

was very successful in his efforts for the orphan. The contributions received by him in the Lawrence parish amounted to £223 7s; in the Cromwell parish, £143 9s; and in the Queenstown parish, £123 7s. This gives, for three parishes, the respectable total of £490 3s.

## NEW ZEALAND: GENERAL.

ACCORDING to a London cable of Saturday Sir Westby Perceval is a passenger for this Colony by the steamer China.

THE *Triad* for the current month contains a number of interesting articles dealing with art, science, music etc., and is very well illustrated.

NEARLY 1200 persons in the Christchurch district are receiving old-age pensions, this being an increase of 200 during the past 12 months.

As an illustration of how anxious people are to go on the land it is stated 1500 applications have been received at Kaikoura for land in the Speg block, an area of 12,246 acres.

THE penny postage rate, which comes into force on January 1, only applies to the United Kingdom and some of the colonies, and not to foreign countries or Australia. For the former the rate remains at 2½d the half-ounce, and for Australia 2d; post cards, 1½d.

ELABORATE preparations are being made in Christchurch for the jubilee celebrations on Anniversary Day. The city will be decorated on a scale that has not been attempted there before, and the procession, in which the pioneers will take part, will be a great feature of the proceedings.

THE double ceremony of opening the new Basilica of the Sacred Heart at Thorndon, Wellington, and the laying of the foundation stone of the new Cathedral, is fixed for the first Sunday in February. His Eminence Cardinal Moran will officiate at both places. There will also be present a number of other Australian and New Zealand prelates and many other ecclesiastics.

In his speech last week at Hokitika the Premier spoke strongly against the remarks of the Governor of Fiji, Sir G. T. M. O'Brien, and said he would insist on his proving his assertions or apologising. He made lengthy references to the gallantry of the New Zealand troops in South Africa, and said that as the colonies had given their sons to die in the maintenance of the unity and integrity of the Empire they should be represented in its councils.

A PECULIAR incident, illustrating the well-known fidelity of dogs for their masters and grief at their loss, has been brought under the notice of the *Manawatu Standard*. The late Mr. J. G. Rush had a favorite fox terrier, which was a constant visitor to the sick room. After the death of its master the dog moaned and left the house, and was found the next day dead on the lawn of Mr. H. G. Moore, a neighbor of the late Mr. Rush.

SPEAKING at Hokitika last week with regard proposed legislation the Right Hon. R. J. Seddon said that the Government would introduce next session a Local Authorities Bill after reference of the matter to a conference. A great evil was too many local bodies, but he preferred giving such bodies an opportunity of effacing themselves. The Factories and Shop Hours Act would be amended, and banks and mercantile offices brought under its provisions. Personally he was not in favor of Federation with Australia under present conditions, but would keep an open mind for the report of the commission sanctioned by Parliament, the members of which were not yet appointed.

WRITES the Shrewsbury correspondent of the *Liverpool Catholic Times*:—A wedding which aroused considerable interest amongst local Catholics was celebrated at the Cathedral, Shrewsbury, on Thursday, October 18, the contracting parties being Miss Isabel Frances Della Porta, younger daughter of Mr. Joseph Della Porta, Belmont, Shrewsbury, and Mr. Matthew Cook, second son of Mr. James Cook, Wellington, New Zealand. The bride is held in high esteem by all classes; she has always been a generous friend to the poor and evinced the liveliest interest in every good work inaugurated by the church, and therefore it occasioned no surprise that the ceremony was attended by a crowded congregation, many people being unable to obtain admission to the cathedral. The Right Rev. Dr. Allen, Bishop of Shrewsbury, officiated, assisted by the Rev. Dr. A. Moriarty. There were four bridesmaids—Miss Rabnett (niece of the bride), Miss Cook (cousin of the bridegroom), Miss Booth, and Miss Carr. The bride was given away by her father, and the best man was Mr. Robert Cook, eldest brother of the bridegroom.

THE examination of the Sacred Heart School, Kaikoura, conducted by the Sisters of the Mission (writes a correspondent) took place on December 3 and 4, with the following result:—Standard VI.: presented 6, all passed; Standard V.: presented 3, all passed; Standard IV.: presented 8, all passed; Standard III.: presented 6, all passed; Standard II.: presented 6, 4 passed; Standard I.: presented 13, all passed. Two lady experts (Mrs. B. Mackle and Mrs. Bell) examined the needlework done during the nine months the Sisters have had charge of the school. To the Sisters and the pupils alike the verdict is highly creditable:—'We are,' they said, 'surprised at the excellence and variety of the work, and the quantity for the shortness of time.' Out of 60 pupils on the register 35 were present at the examinations; and the percentage of passes in the Standards was equal to 97. This speaks well for nine months' work; for, owing to changes in staff and in buildings, the schools were closed for some months prior to the Sisters' arrival.

THE Registrar-General has issued a leaflet of comparative statistics of the Colony for the years ended September 30, 1890 and 1900. During the 10 years the population has increased from

620,545 to 764,181, equal to 23·15 per cent. The imports have increased from £6,371,479 to £10,047,332, the exports from £9,985,240 to £13,661,226, and the total produce of the Colony from £9,759,846 to £13,477,966. The export of butter has increased by 322·88 per cent. and the value by 427·93 per cent. The cheese export has increased in value by 156·18 per cent., sheepskins by 156·44 per cent., and frozen meat by 142·21 per cent. The coal output has increased from 637,397 tons to 975,234 tons, and the gold output from 232,625 to 387,663oz. Other comparisons are as follows:—Occupied holdings, 38,178 in 1891, 62,485 in 1899; land in cultivation, 8,039,765 acres in 1891, 12,515,802 acres in 1899; occupied area of land, 31,867,505 acres in 1891, 34,422,653 acres in 1899; sheep, 16,116,113 in 1891, 19,348,506 in 1899; cattle, 813,831 in 1891, 1,222,139 in 1899; miles of railway open for traffic, 1342 in 1890, 2196 in 1900 (including 79 miles of the Midland Railway); miles of telegraph line open, 5000 in 1891, 6910 in 1900; deposits in Post Office Savings Bank, £2,441,876 in 1890, £5,320,370 in 1899 (an increase of 117·88 per cent.); value of land and improvements, £122,225,029 in 1891, £138,591,347 in 1898.

## THE STOKE INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL CASES.

THE re-trial of Brother Wybertus on the charge of indecent assault on a boy named Guckeit, as to which the jury failed to agree last week, took place at the Supreme Court, Wellington, on Monday. The jury, after three hours' deliberation, returned a verdict of 'not guilty.' This decision brought the Stoke cases to an end, the Crown having decided not to proceed any further. In all the cases tried the juries brought in verdicts of not guilty. We shall have something to say on these cases in our next issue.

## WEDDING BELLS.

MACKAY—DARBY.

On Wednesday, November 21 (writes our Auckland correspondent) the marriage of Mr. Robert Mackay and Miss Margaret Darby was solemnised in the chapel of the Bishop's Palace at Ponsonby. The Right Rev. Dr. Lenihan, assisted by the Rev. Father Darby, brother of the bride, and the Very Rev. Dr. Egan, O.S.B., performed the ceremony. His Lordship celebrated the Nuptial Mass at which the newly-wedded couple received Holy Communion. The bride was given away by her father, Mr. Patrick Darby, one of our oldest and deservedly respected Catholic citizens, and attended by her sister, Miss Gertrude Darby. Mr. Edward Darby, of Wellington, officiated as best man, and the Rev. Father Patterson performed appropriate music on the organ. After the ceremony the wedding party adjourned to the residence of the bride's parents, where the wedding breakfast was partaken of. The guests comprised his Lordship the Bishop, the Right Rev. Mgr. O'Reilly, the Very Rev. Dr. Egan, O.S.B., and the Rev. Fathers Darby, Gillan, O'Hara, O'Gallagher, O'Carroll, Corcoran, Patterson, and Purton, O.S.B., and the immediate relatives of the bride and bridegroom. The bride looked charming in a smart travelling costume of striped silk poplin. She carried a lovely bouquet and wore a gold cable bangle and a ruby brooch, the gifts of the bridegroom. The presents were numerous and beautiful.

## OBITUARY.

MRS. MCKEY, SOUTH DUNEDIN.

WE regret to record the death of Mrs. McKey, wife of Mr. Michael McKey, which took place at her residence, Ocean Beach Hotel, South Dunedin, on November 30. The deceased was a native of Hilltown, County Down, Ireland, where she was born 48 years ago. She came to New Zealand in 1869, and resided ever since in Dunedin. The interment took place on Sunday, December 2, the funeral being largely attended. The remains were taken to St. Patrick's Basilica, where the first part of the burial service was read, and thence to the Southern Cemetery, the Rev. Father Delaney officiating both at the church and at the graveside. At the last meeting of the South Dunedin Borough Council a motion expressing sympathy with Mr. McKey, who is a valued member of that body, in the bereavement sustained by him, was passed. The deceased was much respected by all who knew her, and Mr. McKey and family have the sincere sympathy of a large circle of friends in their loss.—*R.I.P.*

The Railway authorities have decided to suspend all train services on Christmas Day on the Hurunui-Bluff section with certain exceptions. A list of these will be published in our next issue. They have also arranged to run special fast passenger trains in connection with the Canterbury Jubilee celebrations and the Christmas and New Year holidays. Special night trains will leave Dunedin for Christchurch and *vice versa* on December 22, 24, 29, and 31. Further particulars will be found elsewhere in this issue.—\*.

Messrs. Charles Begg and Co., of Princes street, Dunedin, with branches at Wellington, Timaru, and Invercargill, direct the attention of the public to the fact that they have been appointed sole agents for the celebrated American organ, 'The Estey,' and will be pleased to forward catalogues, price lists, and illustrations post free to any part of the Colony. A liberal discount will be given for cash, or very easy terms of payment can be arranged. Messrs. Begg and Co. keep a very large and well selected stock of music, comprising songs, pieces, anthems, glees, cantatas, oratorios, etc., and intending purchasers of any kind of musical instruments would do well to write to the firm for their catalogue.—\*.