

sented a very pretty sight. Among those who joined in the procession were the Right Rev. Mgr. O'Reilly, the Rev. Fathers Corcoran, Kehoe, Russell, Purton. Dr. Egan and Father O'Hara marched ahead of the Poneonby and St. Benedict's children, whilst Brothers Basil, Edward, and Ignatius were in charge of the children from St. Patrick's. Arrived at the Domain the children were marched to the marquees which had been provided for them by the representatives of their respective parishes, and where a plentiful supply of refreshments was provided. Sports were provided for the young folk, and their shouts of laughter and merriment showed how greatly they appreciated the programme prepared for them. During the forenoon the children mustered stronger than the adults, but as the hour fixed for the commencement of the sports approached the latter began to increase steadily, and when the first two or three events had been disposed of their strength was something like 2000. His Lordship Bishop Lenihan visited the grounds during the afternoon. The arrangements were excellent, and the meeting was conducted in a manner that reflected the greatest credit on those concerned.

DIOCESE OF CHRISTCHURCH.

(From our own correspondent.)

March 24.

Miss Kate Connell, the talented young vocalist from the North Island, now on tour with a concert company, gave a very fine rendering of the sacred solo, 'O Divine Redeemer' in the pro-Cathedral on Sunday night.

Various minor errors were apparent in my communications last week which in justice to those interested call for correction. In the item referring to his Lordship the Bishop's sermon on St. Patrick the word 'finest' was printed 'first' discourse yet heard on this particular theme, which is obviously absurd. Again, it was stated that the green flag of Ireland floated over the 'Government' buildings, which should have read Exhibition buildings, where the national concert was held on the evening of St. Patrick's Day. In another place the name of Father Price, of Hawarden, was misspelt.

At all the services in the city churches on Sunday on opportunity was afforded the members of the various congregations to contribute towards the fund being raised to help defray the heavy expenses incurred by the Marist Brothers in defending themselves from the false and vindictive charges recently levelled against them by sundry wrong-headed individuals in connection with the Stoke Industrial School. The matter was referred to in the notices of the day and a hope expressed that the Catholics of this place will not be behind those of other centres, who responded most liberally to the appeal.

There was a full attendance of members at the weekly meeting of the Christchurch Catholic Club held on last Tuesday evening, Mr. E. O'Connor (vice-president) occupying the chair. The principal business of the meeting was the consideration of an offer by his Lordship the Bishop to erect a club-room adjoining the parochial library, and to hand over the reading-room and library to the Club under certain defined conditions. It is needless to say his Lordship's exceptionally liberal offer was unanimously accepted. This concession on the part of the Bishop will place the Club in the foremost position of similar institutions in the Colony, and with such exceptional advantages and such a valuable asset its future success is assured. The erection and furnishing of the club-room will immediately be proceeded with, and will supply a want that has been very long felt.

The practice of whistling at entertainments to express applause, low in manners and extremely annoying to performers and audience alike, received a timely check by the Bishop on the occasion of the Irish Concert on St. Patrick's night, and I cannot do better than append the remark of his Lordship, which appeared in next day's *Press*:—After one item in particular the fiendish noise was so loudly prolonged that Bishop Grimes, who was sitting in the front row of the dress circle, publicly delivered a severe rebuke to the offenders, when peace was again restored. 'If those young fellows who were whistling in that hideous manner,' said his Lordship, 'do not respect themselves, they should respect us. That whistling is exceedingly low, and I feel exceedingly mortified that so much of it should have been heard to-night. The item is deserving of the greatest applause, but certainly that low whistling is not applause at all; it is quite the reverse, and I hope it will cease.' This rebuke of his Lordship's was greeted with loud applause by the audience, and the whistling complained of ceased for the remainder of the evening.

The annual meeting of St. Mary's Catholic Club was held on Tuesday, March 12. Mr. A. Smith, vice-president, occupied the chair and there was a good attendance of members. The balance sheet, which also embodied reports from the secretary and treasurer concerning the working of the club during the past year, was considered highly satisfactory and adopted. Besides the possession of a piano the club owns property worth about £50. The following officers were elected for the ensuing term:—President, Mr. R. J. Hunt; vice-presidents, Messrs. A. Smith and L. Blake; treasurer, Mr. M. Gough; secretary, Mr. W. J. Ormandy; council, Messrs. C. Haughey, Harvey, and Griffin. Votes of thanks were accorded the retiring officers and to Messrs. J. Hynes and J. Goggin, secretaries of the meeting. At the usual weekly meeting held on the subsequent Tuesday evening, the president, Mr. R. J. Hunt, occupied the chair, the spiritual director, Rev. Father Gallais, being present and a good attendance of members. The programme of the evening was of a social nature. Songs were contributed by Father Gallais, Messrs. L. Blake, J. Hynes, T. McAntee, J. Goggin, J. C. Chase, C. Haughey, and C. Sullivan; recitations were given by Messrs. D. Sullivan and J. Ormandy and a reading by Mr. A. Blake.

GREYMOUTH.

The formal opening of St. Patrick's new school, Greymouth, was celebrated on March 18 (says the *Argus*) by a grand national concert, the building being literally packed. The overture was brilliantly played by the Garrick Club orchestra, and served as an excellent introduction to the charming little operetta, 'The Fairy Governess,' in which all the characters were enacted by pupils of the convent school. As 'Fairy Queen,' Miss Eily Hannan looked, sang, and acted her part to perfection. Miss Lily Cottle made a piquant and pleasing 'Flibbie.' Miss M. E. Noonan showed great histrionic ability in her rendition of the difficult and pathetic character of the 'Governess,' and Miss Mabel Harris, as the school girl Alice, played with a natural charm and grace that would be difficult to improve upon. The minor characters, fairies, etc., were prettily rendered by the little Misses Lena and Mary Higgins, Pearl and Pebble Hood, Mary and Theresa Mahoney, Rita and Vera Hannan, May Kilgour, Ethel Blake, Mary Ellen McCarthy, and Dorothy Lutz. As a whole, the little play presented a most pleasing stage picture, and reflects the greatest credit upon the taste and teaching powers of the Sisters. In the second part the older pupils went through the graceful and intricate evolutions of a national flag drill, presenting one of the prettiest spectacles ever staged in Greymouth. The pupils were each completely costumed in the national dress of the country represented. The principal countries represented were:—England (Miss A. Skoglund), Ireland (Miss Noonan), Scotland (Miss E. Mahoney), Wales (Miss Eily Hannan), Australia (Miss Nellie Mahoney), New Zealand (Miss Florence Shannahan), Canada (Miss Alice Hannan), France (Miss K. McKendry), Germany (Miss Alice Doogan), Italy (Miss Kate Kennedy), Spain (Miss Lily Cottle), Denmark (Miss Annie Bowman), Switzerland (Miss Mary Keating), Norway (Miss May Petersen), Sweden (Miss Gladys Hannan), United States (Miss Mary Doogan).

The chief concert numbers were all of a nature that commanded a repetition. Miss Eily Driscoll contributed 'The wearing of the green,' and in response to the encore sang a charming little Russian love song. Miss K. Galbraith sang 'Close to the threshold' in a faultless manner, and Miss Burger 'Killarney' in a way that charmed the audience. Both ladies acknowledged the encores which were enthusiastically demanded. Miss Rosabel Weber sang 'Kathleen Mavourneen,' receiving quite an ovation, and repeated the last verse. Miss Eily Hannan acted and sang her song, 'A letter from Ireland,' in a quaint and naive manner peculiarly her own, firmly establishing herself as a popular favorite. The piano solo 'Irish diamonds,' played by the Misses Guthrie, Algie, and E. McDonnell, on three pianos, met rightly with an enthusiastic reception. Among other vocal numbers were the songs 'Simon the Cellarer,' Mr Doogan; 'Eileen Allanah,' Mr Guthrie (with four part chorus); and 'Old Ireland, you're my darling,' by the Rev. Father Malone. The vocal abilities of these gentlemen are too well known to need comment. Mr George Moss sang 'Off to Philadelphia,' and had to respond to an encore. The numerous accompaniments were well rendered by the Misses Galbraith, Clara Bourke, Rosabel Weber, Eily Kemple, and E. McDonnell.

In returning thanks the Rev. Father Malone made special reference to the services of the ladies and gentlemen who assisted at the entertainment, also to Mr Sheedy for the loan of the magnificent Irish flag.

SOUTHLAND NEWS NOTES.

(From our own correspondent.)

The Catholic concert held at Waikaia last week proved to be a success from an artistic and financial point of view. The proceeds are to be devoted to meet the expenses consequent on the formation of the new parish at Riversdale, and the funds will be greatly augmented thereby. To the untiring efforts of Mr. P. J. Herlihy, Mr. J. Collins, and Miss Cissy Delargey, who acted in the capacity of secretary, the pleasing results of the entertainment are mainly due. A large and varied programme was submitted to a crowded and appreciative audience. Instrumental items were efficiently rendered by Mr. and Mrs. Mayo, Mr. Edwards, and Miss Delargey, while the vocalistic art found capable exponents in the persons of Mrs. Mayo, Mrs. Hutchison, Misses Delargey (2), Sproat, and Brown, and Messrs. Edwards and Fretwell. In thanking the large audience for their patronage the Rev. Father Keenan expressed his pleasure at seeing such strong manifestations of goodwill existing between people of all denominations at Waikaia, and trusted that the conduct and good example of his people would always merit a continuance of such respect and popularity.

The position of Mr. McNab, M.H.R., in the flag matter, seems to be very unsatisfactory. As his remarks, referring to a certain flag not having been hoisted during the national mourning, were taken to mean the Gore Convent flag—the only district school having one—and publicly refuted over a month ago, and every opportunity given Mr. McNab to explain himself, it is now taken for conclusive that he did in fact refer to the Gore Convent. Public opinion is that it ill becomes a public man to condescend to such tactics.

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