

the following day, arrangements had been made for Mr. Girling-Butcher to visit Rimu, and after visiting the school, over which the Sisters of Mercy from Hokitika preside, a meeting was held in the evening at which the attendance was gratifying. The Rev. Father Cronin, in introducing the speaker, alluded to the formation of the Catholic Federation in England, and referred to the good work it had accomplished in the parish of Salford, Manchester, in which city he was working at the time. The organiser's address was listened to with great attention, a marked feature being the interest evidenced by the elder school children, who were present in force, and whose excellent behaviour occasioned very favorable comment on all sides. Officers and a committee were elected, the secretary being Mr. Wm. Knowles. A systematic canvass of the district is to be immediately put in hand, and little doubt is felt but that every one of the old faith will become members of the Rimu branch.

### Picton

The entertainment, held in the Albert Hall, Picton, by the pupils and friends of St. Catherine's Convent, proved a gratifying success from every point of view, and the Sisters and assistant organisers are to be heartily congratulated upon the successful result of their labors (says the *Marlborough Press*). The hall was packed with an exceptionally large audience, and its appreciation was voiced throughout in a very enthusiastic manner. The programme was a bright one, well arranged, and with plenty of variety. Visiting talent lent an additional attraction to the programme, and each and every one was accorded a flattering reception. Two of the most accomplished pupils of St. Mary's Convent, Wellington: Miss Agnes Segrief, A.T.C.L., L.A.B., and Miss Teresa McEnroe, A.T.C.L., L.A.B., gave Picton people a vocal treat such as seldom falls to their lot. Miss Segrief's numbers were 'Kathleen MacAvonagh,' 'Mignon,' 'Gondol's serenade,' and 'Anne Laurie.' Gondol's number piece being undoubtedly the gem of the evening. Miss Teresa McEnroe gave brilliant renditions of different compositions, and was particularly honored with a double encore. Her songs were 'Le carnaval de Venice,' 'Those endearing young charms,' 'Hash, little one,' and 'Across the roseate sky.' Miss McEnroe and Miss Segrief also sang a duet, 'The Venetian boat song,' with pretty effect, and were called upon to repeat it. Miss Marlett Watson, of Blenheim, gained a distinct success with her song, 'Wake up,' and responded to an enthusiastic encore with 'Terence's farewell.' Miss Daisy McLellan fairly took the audience by storm, and her every appearance on the stage was the signal for an outburst of applause. Accompanied by Mr. Donald Scott with his pipes, the little kilted lady danced the Highland fling and the sword dance with perfect grace and agility, and, later in the programme, gave an Irish jig. Miss Mollie Perrin is another talented little performer, whose fancy dancing evoked an imperative recall. Dr. Bennett received a great reception for 'The Kaiser's waking dream,' the words of which were written by Father Herbert, and he responded to the encore with 'Thora.' The Rev. J. S. Herbert greatly pleased the audience with his three monologues—'Charge of the fright brigade,' 'Les Tommies,' and 'Giuseppe, the barber.' Mr. Donald Scott made his first public appearance in Picton as a bagpipe specialist, and his items were well received. The pupils of St. Catherine's Convent occupied a fair share of the programme with choruses and action songs, and acquitted themselves very creditably. A pleasing item was that of Miss Edna Wilton, entitled 'The lost doll.' With the assistance of Master Allister McIntosh, she sang and acted the part very nicely. Other well appreciated numbers were a pretty trio, 'Three green bonnets,' by Misses M. Perano, M. Hall, and E. Forbes, and an action song by Misses M. Perano, E. Forbes, Masters O'Grady and Forbes. Much of the success of the concert was due to the assistance given by Miss Edith Chambers and Miss Sylvia Williams as accom-

panists, and their services were highly appreciated by the organisers. Miss Williams, A.T.C.L., also played a piano solo, 'Prelude,' in the early part of the programme. Before the last item, the Mayor thanked the performers and all who had assisted in the success of the entertainment, and felt sure the Sisters would be gratified at the result of the first effort of the kind in Picton. After the concert, the performers and friends were entertained at supper by the ladies of St. Joseph's congregation.

### Greymouth

The first weekly meeting of the St. Columba Club for the current season was presided over by Mr. H. E. Doogan, when there was a good attendance. Mr. Girling-Butcher, general secretary and organiser of the Catholic Federation, was present. The president expressed great pleasure on behalf of the members at Mr. Butcher's presence, and trusted that his visit to the Coast has been both pleasurable and successful.

Mr. Butcher, in thanking the members for the kind sentiments, congratulated the club on the splendid rooms and membership and the literary ability of the members, remarking that the St. Columba Club was second to none in New Zealand. He concluded by exhorting all members to realise their responsibility to the State and put forth their best efforts to make for the betterment of mankind.

A good deal of general business was transacted. Preliminary arrangements were put in hand for the forthcoming annual inter-club debate with Trinity Institute, which takes place on May 13. The programme for the evening consisted of items for the forthcoming competitions and impromptu work.

### AN INTERESTING STATEMENT

As indicating the extent of the assistance given to Belgium by the Dominion, the Hon. R. H. Rhodes stated in Christchurch on Saturday that practically since the beginning of the war the total cash sent amounted to £132,972, and the value of goods and produce was £65,000, so that up to the present New Zealand had sent cash and goods and produce equal to £30,000 per month. For the poor of Great Britain and Ireland the cash sent totalled £38,295, and the goods and produce were valued at £100,000.

'Some discussion has arisen,' the Minister continued, 'as to whether New Zealand is sending sufficient men. The Dominion Government is in constant touch with the Imperial authorities with reference not only to its requirements, but also as to the position of affairs generally. Beyond what was arranged for at first we have sent 17 extra units, and we are just on the point of sending away another three. Furthermore, at the start there was an understanding that we should despatch 5 per cent. of reinforcements, but this has been increased to 10 per cent. of mounted men and 15 per cent. of infantry. At present we are arranging for the equipment of a stationary hospital, which will comprise a staff of eight medical officers and 100 men. It is more than likely that the despatch of additional troops will be arranged for. I am saying this in no boastful spirit, but simply for the purpose of showing that on a population basis the number of men sent from New Zealand compares favorably with the number sent from the other Dominions. In the cases of Canada and Australia there has been a publication of the number of troops sent and about to be despatched. I regret that so far the Imperial authorities have not released the embargo placed on us in this respect.'

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