

failed her. Referring to this great bank yesterday, Dr. McArthur, in a happy speech, said that Mother Aubert had a key that most others were without: that key was her great love for humanity. The genial magistrate solved the problem aright, Mother Aubert's great love has won the hearts of everyone by it. She had touched the chords of human sympathy, where others tried in vain. The Home, as it stands to-day on a splendid site overlooking the tramway to Island Bay, is capable of accommodating 150 children; the contemplated additions to the present structure are to be reserved for adults. A special feature of the building is the flat roof, where the inmates may take part in outdoor games. The view that presents itself to the eye is one of green hills, that part to give a glimpse of the ocean beyond. The place is well fitted for its purpose. In six weeks' time the beds should be ready to receive the first inmates—the children at present in the Buckle street Home. Mother Aubert will make the new building her headquarters. The Home was blessed by his Grace the Archbishop, assisted by the Very Rev. Father Lewis, and the Ven. Archdeacon Devoy. Most of the local clergy were in the procession. The speeches were delivered from beneath the balcony.

His Grace expressed the great pleasure and the gratitude he felt at seeing such a large and representative gathering. He thanked the Acting-Premier and the other distinguished visitors for their kindness in being present. He was grateful to all that assembled to show their sympathy with the work. The point on which the Rev. Mother desired that he should especially dwell was that the Home as it stood now was designed not only for infant incurables, but also for infants that were on the way to become so, unless proper methods of treatment were applied in good time. In this Home the inmates would get good food, fresh air, recreation, proper medical treatment, and the kindest of attention. Some of them would become good, useful members of society. Those that were incurable would receive every kindness, and their lives would be made as happy as their afflicted state would allow. He complimented Mother Aubert on her wonderful achievement. It was wonderful that she could have the audacity—the holy audacity, he would call it—to undertake such a work with such slender means, but she had already told him that she had a banker that never failed—the Providence of God. Many would be filled with gratitude for this good woman, and bless her in the days of their lives, in the hours of their deaths, and he trusted for ever in the happy eternity.

The Acting-Premier (Hon. W. Hall-Jones) said Mother Aubert's name was honored throughout the length and breadth of New Zealand ever since she began her work on the Wanganui River. He knew of no more noble work than the care of the incurable. He was informed that the Home was open to all. He could say: 'Thank God that in a good of this nature all churches and all creeds can meet on a common ground to carry out what is one of the best works that Christianity can undertake.' The Acting-Premier concluded his remarks by asking for the cordial support of all. He reminded his hearers that as the greatest rivers grew from the streamlets that trickled down the mountain sides, so, too, would the smallest donation to the fund help towards making up the large sum required to maintain the Home.

The Hon. James Carroll said Mother Aubert was a worker for the Native race in the early days. That race remembered the whole-hearted assistance she gave them, and on their behalf thanked her. Her work would be noted in the hereafter adjustment, and in the great prize world of heaven the great rewards must go to her and her assistants. They were the cultivators of the garden in which the seeds were sown by the great Master.

The Mayor said he was proud to be a partner in the work. The Council had assisted Mother Aubert in the matter of roads, and they would be happy to do so again. They knew that in many cases cures could be effected if taken in time, as cases in infancy were cured the number of incurable adults were decreased.

Dr. McArthur said they had been told of the Bank of Providence, but there were many who, if let loose to draw on that bank, would get very little out of it. Mother Aubert, however, had the key—it was the key of love. With her there was a brimfulness of love, and all she had to do was to go out and rake in the shekels.

Mr. T. M. Willford, M.H.R., said Mother Aubert was the Dr. Barnardo of New Zealand. She owed her success, no doubt, largely to her faith and persistence, which were the great architects of life. The Home of Compassion would be her monument, and her work had this feature about it, that it all sprang from her

heart. For over forty years she had been engaged in this self-imposed task, and she would be remembered as a blessing to humanity.

Mr. Edwin Arnold replied briefly on behalf of Mother Aubert.

The collection totalled £340 cash. Mr. John Hyland was secretary of the function, Mr. Edwin Arnold, J.P., chairman of committee, on which there were representatives of nearly all denominations. The debt on the building is now £8000.

SILVER JUBILEE OF THE VERY REV. DEAN HACKETT, PAEROA

(By telegraph from our own correspondent.)

On Sunday last the Very Rev. Dean Hackett, of Paeroa, celebrated the twenty-fifth anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood. The proper date was March 4, but owing to that being within the Lenten season, the celebration was postponed until last Sunday. The Very Rev. Dean Hackett was born in Moate, County Westmeath. He made his preliminary ecclesiastical studies at St. Joseph's Academy, Moate, an institution conducted by the Carmelite Fathers. He studied philosophy and theology at the Propaganda College, Rome, and was ordained by the late Cardinal Parrocchi in the Basilica of St. John Lateran, Rome, on March 4, 1882. On his arrival in Auckland, Father Hackett was appointed by the late Bishop Luck to the charge of the Helensville and Dargaville districts. Later on he was appointed administrator of St. Patrick's Cathedral, where he labored for over seven years. About thirteen years ago he was transferred to Paeroa by Bishop Luck. The office of Dean was conferred upon him by the Right Rev. Dr. Lenihan. The deanery comprises the most important rural districts in the diocese (Waikato, Te Aroha, Rotorua, Ngaruawahia, Hamilton, Mercer, Pukekohe, Otahuhu, Kihikihiki, and the King Country to the boundary of the archdiocese of Wellington). The Very Rev. Dean is also a member of the Bishop's Council, and also of the Catholic Board of Education.

A very large congregation assembled to do honor to the popular Paeroa priest. At the eleven o'clock Mass, St. Mary's Church was full, and, indeed, a large number who desired admission were obliged to wait outside. At the conclusion of Mass the breakfast, to celebrate the important event, was held in the school, when about 300 guests sat down to an excellent repast. Besides Paeroa people, representatives were present from Auckland, Karangahake, Waikato, Komata, and other places. Nor was the gathering confined to members of the Very Rev. Dean's own denomination, for there was a fair sprinkling of members of other denominations. The schoolroom was crowded, and the delicacies provided were done full justice to by those who sat down to a repast that it would be hard to surpass anywhere. The Right Rev. Mgr. O'Reilly presided, and on his right was seated the Very Rev. Dean Hackett, and on his left Mr. J. McCarthy (chairman of the committee) that had made the arrangements for the presentation).

Monsignor O'Reilly said it gave him great pleasure to come to Paeroa on this occasion, and to preside and take part in the presentation, and when he had received the invitation he felt that he could not possibly refuse. He expressed his gratitude to them for thinking of him on that occasion, and asking him to be present. He read a letter from his Lordship Bishop Lenihan wishing Dean Hackett many happy years, and forwarding a personal gift, and also a contribution to the fund that was being raised. The hon. secretary, Mr. Hesp, read apologies from a number of those who were unavoidably absent.

Mr. J. McCarthy (chairman of the committee), on behalf of the subscribers, presented Very Rev. Dean Hackett with a purse of sovereigns, the total amount being £120. He also handed to the Dean a beautifully illuminated address, the text of which was as follows:—

'Dear and Very Rev. Dean,—On behalf of the parishioners of Ohinemuri and your many friends in New Zealand, we take this opportunity of expressing our united hearty congratulations on the occasion of the silver jubilee celebration of your ordination to the priesthood. During the thirteen years spent in our midst, we have not failed to recognise your incessant labors for our spiritual and temporal welfare, your eloquent and powerful appeals to us from the pulpit, and in private your sound and practical admonitions and exemplary conduct, your unceasing efforts to restrain the wayward and to succor the needy, your untiring efforts to cancel