

buildings are in a good state of preservation, and only recently a neatly designed chapel was added to the convent.

Speaking of the work of the Church during his fourteen years' term of office, Father Cooney remarked that very satisfactory progress had been made. In spite of the fact that there had been a general decrease in the population of the port, the number of adherents to the Church had shown a decided increase. The financial position of the parish had been so satisfactory that he had been able to purchase a new presbytery and organ for the church, and also erect a new school for the infants. A new belfry had also been erected at the rear of the church, while the building had been renovated and reroofed. Apart from the expenditure on various improvements, the finances had enabled a debt of £200 to be wiped off the convent. In all about £1400 has been raised for general improvements, which must be considered satisfactory when the scope of the parish is taken into consideration.

Of the future Father Cooney was optimistic. He remarked that the prospects were good, and in the course of a year or so he hoped to appeal for funds for the erection of a new school. He was pleased to say that the whole of the property belonging to his parish was entirely free of debt. In fact, the finances were such that a credit balance was in hand, which would later form the nucleus of the school building fund.

THE BANQUET.

On Monday evening, commencing at half-past 6 o'clock, a banquet was held in the fine apartments of the Lyttelton's Men's Club, which were festooned and draped with flags of New Zealand and the Allies. The function was exclusively Catholic, and was attended by quite two hundred persons.

The Rev. Father Cooney presided, and seated on his left were Mrs. Loader and Mr. Bamford (both of whom were, fifty years ago, present at the ceremonies of laying the foundation stone, and the opening of the church), and on his right the Very Rev. Father Graham, S.M., M.A., and Rev. Father Hickson, S.M., representing the Marist Order, a compliment to the memory of the fine old pioneer Marist Fathers of the long ago.

During the evening a lengthy toast list was honored. The principal of these were the 'Pope and King,' proposed by Rev. Father Cooney. He also proposed the next toast, 'Old Pioneers,' coupling with it the names of Mrs. Loader and Mr. Bamford. Mr. Bamford replied on his own behalf and on that of Mrs. Loader. Although only having become a Catholic in later years, he (the speaker) had followed the rise and progress of the Church in Lyttelton with the keenest interest, and expressed his deep thankfulness to Divine Providence

for all the blessings he had received throughout life, and especially in being brought into the fold. Mr. Gellatly and Mr. Sullivan, other old residents, also spoke, and musical items were given by Miss Vera Ryan and the Misses McConville.

The toast of 'Our boys at the front' was proposed by the Rev. Father Hickson, S.M., in terms that met with the enthusiastic approval of his hearers.

'The Visiting Clergy' was proposed by the Rev. Father Cooney. He referred to the presence among them that evening of two worthy representatives of the Marist Fathers, and dwelt at some length on the zeal, sacrifices, and achievements of that great missionary Order from the earliest days of colonisation. It, too, gave him great pleasure to refer to his sincere personal friend and erstwhile fellow-student at Rome, the Rev. Dr. Kennedy, who first induced him (the speaker) to turn his thoughts towards New Zealand, and helped him in his ultimate resolve to make the Dominion the future scene of his activity.

The Very Rev. Father Graham and Rev. Dr. Kennedy suitably responded.

A recitation was then given by Mr. J. E. Doolan, and Mr. Scanlan gave a number of gramophone selections. Several songs and humorous sketches were given by Mr. MacCulloch, a visiting Scottish entertainer, to the great enjoyment of the audience. Mr. F. McDonald was, as usual, also very successful in several recitations.

Mr. J. E. Doolan proposed the toast of 'The Chairman,' the well-beloved pastor of Lyttelton, and in eloquently eulogistic terms referred to the work done by the Rev. Father Cooney during the fourteen and a-half years he had charge of the parish. Not alone was their pastor loved and appreciated by his own people, but also by the townspeople generally, and most deservedly so. Father Cooney, besides the spiritual care of, and interest in, the lives and pursuits of his flock, found time to assist in every worthy object for the benefit of the district, and all trusted he would be long spared to continue his work among them.

The Rev. Father Cooney feelingly replied. When asked, he said, to take charge of Lyttelton by the late Bishop, he was told that it was a poor and difficult parish, the parishioners being few in number, and not blessed with this world's goods. His reply was that he preferred the poor, and that his heart was with the working people. Now, after a residence of over fourteen years among them, much had been done, but they were in the happy position of not alone having any debt, but with a substantial balance to their credit. This was due to the help, kindness, sympathy, and co-operation of the people. He was very grateful to his people for all that he was enabled to accomplish. He had always avoided getting into debt, as the payment

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