

NEW ZEALAND: GENERAL.

All persons having books of tickets in connection with the art union to be held in aid of the funds of St. Patrick's Church, Waimate, are requested to send in blocks and remittances before Christmas to the Rev. Father Regnault.

HOLDERS of tickets in the Oamaru Convent art union are urgently requested to send in blocks and remittances before December 6th to the Rev. Mother, Dominican Convent, Oamaru. The drawing takes place on the 8th inst.

LORD RANFURLY and the Hon. J. G. Ward visited the Hon. John McKenzie at Heathfield on Saturday morning last, and remained with him for over two hours. They both left by the northern express. Mr. Ward was greatly pleased to find that his old friend and colleague was much better than when he last saw him.

We have to thank the Government printer for a copy of the *New Zealand Statutes* for 1900. Last year's volume contained only 247 pages of matter, this runs into 764, and is the bulkiest issued for several years. The contents comprise 73 public, 34 local and personal, and three private acts; total, 110.

THE Government have decided to call for tenders for the proposed steam service to South Africa. Tenderers are to state the subsidy required; the steamers are to be capable of carrying at least 4000 tons; to be fitted with freezing chambers, and be of a sufficiently light draught to enter all the most important South African harbors. The service will be a six-weekly one.

At the last meeting of the Ashburton Catholic Literary Society the president reported the receipt of a number of books which had been ordered for the library. The members debated the question, 'Is the Press a reliable guide for public opinion.' Mr. McSherry took the negative and Mr. Moison the affirmative side of the question. The debate proved the most interesting yet held by the society, several of the speakers, more especially the leaders, delivering lengthy and telling speeches. After the members had spent over three hours in aguing the question out, a vote was taken on the subject, and resulted in favor of Mr. McSherry's party by a majority of one vote.

AN Australian contemporary (says the *New Zealand Times*) states that Miss Amy Castles, for whose vocal training at Home money was publicly raised in Victoria, has changed her teacher at Paris. The young lady was studying under Madame Marchesi, but as latterly she had been receiving the tuition for a mezzo-soprano instead of soprano, she became displeased, after having consulted the best of critics as to the quality of her voice, which they aver is a pure soprano. Madame Marchesi in a recent letter stated that her pupil was most amiable and diligent, and likely to become an admirable singer. If the examiner sent out by the Trinity College, London, to conduct practical examinations be any judge there is in Wellington a young soprano—Miss Kate Connell—of even greater promise than Miss Amy Castles.

THE following pupils of Catholic teachers (writers our Timaru correspondent) passed the recent Trinity College examination held here by Professor Edwards:—Senior division—Pianoforte: G. Donn, honors; M. Hoare, honors; J. Hoare, honors; Eily Twomey (Miss E. McGuinness). Intermediate division—L. Stewart, honors (Miss E. McGuinness); K. Earl (Convent, Temuka); E. Spring (Miss Fitzgerald); E. Jones (Convent, Waimate). Junior division—V. Farnie (Convent, Temuka); E. Dore, honors (Convent, Kerry Town); T. Wareing (Miss McGuinness). Preparatory division—M. Ardagh, C. Park (Convent, Waimate); D. Farnie, H. O'Donoghue, and C. Tarrant (Convent, Temuka); M. Scannell (Convent, Kerry Town); N. Fitzgerald (Miss Fitzgerald). In the senior division Miss McGuinness was very successful, securing honors for three pupils, Mr. G. Donn being complimented by Professor Edwards, who advised him to persevere and go in for the higher degrees. Miss Eily Twomey's pass is a very creditable one for a child of her age.

A GREYMOUTH correspondent writes: St. Joseph's Catholic school, conducted by the Marist Brothers, was examined by Mr. W. L. F. Fetch, M.A., on November 17, with the following results:—Reading, very good; spelling, excellent; writing, very good; composition, good; arithmetic, very good; geography, very good; drawing, very good; singing, very good; recitation, excellent; elementary science, very good; grammar, good; manners, excellent; discipline, excellent. General result—Pass subjects, very good; class subjects, very good; additional subjects, very good. In Standard VII. two boys did Standard VI. work, the remainder taking Civil Service work for high school pupils. The Inspector's note on the passes in Standards I. to V. was:—'The passes are very satisfactory indeed. An excellent standard of work is maintained throughout the school.' At the recent drawing examination the subjects taken were model, freehand, and geometrical drawing. Two pupils obtained certificates in model, seven in freehand, and 22 in the geometrical. The Marist Brothers are to be congratulated on their record this year. For the past three years 100 per cent. has been secured.

THE reputation of our Premier is not confined to the British Empire, it has even extended to the Continent. In a recent issue the Paris newspaper, *Le Temps*, had an article dealing with the Right Hon. R. J. Seddon and the legislation of this Colony. In the course of the article it said: 'In the midst of the winter session M. Richard Seddon, Chief of the Government of New Zealand, presented his Budget to Parliament. This is the Minister of the Antipodes, whom they call in his country "King Dick." We have had a king-citizen; the Antipodes produce a citizen-king. The Budget of a small country of less than a million inhabitants, presented even by a citizen surnamed the king, would not court the attention of two or three continents, would not merit, for example, being

fully and expensively sent by telegraph to all corners of the world, were it not of general interest. But New Zealand has undertaken a most complete, and, consequently, very extensive trial of that which may be called a practical collectivism, or socialism. Compulsory arbitration, total suppression of strikes, a day's work of eight hours, compulsory rest on Sunday, and, in addition, a statutory half-holiday for employees, jealous protection of labor against capital, limitation or destruction of great individual ownership of estates, slow nationalisation of the soil, perpetual lease to cultivators of State lands, exemption from taxes for small proprietors (90,000 out of 103,000), power to reduce or abolish the sale of alcoholic liquors to each electoral district, finally political rights and votes to women, this is what seven or eight years of legislation by the people has realised in New Zealand. It is, indeed, as we see it, a general and practical attempt at all that is applicable in the socialistic doctrine.'

SHOULD the settlers in the Taieri Beach district succeed in getting the Government to erect a bridge over the river, they ought to remember with gratitude the part which the old punt played in the matter. The Hon. J. G. Ward went down to the district to see how the punt worked, and having got on board with his party a start was made for the other side, where a number of settlers, primed full of facts and figures relating to the absolute necessity of a bridge at the place, awaited him. Matters went well until mid-stream was reached, when the punt, meeting with a convenient mud bank, decided to take a rest. For fully half an hour the crew did their level best to get it to move, but they might as well have tried to start a South African mule that had resisted the entreaties and copious and florid language of an Australian bushman. It is presumed, too, that the crew used nautical expressions, but the punt did not seem to mind. Just as the Minister and his party were getting anxious, and perhaps angry, and the enjoyment of the spectators on the bank had reached laughter point, the boat, finding that it had succeeded in convincing Mr. Ward of the sweet reasonableness of the settlers' request, quietly slipped off its resting place and quickly got to its destination. Rarely, if ever, has a Minister received a deputation that had such convincing arguments to support its prayer, and the only note of sadness about the proceedings was the fact that the speeches prepared for the occasion were not required, as the action of the punt was more to the point than the remarks of the most polished orator.

WEDDING BELLS.

HANNAN—CROWE.

A VERY pretty wedding was celebrated at the Church of the Holy Name, Ashburton, on November 21, when Mr. Michael Hannan was married to Miss Ellen Crowe, eldest daughter of the late Mr. Patrick Crowe, of Leeston. The Very Rev. Dean O'Donnell officiated. Mr. William Laffey acted as best man. The bridesmaids were Misses Mary and Kate Crowe (sisters of the bride). The bride looked charming in a white embroidered robe trimmed with valenciennes lace with tulle veil and wreath of orange blossoms, and carried a lovely bouquet. The bridesmaids wore electric blue dresses, prettily trimmed with cream silk, white Leghorn hats trimmed with cream chiffon and ostrich tips. The bridegroom's present to the bride was a very handsome brooch, he also presented gold and ruby brooches to the bridesmaids. After the ceremony a large number of friends were entertained at breakfast in the Templar Hall, when the Very Rev. Dean O'Donnell proposed the health of the newly-wedded couple. The presents were both costly and numerous. The bride and bridegroom left by the express for Dunedin to spend the honeymoon.

OBITUARY.

MR. JAMES GALLAGHER, KAIKOURA.

Mr. James Gallagher, of Kaikoura, whose health had been very indifferent for a long time, passed to his final rest on Tuesday, November 20. But death found this good man ready and prepared (writes a correspondent), and indeed his whole life may justly be said to be a preparation for the inevitable. Fortified by the last rites of Holy Church and aided by the pious prayers of his devoted children and faithful friends, he yielded up his soul to God. Not only Catholics but all who knew the deceased bear testimony to his sterling worth; and not only the congregation he belonged to, but all Kaikoura is poorer to-day for his loss. Truthful—he indeed had 'forged his tongue on the anvil of truth'—liberal to every good cause even beyond his means: faithful as became one who was born in Gartan, the natal place of St. Columba of the Cells; devoted to his children in such wise as to be an example and pattern for all parents; devoted to his Church so as to be an edification to all—such verily, and if more were said, was James Gallagher. A Donegal man like St. Columbkille, the famed Apostle of Caledonia, like him also he brought with him two great gifts, those of faith and fatherland. Truly James Gallagher was a man of strong, vivid, powerful faith, and his practice was in full conformity with his belief. Neither did long years away from dear Erin nor distance of many thousand miles diminish his love of fatherland. His love of God, of his Church, and of the land of his birth, was of the noblest and highest type. And being such a man, he was sure to be an excellent colonist and an honor to his adopted country. It might be here mentioned that he was a subscriber to the N.Z. TABLET from its start. He leaves a family of six children—one a professed Sister of the Mission in Christchurch and a son and four daughters at home. Truly these children have sustained a heavy loss, more especially as their mother has been dead for some years. But all have been care-

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