

tendance. The programme consisted of a lecture by Mr. J. J. Marlow on 'A cycle trip through the North Island,' and was illustrated with lantern views shown by Mr. W. E. Simpson. The lecture proved exceptionally interesting. At the conclusion of the lecture a vote of thanks was accorded Mr. Marlow and Mr. Simpson.

The Shakespeare class, in connection with St. Joseph's Men's Club, gave a reading of the 'Merchant of Venice' at the usual weekly meeting on Friday evening. The following gentlemen took part in the reading:—Messrs. J. B. Callan, jun., D. S. Columb, T. Deehan, E. W. Spain, O. Swanson, R. Rossbotham, J. Wilkinson, H. Miles, and J. V. Quelch. Mr. J. Cowan acted as chorus. The parts were well sustained by the various readers, and a distinct advance on last year's performances was noticeable. Messrs. W. P. Rodgers, D. Corcoran, W. P. Nolan, and Rev. Father Coffey congratulated the readers on the evening's entertainment, and referred specially to the interest taken in the preparation of the readings by Mr. J. B. Callan, jun.

## WELLINGTON

(From an occasional correspondent.)

June 15.

On Saturday, June 27, a working bee will commence at the Mount Street Cemetery, when it is expected a large number of men will be present to effect certain necessary improvements to the burial ground.

The members of the men's branch of the Sacred Heart Association (Te Aro parish) approached the Holy Table last Sunday morning. In the evening the usual monthly meeting of the Association was held in St. Joseph's Church, Buckle street, when there were about 100 members present. Rev. Father S. Mahony gave an excellent sermon on the sin of scandal, exhorting parents to show good example to their children. Before Benediction seven new members were admitted to the Association by the spiritual director, Rev. Father Venning.

## Interprovincial

One hundred and sixty new Justices of the Peace have been created.

It has now been decided to present the Dominion Day medals to school children throughout New Zealand on next Dominion Day.

Mr. Ernest Short, the well known Romney sheep breeder of Feilding, has decided to present his flock of 80 stud Shropshire Down sheep to the Government for the Waverley Experimental Farm. This gift is worth nearly £1000.

Plans have been drawn for the new Post Office in Wellington, which it is estimated will cost £80,000. The building will be a handsome and massive structure of five storeys, or two storeys higher than the present building, which will be practically pulled down, at all events in so far as its exterior is concerned.

By the 'Corinthic,' which arrives at Wellington this week from London, there are 187 Government-assisted passengers. These include 23 farmers, most with capital. One has £2000 and an income of £200 a year; another £1600, and several have about £1000 each. There are 24 domestic servants, many of whom are coming to friends or to fill situations.

Building is taking place in Wellington at a rapid rate. Last year, in the area administered by the City Council, including Melrose and Onslow districts, permits were issued for buildings of an aggregate value of £674,813, which is £117,277 more than the preceding twelve months. There were fewer building permits, 449 as against 553 in the previous twelve months, but the aggregate value of the work increased, showing that a better class of building is being erected.

The balance sheet of the Bank of New Zealand for the year ending March 31 shows that after providing for interest on guaranteed stock (£40,000) and reduction of bank premises and furniture (£20,000), the balance of profit for the year is £309,922. To this has to be added £31,675 brought forward from last year, making £341,597. An interim dividend absorbing £50,000 had been paid during the year, leaving £291,597 available for distribution. This the directors propose to distribute as follows:—In payment of a dividend of 2½ per cent. on preference shares, making 7½ per cent.

for the year, £12,500; dividend of 5 per cent. on ordinary shares, making 10 per cent. for the year, £25,000; transfer to reserve, £200,000, making the reserve £450,000; carry forward £54,097.

Farmers in many portions of Tapanui district—especially at the north end about Moa Flat—will (says the 'Courier') coin money out of their grain and grass seed this season. Whilst many landowners in the north have suffered from the dry season, the season 1907-8 will long be remembered in South Otago as a bounteous period. Farmers selling wheat at 4s 6d, potatoes £3 10s a ton, grass seed at from 3s to 3s 6d, and oats at 2s upwards are fortunate beings; and although the low price of wool has handicapped some of the owners of broad acres, the high price of grain will restore the balance of income to at least the normal. In some instances land-owners in this district will fatten their banking accounts considerably, and provide capital for still further developing their properties.

## NEW BOOKS

We have received from the publishers (the Catholic Deaf and Dumb Institute, Waratah, New South Wales) the new 'Manual of the Children of Mary.' We can hardly bestow higher praise on this excellent Manual than to say that it has been compiled and adapted to parish societies by one of the ablest members of the Australasian Catholic Hierarchy, the Right Rev. Dr. Dwyer, Coadjutor-Bishop of Maitland. Bishop Dwyer's new Manual is the thing for which sodalities of the Children of Mary have been waiting. So far as our knowledge and experience go, it is the best that has yet appeared. It is compact in form, neat in appearance, moderate in price (one shilling), and (so to speak) full of just the sort of meat that is wanted. It contains a history of the sodality, a list of indulgences granted to it, chapters on direction and admission, a complete set of rules in accordance with those of the Roman Congregation known as the 'Prima Primaria', special counsels of piety, directions for the annual election, ceremonies for reception, the Little Office of the Immaculate, a preparation for death, 20 pages of well-selected prayers and hymns, and a useful index. The new Manual has the approval and recommendation of most of the Archbishops and Bishops of the Commonwealth and New Zealand, and a noble work of Catholic charity benefits by its sale. We cordially commend it to Children of Mary among our readers in the Dominion and in Australia.

'Socialism from a Catholic Point of View.' This is an able and timely paper recently read by the Rev. Father Maples at a meeting of the Petone Catholic Club's Debating Society. Some members of the Hutt Valley Socialist Society were present at the reading of the paper, and the Society paid the author the high compliment of a request to issue it in printed form. Father Maples follows the sound lead of Catholic writers of recognised ability in the statement of his theme, and modestly disclaims any idea of originality. But he has evidently given much thought to his subject, and he has succeeded in giving a clear, timely, and able presentation of the Catholic view of a movement which has of late almost jumped into prominence in New Zealand, and is apparently destined to play a still more active part in the political life of the Dominion. There is, both for Catholics and non-Catholics, a present need for cheap and popular literature setting forth and defending in a clear and reasonable, and temperate way the Christian view of Socialism; and Father Maples' pamphlet is a useful sequel to that which was some time ago published on the same theme as a pastoral letter by the Archbishop of Wellington.

It was at a little village in Carnarvonshire, near Snowdon, that Mr. Lloyd George, President of the Board of Trade, was brought up. He went each day to the village school, and he lived the ordinary life of a cottager's boy. As he grew up his uncle became anxious for his future. He decided that the lad should be articled to a local solicitor. The old uncle could not afford to engage a coach for him, so he learnt French and Latin himself in order to be in a position to personally prepare the nephew for his examination. At twenty-one Mr. George was a fully-fledged solicitor, and very soon had a good practice. Tireless work and aptitude for the public service made him a Cabinet Minister at forty-three.