

edin) gave a number of violin solos most artistically. Mrs. N. D. Mangos, as accompanist, gave the utmost satisfaction. The Rev. Father Aubry, S.M., very sincerely thanked the performers for their much valued services, and also the audience which so numerously patronised the concert. After supper was served a social was held, music being supplied by Mrs. T. L. Cooney, Miss Delahunt, and Mr. McAleer.

CATHOLICS AND THE WAR

REMARKS RESENTED.

A meeting of the Marist Brothers' Old Boys' Association, Wellington, held for the purpose of arranging the celebration of the centenary of the Marist Brothers' Order, passed a motion emphatically protesting against the statement made in the House of Representatives recently by Mr. Nosworthy, M.P. for Ashburton, regarding the enlistment of Catholics, and particularly regarding the exemption of Marist Brothers. In support of the motion, the following position was outlined:—

1. Our school Roll of Honor in Wellington contains upwards of 400 names, among which are those of the late Captain A. Shout, V.C., M.C., D.C.M. who was awarded the Victoria Cross as well as the Military Cross and Distinguished Conduct Medal for conspicuous bravery; of the late Chaplain-Major McMenamin, recommended for the Victoria Cross; Lieutenant William Healy, M.C., and of many other winners of distinction.
2. That the first New Zealand Expeditionary Force consisting of 1400 men, hurriedly despatched, contained no fewer than 500 Catholics.
3. That in March of this year, from a basis of calculation followed by the Defence authorities of providing a Catholic chaplain for every 1000 men, we had then in the ranks 14,000 men—a number well ahead of our due proportion—and as the compulsory system had not then been long in force, it can be seen that Catholics have joined in such creditable numbers under the voluntary system.
4. That Catholic clubs and associations have responded in a manner worthy of admiration. To quote examples: The Marist Brothers' Old Boys' Association of Christchurch, out of 280 members, had sent 220 members to the ranks under the voluntary system; the kindred association of Auckland had now sent 170 out of 180 members; and the Hamilton Catholic Club had sent 82 out of its 100 members. These figures are typical of the uniformly remarkable response of the Catholics of the Dominion.
5. That as Catholics have for 35 years contributed hundreds of thousands of pounds annually towards the secular system of education of New Zealand which they cannot conscientiously accept, in addition to maintaining their own schools, it would be against the public interest and a matter of undue hardship to conscript the 33 religious Brothers, who are absolutely essential for the proper teaching of the 2000 boys in their schools.

COMMERCIAL

Messrs Stronach, Morris, and Co., Ltd., report for week ended Tuesday, August 14, 1917, as follows:—

Rabbitskins. We held our usual fortnightly sale yesterday, when we submitted a very large catalogue to the usual attendance of buyers. Although competition was keen, prices were easier, especially for prime winter skins. The drop in prices is due to the shortage of shipping space. Prime winter does, to 59½d; winter bucks, to 42½d; incoming, to 35½d; light racks, to 16½d; racks, to 19d; autumn, to 30½d; winter hawked, to 16½d; second winter bucks and does, to 42½d; first black, to 64d; second winter black, to 54½d; incoming black, to 33½d; horsehair, to 15½d per lb; ferretskins, from 1d to 2s 6d each.

Oats.—There has been more inquiry of late for prime grades, and late values are maintained. Inferior and damaged lines are difficult to sell. Quotations: Prime milling, 4s to 4s 1d; good to best feed, 3s 9d to 3s 10d per bushel (sacks extra).

Wheat.—Millers are keen buyers of any lines offering, but practically the only lines in store are small lots of fowl wheat, which can be sold at up to 6s 3d per bushel for best quality (sacks extra).

Potatoes.—The market is fully supplied, and only choice, freshly-picked lots are in demand. Quotations: Choice tables, £4 to £4 5s; others, £2 10s up (sacks in).

Chaff.—The market has been barely supplied of late, and all consignments coming to hand have been readily sold on arrival at quotations. Best oaten sheaf, £6 to £6 5s; medium to good, £5 10s to £5 15s per ton (sacks extra).

Hamilton

(From our own correspondent.)

August 10.

There was a crowded audience at the Town Hall on the evening of July 20, when the comedy-drama, "The Upper Crust," was staged by the members of St. Mary's Junior Club in aid of the club funds. The performance was a most creditable one, and the staging was also excellent. Mr. C. D. Hopkins gave a very faithful interpretation of the chief role, which was not an easy one by any means. He was well supported by Miss Clarice Chainey, who was both natural and effective, her lines being declaimed in a manner well above the ordinary, combined with a pleasing stage presence. Miss Cushla Kelly was equally good, and seemed quite at home on the stage. In her part Miss Bernice Tabb did all that was required of her most effectively. Mr. R. Kelly scored quite a success, the part allotted him being a most important one. Mr. T. Patton fulfilled with credit a not too easy role, and this may also be said of Mr. S. Clarkin and Mr. M. Chainey. The overture was played most tastefully by Miss N. Hulme (pianist) and Master Jack Hulme (violinist). Mr. Aubrey Chitty was stage manager, and Mrs. C. D. Hopkins business manager. An invitation was accorded by the management to returned soldiers.

On Saturday, July 21, St. Mary's football team met Old Boys and after a fast and willing game St. Mary's proved victors by 11 points to 6. For St. Mary's C. Clarkin (2) and Campbell scored tries, S. Clarkin converting one. For St. Mary's Kelly at full played well, as did C. Clarkin on the wing. S. Clarkin, Cuthbert, and Vernal each played well. The forwards all played willingly, Patton and Trainor being the pick.

At the usual weekly meeting of the Catholic Men's Club, held in the Parish Hall on Tuesday evening, August 7, there was a debate on Pastoral v. Agricultural Pursuits. Mr. Pryor championed the side of agriculture (as leader), while Mr. Murphy opposed on the pastoral side. Each gave very interesting speeches in favor of their respective sides. Every member present took part in the debate. Rev. Father Duffy (as chairman) thanked the leaders for the energy they had devoted to the subject, and for the very interesting discussion brought about thereby, also the members generally for the spirit in which they entered into the debate. In giving his decision he said the arguments for and against were so even, he would declare it a draw.

Heaven smiles down on earth, and then
Thrice welcome kindly spring.

With the myriad gifts you bring!

Earth smiles up to heaven again!

O Mary, our Mother and Queen! We invoke thy sweet name, we implore thy protection. Be with us in our pains to comfort and assuage our sufferings; in our sorrows and tribulations be our consolation and our joy, our help in temptation, and at the supreme hour, O powerful Mother! terror of Satan, strength of the weak give to thy children the courage of the strong.