

mester an Irish jig. Great praise is due to the excellent committee, and more particularly to Mr. Neagle, the secretary, for the very able manner in which they conducted the social. It is expected that a profit of about £25 will be the result of the entertainment financially.

Napier

(From our own correspondent.)

August 31.

What will probably be the biggest privately-owned motor-car in New Zealand has been ordered by Mr. and Mrs. G. P. Donnelly. It is to be a Napier 60 horse-power car, and is to cost £2500.

The lambing season commenced very early here this year. One well-known sheep farmer has stated that more than three-fourths of his ewes have already lambed, and his loss has been less this year than at any previous time in his experience.

The death is announced of Mrs. R. D. Maney, of Meanee. The deceased lady was one of the very earliest settlers in this part of New Zealand. Prior to her death she had resided in the Hawke's Bay district for upwards of half a century.—R.I.P.

The success of the initial social, held under the auspices of the Catholic Young Ladies' Association in the Garrison Hall on Wednesday evening last, was such as rarely has been equalled, certainly never surpassed, in the history of Catholic functions in this town.

Mrs. Walter Heiford, of Napier, has been advised to send selections of her paintings to the Exhibition. Mrs. Heiford (nee Miss Neagle) was educated at the local convent school. Mr. L. Evans, another Catholic, is also sending specimens of his work. Mr. Evans is for the most part self-taught, but latterly he has been receiving lessons by correspondence from his uncle in London, who is a member of the Royal Academy.

There has been a good deal of discussion as to the form the proposed Seddon memorial at Hastings should take. It was at first thought that a branch hospital would be of most public utility. From investigations, however, it has been learned that such a branch would cost £1000 per annum for upkeep and maintenance, and it is now more than likely that the suggestion will be abandoned. Another suggestion made is that public swimming baths should be erected. At the present time Hastings is probably one of the most prosperous inland towns in New Zealand. Within the last few weeks tenders have been accepted for the erection of brick buildings at a cost of over £28,000. Complaints have been rife here lately as to the neglect by the Scenery Preservation Committee of the Napier to Taupo tourist route. The statement is now made that even the roadmen are destroying the beautiful bush on Turangakumu. The 'Hawke's Bay Herald' pertinently observes: 'If the Government permit that we can expect nothing from them.'

DIOCESE OF CHRISTCHURCH

(From our own correspondent.)

September 3.

As a prelude to the annual meeting of the Christchurch Catholic Club and Tennis Club, an enjoyable social gathering was held in the club-rooms on last Thursday evening. Several of the clergy were among those present, and the executive committee were attentive to the little details which tended to the comfort of visitors and the success of the evening.

The Rev. Father O'Connell, who is still in the Rangiora parish, returned to town for a few days last week. On Thursday evening he attended a gathering of the Catholic Club and friends, whom he addressed in the interests of the projected carnival. On the following evening he met representatives of St. Mary's congregation, Manchester street, with a similar object. The Rev. Father Hickson is also interesting himself in the matter. The H.A.C.B. Society has been interviewed, and with encouraging results.

Recent communications from his Lordship Bishop Grimes give particulars of his various appointments in and about London. He had preached at the Church of Notre Dame de France, Leicester Square, and at St. Anne's, Spitalfields, the scene of his episcopal consecration on July 26, 1887. In the course of an interview with a representative of the 'Catholic Herald' (which also reproduces a rather fine portrait of his Lordship) he gives an amount of interesting information concerning the state of religion and education in New Zealand generally, and the diocese of Christchurch

in particular. In reply to the question, 'What do you think of the outlook for the future?' his Lordship said: 'It certainly is very promising. We have churches, schools, convents, and various institutions springing up throughout the Colony. In the diocese of Christchurch we have now the Marist Brothers, the nuns of the Sacred Heart, the Sisters of the Mission, several houses of the Sisters of Mercy, the Sisters of St. Joseph, and last, but not least, we have just had a foundation from Nazareth House. I look forward with great hope to that house, because the work of the Sisters is greatly appreciated by all classes, irrespective of race or religion.'

'One hears a good deal about the progress of Socialism and "Rationalism" in the colonies,' said the newspaper representative. 'Is it a fact that these movements are spreading?'

'Not to the extent that some people would say,' so his Lordship replied. 'There is a tendency to make the State take over works which were hitherto undertaken and carried out by individuals or associations. The Government are endeavoring to get the people back to the land, and in some quarters there is a tendency to carry things to extremes. Many people seem to associate this with Socialism, but I do not think they understand the real state of things. I do not think it can be said "Rationalism" is spreading to an alarming extent.'

'Have you any difficulty,' asked the newspaper representative, 'about the Education question?'

'The Education question,' replied the Bishop, 'is a very grave one. The State has schools which are well equipped, and those outside the Church are wedded to a system which is called free, secular, and compulsory. To keep our schools going, however, is a great strain, because we have to pay our share of taxes to keep up State schools where we cannot conscientiously send our children and get nothing in return. It is only during the last few years that we have obtained Government inspection.'

'I am very hopeful for the future,' continued his Lordship, 'for the Church is in a very flourishing state. We have excellent prelates, with Cardinal Moran at their head, and we have an energetic body of priests, secular and regular. In New Zealand we have had a great struggle to get priests. The Society of Mary supplied in the early days for the whole Colony, and at the present time supplies a great number of priests for Wellington and Christchurch. To obtain secular priests we have hitherto had to fall back upon Europe, but at our first Provincial Synod, which took place on my return from my last visit to Rome, it was resolved to have a seminary for the secular clergy of the whole province. This is under the personal direction of the Right Rev. Dr. Verdon, Bishop of Dunedin, and there are about thirty students. We have great hopes for the future from this.'

Timaru

(From our own correspondent.)

September 2.

A general meeting of the young men of the parish is called for to-morrow evening in the Foresters' Hall, to take steps to establish a Catholic Club. The Catholic Literary Club and the Young Men's Club, under the presidency of Father Le Floch, are cordially co-operating in the matter.

The Celtic football team held a social recently in the Assembly Rooms, netting over £15 for the general fund. On Thursday last they played the Waimate Old Boys on the Timaru Athletic Grounds, and by their faultless defence and vigorous attack put down their greatest opponents in this year's junior competition by 6 points to nil.

The Timaru Mechanics' Institute, one of the oldest in New Zealand, at a general meeting held on Friday, 24th ult., agreed to sell the Institute and hand the proceeds over to the Borough Council to be used for filling the book shelves of the new free library, which will be built by £3000 just offered to the Council by Mr. Carnegie.

A most successful social took place on Wednesday evening last in the Assembly Rooms, about 100 persons being present to enjoy the excellent programme provided. The refreshments were on a liberal scale, and were in charge of lady volunteers, under the superintendence of Miss Proctor. Mrs. Mangos accompanied the singers with her usual skill, and Mr. N. Knight looked after the general arrangements. The promoter and organiser of the gathering, Miss McGuinness, is to be felicitated on the success that attended her efforts.

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