

The St. Mary's Catholic Club have had their bi-lard table overhauled. A tournament will commence early in June.

Wanganui lovers of music received a great treat when the Exhibition Orchestra performed at the local Opera House on May 7 and 9. The large audience was very appreciative and enthusiastic.

The date for the World's Sculling Championships is fixed for August 3 between W. Webb, of Wanganui, and Chas. Towns, of Sydney. A great number of rowing enthusiasts from Wanganui intend witnessing the race.

The Marist Brothers' School boys have started their football season auspiciously by defeating the Imperial Football Club team by 6 points to 3. C. Cronin scored two tries for the school. The boys, through their splendid combination, played well. Before the match Laurie Loftus and Horace Hunt were elected captain and vice-captain of the school team for the season.

Mr. J. T. Hogan, M.H.R., in the unavoidable absence of the Hon. J. McGowan (Minister of Mines), formally opened the State Coal Depot on Tuesday afternoon, May 7. In his remarks he stated that he was there to fulfil a pledge he had made prior to the last election, viz., that he would use his utmost endeavors to have a State Coal Depot opened in Wanganui. The depot would be a boon to the people, and one direct result was that coal had already come down five shillings per ton.

The social gathering held in the Drill Hall last night, to raise funds for the furnishing of the new Aramoho church, was a great success in every way. The secretaries, Messrs. Gaffaney and Lloyd, with the committee, Mesdames Kiely, F. Neylon, Ward, and Wood, and Mr. J. M. Murphy, deserve great credit for the excellent result. Fully 300 persons were present. The hall was tastefully decorated by Rev. Father Mahony, Messrs. Appleton, Bach, Provost, Quirk, and Gaffaney. The ladies mentioned, assisted by a number of young people, were in charge of the supper room.

The friends of Inspector Kiely, who has been transferred to Waihi district, waited on him on Tuesday. The Mayor (Mr. C. E. Mackay), in making a presentation of a purse of sovereigns to Mrs. Kiely, referred in high terms to the qualities of Mr. and Mrs. Kiely. Inspector Kiely, in replying on behalf of his wife, said it gave them great pleasure to know that they had made so many friends in Wanganui. Their stay in this town had been a most pleasant one. He fully appreciated the kindness and consideration which had been extended to him not least of all by the Mayor, with whom he had so many battles in court. They regretted to be leaving the district, which they had learned to regard as their home, and to which they wished all prosperity.

The Irish Rifles are to be congratulated on the number of their liberal supporters, as is shown by the list of winners and prizes herewith:—Marble clock (presented by Messrs. Hallenstein Bros.), won by Private McCulloch; marble clock (presented by Messrs. Hallenstein Bros.), Color-Sergeant Provost; set of carvers (presented by Messrs. Myers and Co.), Color-Sergeant Provost; set of carvers (presented by Messrs. Thain and Co.), Private J. McCulloch; silver teapot (presented by Mr. J. S. Lacy), Corporal Davis; hair brushes (presented by Mr. W. Blennerhassett), Corporal G. McCulloch; biscuit barrel (presented by Mr. J. Dempsey), Color-Sergeant Provost. A trophy, presented by Mr. George Spriggins, was won by Corporal G. McCulloch. In addition two tons of coal were shot for, and won by Corporal Powell and Color-Sergeant Provost. With such inducements this corps should in the near future produce a champion rifle shot.

Hawera

(By telegraph from our own correspondent.)

The blessing of the Auroa church has been postponed to the spring or early summer, when the committee expect to have it entirely lined and finished throughout.

The committees in the various districts of the parish are organising a series of entertainments for the winter months. Two-thirds of the proceeds will go to the local churches, and one-third to the presbytery building fund. There is talk, too, of bazaars at Manaia, Okaiawa, and Auroa. A lady outside these districts offers prizes to the value of about £100, provided the local committees raise half that amount between them.

His Grace the Archbishop administered the Sacrament of Confirmation to ninety-four children and adults

on Ascension Day. Mr. Peter Donnelly was sponsor for the boys, and Mrs. B. Bennett sponsor for the girls. His Grace expressed himself very pleased with the answering in Christian doctrine, which was, he said, well above the average. In the evening he was presented with an address by the children, to which he made a very beautiful reply. He pointed out the need in this age of the enlightening and sustaining gifts of the Holy Spirit for those who would be armed and strengthened against the enemies of their salvation, and, referring to one of the points in the address, he eulogised and held up for imitation the grand manifestation of unity and loyalty shown in France to-day in the midst of the persecutions that were striving to overwhelm the Church in that unhappy country. Continuing a very eloquent discourse, he gave the large congregation a clear exposition of the nature and the motives of the French Government's war upon religion. The discourse will be long remembered by those who had the privilege of hearing it.

Napier

(From our own correspondent.)

May 10.

The Ven. Archdeacon Devoy is on a visit to Napier. The members of the Catholic Young Ladies' Association held a very successful meeting on Tuesday evening last. The members of the Association have issued invitations to a social to be given by them on next Tuesday evening.

The Catholic Men's Club held a debate last night, when Messrs. Linden, R. Willis, and Cunningham made a vigorous attack on the Napier Harbor Board Loan Empowering Bill. Their arguments were ably replied to by Messrs. A. Mahony, Heron, and Gleeson. The chairman (Rev. Father Goggan) announced the result as a tie. He added that his own private opinion was that the ratepayers ought to sanction a loan to have the breakwater finished, but, at the same time, the suggestion of Mr. Heron that the day may yet come when the people of Hastings would join with the people of Havelock and Waimarama and erect a wharf of their own at a more convenient spot did not come as a surprise to him. The executive of the club have decided to set aside one night a week for recitations. Every member will be expected to recite something. Special nights will also be given to Irish readings. It is on the tapis that the debating club will issue challenges to other debating clubs in Napier. We have every confidence that we can hold our own.

Blenheim

(From an occasional correspondent.)

May 8.

A most successful mission was brought to a close at St. Mary's Church on Sunday, April 28. The mission, which was held for a fortnight, was conducted by the Rev. Fathers McDermott and Lowham, C.S.S.R. The Masses and other services were attended by large congregations, a number of people coming many miles from the surrounding districts. The fervor of the people never flagged, and, despite the inclement weather experienced during the second week of the mission, the attendance increased from day to day, a fact which must have afforded much consolation to the good missionaries as well as to the devoted priests of the parish. A great feature of the mission, and one which contributed much to the devotional character of the ceremonies, was the congregational singing, conducted by the Rev. Father Holley. In closing the mission, on Sunday evening, Father McDermott congratulated the people on the manner in which they had attended during its course, and, in a most touching address of farewell, remarked that they might think that the priests, going to many missions, did not feel parting from congregations which had, for a short time, been under their care. He could only say that he felt it most keenly. His confrere, who was young and strong, might again be amongst them, but, for himself, he felt that the sands of life were running low, and that never again would he have the pleasure of addressing the Catholics of Blenheim. One result of the mission, which we hope will have a lasting effect, is the new life it has infused into the Society of the Sacred Heart, quite a large number being added to the members.

Missions have also been given at Tua Marina, Seddon, Kenwick, and Havelock—out-lying portions of the parish. The mission at Picton, the last in the district, is to close next Sunday.

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