

PRESENTATIONS TO MR. AND MRS. GRAVE, OAMARU.

Balfour's Tea Room, Oamaru, was crowded on the evening of February 23, on the occasion of a farewell to Mr. J. B. Grave, who was about to leave for Dunedin, where he has been appointed manager of the local branch of the New Zealand Insurance Company. The Mayor (Mr. W. H. Frith) occupied the chair, having on his right the guest of the evening, and on his left Mr. E. P. Lee, M.P. (says the *North Otago Times*).

After the customary toasts had been honored, the chairman proposed the "Guest" of the evening, and in doing so said he had known Mr. Grave ever since his boyhood, and had always found him a man to depend upon and trust. He was a gentleman who had not mixed much in public life, but had nevertheless always taken a keen interest in the welfare of the town. The regret felt on his departure was mitigated by the knowledge that their guest was bettering his position.

Mr. Lee said that he felt they could not let their guest leave Oamaru without some marks of appreciation of the good feeling which Mr. Grave and his wife and family enjoyed amongst them. He strongly felt such an expression to be due to their guest. He asked their guest's acceptance of a gold Albert and purse of sovereigns, and on behalf of Mrs. Grave a diamond ring, together with a gold brooch for each of his three daughters. Appreciative speeches, endorsing the remarks of the chairman and Mr. Lee, were made by Messrs. H. M. Roxby, R. Milligan, F. Marshall, O. R. Wise, and P. Duggan.

Mr. Grave, in replying, said he felt a very proud man, and that he never for a moment dreamed that he would receive such a "send-off." He had spent the whole of his life in Oamaru, and had grown up to the severing of his connection with the town. He concluded by thanking them for their presentations to himself, his wife, and his family.

On the previous evening Mrs. J. B. Grave and her daughters were entertained by a number of lady friends at the residence of Mr. P. Kelly, North road. The entertainment took the form of a musical evening. Despite the inclement weather there was a large attendance of ladies, a fact which testifies to the high esteem in which Mrs. Grave and family are held. After a pleasing programme of musical items, refreshments were dispensed, and then followed the most important event of the evening, viz., a presentation to the esteemed guests. The present to Mrs. Grave was a gold and silver tray and epergne, to Miss Kathleen Grave a gold bracelet, to Miss Evelyn a gold bangle, and to Miss Tui a pendant and chain. The Rev. Mr. Mackay, in making the presentation, paid a very high tribute to Mrs. Grave and family. The Minister mentioned his long acquaintance with Mrs. Grave and her husband, and expressed his deep regret at their departure from Oamaru, where they had enriched themselves to all who had shared their friendship. He concluded by wishing Mrs. Grave and her daughters many years of health and happiness.

The Plunket Committee met at Mrs. Whitton's to say good-bye to Mrs. Grave. The president (Mrs. Lee) said how very sorry the committee was to lose such a valued member—one who was always ready to help in every way the work of the society, and asked Mrs. Grave to accept a small token of their appreciation to remind her of her work on the committee, and wished her much happiness in her new home.

Mr. Grave took charge of the Dunedin office on March 1.

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DIOCESE OF CHRISTCHURCH

(From our own correspondent.)

March 1.

A general meeting of the conferences of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul in the circumscription of the Particular Council of Christchurch was held on last Monday evening in Ozanam Lodge, Manchester street. The Very Rev. Dean Hills, S.M., V.G., presided, and there was a large attendance. Reports from the Superior Council, Sydney, and correspondence were read and dealt with. Reports received from the various conferences and confraternities of the Diocesan Ladies of Charity showed that a great amount of useful and necessary work was done by them. A fitting acknowledgment was made to the Very Rev. Dean Hills for his gift of a fine picture, suitably framed, of his Holiness Pope Benedict XV., and now placed in the meeting room. The Very Rev. Dean exhorted all present to continue in the good work reported upon. The society was essentially a charity organisation, and thus all, who were engaged in the varied spheres of activity associated with it, were doing God's work. During the holy season of Lent more and more should be done for the love of God in this regard, for the love of our neighbor, and for the sanctification of our own souls. Penance may be accomplished by doing good, but this should be done kindly and tactfully without any motive of worldly reward.

The picnic, organised by the Cathedral school committee, was held last Saturday in fine weather, and proved most enjoyable and successful. A train conveying the excursionists left Christchurch about 9 o'clock, and arrived in Ashburton at 11. The visitors were officially welcomed by the Mayor, and then proceeded to the beautiful local Domain, the scene of the day's festivities. Included in the party were the Very Rev. Dean Hills, S.M., V.G., the Rev. Father Hanrahan (Lincoln), several of the Cathedral clergy, the staff of St. Bede's College, the Marist Brothers, and visitors from Timaru and elsewhere. The school committee, with the secretary (Mr. P. A. O'Connell) left nothing undone to perfect all the arrangements, with the result that the day passed very pleasantly. The excursionists started on the return journey at a quarter past 6, and the city was reached before 8 o'clock. An enjoyable programme of sports was carried through during the afternoon, and resulted as follows:—100yds Championship—J. Holehan 1, T. Mahoney 2, M. McManus 3. 80yds Championship—V. Kingdon 1, L. Mahoney 2. 100yds Handicap (under 16)—C. Batchelor 1, J. Darragh 2. 100yds Handicaps (under 15)—F. Main 1, H. Hammil 2. 100yds Handicap (under 14)—R. McKay 1, D. McLaren 2. 100yds Handicap (under 13)—C. Dobbs 1, E. Goodman 2. 100yds Handicap (under 12)—V. O'Donnell 1, C. McArley 2. 75yds Handicap (under 11)—M. McGarva 1, J. Healey 2. 75yds Handicap (under 10)—J. Commons 1, E. Maher 2. 50yds Handicap (under 9)—J. Marriot 1, T. Grimes 2. 25yds Handicap (under 6)—E. Batchelor 1, E. Browne 2. Novelty race (under 12)—T. Cotter 1, A. Matheson 2. Potato race—C. Batchelor 1, W. McCormack 2. Married ladies' stepping race—Mrs. Branch. 440yds Ladies' handicap—A. Murphy 1, A. McGarva 2. Single ladies' stepping race—Miss Nelson. Baby show—Mrs. H. Wilson's child 1, Mrs. Roche's 2, Mrs. Walsh's 3. District relay race—Sydenham 1. Swimming—50yds Championship—P. Gregory 1, P. Murfitt 2, L. Cotter 3; 50yds handicap—P. Gregory (scr) 1, P. Murfitt (scr) 2, L. Cotter (3sec) 3; 30yds (under 12)—L. Cotter 1. Diving—P. Murfitt 1, P. Clarkson 2.

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