

present basis the Old Age Pensions Act cannot survive unless its provisions be adhered to. It was intended for the benefit of poor people, and not for those whose friends become convenient holders of their property for the time being. It would be very much better, from a moral point of view, to grant an old-age pension to all persons in the Colony over 65 years of age, regardless of their means. In this at least there would be no deception, and the Act would be saved from the danger brought about by an annually increasing cost, which is certain to excite, first, discontent, and then open opposition. Up to the present few have been hardy enough to condemn the Act. On the contrary, it has been the fashion to commend it, and to recommend it for imitation elsewhere. The fear now is that on the next 'roar for retrenchment,' which cannot be far distant, the old-age pensioners may suffer. And this may perhaps be avoided if the expenditure is kept within fair bounds, and strictly limited to those who are actually in want.

Newspaper Art.

The Buenos Ayres newspapers are not very complimentary to the artistic work which appears in some of their number. The *Southern Cross* says: 'We are now "in full illustration," to use a Spanish phrase applicable to illustrated journalism. Possibly some of the illustrations are better than nothing, but it ought to be a fearful quarter of an hour for an Argentine public man of note when he looks forward beyond the grave and contemplates the horrible blurs which the papers of his native land will call his portrait. The illustration of our daily press is, however, advancing. formerly it was done with a spade, now it is done with a whitewash brush. Great is progress.' The reference here is evidently to the efforts made in the direction of art by daily newspapers. This is itself a noteworthy illustration of the enterprise, journalistic as well as mercantile, now manifested in South America. A daily illustrated press is still a thing of the future, and will remain so until some quicker and cheaper process comes to light. Modern methods of newspaper printing lend themselves more easily to rapidity of production than to artistic effect. So long as a picture must be stereotyped for reproduction, so long is the attainment of artistic effect impossible. It may serve well enough for a diagram, or even for the outlines of a building, a scene, or a face. But it is impossible to reproduce tones, and the most trifling misadventure produces a truculent portrait, or a blurred scene that causes the printer to despair and the cynic to scoff. Nevertheless, the illustrated daily newspaper will come; it is the lineal descendant of the 'snippet' journal and the accredited ambassador of a literature that demands no thought.

Savings Bank Returns.

If the industrial malcontents who condemned Mr Seddon's glowing pictures of New Zealand's prosperity had studied the returns of the Post Office Savings Bank they might have been less vociferous in their denunciation. The Post Office Savings Bank is the barometer of the Colony's industrial condition. Though it is extensively used by numbers who are in a small way of business, and who require to make periodical payments, it is the resort of great numbers of persons of small means, who are saving their earnings. Though it is somewhat difficult to reconcile this fact with the magnitude of the average deposit, which for last year was £12 2s 2d, yet the small average amount to credit (£29 17s 10d) confirms it. It is also a satisfactory indication of prosperity to note that while 35,018 accounts were closed during the year, 50,046 were opened. The total amount to the credit of depositors is £6,350,013 which includes interest accrued during the year to the amount of £159,198. The bank is managed with a startling degree of economy for the reason that postmasters perform the duties without any charge for their services. Hence it comes about that the cost of turning over the large sum of £4,230,193, which was the amount paid out during the year, and £1,611,456, which was the sum paid in, was only £11,500, or 439d per transaction. As indicating the fluidity of the accounts it will be noted that while at the end of the year there remained £6,350,013 to the credit of depositors, the amount paid out was £4,230,193, which proves that almost the entire savings are turned over in a year. No doubt the Post Office bank has benefited to some extent by the charge recently instituted by the commercial banks for keeping their customers' accounts, but for the saving class of persons with limited means the former will always be a favorite medium because it allows interest on current balances. It may be added that the command of upwards of six millions of money at a low rate of interest is an appreciable advantage to the Colony. The Post Office Savings Bank, and the nature of the business done by it, are features in which New Zealanders must be congratulated.

Parents and guardians are reminded that St. Patrick's College, Wellington, re-opens on the 17th inst...

DIOCESE OF DUNEDIN.

On Friday evening an entertainment will be given in St. Joseph's Hall in aid of the hall funds. An excellent programme has been prepared, and as the hall has supplied a very necessary want the object is one that should appeal to every Catholic in the parish and meet with general support.

The choir of St. Patrick's Basilica, South Dunedin, has made steady progress since Mr Eagar took charge, and a few days ago the members, as a mark of their recognition of the painstaking services rendered by the choirmaster, made him a very nice and appropriate presentation. Several of the members spoke in very eulogistic terms regarding Mr Eagar's zeal and ability, and referred to the high state of efficiency attained by the choir under his conductorship.

The St. Joseph Ladies' Club held their annual social in St. Joseph's Hall on Wednesday of last week, and the evening passed off very successfully. After numerous forms of enjoyment had been indulged in, refreshments were handed round by lady members of the club. The success which attended the evening's entertainment was mainly due to the efforts of the lady president of the club, assisted by the secretary and some of the members. The Very Rev. Father Lewis, V.G. (of Wellington), and Rev. Fathers Murphy and O'Donnell were present during the evening.

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament took place at St. Joseph's Cathedral on Sunday from the last Mass until Vespers. During the day the members of the Confraternity of Perpetual Adoration attended in large numbers, the church being all the time well filled with devout worshippers. After Vespers there was a procession of the Blessed Sacrament, in which the children of the convent and Christian Brothers' schools and the members of the Confraternity of the Sacred Heart (men's branch) took part.

At the usual weekly meeting of the St. Patrick's Literary and Social Institute, South Dunedin, on Monday night, Mr J. B. Callan delivered a very interesting lecture on Shakespeare. The Rev. Father Coffey presided, and there was a large attendance of members. The lecture was a literary treat, and highly appreciated by the audience. On the motion of the Rev. Father Delany, seconded by Mr Marlow, a hearty vote of thanks was accorded to Mr Callan, who, in the course of his reply, said he would be happy at some future time to deliver another lecture, an intimation which was received with applause.

DIOCESE OF CHRISTCHURCH.

(From our own correspondent.)

July 7.

At the third monthly meeting of the collectors for the Cathedral building fund the very satisfactory sum of £41 was handed in, representing sixpence a week subscriptions.

The choir of St. Mary's Church, Manchester street, intend giving a concert on Thursday, July 17, in the Town Hall, Leeston, in aid of the local Catholic schools. A feature of the entertainment will be Mendelssohn's 'Lauda Sion,' which the choir will give with orchestral accompaniment.

The annual examination of the Sacred Heart day school, conducted by the Sisters of the Missions, at Addington, was recently held by the Government Inspector, Mr Baldwin. The results are such as cannot, so far as the teachers are concerned, be deemed other than satisfactory. The attendance of children at this school has quite grown out of all proportion to the accommodation afforded, so much so that an extra teacher is necessary to cope with the work, and a new school building is urgently required, there being now 93 children on the register. In view of the latter need a meeting was held on Sunday afternoon presided over by the Vicar-General to arrange about the matter.

The inspector's report of his examination of the Boys' School, conducted by the Marist Brothers, which took place towards the end of June, is just to hand. In a general summary Mr Baldwin says:—The school has passed a very satisfactory examination this year. The lower standards have done well, and certain standards (which he specifies) have produced remarkably good results, and their work compares very favorably with that of the large town schools. After criticising in detail the various subjects and standards, the inspector goes on to say that 'the general behaviour of the children during the examination was very good, and the great improvement in the discipline was especially noticeable.'

In St. Mary's Schoolroom, Manchester street, on Wednesday evening last a social was given by the Rev. Father Marnane to those who had assisted at the late carnival. There was a large gathering. Among those present were the Rev. Dr. Kennedy (Ashburton) and Rev. Father Gallais. A most enjoyable evening was filled in with ping-pong and other games, musical items, etc. The balance-sheet of the carnival was read, showing results as already reported. An opportunity was taken during the evening by the Rev. Father Marnane, on behalf of the executive committee, to present Mr W. H. Corrigan, who so ably filled the position of secretary, with a handsome set of pipes. On the motion of Mr W. Hayward, jun., prefaced by an appropriate speech, a vote of thanks was accorded the Rev. Rector for the exceptionally pleasant entertainment.

According to their usual custom, Messrs Brown, Ewing and Co., the well-known drapers of Dunedin, are making a clearance of their surplus stock, and in order to make room for new shipments they have cut down prices to a very considerable extent in all departments. Those who cannot find it convenient to call and see the bargains should write at once for a catalogue, which will be sent post free....