

Intercolonial

On April 21, his Grace the Archbishop of Sydney opened the 35th annual conference of the New South Wales district of the I.L.A.C.B. Society. Delegates from all parts of the State were present, as well as representatives from kindred societies. In the annual report it was stated that the total number of branches in existence at the close of the year was 205, comprising—men's branches, 154; women's branches, 49; juvenile branches, 2; total, 205. Dispensations were granted for the establishment of two branches, and arrangements completed for the formation of four others. The total admissions were 1708, and the total membership at the close of the term under review, 13,373. The steady growth of the society's funds is again evidenced. The total funds on December 31, 1914, were £87,480 13s 8d; accounted for as follows—investments, £79,100 0s 10d; in savings banks, £6205 11s 11d; in current accounts, £2175 0s 11d; total, £87,480 13s 8d.

Sir William Patrick Manning died at his residence, 'Aru,' Rose Bay, Sydney, on April 19. He had been in failing health for some time. Sir William had given a number of the best years of his life to public service. In 1887 he was elected for Bourke Ward to the City Council, and held his seat for about 15 years. Four times during his aldermanic service he was selected by his brother-aldermen to preside over the city's affairs as Mayor, and it was during his last Mayoral term, in 1894, that he received the honor of knighthood. He was a prominent figure in Catholic life, and was one of the treasurers of St. Mary's Cathedral. He was appointed a Papal Chamberlain by the late Pope Pius X. For 24 years he was president of the New South Wales Philharmonic Society, during which he was very prominent as a patron of music. Amongst other positions held by the deceased was that of chairman of directors of the Australian Bank of Commerce.

The wave of temperance has reached every part of the Empire. Here in Victoria it is very pronounced (writes the Melbourne correspondent of the Sydney *Freeman's Journal*). Both the Archbishops are strong temperance advocates, and say a word in season in furtherance of the cause. The King's example will percolate through every grade of the people. His Grace the Archbishop addressed the people in the Cathedral a few Sundays ago. He said that just at the present a wave of total abstinence was rolling over most of the countries of Europe, and had already reached these distant shores. Directly or indirectly this was undoubtedly due to the war. If the war had brought dreadful calamities in its train, it had led to at least one result. In urging total abstinence for the sake of the war, it might seem to some people that he was not speaking consistently with some observations which he made some time ago regarding the use of light alcoholic drink, not as a positive good, but as the lesser of two evils.

THE APOSTOLIC DELEGATE IN MELBOURNE.

His Excellency the Apostolic Delegate visited Melbourne on Saturday, April 17. When passing through Albury he was met and welcomed at the station by the Most Rev. Dr. Mannix and several priests, including the Superiors in Victoria of the Jesuits, Carmelites, and Vincentians, and the Albury priests. On arriving at the Spencer street Station, Melbourne, his Excellency was received by his Grace the Archbishop of Melbourne, who was accompanied by their Lordships the Bishops of Sandhurst, Ballarat, Sale, and Auckland, Sir David Hennessy (Lord Mayor), Dr. A. L. Kenny (Private Chamberlain to the Pope), Count O'Loughlin, K.S.G., and Mr. John Gavan Duffy. At St. Patrick's Cathedral addresses of welcome were presented by the Archbishops, the Bishops of the province, and the clergy.

After celebrating Mass at the Convent of the Good Shepherd, Abbotsford, on Sunday, his Excellency presided at the High Mass in the Cathedral. The Coadjutor-Archbishop (Most Rev. Dr. Mannix) was the

celebrant. The Archbishop occupied the throne on the Epistle side, and the Suffragan Bishops of the Province of Melbourne and the Bishop of Auckland were also present.

A civic reception was accorded his Excellency by the Lord Mayor in the Town Hall on Monday. The platform was occupied by Sir David Hennessy (presiding), the Apostolic Delegate, the Archbishop of Melbourne, their Lordships Bishop Reville, Bishop Higgins, Bishop Phelan, Bishop Cleary, the Prime Minister, and Mr. F. W. Hagelthorn (Minister for Public Works of Victoria), and the Minister for Defence. Members of the Commonwealth and State Parliaments and leading citizens were seated in the body of the hall, which was entirely filled.

M.B.O.B. CLUB, AUCKLAND

(From a correspondent.)

April 26.

The members of the club attended in large numbers at the men's mission Communion at St. Patrick's Cathedral yesterday. Speaking last evening before a crowded congregation, the missionary complimented the men of the different clubs and societies on their fine display of faith, and urged all ex-pupils of the Brothers to join the M.B.O.B. Club. As I mentioned in my last notes, the concert company visited Tuakau on April 10. On arrival they were met by Rev. Father O'Hara, Messrs. McGahan, and Dromgool, members of the committee. The company were entertained at dinner by the committee, and then gave an excellent programme before a crowded house. The visitors are loud in their praise of the warm-hearted reception given them. The company attended the 9 o'clock Mass on Sunday, after which about 100 people left by two motor launches for a two hours' trip up the Waikato River. About a mile past Mercer the party landed for lunch. The day being perfect, a very pleasant time was spent. At 4 o'clock a start was made for Tuakau, all agreeing that it was the pleasantest outing they had ever taken part in. In the evening the members sang the music at Benediction, Mr. Clarke being the organist. The visitors left Tuakau at 7 a.m. on Monday, and were farewelled by members of the committee. To Miss McGuire and Mr. McGahan (joint secretaries), the visitors expressed their heartfelt thanks for a most enjoyable week-end. On the following Wednesday, the company journeyed to Paumotu, and gave a most successful entertainment in aid of the Sisters of Mercy. The hall was crowded, and a very enjoyable time was spent by all.

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