

with great energy and with the greatest harmony and goodwill. Their combination and mutual aid and encouragement pushed things along with a swing that was pleasant to witness. The lady stall-holders and the assistants to whom these commendations are due, are Mesdames Tipping, Tulloch, Dickson, Sutherland, Metzger, Rose, Finnerty, Dale, Moss, and Ridland, and the Misses McEntyre (3), Gilooly, Rose, Sullivan, Finnerty, etc. It should be mentioned that the lion's share of the work of organising and supervising, both for weeks before the bazaar and during its progress, belongs to Mr. Lister. The happy results achieved owed much, indeed, to his foresight, business tact, and amiability in putting all on the right track, and keeping them on it. Under Mr. Lister's guidance not a hitch was permitted to occur. The thanks of the nuns to their committees and to their patrons are due and are most certainly returned. The nuns have not been disappointed in their appeal to the people of all classes and denominations in Campbelltown.

## OPENING OF NEW CHURCH AT TE TUA

### RIVERTON PARISH

(From our Special Reporter.)

Orepuki, May 10.

During the past two days your special representative has had a pleasing opportunity of noting some of the evidences of the progress achieved by the Orepuki district since his last visit in 1899. The town has extended somewhat, and bears upon it the trim and well-painted and comfortable air of a place that is well established and feels secure as to its future. There is a pathos in the efforts to make gardens grow and smile in the teeth of the southerly and south-westerly winds that sweep upon the unprotected coast from over the wide, unbroken waste of the Southern Ocean. But protecting barriers of pine and yew have grown up around homesteads all along the coast, and the track of many a storm is marked in the manner in which their branches are combed back by the winds away towards the north or north-east. Behind their close and friendly shelter chrysanthemums still linger, and gladioli, and other flowers that flaunt their bravery till the coming of the first nipping frosts of winter. Up at Te Tua (eight miles north of Orepuki) the writer saw, in a well-tended orchard, an apple-tree in full bearing, while its branches were white with the second crop of blossom. The biggest fly in Orepuki's ointment is, beyond a doubt, the shale-works. Your special representative was guided through them by Mr. Muir, and saw the far-extending buildings, plant, tram-lines, etc., which represent the vast sum of some £180,000 lying—as it has lain for some years—unproductive. The buildings and plant are kept in excellent order by the Company's affable representative (Mr. Muir), and might be started again on a week's notice to produce kerosene, tar, naphtha, and paraffin wax—work which for too brief a period occupied some two hundred hands and distributed close on £1000 a month in happy Orepuki. Active prospecting for shale is now being carried on in the district and out to the Wairarapa river. Those who might speak, however, preserve a discreet silence, but Orepuki is hopeful, and, although the wish may be father to the thought, it looks with a measure of chastened confidence to the re-opening of the industry whose prosperity might mean so much to the district.

On Sunday, May 10, when driving to Te Tua to take part in the opening of the new Catholic church of St. Joseph there, I had some opportunity of contrasting the conditions of nine years ago with those of to-day. The vile track of those days is now a metalled road—by no means perfect, but as fair as a 'grande route' in Normandy by comparison with the conditions that prevailed when last I tried—with only a qualified success—to tread my way past its perilous pitfalls. Axe and fire and flying saw have pushed back the forest that in places overshadowed the road, and the wondrously rich soil won from the tangled jungle is a thick mat of grass on which sleek kine fatten in bovine content. Substantial farm-houses have arisen on every side, trim and neat and prosperous-looking, with their circling shelters of wind-swept pine or cypress. Nine years ago, when passing through this district, the present writer took down his harp and prophesied good things. To-day, one part of his prophecy is fulfilled; the rest is in the process of fulfilment; and he is confident that the garden of Southland will

yet be found in the fat and fertile region between Orepuki and the Waiau River.

All this is a digression—though, it is hoped, a digression not without its interest to the reader. The chief object of your 'special's' visit to the district was to witness the opening of the new Catholic church at Te Tua, some eight miles north of Orepuki. The ceremony took place on last Sunday morning. The church is a handsome, well-built structure, and is situated at the junction of two roads, on an acre section presented for the purpose by Mr. Griffin. It is in the Gothic style of architecture. The material is wood on concrete foundations. The nave is 40 feet by 21 feet; the sanctuary, 12 feet by 12 feet; and sacristy, 10 feet by 10 feet. The entrance is by a nice porch 10 feet by 10 feet. The walls rise to a height of 14 feet. In addition to a number of Gothic headed windows in the nave the church is lighted by a very fine lead-light rose window in the sanctuary.

On Sunday, the church was packed in every part. The ceremony of blessing and dedication was performed by the Right Rev. Mgr. Mackay, Administrator of the diocese, assisted by Revs. P. O'Neill (Winton), P. Murphy (Riverton), and H. W. Cleary (Dunedin). Father O'Neill was celebrant of the Mass. The occasional sermon was preached by Rev. H. W. Cleary. The music of the Mass was nicely rendered, and was selected from Winter's, Weber's in G, and Farmer's in B. Miss Griffith presided at the organ. The cost of the new building, with organ and furnishings, amounted to £400. The sum of £103 was subscribed in the church in response to the appeal, and the building was not alone opened free of debt, but with a credit balance—a circumstance of sufficient rarity to deserve mention.

Father Murphy returned thanks to the visiting clergy, to the laity who had come from afar to aid in the good work, to non-Catholic friends and sympathisers for their generous aid, to the members of the congregation for their self-sacrificing efforts, to the church committee for their splendid devotedness, and to the contractor (Mr. E. W. Bone) for the admirable manner in which he had carried out the work.

At the close of the Mass, the following address was presented to the three visiting clergy: 'Rev. Sirs,—We, the Catholics of Te Tua and surrounding districts, desire to accord you a hearty welcome to this outlying part of the extensive diocese of Dunedin, and also to assure you of our great appreciation of the favor you do us in coming so far to perform the ceremony of the dedication of our church. And we sincerely trust that, as the years pass by, this church will prove a great boon to the Catholics of the district, as a means of spreading our holy religion and promoting the glory of God. We also desire to express our gratitude to our beloved and reverend Pastor for the zeal that prompted him to erect this building; and we pray that he may be long spared in good health to carry out the good work he so nobly started. Signed: J. Griffin, G. Flanagan, T. O'Brien, P. Forde, J. Merrilees, D. Corkery.'

The Right Rev. Mgr. Mackay replied in brief and happy terms, thanking Father Murphy and congratulating the people on the event, so rare in New Zealand—that of opening a church free of debt. At the close of the proceedings the committee entertained the large body of lay visitors to a well-served dinner in a marquee.

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