

DIOCESE OF AUCKLAND

(From our own correspondent.)

March 8.

Four young priests for the Auckland diocese are expected from Ireland next October.

Rev. Father Eccleton, of Wellington, was successfully operated on at the Mater Misericordiae Hospital last Wednesday, and is progressing most satisfactorily.

Right Rev. Mgr. Brodie, V.G., has taken over charge of the Parnell parish, and Rev. Father Murphy of the Ponsonby parish. Rev. Father O'Malley left on Saturday by the southern steamer to take charge of the Ormond parish.

Very Rev. Father Clune, C.P., brother of his Grace Archbishop Clune, arrived from Sydney on Sunday afternoon, and preached in the evening at the Grey Lynn parish church. While here he will be the guest of Very Rev. Chancellor Holbrook.

The Auckland *Star* states that Lieutenant Norman Holbrook, R.N., in command of the submarine B11, who was awarded the Victoria Cross for bravery and distinguished service in the Dardanelles, is a cousin of the Very Rev. Father Holbrook of this city.

His Lordship the Bishop left at the end of the week on a visitation of the southern part of the diocese.

The following further changes among the diocesan clergy have been announced. Rev. Father Farragher has been transferred from the Cathedral to Ponsonby, and Rev. Father Dunphy from Remuera to the Cathedral.

Rev. Father Cahill announced at the Masses at the Cathedral on Sunday that he had assumed the Administration of the parish at the request of his Lordship the Bishop. He said he was no stranger to the people, as he had many pleasant recollections of his former connection with them. He was pleased to be amongst them once more, and with their hearty cooperation the parish would flourish and prosper.

Rev. Fathers John A. Roche and Hugh Conaghan arrived in Auckland last week from Rotorua and the Thames. Father Roche, who is an eloquent preacher, delivered impressive sermons at St. Benedict's, the Cathedral, and other churches during his holiday in the Dominion. Fathers Roche and Conaghan left for Sydney on Tuesday by the Riverina, greatly benefited by their tour in New Zealand. Rev. Father Conaghan preached a very instructive sermon on Sunday night, February 28, at St. Benedict's on the 'Sacrament of Penance.'

A question of importance, affecting not only Auckland but the whole Dominion has arisen here. The Harbor Board imposed new additional charges on the Ferry Company, claiming that such charges amounted to 3 per cent. on the cost of constructing the new ferro-concrete jetties for the sole use of the ferry steamers. The Ferry Company exhausted every means of protest without result, and finally, by means of petition, induced the Government to intervene, with the result that a commission is now sitting here to inquire into the reasonableness or otherwise of the Board's charges. At this stage an important point arises—whether Government intervention is not an infringement on the rights of local government. Both the morning and evening papers write in emphatic protest against the unwarrantable interference by the Government with local authorities, who are fully capable of managing their own affairs.

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Providing Against Overhead Attacks.

The next design for United States field artillery guns will be provided with a split-rail gun carriage, which will permit the elevation of field artillery guns to almost any angle. The Army Ordnance Department is developing projectiles which will leave a trail of smoke by day and of light by night. It is believed that with such projectiles the range upon aeroplanes can be found, and an effective defence provided against an attack from overhead.

Tram Cars and Rubber Tires.

In order to reduce the noise of street cars, and particularly the flat-wheel nuisance, it was suggested at a recent meeting of the Tramways Association, in Newcastle, England, that street cars be provided with tires of rubber. It was argued that the wear on the rails would be much reduced, and the life of the rubber tire would exceed that on motor trucks and buses, which are credited with an average life of 20,000 miles. It was also argued that a higher rate of speed would be possible with the flexible tire.

The Limit of Fire Control.

At the United States army proving grounds at Sandy Hook all records with 12-inch guns were broken when a range of 20,000 yards, or over 11 miles, was attained with 700-pound projectiles. This is the weight of shell used in the 12 inch mortars. Eleven miles is the limit of fire control, since it is not believed that any range finder can be developed which will make the fire of guns effective beyond this distance, the curvature of the earth rendering it impossible for range finders to locate an object at a greater distance.

Announcing the Correct Time.

Correct time is announced every even hour in the port of Lisbon, Portugal, by means of two lanterns placed on iron columns 100 feet high. The lanterns each have three faces, measuring 6.5 by 8 feet. At exactly five minutes before the hour a horizontal line of light appears on each face, and on the tick of the hour this light is extinguished. The signals may be seen even in the daytime at a distance of a mile and a-half. At night the position of the lanterns is indicated by three red lights. The signals are worked electrically under the control of a clock in the Astronomical Observatory of Lisbon.

The World's Telephones.

On January 1, 1914, there were 13,700,000 telephones in the world, and 32,900,000 miles of telephone wire. The United States, with 9,000,000 stations, owned 66 per cent. of the total number in the world; while Europe, with less than 4,000,000, owned about 27 per cent. When we consider that the population of the United States is but 6 per cent. of the world's population, and less than 25 per cent. of that of Europe, the large proportion of telephone stations makes a remarkable showing. New York City alone has more telephones than Belgium, Hungary, Italy, Netherlands, Norway, and Switzerland combined; there are more telephones in Chicago than in the whole of France, and more in Philadelphia than in the whole of Austria.

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