

In September last the Agricultural Department distributed for experimental purposes a large quantity of potato seed of several varieties amongst settlers in various parts of the Colony. The results in most cases have been very gratifying. One farmer in Hawke's Bay obtained the following weights of potatoes from four 5lb parcels of seed:—Sutton variety, 112lb; Daniel variety, 100lb; Lapstone kidney variety, 75lb; Findlay's Rosabelle variety, 60lb. The potatoes are well-grown.

ABOUT 300 citizens, including many ladies, assembled in the Art Gallery, Christchurch, on Friday afternoon to say farewell to Mr. W. Reece, mayor of Christchurch, and Mrs. Reece, who intend to leave shortly for a trip to the old country. The gathering was thoroughly representative, and during the afternoon a presentation of an address was made to Mr. Reece, showing forth the citizens' appreciation of his valuable services as mayor during the jubilee year.

SPEAKING at an entertainment at Wellington to returned troopers on Saturday night the Premier said that as head of the Government he had made up his mind that no matter what happened he was prepared to back up the mother-land by sending the necessary number of troops to maintain the prestige of the Colony and to support the Empire.

ACCORDING to a North Island paper private information has been received to the effect that the first New Zealanders, who took part in the relief of Kimberley by General French's forces, will receive a medal and three bars. The medal is for the South African campaign, and the bars for the relief of Kimberley and the occupation of Bloemfontein, the capital of the Free State, and Pretoria, the Transvaal capital. The second and third New Zealanders, who did not take part in the relief of Kimberley, will receive a medal and two bars—Bloemfontein and Pretoria; the fourth and fifth contingents, medal and one bar—Pretoria; and the sixth and seventh contingents the general medal. A South African or colonial medal may be awarded in addition.

MR. J. J. COTTER, superintendent of the Citizens' Life Assurance Company's business in Dunedin, was on Thursday last the recipient from the staff of a handsome presentation, consisting of a case of pipes, with the following inscription:—Presented to J. J. Cotter, Esq., by the Dunedin staff of the Citizens' Life Assurance Company, 11th March, 1901. Assistant-superintendent Colville referred to the good feeling which had always existed between Mr. Cotter and his staff, and expressed the regret they felt at losing so popular an officer. Messrs. Kindly, Wilson, Trainor, and Dixon also spoke in the same strain, making particular reference to the capable manner in which Mr. Cotter had conducted the business of the office. Mr. Cotter, who was evidently taken by surprise, thanked the staff for the handsome present they had made him, and briefly outlined the progress the Dunedin branch of the company had made during the four years he had been in charge. He attributed this success to the capable manner in which his staff had performed their duties, and trusted that the same would be extended to his successor.

OBITUARY.

MR. JOHN CRONIN, WANGANUI.

(By telegraph, from our own correspondent.)

Last Sunday, just as Very Rev. Dean Kirk was reading the usual prayers before Mass, Mr. John Cronin was seized with a fatal illness. He was carried outside and measures were taken to bring him to, but as he appeared to be sinking rapidly messengers were despatched for medical aid. Meanwhile Dean Kirk had hastened to his side, and it is believed that life was not quite extinct, as the Dean administered conditional Extreme Unction. Dr. Christie arrived soon after, but John Cronin had breathed his last. Mass was then offered for the repose of his soul. Dean Kirk, in referring to the sad occurrence, said that for some time the deceased had been a regular weekly communicant, so that he was well prepared, and in being called away just as he was about to fulfil his obligations as a Catholic he had died a beautiful death. The late Mr. Cronin, who was 60 years of age, leaves a widow and a grown-up family of five. To these in their sudden bereavement the sincerest sympathy is extended.—R.I.P.

MISS CISSIE BARRETT, KIRWEE.

Very sincere sorrow was felt by a wide circle of friends and acquaintances (writes our Christchurch correspondent) at the death on Monday morning last in Christchurch of Miss Cissie Barrett, only daughter of Mr. John Barrett, Kirwee, at the age of 28 years, after a long and painful illness borne with characteristic patience and Christian fortitude. At St. Mary's Church, Manchester street, on Wednesday morning, a Solemn Requiem Mass for the repose of her soul was celebrated by the Rev. Father Gallais the Very Rev. Dean Foley being deacon, Rev. Father Richards subdeacon, and Rev. Father Marnane master of ceremonies. In the sanctuary were Rev. Fathers Chastagnon (Darfield), Goggan (Leeston), and Rice (Hawarden), and in the church a numerous congregation of relatives and friends. The choir, led by Mr. H. H. Loughnan, sang the solemn Gregorian music of the Mass, and Miss Foulson presided at the organ, playing the Dead March in 'Saul' as the cortege left the church. The funeral was very numerously attended, the interment taking place in the Barbadoes street Cemetery alongside the remains of the deceased's mother and brother. The Rev. Father Marnane officiated at the grave, and with much feeling referred to the many virtues of the late departed, her loving and gentle disposition which drew so many towards her, the many years of, at times, intense sufferings endured by her with exemplary resignation, through all of which she was ever cheerful and kind. The pall bearers were Messrs. Mead, W. G. and H. Hayward,

and amongst those present at the funeral were friends from all parts of the province. Wreaths were placed on the coffin by Mrs. Liston and family (Dunedin), Mrs. A. J. White and family, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Holley (Leeston), Mr. and Mrs. Clark, Mr. and Mrs. H. Gilbert Coombe, Mr. J. Scanlon (Hororata), Mr. and Mrs. A. R. Fleming (Port Levy), Mr. J. Fleming, Miss Delcie Deamer, Miss Doffie Deamer, Mr. G. McClatchie and family, Miss L. D'Oyley, Mr. and Mrs. Quin (Temuka), Mr. and Mrs. Flynn, Miss Gilmer (Wellington), and others. Telegrams and letters of condolence were received from Mrs. Liston, Quirk Bros, R. Beveridge, Sir G. M. O'Rorke, Messrs. E. Comer (Lyttelton), G. Matthias (Waimate), R. A. Buckley, Gilmer (W.), Jas. O'Malley, M. O'Brien, F. Barkas, Mrs. Lynskey (Kaipara), W. J. Hardie, Quin (Temuka), Mrs. Page, F. Constaney, Dr. Campbell, J. McIsaac (Timaru), Rev. Fathers Coffey (Dunedin), Regnault (Waimate), Goutenoire (Napier), Martin (Wellington), and Chastagnon (Darfield).—R.I.P.

MR. JEREMIAH EGAN, TIMARU.

General regret was felt in South Canterbury when it became known that Mr. Jeremiah Egan, of Timaru, had died on the 6th inst. after a long and painful illness. The deceased was well known and highly esteemed by all, and his death, at a comparatively early age, was deeply deplored by a large circle of friends. The funeral procession from the Church of the Sacred Heart to the cemetery was very large, and was an evidence of the esteem in which the deceased was held by all classes in the community. The Rev. Father Tubman, assisted by the Rev. Father Aubry, conducted the burial service. A widow and three children are left to mourn their loss, and to these we tender our sympathy in their bereavement.—R.I.P.

ST. PATRICK'S DAY.

In consequence of March 17 falling this year on a Sunday the celebration of the Irish national festival in this Colony was somewhat interfered with. Concerts and sports gatherings were held in various centres on dates to suit local requirements. In Dunedin a national concert was given on Friday evening, on Thursday a sports' gathering and concert were held in Ashburton, and similar celebrations in Wellington on Saturday, a concert took place in Christchurch on Monday night, and a procession and sports' gathering were held in Auckland on Saturday.

A London message of Monday states that the Munster Fusiliers laid a wreath of shamrocks on the Queen's sarcophagus on St. Patrick's Day.

Queen Alexandra sent the Irish Guards at Chelsea four boxes of shamrocks for distribution on parade.

THE POPE AND THE LATE QUEEN.

On the 13th September, 1843 (says the *Love della Verita*), the deceased Queen Victoria of England, with Albert, Prince Consort, disembarked at Ostend to pay a visit to Leopold I., King of the Belgians, her affectionate uncle, and then to honor with her presence the principal cities in Belgium, which were preparing a splendid reception for her, beginning with Brussels, where in the programme of the festivities figured as an extraordinary item the production at the Royal Theatre of the opera 'Moses,' the work of our immortal Rossini. When the Queen arrived in the Belgian capital, the Diplomatic Corps accredited to King Leopold went to the palace to tender their homage to the Royal guest, and at their head was Mgr. Gioacchino Pecci, then Apostolic Nuncio at Brussels, who in the name of the representatives of the Powers addressed to the Queen appropriate words expressing their homage and good wishes. Afterward a brilliant official banquet took place at the Court. Mgr. Pecci was one of the guests with the Queen, and she was pleased to converse with him long and affably, asking him many questions about Rome and Pope Gregory XVI. We mentioned in a recent issue how three years subsequently, Mgr. Pecci, on his return from the Belgian Nunciature visited England and had a cordial audience with the Queen. In June, 1887, on the occasion of the celebration of the Queen's Jubilee in London, his Holiness Leo XIII. sent to her Majesty through Mgr. Ruffo Scilla a letter containing congratulations and good wishes, and the Queen in an audience granted to the special envoy of his Holiness spoke in detail of the incidents to which we have referred, and of how at Brussels she had made the acquaintance of Mgr. Gioacchino Pecci, of whom she had always had a distinct and pleasant remembrance. With the letter of congratulation the Pope sent a magnificent mosaic as a present, and for the Jubilee of his Holiness, which occurred about the same time, her Majesty asked him to accept a souvenir which she charged the Duke of Norfolk to present to him. It was a copy she had made of an ancient piece of plate in her collection at Windsor. In a letter to his Holiness, after assuring him how much she had been touched by his felicitations and thanking him for his present, she congratulated his Holiness on the occasion of the fiftieth anniversary of his entrance into the Church in which he had so highly distinguished himself by his zeal in maintaining peace and goodwill amongst men, in appeasing civil discords, and, above all, in honoring the God Whom he and she both served.

Messrs. Wright, Young and Co. announce that they have started a first-class tailoring business in Albion Chambers, 41 Dowling street, Dunedin. None but expert tradesmen are employed by the firm, so that patrons may rest assured of having their orders executed in a satisfactory manner. The stock consists of a choice selection of seasonable suitings, trousersings, etc., which is open to the inspection of clients. Messrs. Wright, Young and Co. guarantee that no exertion on their part will be spared to merit a liberal share of public patronage.—*.