

general proficiency. In classes, Standard V. to Standard III., to which searching tests were applied, reading, spelling, writing, and (in general) composition are commendable features. Arithmetic is less satisfactory, and, indeed, calls for special attention during the remainder of the working year; but in geography, particularly the section known as course A, the answering was prompt and intelligent. The work of Standards II. and I., as well as that of the preparatory classes, was inspected as far as opportunity offered. Generally, it is being conducted on sound lines, and the progress is mainly satisfactory. With some useful recommendations regarding future work, the report concludes: 'Throughout the visit the attention, order, and general behaviour of the pupils were exemplary. There are 90 children on the school roll, and 79 were present at the inspection.'

In his report of St. Agnes' School, Halswell, Mr. T. S. Foster, inspector, states (in part) as follows:—'The schoolroom is spacious and well lighted, and for the number enrolled the staff is numerically strong. Schemes of work had been planned in full detail, making provision for all subjects of instruction prescribed for schools of this size. In some respects, notably in reading, recitation, and writing, the attainments are good. With some notable exceptions, spelling and arithmetic are satisfactory. After pointing out any observable defects, the report concludes by saying that the general conduct and orderly behaviour of the pupils on the occasion of the visit formed a pleasing feature of the day's work.'

## DIOCESE OF AUCKLAND

(By Telegraph from our own correspondent.)

August 31.

A large and enthusiastic meeting of parishioners of the Cathedral was held at the presbytery on Sunday evening. Rev. Father Meagher presided, when details were arranged for the annual social to be held during September.

The Children of Mary's social, held last Thursday evening in the Royal Albert Hall, was a great success. The committee worked assiduously towards that end. The proceeds are to be devoted to procuring a statue of the Blessed Virgin Mary for the Cathedral.

On last Saturday evening a large number of the 'Old Boys' were present in the Catholic Club rooms at a smoke concert tendered to the football club on the occasion of its departure for the southern tour. The president, Rev. Brother George, was in the chair, and the following toasts were duly honored:—'The Pope and the King,' proposed by the president; 'The Team,' by Rev. Brother Fergus; 'The Manager,' by the president and responded to by Mr. E. Dervan; 'The Captain,' proposed by Mr. P. J. Grace, responded to by Mr. Sheehan. Songs were contributed by Mr. O. Pritchard, J. McKenna, W. Dervan, S. Pritchard, and L. McCarthy. A couple of songs by Mr. E. Rowe to his own banjo accompaniment were enthusiastically received, but the story of the Cornish jury by the same gentleman was what critics would call the *pièce de résistance* of the evening. Mr. Rowe's impersonation of the Launceston farmer, and imitation of the dialect peculiar to that part of England, were simply perfect. The proceedings terminated with the singing of 'Auld lang syne.' The team left Auckland on Monday, August 31, for Wanganui via New Plymouth. They meet Wanganui on Thursday, September 3, Napier on Saturday, September 5, and return to Auckland via East Coast on Thursday, September 10. The personnel of the touring party is as follows:—Messrs. O'Brien (2), Lonergan, Little, Kean, Tobin, Nolan, Dervan (2), Sheehan (captain), Harris, Mahoney, Lynch, Slade, O'Connor, Reardon, Simpson, Keys, Waddell, and Lang. Mr. E. Dervan fills the position of manager, while the secretarial work is in the capable hands of Mr. F. Simpson.

Last Sunday the quarterly Communion of the members of the Old Boys' Club took place at St. John's, Parnell, at the half-past seven o'clock Mass, and, notwithstanding the early hour and the long distance that many had to travel, there was a very creditable muster of members. They were welcomed by the parish priest, the Rev. Father Kehoe, who addressed to them some earnest words of encouragement and referred to the enormous power for good there was in the example of a large number of young men receiving Holy Communion in a body. After Mass breakfast was provided for the members in St. Bonaventure's Hall. The catering was in the hands of Mrs. Dunn, who was ably assisted by a number of young ladies. The president referred briefly to the difficulty of getting a full gathering of members at a distant parish like Parnell, and expressed the opinion that those who made the greatest sacrifices in matters such as these were really the most active and enthu-

siastic members of the society. He also voiced the sympathy of the meeting for Mr. B. O'Brien, who dislocated his wrist while playing for the Auckland junior representatives against Waiuku on last Saturday, and for Mr. Mahon, the general secretary, whose father met with a very serious accident last week, and is still in a critical condition. A vote of thanks to the ladies was proposed by Mr. Shanley, and seconded by Mr. W. Darby in his usually felicitous manner. Mr. P. J. Grace responded on behalf of the ladies, and made some useful suggestions as to the way in which the members of the Old Boys' Club could show their gratitude to the Rev. Father Kehoe and the parishioners of Parnell.

## Late Burnside Stock Report

Cattle.—There was a big yarding of 272 forward, the greater proportion consisting of light-weight bullocks and heifers. Best bullocks were slightly firmer, whilst other sorts were a shade easier. Best bullocks, £10 10s to £12 10s; extra, up to £13; medium, £8 10s to £9 10s; inferior, £4 10s to £7; best cows and heifers, up to £9 5s; medium, £7 to £8; light, up to £6.

Sheep.—There was a very heavy yarding of 3874, of which a good proportion consisted of prime wethers and freezers. Freezing buyers purchased about 1500 sheep, prime wethers were from 1s to 1s 6d per head easier than at last sale. Best wethers, 19s 6d to 23s 3d; medium, 17s 6d to 19s; light, 14s 6d to 15s; best ewes, 17s to 18s; medium, 14s to 16s; light, 3s 6d to 11s 6d; best hoggets, up to 18s.

Pigs.—130 forward. Small pigs sold at better prices than were ruling last week, whilst heavy pigs were firm at last week's rates. Suckers, 18s to 22s 6d; slips, 24s to 26s; stores, 28s to 30s; porkers, 45s to 48s; light baconers, 50s to 56s; heavy do, 58s to 65s.

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