

WESTPORT

(From our own correspondent.)

The handsome new Convent of the Sisters of Mercy is now almost completed. It is expected that the building will be available for occupation by the middle of next month.

The well-known Maori missionary, Dean Lightheart, who has been visiting the West Coast towns in the interests of the noble work which he has so much at heart, is expected to return to Westport shortly. The rev. gentleman intends visiting Denniston, Charleston, and Addison's on his return to this district.

The singing of the boys and girls of St. Canice's school at the nine o'clock Mass on Ascension Thursday was greatly admired. The children were assisted by the Rev. Father Malloy, and their vocal work reflected credit on the good Sisters of the Convent of Mercy.

A special meeting of those ladies interested in the work of assisting to bring the fancy fair and carnival to a successful issue was held at the convent on Ascension Thursday afternoon. The Rev. Mother presided, and the Ven. Archpriest Walshe and Father Malloy were also present. There was a large attendance, and considerable interest and enthusiasm were manifested in the proceedings.

The completion of the sacred edifices at Granity, Seddonville, and Millerton, will make a total of ten churches in this widely-scattered parish of Westport. Few parishes in the Colony entail so much laborious work and long journeyings. Some idea of the extent of the parish may be gained when it is stated that it includes isolated Karamea, a farming settlement situated at a distance of over sixty miles from Westport. A little steamer visits Karamea, but owing to boisterous weather, the state of the tide, and other circumstances, these visits are irregular and uncertain. The only means of communication the people of Karamea have is the perilous journey along the rock-bound beach, a horse-back journey that is often fraught with considerable risk. The Rev. Father Malloy pays the periodical visit to this remote part of the Christchurch diocese next week.

Marist Brothers' College, Auckland

The new Sacred Heart College erected by the Marist Brothers at Richmond road, Auckland, at a cost of £6000, was blessed on Sunday morning by his Lordship Bishop Lenihan, who also celebrated the first Mass in the institution. In the afternoon the formal opening took place in the presence of a number of local and visiting clergy, and a large assemblage of people. The Mayor of Auckland (Hon. E. Mitchellson) presided. The collection to defray the cost of furnishing totalled £231.

Dimensions

When fully completed the building will consist of a centre block, and two wings, three storeys in height, it will have a frontage of 190ft., and a depth of 85ft. The portion now erected comprises the western wing and about a third of the centre block. It is constructed of brick on a concrete foundation, roofed with slates, cemented outside, and plastered inside. The ceilings are of stamped steel, and the floors and other woodwork best heart of kauri. A verandah, two storeys in height and 8ft. wide, extends the full length of the wing, there being similar verandahs, three storeys high, at the front and back of the centre portion. The exterior is ornamented with moulded string courses under the windows, cornices at the gables and moulded architraves around the windows. There is a niche in the centre of each gable above the upper storey which will contain a statue at some future date. At present the main entrance is at the eastern end, but in the completed building it will be in the middle of the central block, and will lead to a large entrance hall. The basement is sub-divided into a large dining-room for the boys, 27ft. x 36ft. 6in., dining-room for the Brothers, 17ft. x 14ft., novices' dining-room, 30ft. x 14ft., spare and store rooms, kitchen, scullery, bath rooms, and lavatories. The kitchen contains a large range, with high-pressure boiler, circulating cistern, etc., which supplies hot water to the sinks, bath rooms, etc. A plunge bath and four shower baths are provided for the boys and the lavatory is fitted with china basins on marble stands, all supplied with hot and cold water. A staircase hall, 9ft. wide, contains the main stairs, which communicate with the different floors. The ground or principal floor is at present approached by a flight of steps at the east end which gives access to the corridor 7ft. wide, running the full length of the building. Opening off this corridor are two parlors, 11ft. x 14ft. 6in., and 14ft. x 14ft. 6in. respectively; a music room, 11ft. x 14ft. 6in., and the temporary chapel, 48ft. x 15ft. The latter is fitted with a handsome wooden altar, communion rail, etc. and opens on to the northern verandah. In the future building the chapel will be in the centre, and will be two storeys in height. At the end of the corridor are the class rooms, right and left, each 27ft. x 37ft. 6in., and subdivided by a glass partition in the centre. One of these rooms has large folding-doors, by which the two rooms can be made into one. Each class-room opens on to the large verandah, from which a flight of steps leads to the play ground and courtyard. A cement dado runs all round the rooms and the blackboards formed on cement, are let into the walls at a suitable height. Each room has a fireplace,

and ample ventilation is provided in the ceilings and walls. The second or top floor contains the main dormitory, 27ft. x 83ft., running the full length of the western wing, and is lighted by windows on all sides. There is a fireplace at each end, and ventilation is provided by means of perforated ceiling centres communicating with shafts and patent exhaust ventilators on the roof. The remainder of the top floor is divided into studies, dormitories for the Brothers and novices, infirmaries for boys, store rooms, etc. All are ventilated as previously described, and have doorways leading to the verandahs. A large courtyard is provided at the western end, with asphalted floor in which are situated the outbuildings and store rooms. It is enclosed by a boarded fence, and a portion is subdivided for the exclusive use of the Brothers. The architects of the building are Messrs. B. Mahoney and Son. The contractor is Mr. J. Moody, who has carried out his work very faithfully under the supervision of Mr. J. Corley clerk of works.

OBITUARY

(From our Christchurch correspondent.)

MRS. MARGARET CONNOLLY, SYDENHAM.

There passed away on Saturday, June 13, at the residence of her daughter, Mrs. O'Reilly, Queen street, Sydenham, a well-known and universally respected Catholic citizen, in the person of Mrs. Margaret Connolly, at the advanced age of 83 years. The deceased was a native of Galway, and arrived in New Zealand in 1884. For many years her figure was very noticeable at the Pro-Cathedral, where she invariably attended Mass and the evening services, with a regularity not frequently attained by persons far younger. The late Mrs. Connolly was attended by the Very Rev. Dean Foley, and latterly by the Rev. Father McDonnell, and died fortified by all the rites of Holy Church. A Requiem Mass for the repose of the soul of deceased was celebrated by the Rev. Father McDonnell in the Pro-Cathedral on last Tuesday, and in the afternoon the funeral cortege left for the Linwood cemetery, where the obsequies were performed by the Very Rev. Dean Foley.—R.I.P.

Legislative Appointments

Messrs. Seymour Thorne George and Thomas Beehan (Auckland), Thomas Kennedy Macdonald (Wellington), and Henry Wigram (Christchurch) have been called to the Upper House. Mr. H. F. Wigram is the first Mayor of Greater Christchurch. Mr. Seymour Thorne George was formerly member for Hokitika, and was a nephew of the late Sir George Grey. Mr. T. Kennedy Macdonald is a member of the auctioneering firm of Macdonald and Wilson, Wellington, and has been associated for years with most of Wellington's public matters. Mr. William Beehan is well known in Auckland as a consistent supporter of the Government. He was one of the candidates nominated in the Government interest for Auckland city at the last parliamentary election, but withdrew in order not to split the party vote. Mr. Beehan was born in Kerry in 1853, and came to this Colony in 1874 with the object of settling on the land. The Ohinemuri goldfields rush attracted him, but, subsequently returning to town he entered the service of the late Mr. John Cosgrave, Queen street, but some years ago started in business on his own account in the soft goods line.

Tenders are called for the erection of the Stoke Orphanage. Plans and specifications may be seen at this office.

A bad range in a home is the cause of endless annoyance, waste of energy on the part of the housewife, and extravagance in the consumption of fuel. The 'Champion,' manufactured by Messrs. Brinsley and Co., of Cumberland street, Dunedin, saves labor and coal, and makes the work of the kitchen a pleasure. It is stocked by all ironmongers. The firm will be pleased to send catalogues free on application.

Messrs. Harty and Co., Bond street, Dunedin, are prepared to give quotations for cornsacks, woolpacks, tea, castor oil, matings and general eastern lines. They keep in stock also wines and spirits of the best brands, and make advances on wools, skins, and other produce consigned for shipment to London. They are agents for the North German Fire Insurance Company for Otago and Southland.

Messrs. Morrow, Bassett and Co., of Christchurch, Ashburton, and Dunedin, are sole agents in New Zealand for the celebrated 'Excelsior' farm implements, which are known all over the world for their excellent qualities. Amongst the most noted of these implements are ploughs (one, two, and three furrows), cultivators, adjustable lever tine harrows, horse hoes, root pulpers, and slicers, etc. Intending buyers of farm implements should send for catalogues to this well-known firm.

Through an inadvertence the firm of Messrs Stronach Morris, and Co., was wrongly styled in our columns last week. This firm acts as brokers in wool, grain, sheepskins, rabbitskins, hides, tallow, etc. All produce entrusted to Messrs. Stronach, Morris, and Co. will receive the most careful attention, and be disposed of to the best advantage.