

was founded on the principle of private judgment in the interpretation of Scripture, whereas in the Catholic Church the interpretation of Scripture has to be derived not from private judgment but from the authority of the Church, that is practically from the lawful pastors of the children. Hence combined religious instruction in the State schools can never be acceptable to Catholics, for if such instruction deserves the name of being religious it would be opposed to the Catholic principle of authority, and if it is not really religious then, while practically useless in regard to the children, it would still afford the teachers the opportunity, if they so desired, of insinuating by word or by action their own peculiar belief or their own want of belief in the inspiration of the Scriptures. What was aimed at was non-dogmatic religious instruction, but, as Cardinal Manning once expressed it, "Religious instruction without dogma is like a house without foundation or a triangle without a base," and as the different denominations disagree in regard to dogmatic truth there can be no profitable or safe system of united religious instruction in the State schools.

A further consideration in point may be added that those who recognise the principle that religious instruction may be given by the State thereby abdicate one of the primary duties attached to a church. If the right of the State to impart religious instruction of one particular kind be recognised at the present time there will be nothing to prevent the State undertaking to give religious instruction of quite a different kind in the future. This is unfortunately what is occurring in more than one of the Continental countries of Europe at the present time.

Asked what became of the scheme in Victoria, Archbishop Carr said the Scripture lessons drawn up by the Royal Commission were submitted to Parliament with a view of authorising a referendum to be taken on the subject of introducing them into the Victorian State schools. The scheme was thrown out by the Upper House, and therefore no such referendum will be taken in Victoria, not for the present at all events.

NEW ZEALAND: GENERAL.

THE Right Hon. the Premier has received an intimation from the Agent-General that the Duke and Duchess of Cornwall will visit the colonies as originally decided upon.

OF the 14 witnesses examined in Invercargill by the Federation Commission four expressed themselves in favor of New Zealand joining the Australian Commonwealth, four were against, and six were non-committal.

Nearly £900 has been promised in Wellington for the proposed statue to her late Majesty Queen Victoria. The Governor is reported to be disappointed at the manner in which the citizens are responding to the appeal for funds.

MR. H. MCSHERRY (president) occupied the chair at the last meeting of the Ashburton Catholic Literary Society, when there was a fair attendance of members. The programme for the evening consisted of 'A night with the poets' and was the means of providing an entertainment of an interesting and instructive character.

THE Premier states that the Australian colonies are not giving effect to their threat to detain under-stamped—i.e. penny—letters from New Zealand. They are delivering the letters, but charging double deficient postage. He has reason to believe that they will shortly cease doing that. He is sure that the feeling in Australia generally is in favor of penny postage. Victoria, indeed, will institute the penny postage system on the 31st March.

MR. LAWRENCE MILMOE, who died at New Plymouth a few days ago, gained distinction during the Maori wars in the defence of the pah at Turu-turu-mokai. He settled at Hawera, and had resided there until removing, in bad health, to New Plymouth some time ago. He was of a very charitable nature, and had a large circle of friends. The deceased was a native of the West of Ireland, which he visited some five years ago.—R.I.P.

THE Right Hon. Mr. Seddon and Mrs. Seddon, with Miss May Seddon and Messrs. Hamer and Andrews, private secretaries, have returned to New Zealand from Australia, where they had been attending the Commonwealth celebrations. Mr. Seddon said he had a splendid time of it, and that the New Zealanders were received with marked attention in Sydney.

SIR WESTBY PERCEVAL, Lady Perceval, and their son and daughter arrived in Auckland last week from England, having come out *via* Sydney. Sir Westby states that he is on a visit to the Colony, and that he has no present intention of making his home in New Zealand. He will visit the Lake district, probably continuing his journey and doing Wanganui River, thence through the southern parts of the Colony. He is chairman of the Consolidated Goldfields New Zealand properties on the West Coast, a director of the Crown Mines Company, and chairman of the New Zealand and River Plate Land Mortgage Company, having various properties in Auckland. He intends to visit the Waihi mine before leaving.

OBITUARY.

MR. JOHN DELAHUNT, ROLLESTON.

On Sunday evening, the 3rd inst., there passed away at the hospital here (writes our Christchurch correspondent) Mr. John Delahunt, late of Rolleston. Prior to going to Rolleston Mr. Delahunt was for many years a resident of Papanui, where he took a very keen interest in church affairs, being always to the fore in any matter to promote its interests and welfare. He was greatly esteemed by a large circle of friends for his kindness and liberality, as he was at all times ready to give assistance to any person who

stood in need of such. His funeral took place on Wednesday, when a *Requiem* Mass was said at St. Mary's by the Rev. Father Marnane, who also officiated at the grave.—R.I.P.

MR. DANIEL MAHONY, WELLINGTON.

It is with sincere regret that we record the death of Mr Daniel Mahony, Vogeltown, near Wellington, who died suddenly at his residence on Tuesday morning, February 5, the cause of death being heart failure. For the past twenty-six years—in fact, ever since his arrival in the Colony—he had been closely associated with parochial works, and was a well-known figure to the Catholics of Te Aro. Besides giving his own untiring care to the Church, he also gave, freely and joyously, his two sons—Rev. S. Mahony, St. Patrick's College, Wellington, and Rev. G. Mahony, Nelson—to the service of God in the priesthood. Immediately his sad demise became known expressions of sympathy came from all parts of the Colony. His Grace Archbishop Redwood and his Lordship Bishop Grimes were amongst those who sent telegrams of condolence. As many of the priests had not left Wellington after the ceremonies in connection with the opening of the Basilica of the Sacred Heart, a Solemn *Requiem* Mass was offered up on Wednesday morning, the two sons of the deceased being celebrant and deacon respectively. All the clergy—local and visiting—including Monsignors Mackay and O'Reilly, were present. Many came during the afternoon and evening to pay their last respects to one whom they had known so well during life. The funeral took place on Thursday afternoon. The burial service both in the church and at the grave was conducted by the Rev. S. Mahony, assisted by his brother, Rev. Father O'Shea, and a number of clergy. Notwithstanding the inclemency of the weather the funeral cortège was a representative one, showing the respect in which the deceased was held. On the remains being removed from the church the Dead March in 'Saul' was played by Miss McDonald.—R.I.P.

A PUSHING FIRM.

Messrs. DWAN BROS.,

HOTEL BROKERS, VALUERS, AND FINANCIERS,

WILLIS STREET, WELLINGTON.

MESSRS DWAN BROS. are the chief hotel brokers, etc., in New Zealand, holding that position for many reasons. Originally associated with their father, Mr. Thos. Dwan, sen., auctioneer, etc., the brothers, Messrs T. B. and L. Dwan, founded in 1880 the above-named business, which has grown enormously. Under the able tuition of their father they gained invaluable experience, and the prosperity of the firm is emphatic proof that they have demonstrated more than ordinary ability and study during their career. The offices of Messrs Dwan Bros. are situated in Willis street, Wellington, and there at one time and another a lot of business connected with New Zealand hotels has been transacted. Each branch of their business dovetails into the other, and the firm do not go beyond it in any particular, neither being agents nor financiers except in relation to the hotel trade. All their time is therefore devoted to their speciality, and in this they have an expert knowledge which is frequently taken advantage of. There is hardly a hotel in Wellington that has not gone through their hands, while they do business in this branch throughout the Colony, having been brokers for hotels from Auckland to Invercargill. Some idea of the size of this branch can be gained when it is stated that they frequently manage the sale of 20 hotels a month, their principal connection being in the Wellington, Hawkes Bay, and Taranaki provincial districts. It is justly said of Messrs. Dwan Bros. that they never fail to carry through a transaction that they undertake, and that their name never appears as suing for a commission. What with their close relations with the trade and intimate knowledge of it, to say nothing of the cash at their backs, they are able to bring a sale off where others fail. For instance, should a client wanting to take over a hotel not have sufficient funds for the purpose, Messrs. Dwan Bros. can arrange the matter successfully when others fail, in this regard frequently acting as financiers. They are not only hotel brokers, but are hotel owners, having hotel freeholds as far south as Invercargill, and even on the West Coast one of their main lines is hotel valuing, a department in which they can pose as experts with authority. Thus only a fortnight ago Mr. T. Dwan was engaged by the Government as an expert valuer to sit on a case at Nelson to decide upon the question whether or not the agent of the Public Trust Office had made a mistake and sold a hotel there under its real value. He was associated in the case with Mr. Poynton, the Public Trustee. The firm are called upon to value hotels in remote places. The success of Messrs. Dwan Bros. has been commensurate with their special knowledge. Besides being decidedly the biggest people in their line in the Colony, they are owners of considerable house property in Wellington, having a large army of tenants of their own in the city. For push, persistency, and expert knowledge they are not to be surpassed.—*New Zealand Times*, December 29, 1900.—*.*

The Provincial Ecclesiastical Seminary, Holy Cross College, Mosgiel, re-opens on Friday next. The Seminary has been established for the education of students from all parts of New Zealand who wish to devote themselves to the priesthood. The prospectus appears elsewhere in this issue.—*.*

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