

On Friday evening the Old Boys' Association will give a social gathering in honor of Brother George.

The meeting for the purpose of promoting Mr. Devlin's mission in Auckland is fixed to take place in the Brothers' school on Monday evening, January 7. It was considered useless to call meetings during the holidays.

The formal ceremony of opening and blessing St. Benedict's Convent, which has recently been built on a site adjacent to St. Benedict's Church and school-house, was performed last Sunday afternoon by his Lordship Bishop Lenihan, in the presence of a large gathering of clergy and others.

Mr. A. M. Myers (Mayor of Auckland) stated, in the course of a few introductory remarks, that he was pleased to be in a position to repeat the statement he made at the laying of the foundation stone of the building, that the Catholics as a community were deserving of the greatest credit for the manner in which they attended to the education of their children—an education which, he felt sure, was making for righteousness and good citizenship. He specially commended the work of the Sisters of St. Joseph, who, he remarked, devoted their whole life to the education of the young people, and who were entitled to the sympathy and co-operation of parents in carrying out their self-sacrificing obligations. He congratulated the Sisters on the past success of their labors in educational affairs, and on the fruition of their efforts in now having a suitable home to occupy while continuing to perform their noble work.

The Hon. Mr. Thompson and Mr. E. Mahoney also congratulated the Sisters on the results of their efforts in the past, and both speakers expressed an earnest hope that the same measure of success would attend their work in the future.

His Lordship Bishop Lenihan acknowledged the heavy debt the Church was under to the Sisters of St. Joseph, who in twenty years had materially assisted in getting established three large schools in place of one small one then existing. With the co-operation of parents and the admirable work of the religious communities the Church was providing a religious and secular education which was yielding grand and noble results.

The Very Rev. Father Gillan, on behalf of the Sisters and himself, gratefully accepted the encouraging remarks of the speakers, and also thanked parents and friends for their assistance in the erection of the convent.

Wanganui

(From our own correspondent.)

December 19.

The Conciliation Board, under the presidency of Mr. P. J. O'Regan, of Wellington, sat at the Court-house, Wanganui, on Friday to frame an award covering the plumbing trade throughout the whole of the industrial district of Wellington on the hours and wages to constitute a week's work and wages per hour, which would prove acceptable alike to employers and employees.

Mr. O'Regan gave an address on Rating on Unimproved Land Values on Friday evening, his Worship the Mayor presiding. Mr. O'Regan stated that he believed in rating on unimproved value because it was just. He was also a believer in direct taxation. He also said that the labor question would never be settled until the land question was settled. After the meeting the supporters of the tax formed themselves into a committee to work up interest in the question.

Entertainment at Gore

An excellent entertainment was given by the pupils of the Convent School, East Gore, at the Town Hall on Wednesday evening, December 19. The weather was decidedly unfavorable (says the 'Mataura Ensign'), and doubtless deterred many from attending; but, as it was, the hall was comfortably filled by an appreciative and demonstrative audience. The entertainment, taken as a whole, was of a high order of merit, and afforded proof positive of the excellence of the methods of instruction that are adopted and put into execution by the Sisters of Mercy. The entertainment was opened with an overture by Misses D. Carmody and M. Lynch, which was very nicely played. A laughable farce, entitled 'The Doctor's Holiday,' followed, in which the burden of the acting fell on Masters E. Sweeney, T. Ambrose, and P. Monaghan, who all ad-

mirably sustained their parts. 'The Standard Bearer' was rendered by a number of the schoolboys, and was followed by a couple of songs by the junior pupils. A recitation was given by Misses A. Lawlor and M. Johnston. A piano duet followed, the participants being Misses D. Holland and M. O'Kane, who acquitted themselves very creditably. One of the best items of an attractive programme was undoubtedly the song 'The Gleaners,' which was sweetly rendered by a number of the pupils in appropriate costumes. A recitation, 'The monotony of school inspection,' given by Master Lawlor, was loudly encored. His enunciation was clear for one so youthful. A song by the juniors was followed by a good exhibition of hoop drill by a number of the pupils. A piano duet was then played acceptably by Misses S. and M. Lawlor. After the singing of 'Ring the bell for Christmas' by junior pupils, a recitation which caused much amusement was given by Masters W. and H. Poppelwell. A fine exhibition of club-swinging, characterised by precision of movement, was given by the Misses McNulty and Miss O'Kane. A duet by Misses Carmody and Cooney followed, and the evening's entertainment closed with a laughable grand chorus entitled, 'Napoleon and his army.'

Catholic Schools, Blenheim

The following is the report of the Inspector, Mr. D. A. Strachan, M.A., on the Catholic schools, Blenheim:—St. Mary's Boys' School.—Compulsory subjects: Reading, satisfactory; composition, satisfactory, essays of high quality; writing, satisfactory, Standard V., good; spelling, good, Standards VI., V., III., good to excellent; recitation, satisfactory to good; Standard I., excellent; arithmetic, fair; Standard III., excellent; drawing, good, Standards VI., IV., III., II., excellent; singing, good; physical instruction, good; geography, fair; history, good to excellent—judging by essays this subject is taught by right and interesting methods; moral instruction and health, receives attention. Additional subjects.—Nature study and elementary science, gardens have been instituted, and judging by the essays, much very good work has been done there in cultivating original observation; handwork, brush drawing improved in originality. Order, discipline, and tone of the school, very good; efficiency of the school, satisfactory. I was pleased to note the greatly improved attendance. The school has advanced considerably during the past year.

St. Joseph's Girls' School.—Compulsory subjects.—Reading, good, Standard III., excellent; composition, good (of high quality in essay); writing, excellent; spelling, good; Standards VI., V., IV., excellent; recitation, good; arithmetic, fair to satisfactory, Standard II., good to excellent, Standard VI., good; drawing, good to excellent, Standards VI., V., III., II., excellent; singing, excellent; physical culture, good to excellent; geography, satisfactory; history, good to excellent, Standards V., IV., III., excellent; moral instruction and health, satisfactory. Additional subjects.—Nature study and elementary science,—nature study is taught by means of gardens (with which a fair beginning has been made) and by Gillies' 'Plant Life,'—satisfactory. Weather and temperature charts are kept. Science study has improved. Handwork, brushwork, very good; modelling in plasticine, satisfactory, needlework, good to excellent. Instruction of Class P., good. Order, discipline, and tone of the school, excellent. Efficiency of the school, etc., good. The Sisters deserve much praise for the general standard attained.

Three out of the four members for Adelaide in the South Australian Parliament have been journalists—Messrs. Denny, Ponder, and Roberts.

At four meetings held in Victoria during the first week in December by Mr. Donovan, the Irish envoy, a sum of £500 was subscribed.

The Rev. Father E. Bradley, recently ordained at St. Mary's Cathedral by his Eminence Cardinal Moran, and a student of St. Patrick's College, Manly, has been appointed assistant to Dean Slattery at St. Joseph's, Newtown.

After many years of fruitful service in the spiritual vineyard of the archdiocese of Melbourne, the Revs. E. J. Luby (Brunswick), D. B. Nelan (Essendon), and R. S. Benson (South Yarra) have been made parish priests; or irremovable rectors.

The death is announced of Lady Morris and Killanin, widow of Lord Morris and Killanin, and mother of the present Lord Killanin. Her husband was Lord Chief Justice of Ireland and afterwards Lord of Appeal in Ordinary.