

Waimate

(From our own correspondent.)

July 12.

The weather, which had been beautifully fine during the past fortnight, took a sudden change on Friday night, heavy rain, intermingled with snow falling all night and Saturday. However, on account of the wet state of the ground, the snow did not lie.

The Hibernians played two card tournaments during the week. The first against the Fire Brigade resulted in a win for the H.A.C.B. Society by five games; the second against the Oddfellows resulted in the Oddfellows winning by three games. Both matches were played in good spirit, thus showing the friendliness existing between the different societies.

St. Patrick's school broke up on Friday for the mid-winter holidays.

DIOCESE OF AUCKLAND.

(From our own correspondent.)

July 9.

Our schools, after the midwinter holidays, reopened last Monday morning with good average attendances.

The new Anglican Bishop of Auckland, Dr. Neligan, continues to condemn the present system of State education, which excludes from its curriculum all knowledge of God.

The inclement weather last Sunday evening greatly interfered with the attendance at the churches. It literally rained in torrents. The usual procession at the Cathedral was postponed until next Sunday evening.

The greatest concern and sorrow have been evinced in the city by the sad news of the serious illness of our illustrious and venerable Pontiff, Leo XIII., not only by our own people, but by those outside the Fold.

The Sisters of Mercy are promoting a monster bazaar which they intend to hold about Christmas next, and concerning which it is proposed very soon to call a meeting. Every success should attend this most laudable work.

The Rev. Brother Basil (Superior) and several of the Brothers took up their residence during the week at the new Sacred Heart College, which, on last Monday, was opened up for the first time for scholastic studies. The teaching staff is expected to be augmented in the course of a few weeks.

The individual whom the S.M. recently bound over to keep the peace on account of inserting most insulting and disgusting libels upon the Church has begun his antics again, and if he is not careful his bondsmen will be left poorer, if not wiser, men.

Next Monday is the feast day of the Rev. Father Patterson, Adm., and it is intended to celebrate the occasion with an entertainment in the High School of the Sisters of Mercy, Hobson street, to which the Bishop and a number of friends have been invited by the Sisters.

The Hon. William Beehan, M.L.C., is to be presented with a handsome gold watch, suitably inscribed, and an illuminated address by the members of the Auckland branch of the Liberal and Labor Federation at a great meeting of this organisation which is to be held next week at Wellington, and over which the Right Hon. the Premier will preside. The presents are to be given by his co-workers in the Liberal cause to mark their high esteem of the Hon. Mr. Beehan, and the pleasure they feel at his merited call to the Upper House.

Another tram accident has occurred, whereby Mr. John Kavanagh, for nine years employed as cook to the Marist Brothers here, lost his life. He vacated his seat in the car to allow a lady to occupy it, and went on to the platform of the car. Somehow he lost his balance, as the car turned a sharp corner, and fell out on his head upon the hard road. He was at once removed to the hospital, where he died three hours after the accident without recovering consciousness. He had just bade his mother good-bye, and left on the car to take up his position as cook at the new college, and had only gone a few hundred yards when the accident took place. Much regret is evinced for the poor mother and his brothers and sisters, all of whom are staunch supporters in all matters connected with the Church.

The local branch of the H.A.C.B. Society intends to celebrate its anniversary towards the end of the month by a ball, for which active preparations are in hand, and a great success is anticipated.

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HIBERNIAN SOCIETY

CHRISTCHURCH

(From an occasional correspondent.)

The half-yearly meeting of the St. Patrick's branch (No. 82) H.A.C.B. Society, Christchurch, was held in the lodge rooms on July 6, the president, Bro. W. Packer, being in the chair. The Rev. Father O'Connell, P.P., and some 50 members were present. The delegates to the Friendly Societies' Interchange of Medical Attendance Association gave a most highly satisfactory report of the working of the Association, and congratulated the society on having on the executive Bros. Nelson, P.D.W. (vice-president), Dobbs, P.P., Edmunds, P.P., and W. S. Malaquin. This Association has proved a very valuable adjunct to our Society, a large number of members having been provided with medical attendance through its agency. A circular setting forth the advantages of a dispensary in connection with friendly societies was circulated. The delegate (Mr. Sellars) spoke strongly in favor of the scheme, and advised the branch, in its own interest, to accept the scheme. Owing to pressure of other business it was decided to hold the matter over till next meeting.

Bro. Flanagan, of the Timaru branch, was present, and enthusiastically complimented on the rapid increase in the membership of his branch. A communication having been read from Wellington branch, asking for consent to nominate a D.V.P., it was decided to comply with the request, and to forward the name of Bro. Sellars, P.D.P., as the branch's nominee. It was decided to accept the invitation of St. Patrick's branch, New Headford, to be present at their installation of officers. Considerable interest was manifested in the election of officers. With one exception every office was contested.

The following officers were elected for the ensuing term:—President, Bro. F. J. Doolan; vice-president, Bro. W. S. Malaquin; secretary, Bro. G. J. Sellars (re-elected); assistant secretary, Bro. J. Shannon; treasurer, Bro. P. O'Connell; guardian, Bro. R. J. Williams; warden, Bro. W. Bird; sick visitors, Bros. R. O'Brien and G. A. Malaquin; delegate to district meeting, Bro. Flynn; judicial committee, Bros. Dobbs, Edmunds, McDonald, McCormick, Packer, O'Brien, Nelson, Malaquin, and Kielv. The officers were duly installed and votes of thanks tendered to the retiring officers. The printed report of the last district meeting was read and dealt with. It was announced by the president that the Rev. Father O'Connell had consented to read a paper on society matters at a future meeting.

TIMARU

(From our own correspondent.)

Monday, July 6, was a red letter day for the local branch of the Hibernian Society. The half-yearly meeting was held in the evening, the president, Bro. J. O'Leary, in the chair. The balance sheet showed that the membership had increased from 118 in the previous quarter to 154 members, and a contingent increase to 200 members, if those proposed come up for initiation. This phenomenal increase is due to the extraordinary efforts of a new member, Bro. O'Sullivan, who has made it his hobby outside of working hours to canvass for members, with the result that within four fortnightly meetings he has proposed 65 members and paid their proposition fees, and 35 of those members have been installed up to the date of writing, the remainder, through the nature of their employment, waiting for a suitable opportunity to do likewise.

The balance sheet of the branch for the past quarter was most satisfactory from every point of view. The sick fund has increased from £526 to £573 during the quarter, while a sum of £24 odd has been disbursed in sick pay. The incidental fund has increased from £28 odd to £41 1s 7d, although an expenditure of £44 7s 7d was made during the past three months. The benevolent fund stands at £25 odd, and other subsidiary funds are in a sound position.

When the meeting was over an adjournment was made to the boys' schoolroom, the guests being limited to members and nominated candidates. Bro. O'Leary was in the chair, being supported on his right by the Rev. Father Tubman, and on his left by Bro. Nelson, P.P. (Christchurch), Bro. Dennehy, P.P., Bro. Cunningham, P.P., Bro. Sheehy, P.P. (Timaru). Over 150 persons sat down to the good things prepared by the lady members of the society, and the following toasts were proposed: 'The Pope' (Rev. Father Tubman), 'The King' (the chairman), after which the Rev. Father Tubman made a presentation to Bro. O'Leary of a handsome P.P. collar, and also a complimentary collar to Bro. O'Sullivan for his great work in introducing so many new members. Bro. O'Sullivan's name, during the Rev. Father's speech, was always greeted with a round of applause, and during the many speeches delivered during the evening the mention of his name evoked a similar compliment. Father Tubman in his remarks said that although Bro. O'Sullivan had earned the record for Australasia, he doubted if he had not earned a record for the whole world, and urged other members to emulate him. He was sure there was not a parish priest in New Zealand who was in the position of presiding over such a number of young men as he saw before him.