

state of the medical profession, hospitals, and medical schools of Great Britain and Ireland.

**Purchasing Remounts for the Army.**—During the latter part of the autumn a number of Government agents connected with the War Department were in Ireland and put themselves in communication with breeders of horses and stud owners with a view of purchasing horses and mules. It is understood that several purchases of hunters, young horses, and mules were made.

**A Remnant of the Penal Days.**—A ward of the Irish Court of Chancery recently determined to enter the Jesuit novitiate. All important steps taken by wards of Court are recorded in minutes, which, in due course, come before the chief clerk of the Court of Chancery. When the minute in this case came before the chief clerk he attached a note stating that the Society of Jesus was an illegal body. The Lord Chancellor then declined to sign the minute, and it stands for argument in the Chancellor's Court.

**The Irish Local Government Act.**—In a recent issue of the *Speaker* there is an interesting article by Sir Thomas Grattan Esmonde on the working of the Irish Local Government Act. In the most convincing manner he points out the fact that the gloomy forebodings of those who prophesied for the new local bodies a career of incompetence and corruption have been falsified. He shows that 'in less than six months from the inception of the Local Government Act practically every Council in Ireland has drawn up its standing orders, organised its staff, compensated retiring officials, made out its schemes for roads and rate collections, discharged the liabilities of its Grand Jury predecessor, and made arrangements for the meetings of its own body. In fine, the entire machinery of Local Government has been set up from one end of the country to the other. In no other country would a similar work have been accomplished with greater speed or with greater efficiency.' This is a splendid record for a people who are branded as unfit to manage their own affairs.

## ST. MARY'S CONVENT SCHOOLS, NELSON.

Mr. Trask, the retiring Mayor, distributed the prizes to the pupils of St. Mary's Convent Schools, Nelson, on the occasion of the breaking-up for the Christmas holidays. Among those present were the Very Rev. Dean Mahoney, the Mayor-elect, Judge Robinson, Mr. T. Maginnity. Mr. Graham, M.H.R., sent an apology for his unavoidable absence. Prior to the distribution of the prizes the pupils and some of the Orphanage children gave a very creditable entertainment. The latter sang a couple of choruses, and the former went through the following programme:—Duet (four pianos and organ), Misses E. Kelly, Curran, Clark, G. Clark, Duncan, Turner, Louisson, Armstrong (organ), Miss Eden; chorus, senior pupils (Select School); maypole dance, Misses Armstrong, Gapper, Moore, and Leighton; recitation, Misses Gibbs and M. McMahon; duet (four pianos), Misses Mercer, Floyd, Courtier, Richards, Wimssett, Light, F. Clark, and Vaughan; vocal duet, Misses Eden and Kelly; duet (two violins), Misses Gibbs and M. Kelly; song and chorus, Ivy Waters and junior pupils (Select School); solo (three pianos and organ), Misses Eden, Egan, Moynihan (organ), Miss Kelly; recitation, Misses Louisson, V. Higgins, McMahon, and Curran; chorus (bary accompanist, Miss E. Wimssett), senior pupils; quartette (piano, violin, organ, and harp), Misses Kelly (piano), M. Kelly (violin), Eden (organ), E. Light (harp); Columbian drill, young ladies; duet (four pianos), Misses Kelly, Eden, Armstrong, Moynihan, Capper, Egan, Hailes and Moore. The Columbian dance by sixteen gaily dressed girls carrying fans was a very dainty performance, and provided a spectacular effect that was much admired.

In calling upon Mr. Trask (says the *Colonist*) to distribute the prizes, the Very Rev. Dean Mahoney said that it was the tenth occasion of the kind at which Mr. Trask had presided, and he took occasion to thank the Mayor for the interest he had always displayed in the St. Mary's institutions, and to compliment him upon his services to the city. The Mayor-elect, Mr. Joseph Harley, he was proud to say, was at one time a St. Mary's schoolboy, and he had no doubt that Mr. Harley would carry out the duties of his office as efficiently as his predecessor. He also mentioned the fact that Mr. Graham, M.H.R., was at one time a pupil at St. Mary's, and stated his pride in the fact of the two gentlemen named having been past pupils.

The Mayor said that it was with great pleasure that he once more presided at the prize-giving. He was now much better acquainted with those managing the town and Stoke institutions than he was nine years ago, and he was more impressed with the excellent management and good results, of which there had been demonstration in the programme just concluded. He considered the institutions a credit to the Rev. Mother Superior, her assistants, Dean Mahoney, and the Brothers at Stoke. Continuing, he said that there was no secrecy about the conduct of the institutions. The schools were inspected and examined by the Board Inspectors, and the Government Audit Department examined the books, etc., of the Orphanages, and the auditor, Mr. Pope, was present, and could bear testimony to the admirable management. Mr. Trask spoke in terms of admiration of the late Father Garin, and the present manager, Dean Mahoney, and hoped that when the time should arrive his successor would be an equally good man. Regarding the Rev. Mother Superior, he spoke of the fact of this lady being selected from the whole of New Zealand to represent the Colony at a Missions Conference in France as a great compliment to herself and the place.

District-Judge Robinson and Mr. J. A. Harley (Mayor-elect) expressed their pleasure at being present, and congratulated the Rev. Mother and the Sisters on the continued success of the schools.

The following is the prize list:—

### ST. MARY'S SELECT SCHOOL.

Good conduct.—Rosie Miller 1, Isabel Oldershaw 2. Amiability and politeness, Ada Harling 1, Iney Louisson 2; diligence, deportment and physical drill, M. Waters; Christian doctrine, Vivian Higgins 1, Kathleen Stapp 2; regular attendance, Florrie Stapp 1, Grace Seymour 2; general proficiency, Bridget Lally.

Sixth Class.—First composition, science and geography, M. McMahon; first grammar, reading and highest number of marks, G. Gapper; general improvement, E. Kelly.

Fifth Class.—First arithmetic and second composition, V. Frost; first composition and second reading, M. Devery; first reading, second arithmetic and highest number of marks, F. Stapp; application, Amy Tomlinson; general progress, E. Gunderson, D. Gardener.

Fourth Class.—First arithmetic, Elma Pahl; first composition and second reading, Rosie Young; first reading and recitation, Iney Louisson; general progress, Rosie Wilson 1, Nettie Hayden 2.

Third Class.—Highest number of marks, Marjory Mercer; first reading and recitation, Vivian Higgins; first arithmetic and second reading, May Reid; first geography and second spelling, Sylvia Lockyer; first composition and tables, Fannie Martin; first history and spelling, Eileen Frank; first writing and application, Nina Constable; general improvement, Grace Woodward, Minnie Friend; general improvement and sewing, — McDonald, Lucy Berry, Ruby Sowman, Katie Conway, Mary McNamara, May Kelly, and Katie Burke.

Second Class.—First geography and highest number of marks Isabel Oldershaw; first mental arithmetic and recitation, Ivy Waters; first spelling and second arithmetic, Ethel Saunders; first composition, Kathleen Stapp; first reading, writing, and second composition, Nellie O'Brien; second arithmetic and tables, Vera Armstrong; second reading and spelling, Grace Seymour; second geography and tables, Jessie Woodward; application, Elsie Way.

First Standard.—General improvement, Dora McNamara; writing, dictation, and sewing, Isabella Seymour; reading, writing, and sewing, Rita Armstrong; second reading and composition, Clara Stapp; drawing, Dora McNamara 1, Mary O'Donald 2; regular attendance and spelling, Minnie Burke.

Preparatory Class.—Good conduct, Emma Way; catechism, Katie Burke; amiability, Amelda Hayden; transcription, Eileen Kelly; reading and spelling, Monica O'Brien; copying and tables, Flora Saunders; general improvement, Johanna Hannigan; transcription and counting, Irene Stapp; tables and writing, Dorothy Waters; first copying, Ruby Saunders and Nelly Fielding.

First singing, May McMahon; second singing, Florrie Stapp; first Mount Mellick embroidery Katie Ward, second Mabel Waters, third Marjory Mercer, fourth Katie Burke; first fancy work, Bridget Lally, second Ada Harling; first plain sewing and drawn thread, Mabel Waters, second Rosie Miller, third Ethel Saunders; first music, Marjory Mercer, second Nellie O'Brien, third Josephine McDonald; devotedness and attention to class, Katie Ward.

### SACRED HEART HIGH SCHOOL.

Good conduct, Hedeveg Gibbs, Ada Ladley and Edith Frank; Christian doctrine, Trixie Seymour 1, Mary Clarke 2; amiability and politeness, Doris Lightfoot, Laura Tatton, Ivy Moore, Mary Connell; diligence, Hedeveg Gibbs, L. Warner, Ada Ladley, Flora McCarthy, H. Leighton, M. Harris, and Mary Clarke.

Civil Service Class.—Euclid, composition, second geography, algebra and physiology, H. Gibbs. Arithmetic, algebra, second Euclid, Cecilia Arnold. Physiology and composition, Lavina Warner. English and geography, Ada Ladley. Euclid and second arithmetic, May Egan. Second arithmetic, Bridget Kelling. History, science and arithmetic, Hilda Kuapp.

Sixth and Seventh Classes.—Geography, Ivy Waters; English and arithmetic, Trixie Seymour; second English, second reading and history, Constance Armstrong; reading and recitation, Doris Lightfoot; general progress, Chrissie Duncan; drawing, Maggie Kelly.

Fifth Class.—Arithmetic, second geography, and reading, Muriel Seymour; second reading, geography, and writing, Mary Clarke; general improvement, Gladys Moynihan; arithmetic, second geography, and writing, Muriel Seymour; second geography, reading, and writing, Mary Clarke; general improvement, Gladys Moynihan.

Fourth Class.—Arithmetic, Teresa Curran; writing, Ellen Wimssett; reading and recitation, Eva Light; geography, Gertie Clark.

Third Class.—Reading and spelling, Ivy Seymour; arithmetic and English, Mary Connell; writing, Frances Clark; second English, Emile Courtier.

Second Class.—Reading and spelling, Martha Harris; arithmetic, Kitty Connell; writing, Edith Frank; drawing, Eileen Andrews; general application, Alice Andrews.

First Class.—Reading, Gwendoline Boundy; arithmetic, Gwendoline Frank; writing, Doris Roughton; spelling, Ivy Crisp; drawing, Gertie Harris; general improvement, Winnie Betts.

Drawing (crayon), Eva Gapper; oil painting, Lillie Hailes; painting (water colours), Bridget Kelly; second, Hannah Leighton.

Music (piano)—First class: first, Nellie Eden; second, May Egan; second class, Hannah Leighton; fourth class, Ivy Crisp and F. Clark. Violin: first, Maggie Kelly; second, F. McCarthy. Harp: first, Ellen Wimssett; second, Eva Light. Vocal: Bridget Kelly, L. Hailes, Doris Lightfoot, Ada Ladley.

Fancy Work.—First, Ruby Turner; second, M. Sheahan. Mount Mellick and drawn thread, H. Leighton and Ada Ladley. Plain sewing: first, Sarah Eden; second, R. Turner, Ivy Crisp and G. Frank.

Shorthand.—First, H. Leighton; second, B. Kelly.

French.—First, Hedeveg Gibbs; second, C. Arnold.