

regard to Lake Wakatipu, that was the primary motive of the Government in deciding to put a more powerful steamer upon the lake. A steamer that would carry 1000 passengers would ordinarily appear to be ahead of the present requirements; but they were making provision for an unusually large flow of people who, on a particular day, might want to go across the lake and return. He contemplated that the fare on the lake would simply be about the ordinary railway mileage fare, and the people would not have to run the risk of a block. They did not wish to interfere with private enterprise; that was not the object of the Government. They wished to see the man of moderate means take his wife and children across the lake at a reasonable rate, and that was one of the reasons why up till now he had deferred his scheme for a reduction upon long-distance fares, which they were going to make before long. He might tell them that there would be no special rate made in favor of Dunedin or any town in the Colony. It would be a permanent reduction on long-distance fares, and so far as the people of Dunedin were concerned it would enable them to go to the lakes for a sum, if not quite half the present rates, very nearly so. That was the ordinary daily reduction; and then, of course, there would be the uniform system of excursion fares that applied from time to time. The railways were here to be run for the purpose of being utilised, and not for the trains to be sent away with a few people, and by making concessions they would induce a number of people to travel for pleasure, and business, too, if necessary. In this way distant places would be brought within the reach of the people of moderate means. He thought that within the next few months he would be able to announce what the permanent reduction upon passenger fares would really be, and they would find that it would be a very important thing for the Colony itself. He thought it would give them increased traffic, and he should look forward to increased revenue. He had always found that in making concessions to induce people to travel they had got more revenue under the new system. He should expect himself to see hundreds and hundreds of people who had not been to the lakes travel there from Dunedin, and the Government would give similar facilities to the people of Christchurch and other stations along the line: so that, instead of depending entirely upon outside visitors—who, by the way, they were always pleased to see—they would also have their own people going to those places which were so accessible.

OUR Morven correspondent (says the *North Otago Times*) writes as follows:—A concert in aid of the funds for an organ for St. Joseph's Church, Waihai, took place here on Friday night. Splendid weather, a good object, and an excellent programme secured a large attendance. The singers were Mrs. Henderson, Misses Twohill, Lucy Kent, Kathleen Twohill (a tiny mite, but a talented musician), Messrs. C. J. Goldstone, J. McAleer, and the Rev. Father O'Connell. Encores were in each case eagerly demanded and heartily responded to. The Rev. Father Aubrey contributed several items on the violin, accompanied by Father O'Connell, and received loud applause. Mr. McAleer, in suitable costume, danced very finely an Irish jig. Miss Ackhurst played a pianoforte solo, and accompanied most of the singers. Miss Wall also assisted as accompanist. Both ladies were loudly applauded. Before the close the Rev. Father Regnault, in a brief speech, explained the object of the meeting. The debt on the Waihai Church had been cleared off, and now further efforts had to be made towards the full equipment of the sacred edifice. He congratulated the audience on having enjoyed a performance quite as good as any they could have had in a town. He proposed votes of thanks to all who had contributed to the success of the concert. These were enthusiastically accorded. The finale sung by the company consisted of a verse of 'God save Ireland,' followed by one from 'God save the King.'

WEDDING BELLS.

COGAN—BROOKES.

A quiet wedding took place at St. Joseph's Cathedral, Dunedin, on Saturday, April 26, when Miss Elizabeth Brookes, third daughter of the late Mr. Michael Brookes, of Naseby, was married to Mr. Charles T. Cogan, third son of the late Mr. John Cogan, of Naseby. The ceremony was performed by the Rev. Father Murphy, Adm. Miss Mary A. Brookes, sister of the bride, was bridesmaid, and Mr. James McDonald, cousin of the bridegroom, was best man. After the ceremony the guests, who were confined to the immediate relatives of the newly-wedded couple, were entertained at breakfast at the residence of the bride's mother in Clyde Avenue, North Dunedin. The wedding presents, which came from a large circle of friends, were valuable and numerous. Mr. and Mrs. Cogan left in the afternoon for the south in order to catch the Warrimoo at the Bluff on their way to Menzies, West Australia, where the bridegroom has been engaged in business for some time. They took with them the best wishes of many friends for their welfare and happiness.

Should you be afflicted with chilblains, WITCH'S OIL will give you immediate relief. A certain cure.—*

Those who require the latest novelties in jewellery, etc., should visit the establishment of Messrs. G. and T. Young, Princes street, Dunedin, where they will have the opportunity of inspecting a full and varied stock. The firm is in a position to have everything up to date as one of the partners is always a resident in the Home country, and is therefore on the spot to select the very choicest goods. The firm has establishments also in Timaru, Oamaru, and Wellington, and our readers in those districts should not forget to send for prices and designs, which will be furnished free on application...

ST. JOSEPH'S CLUB. DUNEDIN.

THE winter session of St. Joseph's Club was opened in St. Joseph's Hall, Dunedin, on Friday evening, with an excellent and varied programme, the principal item of which was a lecture by the president, the Rev. Father Murphy, Adm. There was a large and appreciative audience, who thoroughly enjoyed the programme, and nearly all contributing to the musical portion of it were honored with encores.

The rev. lecturer took for his subject 'Joan of Arc, the Maid of Orleans,' whose career, he said, was of especial interest at the present time, as her cause was just now before the authorities in Rome for canonisation. Father Murphy briefly sketched the state of France during the time of what was known as the 100 years' war. The state of France was then deplorable in the extreme. This war began in 1337 between Edward III. of England and Philip of Valois, King of France. To add to her other troubles, when this war had been in progress for about ten years, France was visited by that terrible pestilence known as the black death. Philip died in 1350, and was succeeded by John, surnamed the Good, to which title his life gave the lie. At the battle of Poitiers the French army was defeated, and John was taken prisoner and removed to England. The victory of Poitiers was followed by a truce which lasted for two years. John was succeeded by Charles V., who renewed hostilities in 1369, and in a few years England, whose dominion extended from the Loire to the Pyrenees, was nearly stripped of all her conquests. Charles V. died in 1380, and he was succeeded by Charles VI. Towards the close of his reign Charles VI. became hopelessly insane, and whilst in this state the kingdom was torn by miserable factions. Henry V., who was then King of England, considered the time opportune for reviving the claim of his ancestor, Edward III., to the throne of France. He invaded France with 30,000 men, and met the French under the Duke of Orleans at Azincourt, where he gained a decisive victory. Soon after King Henry entered the city of Troyes, then the residence of the French Court, and, through the instrumentality of the Duke of Burgundy, was acknowledged heir and regent of the kingdom of France. Henry died in the height of his career, and on his death the Duke of Bedford was appointed regent of France. The death of the English king had been followed in a short time by that of the French monarch, who was succeeded by the Dauphin, under the title of Charles VII. At this period the English were masters of Paris and all the northern provinces of France. They were making preparations to cross the Loire and attack the French king on his own ground. It was about this time that Joan of Arc appeared upon the scene. It was on January 6, 1412, that Joan of Arc was born. Her parents had not much of the wealth of this world, but they were good Christians and devout Catholics, and they instilled into her mind those virtues which distinguished her during her career. At the age of 13 she had a vision in which she was told that she was to be the liberator of her country, and the King of France would be crowned at Rheims. Four years afterwards she had another vision of the same nature. After many rebuffs she at length succeeded in convincing the authorities that her vision was genuine, and she procured an interview with Charles, whom she recognised in the midst of his courtiers although she had never seen him before. She promised to relieve Orleans, which was then closely besieged by the English, and have the king crowned at Rheims. To convince him of the genuineness of her vision she told him of a secret which was known to himself alone. This showed Charles that she was divinely inspired. An ecclesiastical court inquired into her claim, and they recommended that she should be allowed to carry out her proposals. Clad in armor she headed the troops, and succeeded in awakening in them an enthusiasm which nothing could resist. The siege of Orleans was raised, after which she marched to Rheims and assisted at the coronation of the king on July 16, 1429. At this juncture the tide had turned against the enemies of her country and her mission being fulfilled she entreated to be suffered to return to her former security. This, however, was not allowed, and at the king's request she consented to remain with the army. Early in the following year, whilst leading a sortie at the siege of Compiègne she was taken prisoner by the English and carried to Rouen, where she was tried on charges of sorcery and witchcraft by a court which was presided over by the Bishop of Beauvais, and condemned to be burned at the stake. The cruel sentence, which was as great a disgrace to her own countrymen as to her captors, was executed on May 30, 1431. 'O Rouen! Rouen!' she exclaimed as she arrived at the place of execution, 'is it here I am about to die?' She expired embracing the crucifix; and a few years later her sentence of condemnation was solemnly reversed by the authority of the Pope.

The Misses S. and N. Hall contributed a faultlessly played pianoforte selection, and acted as accompanists during the evening. Songs were given by Messrs. J. T. Hussey and D. S. Columb, which were encored. Mr. J. Hally gave a humorous reading, and Mr. Mackenzie contributed a tenor horn solo for which he was recalled. Mr. W. H. Haydon, jun., amused the audience with a clever exhibition of conjuring, the items being neatly and cleverly performed. At the conclusion of the performance Mr. Haydon jun. (vice-president), thanked the Rev. Father Murphy for his interesting lecture, the ladies and gentlemen who had contributed items, and the audience for their attendance.

The Archbishop of Hobart arrived in Sydney on Friday, April 11, his Grace's intention being to continue his journey to Maitland to felicitate Dr. Murray on the attainment of his golden jubilee. But his years and the long journey told on Dr. Murphy's constitution, and on arriving in Sydney he found himself unequal to the further fatigue of a railway journey to Maitland. Dr. Murray therefore came to Sydney and saw his Grace at St. Mary's Presbytery, where he stayed while in Sydney. Dr. Murphy was accompanied by the Rev. Father Gilleran, Administrator of the Cathedral, Hobart.