

SOME idea of the dimensions of the Teviot fruit industry may be gained (says the *Tuapeka Times*) from the fact that during the present season upwards of 100 horses have been employed in carrying fruit to Lawrence, where it is trained to Dunedin and elsewhere. Apricots grown in the Teviot district have realised as much as 28s per case in Wellington this season.

DR. LOGAN CAMPBELL, who is to be elected Mayor of Auckland for the period including the Duke of York's visit, went to Auckland before the site of the city was chosen. His office stands now where his tent stood in 1840, the land having been purchased at the first Government sale. He was for a term Superintendent of the province of Auckland; he was one of the first members of the city in the House of Representatives, and also at one time was elected for Farnell.

THE Wellington people are not singular in their idea that Government should pay the whole of the cost of entertaining the Duke and Duchess of York whilst in this Colony, for at a meeting in Christchurch in connection with this matter the opinion was expressed that the money should come out of the Consolidated Fund, and a resolution to that effect was forwarded to the Premier. The sum required in the 'City of the Plains' is set down at £1500, and as this would only amount to about 6d per head of the population of the city and suburbs it should not be too much of a tax on local patriotism and loyalty to raise it.

THE Month's Mind for the late Dean Chervier took place at the Church of St. John the Evangelist, Leeson, on Tuesday, March 12, when (writes our Christchurch correspondent) clergy were present from almost every parish in Canterbury. A Solemn *Requiem* Mass was celebrated by the Very Rev. Father Le Menant des Cheneais, in the presence of his Lordship the Right Rev. Dr. Grimes. The sermon was preached by the Very Rev. Dean O'Donnell, who concluded his discourse by suggesting that a memorial be erected over the grave of the late Dean in the Leeson cemetery. The matter has since been taken in hand by the Rev. Father Goggan, at present in charge of the parish.

THERE was a large attendance of members at the last meeting of the Ashburton Catholic Literary Society (says the *Mail*). Mr. H. McSherry (President) occupied the chair. A considerable amount of routine business was transacted, amongst which was the announcement that the Society intended to donate a prize to the best junior debater for the ensuing six months. A debate entitled 'Should we federate with Australia?' formed the evening's programme, Mr. P. Healey taking the affirmative and Mr. B. Moriarty the negative side of the question. This most important question was keenly discussed by the members, and some very fair speeches were delivered on the subject, but early in the debate it was seen that the verdict would result in favor of the non-federalist party, and notwithstanding the excellent addresses of the federal leaders a poll taken at the conclusion of the debate showed a verdict by a large majority in favor of Mr. Moriarty's party.

The following message, from an esteemed Napier correspondent, came too late to hand for last week's issue:—The celebration of St. Patrick's Day in Napier on last Monday was unquestionably the best of its kind ever held in the town. There was a grand torchlight procession, headed by the Citizens' Band, through the principal streets. Many handsome Irish banners, particularly that of the Hibernian Society, and the beautiful Irish flag recently imported from Dublin, lent additional splendor to the procession. The Theatre Royal, where a national concert was held, was overcrowded, many having to be refused admission. The *tableau* 'Ireland with her four provinces,' represented by five young ladies in appropriate costumes, was the gem of the evening. In the musical portion the land of harp and shamrock was kept well to the front. To the energetic secretary unstinted praise is due.

THE Catholics of New Headford (writes our Christchurch correspondent) celebrated St. Patrick's Day by a very pleasant outing. A special excursion train, conveying upwards of 150 persons, left Lincoln on Monday, March 18, for Little River, arriving there at about 11 o'clock. At the latter station the Catholic residents were gathered and, being joined by the excursionists, adjourned to the recreation ground, where a most enjoyable day was spent. Besides a cricket match the programme of sports included children's races, three-legged race (won by Maori boys), girls' races, 100 yards and half-mile races for men, etc. A tug-of-war, Little River v. Shand's Track, was, after a severe contest, won by the latter team. An energetic committee of ladies and gentlemen, under the presidency of Father Richards, had the day's arrangements in hand. Mr. G. Cuneen combined the onerous duties of secretary and clerk of course. Mr. M. F. Ryan was handicapper, Mr. D. McVeigh starter, and the Rev. Father Richards judge. Many useful prizes were provided for the sports, and everyone seemed thoroughly satisfied and pleased at the success attending their combined efforts.

FRESH from his tour in the Mediterranean with his wife, Dr. Mackin, of Wellington, turned up the other day (writes the London correspondent of the *Dunedin Evening Star*), and he is now taking post-graduate courses at the Eye Hospital, Moorfields, and the Ear and Throat Hospital, at Golden Square, until his departure for the Colony, which will probably take place in May by the Waiwera. The doctor's tramp abroad embraced visits to Tunis and the ruins of Carthage, Malta, Alexandria, Cairo, Port Said, and Beyrout, Balbec in Syria, Damascus, Nazareth, Jaffa, Jerusalem, Jericho, the Dead Sea, and Bethlehém, at which place he and Mrs. Mackin arrived just in time for the interesting ceremonies that mark Christmas tide. During the whole of their two months' round they suffered but one wet day, and in Jericho they saw the roses in full bloom, and walked about with the thermometer showing 82 in the shade. They came Home via Malta and Liverpool, and went thence to Ireland to spend a week or 10 days with relatives. In Belfast Dr. Mackin foregathered with the Very Rev. Dr. Waters and the Ven. Archdeacon Devoy, who, I am rejoiced to hear, are both in great form at present.

A SWINDLE of a particularly mean character (says the *N.Z. Times*) was 'worked' upon the organisers of the recent performance of 'Judas Maccabaeus' in connection with the Wesleyan Conference proceedings in Wellington. The secretary received a letter from an unknown correspondent, who expressed his ability and desire to help the performance by disposing of tickets at Karori, if a supply were left for him at an address in the city. The secretary sent 20 tickets, no doubt blessing the voluntary worker. Almost simultaneously another official connected with the performance received a letter from another volunteer, who was burning to help 'the cause' by disposing of tickets in Petone, and who requested that a supply should be left for him at another address in town. Again 20 tickets were unsuspectingly sent, and it was only when the officials compared notes and found that the two letters were written by the same person and signed by fictitious names, that they realised they had been robbed by a new and ingenious method. There is, of course, no means of tracing the perpetrator of the swindle; but the facts are published as a warning to organisers to beware of spontaneous philanthropy of the kind described.

MR. SHEEDY, of Greymouth, has had a very fine Irish flag made to order. It is almost a counterpart (says the *Greymouth Argus*) of a flag procured by Mr. Michael Davitt for an Irish association at Napier at a cost of nearly a hundred pounds. It was much admired by Lord Ranfurly, and was used in the decoration of a banquet hall where he was the guest. While the groundwork of the Napier flag is of Irish poplin, Mr. Sheedy's is of navy bunting. In the centre of the flag is the ancient Irish harp worked in golden silk, surrounded by a shamrock border in like material, beneath being the legend 'Erin-go-Bragh' in old Irish lettering, also in gold silk. The arms of the different provinces of Ireland are displayed at each corner. On the right hand are the arms of Ulster in red satin, with the blood-red hand of Hugh O'Neill in the centre. In the left-hand corner is the coat of arms of Munster, with the ancient harp in the centre in yellow satin. The arms of Leinster are in black satin, with the typical black eagle in the centre clasping a shield in its claws. On the other corner is an emblem showing three golden crowns denoting England, Ireland, and Scotland. The crowns are worked in yellow silk on a blue ground. The general effect is very striking, and the flag is decidedly a work of art. The flag is all hand-stitched, and is the work of the Sisters of the Greymouth Convent, who have been engaged upon it for three months past.

THE quarterly meeting of the Hibernian Society (writes our Timaru correspondent) was held on March 21, the president, Bro. M. F. Dennehy in the chair. There was a large attendance of members, and the sum of over £45 was received in contributions. The president reported having, with Bro. Kane, P.P., visited Waimate to assist at the first meeting of the newly opened branch there, and expressed the opinion that, judging from appearances, Waimate would soon possess one of the soundest branches in the Colony, the number of young members joining being very encouraging. Votes of thanks were passed to the Waimate Branch and Fathers Regnault and O'Connell for their hospitality to Bros. Dennehy and Kane during their visit. Bro. Sheehy proposed 'That the District Executive be written to and asked to communicate with the bishops and clergy and branches of the society throughout the Colony asking them to have monster petitions signed in every parish memorialising Parliament to send a protest to the House of Commons against the insulting words and terms relating to Catholics in the Coronation Oath, and have the same eliminated.' The motion was carried unanimously. A motion by the president 'That a levy of 6d per member per quarter be struck on all members till 1904—the date of the next direct representative District Board Meeting to be in Timaru to defray the expenses of that meeting' was carried unanimously. A clearance was granted to Bro. Toomey, of Waimate, who wishes to join the new branch.—A quiet ceremony took place at the presbytery when a fine flag pole was erected in front of the Priory and the National flag was hoisted on St. Patrick's Day. The flag is really handsome and I will have something to say of it later.

INTERCOLONIAL.

Father O'Neill, Tamworth, was raised to the dignity of Dean on St. Patrick's Day.

The export of coal during the first week in March from Newcastle was the largest on record, 78,955 tons being sent away. This quantity does not include coals sent to Sydney. The distribution was as follows:—Victoria, 21,050; Chili, 16,082; Honolulu, 7797; South Australia, 13,750; West Australia, 7050; New Zealand, 3640; Tasmania, 1650; Peru, 2293; Manila, 3813; ships' use, 1830 tons.

The Rev. P. J. Dowling, C.M., for many years connected with St. Stanislaus' College, Bathurst, now in Cork, Ireland, was recently elected an honorary member of the Cork Chamber of Commerce in recognition of his eminent services in connection with technical education. Father Dowling has also been asked by the Government to become a lecturer under the Department of Technical Education.

An old identity of Bathurst passed away recently in the person of Mr. James Rourke. He came to Australia 67 years ago, and entered the employ of Mr. Bettington of Collaroy, afterwards he was employed by Mr. Kinsela, near Orange, and lastly by Hon. George Lord, for whom he managed a cattle property on the Lachlan. Having put by a competency, Mr. Rourke settled in Bathurst in 1857, and had resided there ever since. Mr. Rourke was nearly a centenarian, and died in his 100th year. Some 17 years ago he took a trip to the old country, having previously provided a home for his brothers, who have predeceased him.