupy a site on the parish property, and in close proximity to the church and presbytery; it will be of two storeys, containing under the one roof with the convent itself, a spacious class-room and music-room of adequate extent. Already a number of prospective pupils are anxiously awaiting the Sisters' advent, quite a number of non-Catholics among others.

The generosity of the Catholics of this district in the interests of Church progress has in the past been amply proved. The venture, therefore, in which their pastor justly feels called upon to embark, will undoubtedly appeal strongly to the same marked spirit of co-operation and self-sacrifice so often previously displayed.

The Feilding parish is very wide and extensive and has a resident pastor. Besides the one in the town, there are churches also at Halcombe and Rongotea, with stations at Apiti, Rangiwahia, and Kimbolton, each of which are visited at regular intervals.

DIOCESE OF CHRISTCHURCH

(From our own correspondent.)

July 22.

From the report furnished by the Inspector of Schools under the North Canterbury Board of Education, Mr. T. S. Foster, I am permitted to extract the following particulars, which go to show that in the course of his recent examination of the Cathedral girls' parish school, conducted by the Sisters of the Missions, the work is proved to be well up to the requisite standard, and the results generally encouraging. The syllabus of work, reports the Inspector, prescribed for the public schools has been followed, with one or two exceptions in various courses, which are to obtain consideration during the coming year. The school is liberally staffed and, considering the heavy strain, mental and physical, under which the teachers have zealously worked during the past year, the proficiency shown in most of the subjects merits appreciative comment. The reading of the pupils, notably in Standard VI., deserves special commendation, and in the tests of composition several excellent papers were submitted. Under the heading order, discipline, and tone of the school, the Inspector reports them to be very good, considering the disadvantages under which work is conducted, children well trained in good manners. Regarding instruction in preparatory classes, of which there are six, three of which are of little boys, 'satisfactory progress is being made in the several stages.'

St. Mary's schools, Manchester street, conducted by the Sisters of Mercy, also recently underwent a periodical examination by the Board of Education Inspector, Mr. T. S. Foster. The organisation, he reports, as satisfactory. The general results of the examination indicate that those children who have attended school regularly enough to profit from the conscientious efforts of their teachers, have on the whole made satisfactory progress, especially in the more important subjects of the syllabus. Whilst stating that the standard course, as prescribed by the regulations, has been followed in the main, the Inspector points out where an improvement could be effected by the introduction of certain lessons, and a widening of others already studied.

A football match, which created much interest amongst our Catholic boys here, took place on Lancaster Park on Friday last between school teams representing the Marist Brothers here and those of Timaru. The boys arrived by the first express on Thursday, in charge of Brother Martin, and were accommodated by the Christchurch boys for a couple of nights. The game began at 3 p.m. on Friday, and ended in a draw.