

## DIocese of Dunedin

The new presbytery at Omakau is to be opened on St. Patrick's Day, when there will be a special religious service and sermon appropriate to the occasion.

The many friends of the Rev. Father O'Reilly will be pleased to hear that he has again taken up his duties in the Cathedral parish, and that his health is fully restored.

The following students of Holy Cross College, Mosgiel, have passed the matriculation examination of the Otago University:—James Faulkner, John Hanrahan, Francis Delargy, and Daniel McLaughlin.

The many New Zealand friends of the Very Rev. Father O'Neill (Milton) will be interested to learn that he some weeks ago received the sanction of his Lordship the Bishop to apply for membership of the Congregation of the Most Holy Redeemer, commonly known as the Redemptorist Fathers. Father O'Neill has been accepted by the heads of the Irish province of the Order, and after a stay in the South of France he will enter the novitiate at Limerick in March. A very old-standing desire of the Very Rev. Father thus gives promise of realisation. But his fellow-clergy of the diocese, to whom he had greatly endeared himself, and great numbers of the laity among whom he worked so fruitfully, will greatly miss him; and even outside his own faith there are many who will miss his genial ways and his ready wit, which was never known to wound.

### Invercargill

(From our own correspondent.)

January 18.

The Irish Athletic Society is early in the field with preliminary notices of its annual sports' gathering, which will take place on St. Patrick's Day. An attractive programme has been arranged, and, given fine weather, a record gathering is expected. The secretary, Mr. J. McNamara, may be trusted to make very complete arrangements for the success of the fixture.

The half-yearly meeting of the H.A.C.B. Society was held on Wednesday last, when the election and installation of officers took place. There was keen competition for all the positions, the following being the results:—President, Bro. J. Shepherd; vice-president, Bro. J. Mulvey; secretary, Bro. C. Matheson; treasurer, Bro. Mulvey; warden, Bro. F. S. Byrne; guardian, Bro. J. O'Brien; sick visitors, Bros. J. Mannix and S. Dunne; auditor, Bro. L. W. J. Morton. The officers were duly installed by Bro. T. Pound, P.P., who congratulated the Brothers on their election and the members on their wise selection. The new regalia was used for the first time during the installation.

### Timaru

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

January 19.

The ladies' retreat at the Convent of the Sacred Heart this year was largely attended. The retreat was conducted by the Rev. Father Egan, S.J., and was taken part in by over 100 ladies from all parts of the Dominion.

At present all the priests are absent from Timaru taking part in the annual retreat of the diocesan clergy. Father Lezer is in charge of the parish, and on Sunday last preached on the subject of the day's feast, the Most Holy Name of Jesus.

'Conscience money' to the amount of one shilling has been sent to the Minister of Finance, and forwarded to the Railway Department.

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TELEGRAMS.....'SLIGO, DUNEDIN.'

## Interprovincial

Welshmen resident in the Westport district intend sending a nugget of gold and an illuminated address to the Hon. Mr. Lloyd-George, Chancellor of the Imperial Exchequer, a prominent Welshman.

Master Howard Buckley, of Wellington, won the scholarship entitling the holder to three years' tuition at the Sacred Heart College, Auckland, which was open to the whole of the Marist schools in the Dominion.

An applicant for the position of assistant mistress at a Taranaki school spelt 'perceiving' as 'preceiving' and later on explained her special facilities for 'preforming' the duties satisfactorily. The applicant was not successful.

It is expected that the eight sleeping cars for the Main Trunk line will be completed by the date fixed for the commencement of the through service. Six of the cars are certain to be ready, and the other two also will probably (reports the *N.Z. Herald*) be available. There will be two on each train, giving accommodation for forty persons. During the daytime these cars will be used as ordinary first-class carriages, and will seat about a third as many more passengers, as sleeping accommodation is provided for. It is thought that the cost will be about 10s or 12s 6d per berth for the journey from Wellington to Auckland, or vice versa.

Speaking in Christchurch on Tuesday night Sir J. G. Ward said that he had just received a telegram giving the results of the operations of the postal and telegraph service—a service widely used by all classes of the community. That telegram from the present head of the department was reassuring to him, and he confidently anticipated it would be so to others. Sir Joseph then read the telegram, which was to the effect that the postal and telegraphic revenue for the December quarter of 1908 showed a very satisfactory increase upon the corresponding quarter of the previous year. The excess of postal revenue was £15,000, and of telegraph revenue £10,000—total, £25,000. The total revenue for the quarter was £250,833, or just over the quarter million. The business in all branches showed a steady increase. Sir Joseph, continuing, said that when it devolved upon him to take charge of the department mentioned, the total revenue was not a quarter of a million per annum, and when he predicted that it would attain to one million of revenue some had been sceptical regarding the possibility of such a result, and looked upon it as an excessively sanguine estimate. At the end of the present year he ventured to express the opinion that the revenue would not be far off £900,000. At least it would be £800,000. Not very long ago people interested in the development of the country expressed the opinion that some day revenue from the State railways would reach £1,000,000, but here was a department not considered to be so large as the Railway Department that had earned over £250,000 in a quarter. Surely that was indicative of the activity of the development of the progress of their country.

The development of land settlement was dealt with by the Prime Minister at a social to Mr. H. G. Ell, M.P., in Christchurch on Tuesday night. At the present moment, said Sir J. G. Ward, there were some 80 surveyors employed preparing Crown lands for settlement. The total area of unsurveyed land was 764,482 acres. During January, February, and March 133,241 acres would be open for selection. Of this 104,553 acres were ordinary Crown lands and 28,688 lands for settlement land. The territorial revenue for the nine months ended December 31, 1908, had been £144,099. To that amount had to be added £41,581, being rental received from national endowment lands, which was formerly included in territorial revenue. This made a total for the nine months of £185,680. For the eight months from April 1, 1908, to November 1, 1908, the number of new selectors under ordinary settlement conditions numbered 1187, and they had selected a total area of 405,039 acres. Of the total number of selectors 691 had selected ordinary Crown lands, totalling 185,825 acres. Under the land for settlement system, including Cheviot, there were 155 new selectors, who took up 75,177 acres, and 341 selectors of national endowment lands had taken up 149,037 acres. These figures, Sir Joseph said, indicated the development of a policy which he was certain was in the highest interests of the country, and one which would be vigorously prosecuted by the Government. The policy was one that had materially helped in the prosperity of New Zealand, had wonderfully assisted individuals in different parts of the Dominion, and had added to the earnings of various Government departments. That policy was going on, and it must be satisfactory to the country generally.