

## Te Aroha

On St. Patrick's Day (says the *Te Aroha Mail*) a most enjoyable time was spent by the pupils attending the Te Aroha Convent School. Notwithstanding the bad weather, a sports programme was carried through, and, thanks to the kindness of a few friends, handsome prizes were awarded to the successful competitors. The events included: The Convent Marathon, infants' handicap, potato race, egg and spoon, thread the needle, three-legged race, and obstacle race. The prizes were won by Joseph Gavin, Peter Geaney, P. Gavin, Mossie Sheehan, Rita Fitzgerald, Percy McSweeney, Mollie Gavin, and Frances Fitzgerald. Special prizes were awarded for an essay on the life of St. Patrick, the recipients being: Mollie Gavin, 1; Peter Geaney, 2. The sports being over, the children were regaled with good things by the Sisters, and much amusement was caused by the digging for nuggets in a miniature gold mine. The photographs of the children were taken by Mr. Burrows, and a musical programme, consisting of various Irish airs, was gone through, and after the singing of the Irish National Anthem the children dispersed with many happy memories of a pleasant afternoon at the convent.

## Hamilton

A glow of enthusiasm (says the *Waikato Times*) accompanied the celebration of the annual picnic held in connection with St. Mary's Church, Hamilton. Doubtless the fine spirit shown was due, in great measure, to the efforts of the committee. So enthusiastic were its members that they fired the rest of the congregation with a like spirit. The day commenced with Mass at the church at 8.30 a.m. Even at that early hour the church was taxed to its utmost capacity. The music was sung by the children, and in a few well-chosen words Father Darby wished the people a happy feast day. At 9 o'clock all the waggons had assembled outside the church, and at 9.30 a start was made for the charming picnic ground at Mr. Chitty's property about three miles on the Hukanui road. To see ten waggons, loaded for the greater part with children, who cheered, laughed and talked, and waved their flags, according as the mood took them, was a sight to make life feel very bright and fill all with a desire to be once again little children. Arrived at the ground at 11 o'clock, the children spent the first hour on the swings and other amusements, and at 12 o'clock they had their first meal. At 1 p.m. the races for the children began, and here the keenest of contests took place, and sport in its best form was to be seen. Whilst the children raced the adults amused themselves, some in watching the races, some in playing croquet, some ping-pong, and others table billiards. At 3 p.m. afternoon tea was served. Then there was an impromptu concert, which elicited talent which took the audience by surprise. At 5.30 the waggons were once again loaded up with their human freight, and at the call of Father Darby gave three ringing cheers for Mr. and Mrs. Chitty and family that literally made the sturdy oak shake. At 6.30 all had returned to the starting point, whence cheers were called for the drivers, the committee, the Sisters, and Father Darby.

## Napier

(From our own correspondent.)

March 21.

A national concert was held in the Waipawa Town Hall on the evening of St. Patrick's Day. The promoters have every reason to be satisfied with their labors. The programme, which was as follows, was well arranged, and contained many musical gems, which were rendered with considerable ability:—Overture, Orchestral Society; Mr. G. Staunton (song); St. Patrick's choir ('Erin, the tear and the smile'); Mr. Rosewarne (humorous monologue); Mr. M. L. Gleeson (violin solo); Mrs. Rosewarne (song); Mrs. T. St. Lawrence Toner (songs); Mr. and Mrs. Rosewarne (vocal duet); Miss M. Shanley, Messrs. Lee, Gleeson, and Shanley (instrumental quartet); Mrs. Williams and St. Patrick's choir (song and chorus). The second part of the programme opened with the overture, 'Spirit of the nation,' which afforded the Orchestral Society an opportunity of displaying their proficiency. Mrs. Rosewarne ('A song of thanksgiving'), Miss Lee (piano solo), Mr. Rosewarne (song). The 'Gloria' was admirably sung by the choir; Mr. Toner (songs), Mr. and Mrs. Rosewarne (duet), Mr. P. S. Carroll (recitation). Selections from 'Maritana' by the Orchestral Society brought one of the most successful concerts held in the town to a close. The accompaniments were tastefully played by Mrs. Rosewarne, Mrs. Lock, Messrs. Eccleton, Maroney, and Shanley.

## Invercargill

(From our own correspondent.)

On Sunday afternoon his Lordship the Bishop, who was attended by the Very Rev. Dean Burke, administered the Sacrament of Confirmation to 165 boys and girls. The church was crowded during the ceremony. His Lordship, addressing the children, reminded them that they would be soon leaving school and entering upon the battle of life and be subjected to all its temptations. He said that the first few years after the schooldays were perhaps the most dangerous of a whole life, but God had provided an additional help for them to overcome the trials to which they would be exposed. His Lordship then went on to explain the effects of the Sacrament of Confirmation. Addressing the parents, his Lordship added a word on Catholic education, and made a strong appeal to those who had the care of children to send them to the Catholic schools, where they would receive not only a good education, but that grounding in their religion which would keep them strong in the faith till the end. The congregations were very large both morning and evening. The Rev. Father O'Neill (Wrey's Bush) preached in the evening.

The annual meeting of the Athletic Football Club was held on March 19, Mr. G. W. Woods in the chair. The report and balance sheet proved the club to be in a good position. An extract from the S.R.F.U. annual report showed that the club had been successful in both the junior and third grade competitions, and that the Marist Brothers' boys had won the schools championship. The election of officers resulted as follows:—President, Mr. G. W. Woods; vice-presidents, Messrs. J. Butler, J. Collins, G. Heads, M. Ward, T. McGrath, C. Wells, J. Shepherd, P. J. Scully, T. Cavanagh, J. Deegan, and T. Pound; captain, Mr. J. Ferry; deputy-captain, Mr. H. McKillop; committee—Messrs. T. Pound, P. Scully, H. Grace, E. Byrne, T. Cavanagh; secretary, Mr. M. F. Scully. The opening day was fixed for March 31.

## The Opening of the Memorial Church of the Irish Martyrs, Cromwell.

TO EVERY IRISH MAN AND WOMAN IN NEW ZEALAND.

His Lordship the Most Rev. Dr. Verdon, Bishop of Dunedin, will solemnly open and bless the Memorial Church of the Irish Martyrs at Cromwell on Sunday, April 18. Everything possible has been done as far as the means permitted to make the building a worthy Memorial of the Martyred Dead of Ireland and a suitable Monument of the Faith and Patriotism of the Irish men and women of New Zealand. Will you, when so much has been done, allow the Memorial Church of the Martyred Dead of Ireland to be heavily burdened with debt at the opening? We appeal to every man and woman in the country with the last drop of Irish blood in their veins to help to open the Memorial Church of the Irish Martyrs completely free from debt. Surely the Blood of Ireland's Countless Martyrs cannot appeal to a single true-hearted son or daughter of Erin in vain.

All subscriptions acknowledged in the *New Zealand Tablet*.

G. M. HUNT.

### MEMORIAL CHURCH TO THE IRISH MARTYRS, CROMWELL.

#### FURTHER CONTRIBUTIONS.

|                                        | £    | s. | d. |
|----------------------------------------|------|----|----|
| Previously acknowledged .....          | 1315 | 14 | 4  |
| John Kerin, Hawea Flat .....           | 5    | 0  | 0  |
| William O'Leary, Dunedin .....         | 1    | 1  | 0  |
| Mrs. Cameron, Cromwell .....           | 1    | 0  | 0  |
| Miss Annett, late Bald Hill Flat ..... | 1    | 0  | 0  |
| John Barrett, Christchurch .....       | 1    | 0  | 0  |
| Mrs. Margaret Mulqueen, Balfour .....  | 1    | 0  | 0  |
| James Gibson, Bannockburn .....        | 1    | 0  | 0  |
| Mr. Keleher .....                      | 1    | 0  | 0  |
| Mrs. H. M. Garr, Highcliffe .....      | 0    | 10 | 0  |
| Mrs. R. Cairns, Cromwell .....         | 0    | 10 | 0  |
| Jessie Gallaher, South Dunedin .....   | 0    | 5  | 0  |

Total ..... £1329 0 4

(To be continued.)

All contributions to be addressed to the Rev. G. M. Hunt, Cromwell.