

HOKITIKA.

(From the club correspondent.)

The social under the auspices of the Catholic Men's Club was held on last Wednesday evening, and, despite the inclemency of the weather, proved to be very successful. The hall was very tastefully decorated for the occasion, reflecting great credit on those responsible, viz., Messrs. T. Green and L. Dwan. The ladies' committee kindly provided refreshments.

The billiard tournament now in progress is causing great interest. Altogether about thirty members entered and as the first round is now over speculation is now rife as to the ultimate winner.

A meeting of parishioners was held in the club rooms a few weeks ago to discuss the advisability of the formation of a branch of the H.A.C.B. Society here. Rev. Father Clancy occupied the chair, and briefly outlined his reason for calling the meeting. Mr. B. Cox was elected secretary pro tem, and about twenty of those present signified their intention of joining. The meeting decided to form a branch, the secretary being instructed to apply for the usual dispensation in this connection.

The fortnightly euchre tournaments which were carried on so successfully last winter will commence this season on next Wednesday week, May 10.

CHRISTCHURCH.

(From the club correspondent.)

April 29.

An executive meeting of the Christchurch Catholic Club was held on Friday evening, when there were present Mr. J. R. Hayward (president), Rev. Dr. Kennedy, Messrs. F. Rowe, P. McNamara, T. Tullock, F. J. Healy, J. McNamara, J. O'Connor, F. Quinn, and G. Dobbs (secretary). Mr. A. J. O'Malley was elected a vice-president, and one nomination was received. The president reported that Mr. E. McKeon had secured first prize in the 'Impromptu speech,' and Mr. P. McNamara second in the oratorical display in connection with the recent literary and musical competitions. He congratulated the winners on their success. It was decided to hold a concert some time in July in aid of the funds of the club. The executive, with Messrs H. Rossiter, R. Beveridge, and F. McDonald, were appointed a committee to work up same. The following syllabus was drawn up for the weekly meetings:—May 2—Impromptu debate; May 9, Card and billiard tournament; May 16, Reading from Dickens; May 23, Musical evening; May 30, Debate—'Can a Man get Rich Honestly?'

THE DEFENCE ACT

SENIOR CADETS AND BOY SCOUTS

(Extract from the *Lyttelton Times*, April 19.)

Speaking yesterday to a representative of the *Lyttelton Times*, Major-General Godley stated that he desired to correct some erroneous ideas that had got abroad concerning the position of senior cadets and boy scouts under the Defence Act.

'There seems to be an impression in some quarters,' he said, 'that training in the boy scouts or boy scout cadets can take the place of training in the senior cadets. This impression is erroneous, and should be removed by all concerned with the boy scout organisation.'

'The position is that, in order to assist the boy scout movement, the Defence Act has sanctioned the incorporation of boy scout units in the organisation of the senior cadets, who may be called boy scout cadets, and the military authorities accordingly are prepared to accept in the senior cadet companies or smaller units of boy scouts. By law, every youth between the ages of fourteen and eighteen must be a senior cadet, having become a senior cadet, there is then no objection on the part of the military authorities to his also being a boy scout should he so desire. In fact, I myself and the military authorities are thoroughly in sympathy with the boy scout movement, and I am vice-president of the boy scouts in the Dominion. But it is to be distinctly understood that every boy between fourteen and eighteen must be a senior cadet, and that, in the case of those who are boy scouts, he must be a senior cadet first and a boy scout or boy scout cadet afterwards.'

'There also seems to be a further misapprehension that it is not necessary for boys now belonging to the boy scouts or boy scout cadets to register themselves as senior cadets. This is wrong. Every boy between the ages of fourteen and eighteen, whether a boy scout or not, has by law to fill in a registration form and post it to the nearest area sergeant-major, in accordance with the military training notice lately issued, from the conditions of which boy scouts are no more exempt than any other class of the community.'

'As regards the training of boy scouts in the senior cadet organisation, in which they will be incorporated as boy scout cadets, they will, in the first instance, have to

perform the drills as laid down by law and regulation for all senior cadets, namely, all youths in the Dominion between fourteen and eighteen, and, having done that, they will then be free to do any special boy scout work that they please. As a matter of fact, a good deal of the senior cadet training will be on the same lines as that now done by the boy scouts, and, as has before been explained, the boy scouts will be given facilities for doing their senior cadet training in units composed entirely of boy scouts; and the military authorities will be glad to receive from the head of the boy scout movement any proposals for the formation of boy scout companies or smaller units.

'It is hoped that, in order to help the military authorities, and to avoid a great rush at the last moment, all youths between fourteen and eighteen belonging to the boy scouts will procure registration forms from the post office, fill them in, and send them to the nearest area sergeant-major as soon as possible.'

Major-General Godley added that Colonel Cosgrove, the Chief Scout, quite understood and agreed with the position. In an article published in the *Lyttelton Times* a short time ago, it had been stated that 'the decision of a boy scout to become a senior cadet is tantamount to resignation from the scouts,' and that 'boys who wish to become boy scout cadets in preference to senior cadets must first become boy scouts.' This was misleading, as any boy scouts and boy scout cadets between the ages of fourteen and eighteen were by law included in the senior cadets.

WEDDING BELLS

MILLS—BROWN.

On April 25 a quiet wedding took place in the Cathedral, Barbadoes street, Christchurch. The bride was Miss Amelia Brown, a daughter of the late Mr. Charles Brown, of Poulson street, Addington, and the bridegroom was Mr. Arthur Patrick Mills, of the Cathedral parish. The bridesmaids were Miss Mabel Richardson and Miss Nellie Smith. Mr. Gordon Mills, a brother of the bridegroom, was the best man. The bride, who was given away by her relative, Mr. William Pickering, wore, besides the usual veil and wreath, a very pretty ivory silk dress elaborately trimmed to match. The Rev. Father McDonald, S.M., performed the ceremony and celebrated the Nuptial Mass. After the ceremony the wedding party repaired to the Washington Lodge Hall, Selwyn street, Addington, where the breakfast, presided over by Mr. Pickering, took place. The wedding presents were numerous, valuable, and useful. The bridegroom presented a handsome gold brooch to each of the bridesmaids, and to the bride a gold bangle.

THIS WEEK'S ISSUE

The Bible Tercentenary Celebrations. Some of the things that have not been said. (Pages 817, 818.)

Another Bible-conversion tract. How its author declined to face the music. (Page 806.)

The Supreme Sacrifice. A Catholic young man's noble heroism. (Pages 818, 819.)

What Father Benson thinks of Socialism, and what experienced parish priests say. (Page 805.)

The Miracle of Ireland. Hilaire Belloc's brilliant article. (Page 806.)

The Australian referenda. The questions submitted and the significance of the result. (Page 805.)

The Irish Envoys: Mr. Redmond's views on Imperial politics. (Pages 810, 811.)

The Three Redmonds: An interesting family group. (Pages 807, 808.)

Winter in Montreal. A Wellington visitor's impressions. (Page 827.)

Irish Affairs: Irish Leader replies to Tory charges. (Pages 808, 809.)

Portuguese Republic: The authors of the Revolution. (Page 801.)

The Panama Canal: Description of a great work. (Page 829.)

Catholics and Secular Education. (Page 801.)

An accused, with many previous convictions, came before the Napier Court, and was sentenced to three months' imprisonment. Accused: 'Well, send me to Auckland or Wellington Gaol; I don't like Napier Gaol.' The Magistrate: 'I'm afraid you'll have to go there. We don't give excursion trips, you know.'

B. MORIARTY

Building Superintendent at present engaged in the erection of the new Catholic Church, Timaru, is prepared to enter into similar engagements from October next in any part of the Dominion.

Plans and Estimates supplied if desired.

Communications to be addressed—

"HAKATERE," TIMARU.