

## ST. PATRICK'S COLLEGE, WELLINGTON

## SUCCESSSES AT PUBLIC EXAMINATIONS

We learn by wire from Wellington that fourteen students of St. Patrick's College matriculated, and thirty-three passed the junior Civil Service examination. We will give a full list of the successful students in our next issue.

## Appointments to the Legislative Council

At a public gathering in Wellington on Thursday night the Premier announced that the Governor, acting on the advice of the Executive, had made fourteen appointments to the Legislative Council, among these being Mr. J. B. Callan, barrister, Dunedin, and Mr. R. A. Loughnan, journalist, Wellington.

The Hon. J. B. Callan is the second son of the late Dr. J. B. Callan, of Dublin, and was born in 1844. He left Ireland for Melbourne in 1859, and entered the Victorian Civil Service in 1862. During the time he was in the Civil Service he went to the Melbourne University, and took the degrees of B.A. and LL.B. He was admitted to the Bar of the Victorian Supreme Court in 1876, and resigned from the Civil Service the same year. He came to Dunedin in January, 1877, and entered the law offices of the late firm of Macassey and Kettle. He started business as solicitor in Dunedin in June, 1877, and entered into partnership with Mr. J. M. Gallaway in 1883; under the style of Callan and Gallaway, and retired from business in December last year in favor of his son. During the Russian scare of 1885 he raised a corps of Irish Rifles, and was promoted to the rank of major in 1887, and to the rank of lieutenant-colonel and commander of the Otago Infantry Battalion in 1895, being placed on the retired list at his own request in 1896. He was elected to a seat on the Dunedin Licensing Bench in 1889 and again in 1890, and during the latter year was elected chairman of the bench. He has taken an active part in the various parliamentary unions established in Dunedin from time to time, filled the position of Speaker of two of them, his strict impartiality having been universally recognised. Very few men in the Colony have a sounder acquaintance with parliamentary procedure and the Standing Orders than himself. It may interest our readers to know that the Hon. Mr. Callan's father was a personal friend and physician of Daniel O'Connell in Dublin, and that Mr. Callan himself was closely connected with the late Sir Charles Gavan Duffy. The Hon. Mr. Callan has looked after the commercial interests of the 'N.Z. Tablet' Company as chairman of directors, for a period of 28 years. Since his appointment the Hon. Mr. Callan has been the recipient of a large number of congratulatory messages from all parts of the Colony, and even from the Commonwealth.

The Hon. Robert A. Loughnan was born in Dacca, Bengal province, and educated in France, at Stonyhurst College, England, and at the Catholic University of Dublin. His earlier years in the colonies were spent in pastoral pursuits on the Murrumbidgee, New South Wales. He came to New Zealand in December, 1865, and bought Mount Pisa Station, near Cromwell, in Central Otago, where he remained as partner and manager for several years. Subsequently he took the management of the Green Island Meat Preserving Works. In 1874 Mr. Loughnan began to write for the 'Otago Daily Times,' of which he became musical critic. His works attracted the attention of the proprietors of the 'Lyttelton Times,' who on the first opportunity appointed him editor of their paper. This was in January, 1875. He retained this position until 1889. He then accepted the editorship of the 'Catholic Times,' Wellington. In 1890, when Captain Baldwin acquired the 'New Zealand Times,' Mr. Loughnan joined him as editor. Mr. Loughnan has a comprehensive knowledge of public affairs, and wields a facile pen, his journalistic work being distinguished for its polish and high literary style.

A gentleman of no small experience in agricultural affairs assures the 'Oamaru Mail' that the yield of wheat over the whole Canterbury province will exceed 30 bushels to the acre, as there are some very fine crops to be found here and there. The oats are much poorer, and will probably average little more than the wheat.

## Interprovincial

Among the successful candidates at the recent Matriculation examination were two pupils of the Convent school, Greymouth—Miss Mabel Dempsey and Miss Eileen Heaphy. The latter is only fifteen years of age.

The Very Rev. Dean Grogan (writes our Wanganui correspondent) mentioned at Mass yesterday that it was originally intended to re-open the Marist Brothers' schools on February 4, but as the other schools are to start on January 28 the Brothers also commence this morning.

Some idea of the value and importance of the flax-milling industry may be gathered from the fact that 900 men find employment at the mills in the Manawatu district and another 300 in Hawke's Bay. Seifert Bros. alone employ over 150 men in the Manawatu district.

All 'bulls' are not made in Ireland, as witness the following taken from a local newspaper:—A sheep-worrying dog was caught red-handed the other day among the flock of an Ota Creek (Edendale) settler, but not until 19 ewes and lambs had succumbed to the brute's voracity.

New Zealand was a landing-place for 5259 persons during December, an excess of 1451 over the aggregate for that month in 1905. New South Wales contributed 2411, Victoria 1154, and the United Kingdom 1095. The departures totalled 2596 (for New South Wales 1778, Victoria 460, United Kingdom 106); leaving a gain of 2633—temporarily, at least.

The annual scholarships of £25 each, tenable for four years at St. Patrick's College, Wellington, have been gained by Masters John Gordon, Convent school, Otaki; Courtenay O'Rourke, Convent school, Otaki; John Crotty, Marist Brothers' School, Wanganui; and John Hogan, Marist Brothers' School, Greymouth. The O'Leary scholarship of £25, tenable for three years, and open to students of the Marlborough district only, was gained by Master George Curry, Convent school, Blenheim. The college re-opens on February 14.

At the meetings held here for organising a fitting reception to Mr. J. Devlin, M.P. (writes our Waihi correspondent), there were large attendances, notwithstanding the unseasonable weather. Among those present were several non-Catholics, who are enthusiastic supporters of Ireland's demand for self-government. One of them takes a prominent part in all local affairs. Everything promises that the result of Mr. Devlin's visit will be highly successful.

The conversazione tendered to Sir Joseph Ward on Thursday night at Wellington, on the eve of his departure to attend the Imperial Conference in London, drew an enormous crowd of people to the Parliamentary Buildings. Some 4000 people assembled, and there was a great crush in the rooms and lobbies of the big building. The gathering was a thoroughly representative one, and non-political. The proceedings were opened with speeches from the Mayor of Wellington (the Hon. T. W. Hislop) and Mr. Skerrett (the well-known Wellington barrister). Sir Joseph Ward, who was received with cheers, gave some important information in connection with the finances of the Colony, predicting that this year's revenue would reach the unprecedented sum of £8,276,000, or £700,000 more than that of the preceding year. He also gave an estimate of the revenue and expenditure in connection with the Exhibition. The total estimated expenditure was £160,000, and the estimated loss £35,000.

The Hon. William Hall-Jones, Minister of Railways, on being interviewed regarding the statement which he made some time ago that he intended to institute a system of special excursions from the various centres to the International Exhibition, stated that the arrangements in connection with the matter were now complete. In regard to the excursions from the North Island, it had been necessary to negotiate with the Union Company in order to obtain a 'bed-rock' fare from it, and so as to make workable arrangements as between the company and the Railway Department to enable the traffic to be expeditiously handled. The Union Company had met him very fairly in the matter, and arrangements had been made for a special excursion fare between Wellington and Lyttelton of £1 for first-class return and 12s 6d for second-class return, which means return passages for ordinary single rates. The railway fares have been reduced to about one-third of a penny per mile, and the first-class fare to slightly over 4d per mile for the actual distance over which the passenger is carried.