

ROME LETTER

(From our own correspondent.)

February 7, 1915.

THE COLLEGE OF CARDINALS.

It is of interest to look into the status, numerical and national, of the Sacred College at the present time. Facts relating to the most learned and most revered group of men in Christendom are always interesting to every Catholic. At the moment, one can hardly say when at any previous time, the numerical power of Italian and non-Italian cardinals came exactly equal; but at present each class numbers thirty, the entire body being made up of sixty Princes of the Church. Of this number twenty-one Italians and four non-Italians live in the Eternal City, aiding the Supreme Pontiff in the ruling of the Catholic Church as prefects of the Sacred Congregations, or presidents of the different commissions. Great Britain may be said to be represented at the Pontifical Court by two cardinals—namely, Cardinal Gasquet and Cardinal Merry del Val. Though the latter is a Spaniard, he is English by birth, education, and sympathy.

It has been computed that the bishops and archbishops of the world are renewed by death about every fourteen years. While leaving it to readers, who have a turn for statistics, to reckon how often the College of Cardinals is renewed, one can say death has been rather busy among its members of late years. In the year 1914 eight Cardinals died. And during the pontificate of his Holiness Pius X., whose reign was a brief one in comparison with the lengthy terms during which Pius IX. and Leo XIII. ruled, forty-eight Cardinals passed away. It would almost seem that Leo XIII. chose as cardinals men whose physical powers would weather time as easily as their intellects have overcome difficulties. Cardinal Vaszary is eighty-three years old; Cardinal Gibbons, Cardinal Gotti, and Cardinal Serafino Vannutelli are each in their eighty first year, and of these, only the last seems to mind the hand of time.

THE CONGREGATION OF THE MISSION.

If war circumstances permit their touching at Italy, it is expected that Very Rev. Paul Cullen, C.M., and Very Rev. Michael Flynn, C.M., who left Dublin last week for Australia, will visit the Eternal City. When referring to these distinguished Vincentians, it is worthy of notice that the Holy Father has nominated as Consultor to the Propaganda Very Rev. M. Fontaine, who has for some years been Superior of their international novitiate in Rome.

The Boy Proof Watch at 5/- is a watch that no man need be ashamed of, especially when it will keep time to a tick. You should see them at Smith and Laing's, Invercargill.

Gore

March 23.

The annual St. Patrick's Day social was held in the Town Hall, and was in every respect a very successful gathering. An excellent set supper was supplied by the ladies' committee.

There was a very satisfactory attendance at the Gore Showgrounds, when the St. Patrick's sports were held. The day was an ideal one, and all spent a very enjoyable afternoon. There were fully a dozen running races for boys and girls, and prizes of toys, marbles, and lollies were eagerly competed for. The young ladies' and married ladies' races caused a good deal of amusement. At a suitable interval refreshments were provided.

The annual meeting of the Hibernian Football Club was held in the club rooms, there being a good attendance. Mr. Poppelwell (president), who presided, referred to the position of football owing to the war, and stated that the reason the meeting was called so early in the season was to report as to the club's position. The speaker congratulated the club on winning the second-grade banner last season, and stated that if the attendance was any indication it should be equally successful during the coming season. The finance of the club was satisfactory, the credit balance being £10 5s 11d. The election of officers resulted as follows:—Patron, Very Rev. Father O'Donnell; vice-patron, Rev. Father Foley; president, Mr. D. L. Poppelwell; vice-presidents, Dr. McIlroy, Messrs. Jas. Holland, Owen Kelly, R. Ferris, and M. Roache; delegate to Eastern District Sub-union, Mr. Owen Kelly; secretary and treasurer, Mr. M. T. Francis; committee—the president, secretary, captains of both teams, and Messrs. F. W. Bayley, J. E. Quirk, F. R. Quirk, W. Laloli, and J. E. Leep.

Tuakau

(From an occasional correspondent.)

March 22.

The parishioners are again making an effort to reduce the debt on the church.

The work of organising a visit of the Marist Brothers' Old Boys' Social Club for April 10 is in the hands of an energetic committee, and ought to prove a great success. There has been a dearth of entertainments here lately, so the Auckland performers may expect an exceptionally good hearing.

Rev. Father Tigar, O.P., who left this parish about nine months ago for England, is at present attached to one of the British regiments at the front as chaplain. Many of his friends here have heard from him since he joined the colors. He has not forgotten his old parishioners among whom he worked with much success for twelve months, even though they may have forgotten many of his wise counsels.

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30 dozen Ladies' Fine Embroidery Trimmed PRINCESS UNDERSKIRTS—bought by private tender. Worth 8/6. Post free, 5/11.

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