

Rev. Father O'Hara, of Otahuhu, leaves on a visit to Australia next Monday.

Last Tuesday the sum of £16 6s 6d was forwarded to Mr. J. J. Callaghan, Mr. Martin Kennedy's representative in Wellington, being Auckland's second instalment to the Irish Parliamentary Fund, and making its total net sum £566 6s 6d as a result of Mr. Joseph Devlin's meeting in the Royal Albert Hall.

Sister Mary Veronica celebrated her diamond jubilee yesterday, February 28. She was professed in the Order of Mercy at St. Leo's Convent, Carlow, on February 28, 1847. The Bishop of the diocese received her vows. Mother M. Cecilia Maher, who in 1850 brought the Sisters to Auckland, was Superior of the Carlow Convent at the time of the profession. Sister Veronica arrived in Auckland in 1857. She is widely known and deeply respected by many here who remember her kindness and generosity.

The committee connected with Mr. Joseph Devlin's Auckland visit met last evening in Mr. F. Moore's business premises. Dr. Stopford, chairman, presided. The balance sheet was presented and read by Mr. F. Moore, hon. treasurer. It showed the gross proceeds to be £587 13s, expenditure £21 6s 6d, and net balance £566 6s 6d, which had been forwarded to Wellington for transmission Home. Mr. G. Higgins moved and Mr. J. R. Landon seconded that the balance sheet be received and adopted. The latter eulogised highly the work of the honorary treasurer and secretary, Messrs. F. Moore and M. J. Sheahan, to whom in a great measure was due the great success achieved. Dr. Stopford joined in thanking the committee for its assiduous labors. Their success was most pronounced, and in no quarter was it acknowledged so much as by our abusive opponents. Our success had subdued them. He had been on many committees, but he had never witnessed such enthusiasm, earnestness, and constancy as he had upon this committee. Mr. P. M. Mackay, on behalf of the committee, presented Dr. Stopford with a beautiful solid silver inkstand, on which was the following inscription: 'Presented to Dr. Stopford from Irish Parliamentary Fund committee, Auckland, January 30th, 1907.' Accompanying it was a gold fountain pen. Mr. Mackay said all admired the manly, straightforward position taken up by the doctor, and to show the appreciation of the committee in a tangible way they offered this present, hoping its recipient would long continue to live and enjoy every comfort and prosperity. Mr. M. J. Sheahan said he knew he voiced the heartfelt appreciation of every Irishman in Auckland towards the doctor, who had come forward so spontaneously to assist in a cause which Irishmen had so much at heart. They were profoundly grateful, and he not only worked hard but inspired all to work as he himself worked. Dr. Stopford replied briefly and with evident emotion. He could not thank them in words, but he felt it deeply he assured them.

MASTERTON

(From our own correspondent.)

March 1.

A flock of Angora goats, which formed one of the most striking exhibits at the recent show, is still at the show grounds, and is visited by a number of people.

Very Rev. Dean McKenna has received a letter from his brother, Rev. Father McKenna, of Pahiatua, who has been recruiting his health at Rotorua, and was at time of writing at Te Aroha, where he purposes remaining for a few weeks. The Rev. Father has derived much benefit from his stay at Rotorua, and hopes to be again among his parishioners at Easter.

Right Rev. Mgr. O'Haran and Rev. Father Phelan were the guests of Very Rev. Dean McKenna last week. During their short stay in Masterton they visited St. Bride's Convent. Monsignor O'Haran conveyed to the Rev. Mother the congratulations of his Eminence Cardinal Moran upon the centenary of the Brigidine Order.

TIMARU

(From our own correspondent.)

March 4.

St. John's Tennis Club met the Timaru Seconds last Thursday week, and the games resulted in a draw.

Light penetrating rains have fallen here during the past week, and as a result the prices of sheep have taken a strong upward turn, there being now some hope of light winter feed.

Rev. Father Tuhman, our popular parish priest, arrived in Auckland on Saturday last, and is expected here by the end of this present week. Great interest is being taken in his return, and his old friends—practically synonymous with the number of his parishioners and his many acquaintances among our separated brethren—will certainly give him a cordial welcome.

The St. Patrick's Day celebrations this year will consist of a picnic to Waimate on Thursday, March 21, the usual concert being deleted from the programme. An appeal was made by Father Finnerty at all the Masses yesterday for contributions towards the necessary expenses, and a most satisfactory response was made.

OBITUARY

MR. J. P. O'CARROLL, HAWARDEN.

A sad shooting fatality (writes a correspondent) occurred at Mason's Flat on February 19, by which Mr. John P. O'Carroll, eldest son of Mr. John O'Carroll, the well-known and widely respected postmaster and storekeeper of Hawarden, lost his life. Deceased, who was 21 years of age, after completing his education at St. Patrick's College, Wellington, was placed by his father in charge of his farm at Mason's Flat. In that capacity he was eminently successful, whilst in his daily life and conduct he was an edifying example to all the young men of the district, with whom he was deservedly popular. During the week preceding his death he had faithfully followed the daily exercises of a mission which was conducted in the Hawarden church by one of the Redemptorist Fathers. How the sad accident occurred is not positively known, as deceased was alone at the time. It is supposed, however, that he had been shooting rabbits, and on returning to his hut, had rested his loaded gun against a fence, whilst he leaped over it, and, taking up the gun again, a piece of projecting lacing wire released one of the hammers, and the charge entered the unfortunate youth's body with the fatal result recorded above. After the inquest, the body was taken to St. Raphael's, Hawarden, and remained there till Thursday morning, when it was removed to the Church of the Passion, Brackenbridge, a distance of twenty-three miles, where the interment took place. The large number of people, who followed the remains to the grave, testified to the esteem in which the family are held in the district. The Requiem Mass prior to the interment was celebrated by the Rector of the parish, the Rev. Father Price, who also officiated at the graveside, being assisted by the Very Rev. Dean Ginaty, S.M. (Mount Magdala), and the Rev. Father Lowham, C.S.S.R. (Wellington). In the course of an impressive address, he paid an eloquent tribute to the memory of the deceased. Widespread sympathy is felt for Mr. and Mrs. John O'Carroll and the other members of the family in their great affliction.—R.I.P.

In the list of successful candidates in the teachers' examination, held last January, appear the names of two young ladies who were prepared and trained at the Convent of Mercy, Greymouth. They are the Misses Clara F. Doms and Honora B. Trowland. Both have succeeded in passing the examination for the Class D. certificate.

Owing to the continued disarrangement of the San Francisco mail service, the Acting-Postmaster-general (Dr. Findlay) has directed that no mails for Great Britain shall be sent or received by that route for the present. The Suez route is to be used until further notice, unless specially good opportunities occur for sending mails by the direct or Vancouver route. Subsidised connecting steamers to Sydney will leave Wellington on the 8th inst., and fortnightly thereafter.

At the luncheon given by the proprietors of the 'Lyttelton Times' and 'Press' to the members of the Newspaper Proprietors' Association, at present in Christchurch, the Acting-Prime Minister (the Hon. W. Hall-Jones) said the finances of the Colony were in a wonderfully sound condition. He was not going to give them a mass of figures, but he could say this: that the finances of the Colony were in a better position for the first 10 months of this year than they had been for the first 10 months of any previous year. The increases had been in larger proportion than in any previous year of the Colony's history, and he saw no reason why that prosperity which had existed so long should not continue.