

Presentation to Father Molloy, Ponsonby

(From our Auckland correspondent.)

The impending departure of the Rev. Father Molloy from the Sacred Heart parish, Ponsonby, has caused widespread regret amongst those with whom, and for whom he has labored so zealously since his arrival from Ireland about eighteen months ago. A meeting of the parishioners was held after last Mass on Sunday, to bid him farewell—a meeting which, by reason of the numbers present, and the intensity of regret shown, will long remain memorable amongst parochial meetings in Auckland.

Rev. Father Williams occupied the chair, with Rev. Father Molloy on his right, and amongst others present were Messrs. D. Flynn, Maguire, Casey, Brown, Gleeson, J. F. O'Brien, Fitzpatrick, P. and W. Darby, Prince, Simpson, Lowry, Mulawey, McVeigh, and Wright.

Rev. Father Williams briefly opened the proceedings, and said that his Lordship the Bishop had expressed his regret at being unable to attend owing to a previous important engagement. He then called upon Mr. D. Flynn to read the address on behalf of the parishioners.

Mr. Flynn then read an address, expressive of the feelings, reverence, and esteem in which Father Molloy was held by the parishioners, and their regret at his departure and good wishes for his future. Mr. Flynn then expressed his personal regret, and said that during his time amongst them Father Molloy had made a remarkably deep impression on all by his unassuming but untiring zeal, and his anxiety for the spiritual welfare of his people, rich and poor. Particularly was Father Molloy respected and beloved by the young men of the parish, and it was amongst them the results of his zeal and personality were most apparent. Father Molloy was now going, amid their sincere regrets, to take charge of a country parish, and in his new sphere of labor his old parishioners wished him every blessing and success.

Mr. Maurice Casey then presented Father Molloy with a purse of fifty-five sovereigns, on behalf of the people of the parish, and said that while it was a small material token of their respect for him the true token would be the lasting efficacy in their lives of his spiritual ministrations during the last eighteen months.

Messrs. Bryant and Lowry and W. Darby also spoke. Rev. Father Molloy, in reply, said it was nearly two years since he left his home in Ireland a newly ordained priest to take up his work in Auckland. He could assure them that that day of parting from home and friends alone could compare with his feelings to-day. He felt his parting from the people of Ponsonby intensely, for nothing could exceed the kindness, the generous sympathy, the consolation he had had during his stay amongst them. Their gift came to him as a sacred thing, for he knew it was the outcome of their love; but while from his heart he thanked them he assured them that they had surprised him beyond anything in his life. It was only one week since he knew of the impending change, and this, as far as time went, impromptu meeting, with the magnificent present they gave him, filled him with deep feelings of gratitude and also with encouragement. It made him feel certain that his work amongst them, if it could beget such a splendid present and such a sympathetic meeting, would surely be crowned by the good God with the final blessing of permanency. The welfare of the people of Ponsonby was very dear to him. His parting word to them was—be good, continue in goodness—that alone was the best and most consoling thing they could do for him.

A retreat for ladies will begin at the Convent of the Sacred Heart, Island Bay, Wellington, on January 13. The retreat will be preached by the Rev. Father Kelly, S.J.

Ladies will be interested in the summer favorites at Ballantyne and Co's, Christchurch, such as blouse lengths of Irish lawn, handworked, and muslin robes (unmade) at exceptionally low rates....

What to select as a Christmas gift is a question that will be discussed by many for the next few weeks. The query is easily answered. Give your nearest and dearest friend a box of Hondai Lanka tea. No more heart-warming gift could be selected, and none more in keeping with the festive season....

Mollisons, Ltd., Dunedin, call attention to their suits to order at exceedingly low prices. Those of our readers in the country who cannot spare time to come to town, should write to the firm for their self-measurement charts and patterns, which will be forwarded on application. Patrons have a large variety of the most fashionable materials from which to make a selection....

OBITUARY

MR. McCULLOUGH, WAIMATE.

On Tuesday of last week a serious accident occurred to Mr. McCullough, of Quamby (says the 'Waimate Advertiser'). Whilst proceeding to his home from town his horse bolted, and he was thrown out of the trap on to a large pile of boulders. He was taken to the house unconscious, and Dr. Barclay at once telephoned for. On his arrival with Dean Regnault about an hour after it was found that there was a very bad fracture of the skull, several ribs broken, and both knees injured. On Thursday Mr. McCullough succumbed to his injuries, his condition from the first being hopeless. His funeral took place on Saturday. A large gathering assembled for the Requiem Mass at St. Patrick's Church, the Rev. Father Tymons being the celebrant, the Right Rev. Mgr. Mackay (Oamaru) and Very Rev. Dean Regnault assisting in the sanctuary. The funeral left St. Patrick's Church for the cemetery in the afternoon, the remains being followed by a large concourse of people from all round the district. Dean Regnault officiated at the grave, assisted by Monsignor Mackay and Father Tymons.—R.I.P.

MR. W. H. LUNDON, WAIMATE.

The funeral of the late Mr. W. H. London took place on Wednesday, the 20th inst. (says the 'Waimate Advertiser'), a large number of friends following the sad procession to the grave. For the many years Mr. London was resident in this district he was identified with the cause of labor; he was a ready speaker and clear thinker. It was ever his aim to put forward the claims of the working man to a fair share of this world's goods; and of its prosperity and in his capacity as an official of the shearers' and workers' unions he persistently brought such claims before the Government. At the grave Very Rev. Dean Regnault made feeling references to the great qualities of the deceased, and the sacrifices he had made for the sake of his fellow-workers, and asked those present in return to pray for the repose of his soul.—R.I.P.

Interprovincial

The Parliamentary session was brought to a close on Monday.

The Invercargill Catholic Club closed the session for the current year with an oratorical competition. Five competed, the winner being Mr. J. Sims.

A few evenings ago Constable Edwards, of Port Chalmers, was presented at the Dunedin Police Station with a marble clock, bearing the following inscription: 'Mr. Edwards from the Dunedin police on the occasion of his marriage.'

A portion, consisting of 3829 acres of the well-known Springfield Estate, near Ashburton, was sold by auction in blocks on Saturday for a total of £82,990 10s—an average of £21 11s 10s per acre. The sale was the best held there for many years, the bidding being exceedingly brisk.

A return showing the receipts and expenditure of the recent Exhibition from the 27th of May, 1905, to the 31st of October, 1907, was presented to Parliament on Saturday. The total expenditure was £239,970, and the actual loss made good by the Government was £87,617.

The khaki-colored slouch-hat of the postman, born of the jingoism of eight years ago, is doomed (says the 'Dominion'), and not before its time, as it never was a neat type of head-gear for an official. The Postmaster-General has practically decided upon the adoption of the postman's shako as worn by the letter-carriers in the British service. This is a well-shaped shako, somewhat akin to those worn by the local police, made of dark blue cloth, on a stiff shape, and having the straight, glazed peak in front and the 'drop' behind. Each shako will be braided with black ribbon piped with red, and will bear the brass letters 'P.O.' in front.

JOHN, MICHAEL, AND MARY HOARE (OR HORE).

THE Executors of the Will of Maurice Hoare (or Hore), late of Ballarat (deceased), wish to communicate with the legatees described therein as John, Michael and Mary Hoare, of Laureton Diggings, New Zealand. Information about them is requested by PEARSON & MANN, Solicitors, Lydiard street, Ballarat, Victoria.