

his leg was broken. Smith was working alongside Bates, and held up his comrade, who would be in great pain from his broken leg, and unable to stand upright without assistance. There was not a rope or spar or anything within reach from which to get any support—nothing but slimy, sinking sludge. The very fact that Bates's leg was glued in the opening of the pipe, also meant that the suction was blocked and no water or drift could be pumped away.*

Smith, in the semi-darkness, apparently worked hard with a crowbar to wrench the mouth of the pipe open enough to get Bates's foot clear, and so release him, and at the same time hold the wounded Bates up as well. Smith at this time apparently threw off his blue jumper, and this also was sucked into the orifice of the pump, and completed the sealing of the suction pipe. The drainage water was meantime rising round both men in the narrow-pointed bottom of the hole in which they were, and the deadly treacherous drift was sneaking in all the time. Smith, in his efforts to clear Bates from the suction pipe, had probably given no thought to his own danger, and when it was too late found he was closely held in the deadly grip of the sludge, worse than the tentacles of an octopus. The oozing slime gripped him fast, while he did his best to free himself and hold up his friend. Smith took off his shirt and singlet and tried to work his legs free from his gum boots by pulling down his trousers to below his knees, but the water was rising all the time, and the sludge coming in sometimes in small slips was causing the bottom layers to set like cement, encasing the feet of the miners in plaster of Paris moulds. Think of the agony of the situation as the two men realised that they were caught like rats in a trap that frosty night, not a soul within call and no prospect of assistance until the midnight shift came on. Smith, who could have got away simply enough at the beginning, was held there along with Bates. Inch by inch came the water. Smith stood up his full strapping six feet lurch so as to fight the creeping elements gamely, and all the time held up his shorter mate as high as the latter's pinned leg would allow. At midnight the other shift came on the scene and saw two coats floating on the flooded paddock. They ran back to the township and roused the manager, and soon all the men of Round Hill were at the paddock. In time they got the water pumped down 18 inches, and then in the misty light their anxious eyes beheld the head and naked shoulders of Smith emerge from the receding water. He was standing quite erect, dead, at his post, having given up his life in an heroic endeavor to save his mate.*

Smith's father—a man widely and highly respected in the community—is a convert to the Catholic Church; and young Smith was confirmed by Bishop Verdon on his Lordship's second last visit to Riverton. At the inquest, the jury in their verdict desired 'to place on record their appreciation of Smith's noble conduct in giving his life in an endeavor to help his mate'; and a public movement is on foot to commemorate his heroism by the erection of a suitable memorial. The movement, needless to say, is being wholeheartedly taken up in the district.—R.I.P.

DIOCESE OF DUNEDIN

The Ladies' Club held their annual meeting in St. Joseph's Hall on Wednesday evening.

The annual meeting of St. Joseph's Catholic Men's Club takes place on next Monday evening.

The many friends of the Very Rev. Mgr. O'Leary, Lawrence, will be pleased to hear that he is now completely recovered from his serious illness.

An entertainment in aid of the Christian Brothers' athletic clubs will be held in St. Joseph's Hall on Friday, May 12. An excellent programme has been arranged.

A meeting of sympathisers with Home Rule, convened by the Rev. Father Coffey, Adm., and the Hon. J. B. Callan, M.L.C., will be held in the Board Room of His Majesty's Theatre, Crawford street, on Tuesday evening, at 8 o'clock, to make arrangements for the reception and public appearance of the Irish Delegates—Messrs. Redmond, Hazleton, and Donovan.

There passed away on April 27, at her residence, Allandale road, St. Clair, after a protracted illness, Miss Brigid Ryan, at the age of 27 years. The deceased was a sister of the late Father John Ryan, and was a native of Roscrea, County Tipperary. The remains were taken to St. Patrick's Basilica, South Dunedin, where a Requiem Mass

was celebrated on Friday morning, at the conclusion of which the funeral left for the Southern Cemetery. The Rev. D. O'Neill, who attended the deceased regularly during her long illness, was celebrant of the Requiem Mass, and also officiated at the graveside. Sincere sympathy is felt for Miss Mary Ryan, sister of the deceased, in her sad bereavement.—R.I.P.

The Children of Mary held their annual social in St. Joseph's Schoolroom on Friday, April 21, when a most enjoyable evening was spent. Songs and recitations were given by Mrs. Power, Miss May Pound, Miss A. Treston, and Miss Brady. An instrumental trio by pupils of the Convent was very much appreciated. The accompaniments were played in a most efficient manner by Mrs. J. Woods. Advantage was taken of the occasion by the Sodality to present Miss Pound with an ivory-bound prayer-book. In the absence of Rev. Father Coffey, Adm. (spiritual director) the presentation was made by Rev. Father Corcoran.

On Wednesday evening, April 26, a very enjoyable euchre party was given by the Children of Mary, South Dunedin, in St. Patrick's School. The completeness of the arrangements showed that nothing had been spared towards making the function the success it proved to be. Rev. Fathers Delany and D. O'Neill were present. The lady's prize was won by Mrs. Ryan and the gentleman's by Mr. Harry Mulholland. Before the party broke up a short musical programme was submitted, the principal items being—Chorus, 'Ireland,' Sodality; vocal solo, 'She is far from the land,' Miss Rodden; violin solo, Miss Ruby Gray; vocal duet, Misses Mahoney and Dunbar. The accompaniments were played by Misses Lizzie Tonar and Rose Fitzpatrick.

On Saturday afternoon the St. Joseph's Harriers held their weekly run from Holy Cross College, Mosgiel, as the guests of the Rev. Father Buckley. Messrs. L. Coughlan and L. O'Sullivan, who were in charge of the paper, laid an excellent but rather long trail for about 10 miles, which did not altogether agree with the younger members. Commencing at the rear of the college, the trail led on to the Mosgiel-Wingatui road, along which a very steady pace was maintained. After following round the racecourse the trail led in the direction of Silverstream in front of the butts and over a variety of cross-country, including many parts of the Silverstream, till Wairongoa was reached. From here the trail led on to the railway line, which was followed to the Mosgiel township siding. There a change was made to the main road, which was followed back to the college. After the run the members were entertained by Rev. Father Buckley.

CATHOLIC CLUBS

QUEENSTOWN.

(From the club correspondent.)

April 29.

A most enjoyable evening was held in St. Joseph's Schoolroom on Thursday evening last, the 27th inst., when the Young Men's Literary and Debating Club opened their session. The first part of the evening was devoted to a euchre tournament, Mrs. J. C. McBride won the lady's prize and Mr. C. McBride the gentleman's. The following items were contributed during the evening:—Songs, Miss M. Robertson (3), Mr. J. McMullan; pianoforte solos, Miss E. Gudgeon, Miss K. Kelly, and Miss A. Craig; recitations, Mr. J. Shepherd (2), Mr. Fitzgerald (a visitor), and Mr. F. Fitzpatrick. After partaking of some light refreshments provided by the club, the meeting terminated with the singing of 'Auld lang syne.' The work of the club's session commences on next Thursday evening, when the subject, 'Should Bachelors be Taxed?' will be debated.

GREYMOUTH.

(From the club correspondent.)

April 28.

The first of the season's tri-weekly euchre tournaments took place in the St. Columba Clubrooms last Wednesday evening, when there was a large attendance of members and their friends, including Very Rev. Dean Carew, and Revs. Fathers La Croix and Finnerty. The ladies' prizes were won by Misses Sharkey and Kennedy, whilst Messrs. Cundy and Harvey accounted for the gentlemen's. An excellent supper was provided by the ladies' committee, after which songs and recitations were given by the following:—Miss Hatch, Rev. Father La Croix, Messrs. Woolhouse, Fawhai, Bryant, Hault, and Smyth. A very enjoyable evening was concluded with the singing of 'Auld lang syne.'

The usual weekly meeting of the St. Columba Catholic Club took place last Monday evening. The president (Mr. A. F. O'Donoghue) occupied the chair, and thirty members were present. The club delegates (Messrs. M. Moriarty and M. Keating) to the conference of Catholic Clubs held in Christchurch during Easter week gave a report on the proceedings. The subject on the syllabus for the evening was 'Municipal elections.' Six candidates were nominated, and some very good speeches were made, showing that members take a keen interest in municipal affairs.

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