

its early history, showing how it had grown from a small Catholic Young Men's Society in 1862 to a huge Catholic Benefit Society in 1902, with branches in every State of the Commonwealth and in New Zealand, having 22,000 members and £120,000 accumulated funds. It was unanimously decided to form a branch of the H.A.C.B. Society at Newtown, and the N.Z. District Executive will be requisitioned immediately to sanction the opening of the new branch. Rev. Father O'Shea, chaplain of the Wellington branch, leaves on Monday to attend a similar meeting at Palmerston North, where there is every promise of a successful branch being formed simultaneously with the one at Newtown.

At both Masses and Vespers at St. Mary's Church yesterday (says the 'Nelson Colonist,' April 20) feeling reference was made to the late Dean Mahoney, and at the latter two services the Dead March from 'Saul' was played. At Vespers Miss May Driscoll sang 'The man of sorrows,' and with her sister, Miss N. Driscoll, the duet, 'He wipes the tear from every eye.' Since the announcement of the death of Dean Mahoney a number of prominent citizens have called at the presbytery and tendered their sympathy, and telegrams conveying sympathy have also been received, including one from the Education Department.

The congregation of St. Patrick's Church (says the 'Hawke's Bay Herald,' April 20) was treated to a repetition of Mozart's Seventh Mass yesterday morning. The work throughout was rendered in a very efficient manner by the choir and orchestra, and perhaps went better than on Easter morning. The soloists were Mrs. C. Allen (soprano), Miss Staunton (contralto), Mr. F. Hewitt (tenor), and Mr. F. Connor (bass), were all in good voice, and sang with excellent effect. The choruses were given with much spirit, the attack in every case being splendid. The best numbers were probably 'The Kyrie,' and 'Hosanna in Excelsis.' The orchestra, exceptionally strong and well balanced, did capital work, the accompaniments being a marked feature. Amongst the many enjoyable selections were 'Die Vacht Parade Kommt,' march. In the evening Mrs. Allen sang Mercadante's 'Salve Maria,' a solo well suited to a voice capable of executing its many difficulties. The trio and chorus, 'Salve Regina,' was also very enjoyable, the soloists being Mrs. Allen, and Messrs. C. Eagar and Connor. The 'Haeec Dies,' with orchestral accompaniment, was given with great spirit. The whole work was produced, as on the first occasion, under the capable conductorship of Mr. C. Eagar. The Rev. Father Goggan preached eloquent sermons both morning and evening.

Stoke Orphanage Destroyed

A little before 3 o'clock on Monday morning the Boys' Orphanage at Stoke was completely destroyed by fire. Mr. Fitzgerald, the head master, states that about half-past two he discovered a fire, and traced it to the boys' dressing room, in the upper storey, and at the north-east end of the building. In a very short time the fire spread. He at once removed two boys who were in hospital, and got the other boys from the burning place. There were 112 boys in the institution, and so far as could be ascertained all were got out safely and without mishap. They escaped in their nightclothes, though some secured blankets. A small harmonium and some few other things were saved from downstairs, but the lads were left without clothes to wear.

When the roll was called William Nelson, aged eight and a half years, was missing. Some of the boys said that they had seen him after the fire was discovered, and it was thought he strayed on to the hills. Search parties were out during the following day in quest of him, but were unsuccessful. A press message received on Tuesday stated that his remains had been found in the ruins.

The insurances are: £3000 on the building, £500 on the furniture, and £100 on the workshop in the South British Insurance Company. Of this sum £1000 is re-insured in the National and £500 in the New Zealand offices.

The splendid discipline at the school ensured the saving of life. The whole of the boys except the lad who lost his life were marshalled by Schoolmaster Beach, who sent them back for what they could save, and then marched them down the stairs like a troop of soldiers.

The total loss is estimated at £10,000, and the loss over insurance at £6000.

The boys are housed at present in the woodshed and other outhouses. A supply of clothing was forwarded shortly after daylight. Gifts of clothes, boots, etc., are greatly needed, as everything was lost.

Archbishop Redwood was at Oamaru when the melancholy news of the destruction of the Orphanage reached him by wire from the Very Rev. Father Lewis, S.M., V.G. It was naturally a great shock to his Grace, but he bore it bravely, and his courage under the blow was greatly sustained by the deep sympathy and proffered help of Bishop Verdon, Monsignors Mackay, O'Leary, and the other clergy that were present in Oamaru in connection with the opening of the Basilica. Offers of generous and practical assistance were also made by Bishop Verdon and the other clergy present, and strong hopes were expressed that the noble work done by the Stoke Orphanage and Industrial School would suffer only, at worst, a temporary check.

A further list of subscriptions to the building fund of the Christian Brothers' Novitiate, Dublin, is published in this issue....

OBITUARY

CONSTABLE O'SULLIVAN, RAVENSBOURNE.

General regret was felt in Dunedin and districts when it became known that Constable O'Sullivan, of Ravensbourne, had passed away on Saturday afternoon. It was only a few days ago it was announced that the deceased was about to retire from the police force on pension on account of ill health. Constable O'Sullivan had been about 24 years in the force, being only 52 years at the time of his death. Under ordinary circumstances, the deceased, who was a man of splendid physique, would have been good for active duty for the next 10 years at least, were it not that he contracted a severe cold some months ago, which he was never able to shake off, pneumonia supervening. The remains were brought to St. Joseph's Cathedral on Tuesday morning, when a Requiem Mass was celebrated by Father Howard. The funeral took place in the afternoon, and was very largely attended, the interment taking place at the Southern Cemetery. The Rev. Father Howard officiated at the graveside. A widow and a family of eight children are left to mourn their loss.—R.I.P.

PALMERSTON NORTH

(By telegraph.)

For some considerable time past the establishment of a branch of the Hibernian Society in Palmerston North has been desired by many persons. This desire took practical shape last Monday evening when a highly enthusiastic meeting took place, the Rev. Father Bowden, S.M., M.A., being in the chair. A delegate from Wellington, the Rev. Father O'Shea, was present, and explained at length the benefits to be derived from membership of such a Society. Subsequently the Rev. Father Tymons was requested to ask the executive in Auckland for the right to form a branch. Fourteen candidates paid their initiation fees. It is confidently assumed that this number will be doubled in a short time.

As proof more or less positive of the great distress in the country (says the 'Freeman's Journal') we may be permitted to observe that never even in the 'boom' times were the Sydney hotels so crowded with visitors as this Easter. The opening day of the Easter Show was a record, the money at the gates being nearly three times as much as last year. On Good Friday there was another record with nearly 62,000 people. On Saturday there was 40,000, and on Monday—black and threatening rain—the record was broken with an attendance of 64,000.

E.



R.

Leases of Crown Lands for Sale by Auction.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that an Auction Sale of RIGHTS TO OCCUPY the following areas will be held at this Office on SATURDAY, the 9th day of May, 1903, at 11 o'clock a.m.:—

HAWEA HUNDRED:

Sections 2 to 12, 15 to 17, 20 to 24, 21A, 26 and Reserves, Block IV.; 21 to 23 and 25 to 34, Block V.; 3 to 13, 15 and Reserve, Block VI.; 5 to 17 and 22 to 25, Block VII., LOWER HAWEA DISTRICT; Section 1 to 4, Block XI., LOWER WANAKA DISTRICT; Section 13 and Reserve, Block VII., TARRAS DISTRICT and TOWN OF NEWCASTLE, Grazing License under Section 116 of 'The Land Act, 1892.' Area, 10,350 acres more or less. Upset annual rental, £1.

EAST TAIERI DISTRICT:

Section 2 of 7, Block IX. Area, 9 acres; term, 14 years; upset annual rental, £4 10s; valuation for improvements, £4 10s. Possession on 19th June, 1903. Cropping will be allowed under this license to the extent of two white crops within five years.

Further particulars may be obtained from this office.

D. BARRON,

Commissioner of Crown Lands.

District Lands and Survey Office,
Dunedin, 6th April, 1903.

A very useful tool is Mawson's Patent Lifting Jack, for lifting waggons and carriages while oiling, etc. It is one of the handiest and best Jacks made. One man can easily lift a ton, and its weight is only 14lb. It is quick in action. A trial will demonstrate its wonderful utility as a great saving in muscular exertion. See it. The price is only 15s. Morrow, Bassett, and Co., sole agents.—***

Messrs. J. Fanning and Co., house and land agents, Manners street, Wellington, have a number of very desirable properties and businesses for sale....

Applications are invited for the position of editor and manager of the 'Southern Cross,' Adelaide....