

Rotorua

(From an Occasional Correspondent.)

April 8.

The programme prepared for St. Patrick's Day had to be abandoned owing to rain setting in. Elaborate arrangements had been made, as weather indications pointed to it being fine. However, after eight weeks of hot dry weather St. Patrick's Day was ushered in with a drizzling rain, and in spite of this a large number of people assembled at the wharf to take part in the picnic and sports arranged for at Hamaurana. The promoters, however, agreed to abandon the outing, and give the children a picnic at the convent school. A committee of ladies and gentlemen laid themselves out to entertain the little ones, and as the rain cleared off at noon sports were organised and carried out in the afternoon. Proceedings were brought to a close at 6 o'clock, after spending a very enjoyable and to the children a very profitable day. A social took place at the Assembly Hall in the evening, and despite the fact that there were a number of counter attractions in other parts of the district, the function was a pronounced success, both socially and financially.

On Easter Sunday Rev. Father Patterson, of Auckland, will officiate in the absence of Very Rev. Dean Lighthouse and Rev. Father Wientjes, both of whom will be absent in other parts of the mission. Dean Lighthouse is to be present with his Lordship Bishop Lenihan at a large Maori meeting at Tokaanu, which is being convened by the great Catholic chief Te Heuheu, of that place. The meeting, I understand, has been circularised as one at which an attempt will be made to solve the Maori land problem, and for this purpose the Governor, Prime Minister, Ministers of the Crown, and the leading chiefs throughout the Dominion have been invited to attend.

The Easter tourist season opens this week, and a large influx of visitors is anticipated. Already accommodation at the numerous boarding establishments is well-nigh taxed, and, notwithstanding that several new houses have been erected, excursionists will have to take shakes-down. The Railway Department has put on a special to leave Auckland on Thursday night, returning on Easter Monday night. This train invariably carries a large number of excursionists, and it is an amusing sight to witness, though an embarrassing position for those concerned, those early morning trippers hunting for lodgings, through not engaging their rooms before arrival. It has often been matter for wonder that the Government has not in the past catered for emergency accommodation, as cases have been known of excursionists having to avail themselves of the railway carriages.

Thames

A crowded meeting of young men (says the *Thames Star* of April 5) was held in St. Francis' Hall last night to form a Catholic Club. Great enthusiasm was shown by all present, and a keen desire was evinced to make the club a success. A strong executive was formed to carry out all minor arrangements, and to secure rooms where the club meetings will be held. The following were the officers elected:—Patron, Right Rev. Mgr. O'Reilly; president and chaplain, Rev. J. V. Carran; working vice-presidents, Messrs. W. Meehan and James Twohill; hon. secretary, Mr. H. McDonnell; hon. treasurer, Mr. M. Lanigan; auditors, Messrs. D. Twohill and E. Whittaker.

Napier

(From our own correspondent.)

April 10.

I regret to have to chronicle the sad death of Mr. R. P. Clarkson, who was accidentally drowned last Saturday

afternoon in a most tragic manner while bathing off the Marine Parade. The body was not found until last Tuesday. The late Mr. Clarkson was an ardent Catholic, and had since the inception of the Catholic Club in Napier acted as president, and the success of the club was mainly due to his efforts. He was a member of the Hibernian Society, and took an active part in all Church matters. The funeral, which took place on Thursday, was attended by a very large following. Rev. Father Goggan officiated both at the church and at the graveside, and was assisted by Very Rev. Dean Binsfield and Rev. Fathers O'Connor and Tymons, Very Rev. Dean Regnault and Very Rev. Dr. Kennedy being also present.

Great preparations are being made for the opening of the All Nations bazaar, which commences next Wednesday in the Theatre Royal.

Reefton

(From an occasional correspondent.)

The convent school annual concert has been fixed for April 21, and as in the past is looked forward to as one of the most popular entertainments of the year.

Availing of the opportunity offered by her departure, a valedictory in the form of a social evening, accompanied by a handsome writing desk, was tendered Miss Slowey, M.A., mistress of the Reefton High School, on Thursday last in the Convent High School by her friends, who assembled to bid farewell and offer their warmest good wishes, while all felt the keenest regret that the pleasant associations and fond friendship existing between the guest and themselves would have an end, all hoping that the future would be for her one of long happiness. Vocal and instrumental music filled up the evening. Solos contributed by Misses Clerkin, L. Carmine, Fitzpatrick, Clarke, and Meates were much appreciated.

The Taranaki County Council has accepted an offer from the Taranaki Petroleum Company (Ltd.) of a quantity of waste petroleum with which to conduct experiments on the county road in the vicinity of the company's works at Moturoa.

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