

points. The fourth grade team met and defeated Thorndon by 2 goals to nil, after an interesting game. They are now level with the Empire Club with 12 points each. On account of the wet weather the fifth grade did not play.

The centenary festival of Marist Brothers will be duly observed by the Marist Old Boys on Sunday, September 9, by a general Communion of all the old boys resident in Wellington, at a special Solemn High Mass to be celebrated at St. Mary of the Angels' Church, Boulcott street, by priests who are ex-students of the old Boulcott Street School. In the evening at the same church a special sermon on the illustrious founder of the Order—the Rev. Father Champagnet—will be preached by Rev. Father S. Mahony, S.M. (an ex-pupil), now parish priest of St. Mary's. On the following Monday the secular celebration will take place at the Alexandra Hall, Abelsmith street. It is hoped that every old boy of the school will make a special effort to worthily celebrate the centenary of a religious Order which has done so much for them, and show their grateful appreciation of the work done by the Marist Brothers in New Zealand by loyally co-operating with the celebration committee in making the celebration one of the largest and most enthusiastic events in the history of the Church in Wellington.

### Wanganui

(From our own correspondent.)

By a kindly and generous donation by Mrs. O'Neill and family, of Wanganui, St. Mary's Church has been further adorned by the painting of the interior in a shade corresponding with that of the sanctuary appointments.

The Rev. Father Quinn, S.M., after spending about six months in Wanganui, is proceeding to Grey-mouth on relieving duty. The people of Wanganui, whilst regretting his departure, hope they may soon be privileged to have him again in their midst.

A farewell social was tendered by Mr. and Mrs. Koorey last week to Private James Cavanagh, son of Mr. M. Cavanagh, Okoia, prior to his leaving for the front with the 29th Reinforcements. Many friends were present, and an enjoyable evening was spent. Mr. Cavanagh's eldest son is also at the front in France, and has been through most of the engagements, fortunately without injury.

On Monday evening, July 30, a large number of members of the local branch of the Catholic Federation met at the "Villa Maria" for the purpose of inaugurating a Catholic Club. The Very Rev. Father O'Connell, S.M., presided, and in declaring the club open, gave a most instructive and lucid address on the various phases of its projected activity. At no time (he said) did the need exist to a greater extent than now for the study of social questions. A wave of indifferentism threatened them, which could be best overcome by fortifying themselves with a perfect knowledge of their faith. All this would be within the scope of the club, which would be under the direction of the Catholic Federation, and rules for the guidance of the club are to be drafted by the executive of that body. It was resolved to hold meetings fortnightly, and a "question box" is to be placed in the church. Enquiries on ques-

tions of religion or dogma will be answered, and suitable subjects will be debated.

### THE BOYS' GUILD.

On Saturday, July 28, the guild's football team defeated College A by 5 points to 3. Very unfavorable weather conditions obtained, and back play was impossible. Marists played with three emergencies and one man short. Mutu scored for Marists, P. Hogan converting. Connop, Quirke (2), Tuffin, Adair, and M. Hogan played well.

A number of members of the guild have joined the recently established study club, and it is hoped all will avail themselves of such an excellent opportunity of learning more regarding their holy faith, and of the prevailing social questions. The attendance at the guild meetings is being well maintained. The first annual meeting is due to be held in September, when it is intended to enter upon a campaign to recruit to its ranks all the boys of the parish.

### ROME'S "DEADENING" INFLUENCE

Writing in *Everyman* a correspondent comments thus over the signature of "A.B.C.," on the above subject:—

"The Church of Rome has exercised a deadening influence on every country over which she has control," says Mr. Stewart.

Let us take Belgium, over which Rome may be said to have had control. In Belgium forty head of cattle were fed on 100 acres of ground under cultivation. In Britain only twenty-four head of cattle were thus fed. In Belgium, with an area of 4,350,000 acres, 1,480,000 pigs were raised; in Britain, with 48,000,000 acres, only 3,953,834 pigs were raised—i.e., 33 per cent., against 8 per cent., in a Catholic country's favor. In Belgium two and a-half tons per acre were grown; in Britain only one and a-half. In France six tons have been grown on even poor soil. France is Catholic.

Consider the question of wages. The increase between 1835 and 1880 was: In France, 66 per cent.; in Belgium, 12 2per cent.; in Britain, only 50 per cent.

Cost of living in Catholic France, 8s per week; in Belgium, 10s per week; in Britain, 11s per week.

Regard for your space prevents me giving more points. Let me quote a scholar's opinion on the deadening influence of Rome—Hyndman. He writes thus: "There is nothing more noteworthy in the history of the human mind than the manner in which this essential portion of English society in the middle ages has been handled by our ordinary economists, chroniclers, and religionists. Even sober and, in the main, tolerably conscientious writers, seem to lose their heads or to become afraid to tell the truth on this matter. Just as the modern capitalist can see nothing but anarchy and oppression in the connection between the people and the feudal noble, so the authors, who represent the middle-class economy of our time, fail to discover anything but luxury, debauchery, and hypocrisy in the Catholic Church of the fifteenth century. It is high time that, without any prejudice in favor of that Church, the nonsense which has been foisted on to the public by men interested in suppressing facts

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