

Palmerston North

(From our own correspondent.)

April 24.

The Irish delegates are to visit Palmerston North on Wednesday, May 10, and will be the guests of Mr. Robert McNabb whilst they are here.

The annual concert of the convent pupils will be held on May 3, and a programme of even greater merit than those submitted in previous years may be expected.

Mr. James Nash has been returned opposed for the third year in succession as Mayor of the town. On Wednesday next there will be an election for nine councillors, for which there are twenty-three nominations, and a great deal of interest is being taken in the event. Messrs. Broad, T. J. Rodgers, and M. O'Reilly, prominent members of the congregation, are amongst the number. The latter gentleman was on the late council, and has every chance of success.

A very successful euchre party, under the auspices of the Catholic ladies of the district, was held on Thursday evening in the Manawatu Mounted Rifles' orderly room. There was a large attendance, including Rev. Fathers Costello, Keogh, and Dore, and a very enjoyable evening was spent. The gentleman's prize was won by Mr. Walker, and the lady's by Miss Hurley. Supper was provided by the ladies, after which Mr. M. Kennedy presented the prizes to the winners. The ladies' committee deserve great praise for the excellent way in which they arranged matters, and for the success of the party. The use of the hall was kindly given free of charge by the Mounted Rifles.

Leeston

A party of Christchurch artists presented the three-act farcical military comedy, 'My Soldier Boy,' at the Leeston Town Hall, on Easter Monday night, in aid of the Leeston Convent School (says the *Ellesmere Guardian*). The hall was crowded in every part, and the financial result of the entertainment is considered very satisfactory. The piece is of a bright and entertaining nature, and comprising many exciting and humorous situations. The play was produced under the direction of Mr. H. Glubb, who acted as stage manager, besides playing the important part of 'Montague Mendle.' Mr. Glubb's acting was one of the features of the piece, and left nothing to be desired. The part of 'Jonas Tuddenham,' Mendle's stepfather, was admirably interpreted by Mr. Frank McDonald, and the character suited the player immensely. Mr. Syd. Allwright's acting as Michael O'Doherty was very good. Miss A. Foley was good as Miss Geraldine Morrison, and Miss Evie Smith filled the role of Martha creditably. Miss A. M. McDonald as Lydia Mendle, and Miss Horan as Mrs. Morrison, did full justice to the parts allotted to them. Mr. C. Young as Captain Cullender, Mr. G. Copeland as Archie Allison, and Mr. J. Foley as Colonel Rosecoe, played very well indeed. The scenery was good, and the staging of the piece reflected much credit on those responsible. The arrangements for the entertainment were in the capable hands of Mr. F. J. Helley, who acted as hon. secretary, which is a sufficient guarantee that they were well carried out.

Timaru

(From our own correspondent.)

April 25.

At the Masses on Sunday Rev. Father Tubman said that the new church would be completed for well under £15,000. The furnishing, etc., together with the cost of the schools just erected, would total about £18,500. This leaves about £4500 as the sum necessary to entirely pay off this amount. The work had progressed beyond their most sanguine expectations, and the progress made, coupled with the relatively small expenditure, compared with the tenders received, fully justified the carrying out of the work by day labor.

In commenting on the figures disclosed one of the Timaru papers states: 'The approximate cost of the building revealed a startling and a very satisfactory state of affairs, showing that the singular venture of the Rev. Father Tubman to shoulder all responsibilities and complete the whole of the edifice by day labor had proved a very prudent and economical step.'

The members of St. John's Tennis Club journeyed to Ashburton on Easter Monday and played St. Mary's Club there. The games resulted in favor of St. John's by 107 to 48. A very pleasant outing was brought to a close by a social gathering in the evening in honor of the visitors, who were unanimous in their praise of their treatment at the hands of St. Mary's members.

The bazaar which commenced on Tuesday evening last in the St. Andrews Public Hall, in order to help on the building of the Timaru Catholic church, has been to date a great success, it being anticipated that fully £400 will be realised. Mr. George Lyall opened the fair. The Rev. Father Tubman felicitated the workers on the grand display of goods. The following are the stallholders:—Mrs. Rae, Miss Stack, Mrs. Seannell, and Miss O'Loughlin, and these ladies are helped by an army of willing assistants. The Rev. Fathers Tubman, Smyth, and Murphy have done all in their power to make the fair a success, and Rev. Fathers

Fay (Temuka) and Aubry (Waimate) have also been present. A tug-of-war is proving a great draw, the contest being in charge of Father Smyth.

FAREWELL TO REV. FATHER HILLS, S.M.
SOUTHBRIDGE

(From our Christchurch correspondent.)

In the Town Hall, Southbridge, on last Wednesday evening, a farewell social was tendered to the Rev. Father Hills, S.M., who has been pastor of the Ellesmere parochial district for the past three years, and who is now leaving to enter upon the duties of parish priest of Blenheim. There was a representative attendance of parishioners resident in that portion of the district. Mr. M. Curran presided, and with him on the platform were the Rev. Father Hills and Mr. M. Twiss. An enjoyable programme of songs was contributed by Mesdames L. Andrews and T. McEvedy, Miss L. B. Kilbride, Father Hills, and Messrs. J. Kilbride, F. McDonald, and Bernard McEvedy. Miss F. McDonald played a pianoforte solo artistically, and the accompanists were Mesdames Andrews and McEvedy, and Misses Kilbride, G. McEvedy, and F. McDonald.

During an interval in the programme, Mr. M. Riordan expressed the deep regret of the congregation at Father Hills' departure from the district. He had great pleasure in asking Father Hills to accept a purse of sovereigns as a small token of the congregation's esteem and goodwill.

The Rev. Father Hills was very warmly received on rising to reply. He cordially thanked all present for their attendance and for the excellent entertainment given in his honor. He desired to thank them most heartily for their kindness to him during his three years' residence in the district, and especially for their generous gift that evening. Mr. Riordan had said that the present was a small token of the congregation's goodwill toward him, but if it had been a thousand times smaller he would have treasured it quite as much, and he would accept it in the spirit in which it was given. He did not know that they were more sorry that he was leaving than he was himself. He had done his best during the time he had been in the district and was quite satisfied to remain here, but his superiors had decided otherwise. The three years he had spent in the district were the happiest of his life, and he had been quite willing to remain among them. He would, however, with the help of God, do his best in his new parish. Father Hills concluded his remarks by stating that he would always have a warm corner in his heart for the people of this parish whom he would unfailingly remember in his daily Mass.

On behalf of the Ellesmere branch of the Hibernian Society, Mr. T. Riordan handed to Father Hills, who had been chaplain of the branch for three years, a well-filled purse of sovereigns. Father Hills had, as chaplain, proved to be the right man in the right place.

In thanking the members of the branch for their present, which was to him quite unexpected, Father Hills expressed his admiration of the society as a factor for good in the parish. He wished the branch every prosperity, in strength of numbers and beneficial results.

An excellent supper was provided by the ladies of the parish.

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- The Orangemen's Lament: 'A Conspiracy of Silence.' (Page 757.)
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- A German Information Bureau: An Aid to the Catholic Press. (Page 763.)
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- Cardinal Moran on Irish Affairs. (Page 781.)

By advertisement elsewhere in this issue, Mr. B. Moriarty, the well-known South Canterbury builder, announces his intention to secure engagements for the erection of ecclesiastical edifices in any part of the Dominion. Mr. Moriarty is at present engaged on the erection of the handsome new church in Timaru, which is being erected on the direct control or day-labor principle. Although Mr. Moriarty's reputation, as the builder of some of the largest buildings in South Canterbury, was already a high one, his present engagement is a splendid testimonial to his ability to carry out important works expeditiously, and at a minimum of cost. His services no doubt will be in demand by the clergy, who are always anxious to build well and spend cautiously....