

loving their country though it expelled them, rallied to the flag in the hour of peril. . . . There are twenty thousand priests in the French Army today.

A young priest who says his prayers before lying down on his straw mattress or in the mud of his trench puts a check upon blasphemy and his fellows—anti-clericals perhaps in the old days, or frank materialists—watch him curiously, and are thoughtful after their watchfulness. It is easy to see that he is eager to give up his life as a sacrifice to the God of his faith. His courage has something supernatural in it, and he is careless of death. Then, again, he is the best comrade in the company. Never a grumble comes from his lips, though he is as cold and wet and hungry as the others. He does a thousand little acts of service to his fellow soldiers, and especially to those who are most sullen, most brutal, or most miserable. He speaks sometimes of the next life with a cheerful certainty which makes death seem less of an end of things, and he is upborne with a strange fervor which gives a kind of glory to the most wretched toil.

The character of these men is filled with the spirit of Christian faith, though the war in which they sacrifice their lives is an outrage against Christianity itself. The riddle of it all bewilders one's soul, and one can only go groping in the dark despair, glad of the little light which comes to the trench or the battlefield because men like these still promise something better than hatred and blood, and look beyond the gates of death, to peace.

Lawrence

Sunday, March 21, in accordance with the decree of his Holiness Pope Benedict XV., was observed as a day of expiation, and intercession for peace in St. Patrick's Church, Lawrence. There was Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament from Mass until the evening devotions, and the prayers prescribed by his Holiness were offered.

In addition to the sum of £56 7s. subscribed by the congregation of St. Patrick's Church, Lawrence, for the Belgian relief fund, a sum of £6 11s was collected at Waitahuna, and £6 8s at Koini.

Shannon

A very successful concert was held (says the local paper) in the Giliandia Hall on St. Patrick's Night. There was a large attendance, who appreciated the splendid programme presented, which was opened by Mrs. Butler's orchestra with an overture entitled 'The anthem of the Allies.' In the second part of the programme they played 'Erin's wreath.' Mr. J. J. Trainer sang 'O'Donnell Aboe.' Miss Kilsby, a very talented singer, sang 'The last rose of summer' and 'It is morn,' on both occasions being encored. Master Reggie Merwood gave a violin solo. Mrs. Costello sang 'Il bacio,' 'Barney O'Hea,' and 'Leonore,' each time being recalled. Misses E. Butler, M. Carran, P. Pickett, and M. Bilderbeck gave the Spanish dance. Mr. Rogers sang 'The minstrel boy' and 'Mother Machree,' both items being encored. Miss Flynn sang 'Maytime,' and Miss Mavis Terry sang 'The flower girl' in a very pleasing manner. Mr. Powell was especially good in 'The blue dragoons.' Mr. Alex. McDonald gave a well-executed banjo solo. Miss Olive Laurvig was heard to perfection in 'My own land,' for which she was encored. Mr. James Curran, an especial favorite, sang 'The boys from County Clare,' and later danced an Irish jig with Misses Molly Curran and Eileen Butler. Mark Hall sang 'Little grey home in the west,' and for a well-deserved encore 'If we should meet.' Mr. Young sang 'Father O'Flynn' and 'My life for thee.' Little Miss Knyvett sang 'Swinging,' and for an encore 'Jungle town.' Mr. Yates sang two Scotch comic songs, to which he introduced some of his usual good humor. Mrs. Hall gave

the 'Irish washerwoman dance,' and Eileen and Freda Butler and Molly Curran danced a Highland fling.

Invercargill

(From our own correspondent.)

March 28.

The church collection in aid of the distressed Belgians realised £65, which is considered very satisfactory.

In accordance with the decree of his Holiness the Pope in connection with the prayers for peace, there was Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament last Sunday from the eleven o'clock Mass until after the evening devotions. During the afternoon large numbers paid visits to the church.

Mr. John McNamara, one of the secretaries of the local branch of the Catholic Federation, who has just returned from a holiday visit to Christchurch, speaks in appreciative terms of the kindnesses extended to him by Federation members in the cathedral city.

Devotions during Holy Week in St. Mary's Basilica will be as follow:—Thursday morning, High Mass at 6.30 o'clock; Friday morning, Mass of the Presanctified at 9 o'clock; Saturday morning, Mass at 8 o'clock. On the evenings of the days mentioned the Office of Tenebrae will be sung. The Very Rev. Father O'Donnell, of Gore, will preach on Wednesday evening, Very Rev. Father Lynch, of Wrey's Bush, on Thursday evening, and the Rev. Father Murphy, of Riverton, on Friday morning.

The members of the local branch of the Hibernian Society, together with the boys of the juvenile branch, approached the Holy Table in a body on last Sunday week. There was a splendid muster, and the Hibernians in their regalia made an impressive spectacle. The Very Rev. Dean Burke congratulated the society on their splendid manifestation of faith, and referred to the necessity of, and the good work performed by, such societies in the various parishes. At the same Mass the Children of Mary also received Holy Communion, and the Dean's remarks referred to both organisations.

On St. Patrick's Night an Irish national concert was held in the Municipal Theatre, when there was a very satisfactory attendance. The first part of the programme consisted of a lecture on the 'European Situation' by the Very Rev. Dean Burke, V.F. This item proved highly interesting and instructive, and was listened to with rapt attention throughout, the remarks of the Dean being loudly applauded at the conclusion. The second part was devoted to instrumental and vocal items, all of which were well received. Mr. John Shepherd was chairman of the committee, and the secretarial work was capably carried out by Mr. N. Grace. These two gentlemen, and the committee associated with them, are to be congratulated on the success of the entertainment, the proceeds of which will be devoted to the requirements of the Marist Brothers' School.

Going away at Easter? Yes. Then don't forget one thing. Check your baggage through the N.Z. Express Co., Ltd., when you travel. Saves you bother from start to finish. Tell the Company when you are going and they will collect baggage, check it on, receive and deliver immediately it arrives....

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