

amongst us. Again expressing our pleasure, we are, dear Monsignor, your affectionate children, the pupils of St. Joseph's School.'

Several songs were rendered by the pupils during the entertainment. After having warmly thanked them for their address and songs, the Monsignor granted the children a half-holiday, and the announcement was received with ringing cheers.

MR. JOHN McNAMARA, INVERCARGILL.

(From our own correspondent.)

A number of parishioners assembled in St. Joseph's Schoolroom on Tuesday evening of last week to bid farewell to Mr. J. McNamara on the eve of his departure for Christchurch, where he has taken over the old established business of Thomas Gapes and Co., glass, oil, and color merchants, of Victoria street.

The Very Rev. Dean Burke, V.E., presided, and, in presenting the guest of the evening on behalf of himself and parishioners with a very handsome gold watch, suitably inscribed, said that he was very sorry indeed that Mr. McNamara was leaving Invercargill, because he had probably been the most useful member of the congregation. He had those qualities which were calculated to make an ideal secretary, and he (the Dean) would miss him as a consultant in business matters connected with the Church. He was a silent worker, extremely prudent, and his advice could always be depended on. The Very Rev. Dean referred to the time when the Catholic Federation were planning out the details in connection with the first Pan-Southland gathering, and paid a tribute to the optimism of Mr. McNamara, and the useful work he had quietly performed in connection with the matter. He had shown the same calmness, prudence, business habits, and steadiness of judgment in important matters, and his place would be hard to fill. The present was a solid one, and should remain with him as a memento to the last moment of his life.

The Very Rev. Dean then handed Mr. McNamara the presentation, and with it a lady's handbag for Mrs. McNamara.

Rev. Brother Anselm said that, on behalf of the Brothers, he would like to thank Mr. McNamara for the way he had espoused the cause of their schools. He had been one of the prime movers for the betterment of the school, and the comfort of the Brothers. He had worked conscientiously and quietly, and deserved their thanks.

Messrs. Pound, Collins, Furlong, and McLaughlin also spoke, and expressed regret at the projected departure of Mr. McNamara, and wished him God speed, and many years of success and prosperity in his new enterprise.

Mr. McNamara, on rising to respond, was greeted with applause. He was visibly affected, and feelingly replied in a brief speech. He thanked the Dean for his generous tribute, and said that anything he had ever done was done without thought of fee or reward to him it had been a labor of love. He could not recognise himself as the person the speakers had been referring to, and said that the success of functions he had been connected with was due to the solidarity of the Catholic body in Invercargill. He, perhaps, had done his part, but the people had responded. He referred to the need for organisation, and pointed out that we had the necessary machinery in the Catholic Federation, which every Catholic should join. He was sorry to leave so many old associations in Invercargill, but he thought it was for the best. He thanked them all sincerely on behalf of Mrs. McNamara and himself for the valuable presents which would always serve to remind them of Invercargill.

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Ashburton

(From our own correspondent.)

The weekly meetings of the Catholic Young Men's Club continue to draw satisfactory attendances. The programmes submitted are varied—catering alike for those who desire a debate on a set subject, as well as for those who are socially inclined.

The half-yearly meeting of the local branch of the Hibernian Society was held on Monday of last week. The attendance was fair, and Bro. J. A. Lennon (president) presided. The report and balance sheet, as read, showed the society to be in a sound position, financially and otherwise. The following office-bearers were elected for the ensuing half-year:—President, Bro. J. A. Lennon; vice-president, Bro. P. Brosnahan; treasurer, Rev. Father O'Donnell; secretary, Bro. E. Brophy; warden, Bro. E. Devlin; guardian, Bro. T. Brophy; sick visitors, Bros. T. Purcell and J. A. Lennon; auditors, Bros. S. Madden and J. Hannigan.

Amongst the Infantry Reinforcements who left Ashburton for Trentham last month was Mr. Vincent Madden, second son of Mr. H. P. Madden, of this town. A member of every local Catholic society, and also an enthusiastic worker, his absence will undoubtedly prove a loss to the respective societies. Prior to his departure a social was tendered him by the local Catholic choir and Catholic Young Men's Club. Mr. J. A. Lennon occupied the chair. An apology for absence was received from Rev. Father O'Donnell. The proceedings took the form of a progressive euchre tournament and musical evening. The progressive euchre prizes were won by Miss M. Fitzgerald and Mr. E. Lennon. The musical portion of the programme was contributed to by Misses M. Quigley, T. Hicks, and Bradley, and Messrs. W. J. Cunningham, M. J. Burgess, V. Madden, and D. MacDonald. Mrs. D. Crowe played the accompaniments. During the evening the chairman (Mr. Lennon), in a feeling and characteristic speech, eulogised the guest of the evening, praising his response to the Empire's call, and expressing the hope that before long they would see him in his accustomed place at the meetings of the several Catholic bodies to which he belonged. On behalf of the members of the Catholic Young Men's Club and the Catholic choir, he asked Mr. Madden's acceptance of a gentleman's companion and pipe. Mr. Madden briefly and feelingly responded, hoping and trusting he would be with them all once again. He resumed his seat amidst loud and continuous applause. Refreshments were handed round by the ladies (under the supervision of Mrs. D. McCormick), and were much appreciated. The singing of 'Auld lang syne' terminated a pleasing function.

'Positive' pipe organs have recently been installed in the Basilica, Invercargill, and in the Catholic church, Wrey's Bush. Both instruments were supplied by Messrs. Chas. Begg and Co., Ltd., Dunedin, the sole New Zealand agents for the 'Positive' organs. Mr. Thos. Ritchie, of Begg's, Dunedin, opened both instruments, and he brought out to the fullest extent the beauty of tone and wonderful variety of effects which the 'Positive' is capable of producing. The solo and pedal stops enable the performer to bring out the melody or bass notes above the other parts, and as there is but one keyboard, the average organist can play the 'Positive' with excellent effect. Dean Burke and Father Lynch are both well pleased with the new instruments, which certainly add much to the beauty and efficiency of the musical portion of the Church service....

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