

Very Rev. Father Mahoney on last Tuesday delivered to the members of the Holy Family Confraternity an interesting and highly instructive address on Freemasonry, showing its aims and objects, and enjoining upon all to obey the commands of the Church in respect to this organisation.

There was Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament at the Cathedral yesterday from the last Mass until Vespers, after which Very Rev. Father Murray, C.S.S.R., preached, dealing with the lack of reverence towards religion at the present time. After the sermon there was a procession of the Blessed Sacrament. There was a crowded congregation. The music was excellently rendered by the choir under the direction of Mr. Hiscocks.

MUSIC EXAMINATIONS

DOMINICAN CONVENT, QUEENSTOWN.

The following are the results of the Trinity College examination held at the Dominican Convent, Queenstown:—

Preparatory.—Maggie Collins, 78; Lizzie Callaghan, 78; Kitty McBride, 75; Julia McSeely, 73; John Crowe, 71.

ST. CATHERINE'S CONVENT, INVERCARGILL.

The following are the results of the practical examinations held at St. Catherine's Convent, Invercargill, by Mr. Douglas Redman, examiner for the Associated Board of the Royal Academy and the Royal College of Music:—

Licentiate.—Alice F. Harrington, L.A.B.

Local Centre Examinations.—Advanced Grade: Grace E. Paton, 116. Intermediate Grade: Dorothy Hamilton, 113.

School Examinations.—Higher Division: Margaret Macdonald, distinction, 130; Winnie Anderson, 102.

Lower Division.—Horatio Nelson, 127; Josephine Metzger, 121; Matilda McAlister, 114; Nettie Nicoll, 113; Rosie Shepherd, 110.

Elementary Division.—May Torrance (Bluff Convent), 123; Dorothy Smith, 116; Eileen McGrath, 114; Sadie McKay, 109; Margaret Morris, 106; Nora Marryat, 105.

Primary Division.—Molly Bell (Bluff Convent), distinction, 130; Bernardine Johnston, distinction, 130; Annie O'Brien, 127; Allan Crockett (Bluff Convent), 118; Violet McFarlane, 117; Ita Sheehan, 115; Queenie Stroud, 110.

The following are the results of the examination held at St. Catherine's College, Invercargill, last week by Mr. C. Schilsky in connection with Trinity College of Music, London:—

Higher Examinations.—Alice F. Harrington, A.T.C.L.

Senior (Advanced) Grade.—May O'Byrne, 69.

Intermediate Grade.—Margaret A. McIvor, 77; Forbes Cameron, 75; Amy Wyeth (singing), 72.

Lower (Junior) Grade.—Lei'a Greig, honors, 87; Hannah Spillane, honors, 82; Mary Skiffington, 71; Nettie Parry (Bluff Convent), 70; May Moloney, 69; May Molloy (singing), 69; Clara Plank, 68; Margaret Gilfedder, 66.

Preparatory Grade.—Eileen Ruck, 91; Gladys Roche, 88; Rena Treseder, 88; Margaret Peterson, 83; Ysoline Strettell, 83; Rita Joyce, 81; Maggie Preston (Bluff Convent), 81.

All the pupils presented by St. Catherine's College were successful.

A Masterton dairyman who has culled his herd systematically finds this year that he is supplying as much milk from 65 cows as he did last year from a herd of 90.

The sale of the late Mrs. G. P. Donnelly's Waimarama estate took place at Hastings last week, when 5299 acres were sold in subdivisions, at an average price of £12 3s per acre.

One Masterton settler clipped 14lb of wool apiece from his stud Lincoln ewes this year.

THE VICTORIAN ELECTIONS

MAJORITY AGAINST THE SCRIPTURE REFERENDUM.

In the course of his reply to the toast of 'the Archbishop and Clergy' at the Communion breakfast of the Catholic Young Men's Society on Sunday morning, November 19, the Very Rev. Dean Phelan, V.G., said he was pleased to notice that one remark made by Mr. O'Connell before proposing the health of the Archbishop and clergy was loudly cheered by them—namely, the assurance that, notwithstanding the efforts—honest and dishonest—made prior to the election by those in favor of Scripture instruction in State schools, an absolute majority was returned to Parliament in direct opposition to the Scripture Campaign Council, and ready to vote against any proposal to inflict any further penalty on the Catholic body. They would be also pleased to hear that he had further information, which led him to believe that, not only had they an absolute majority in their favor, but, as a result of the recent election, that majority would be materially increased. He had said that the efforts made had been both honest and dishonest, and that fact was brought out by the two morning papers prior to the election. It was said during the campaign that it was not a question of religious teaching in the schools; that it was only to get the Bible into the schools, and that the Bible was excluded from the schools. These two statements were not founded on fact. If the Bible were excluded from the State schools, it was the fault of those whose efforts would be better spent in teaching the children than in going about campaigning against the Catholics. The other false statement was that it was not religious instruction they required, but simply the Bible. The two morning papers, be it said to their credit, had pointed out very clearly the injustice of such a proposal, and he (the Dean), on their behalf, desired to acknowledge the services they had rendered in the honest statements put before the public. A pastoral was issued by several Protestant bishops and representatives of the leading Protestant denominations, in which it was falsely asserted that religious instruction meant simply Bible reading. The Dean, continuing, read extracts from articles in the *Age* and *Argus*, in which it was pointed out that a referendum on such a question was an encroachment upon the principle of religious freedom.

Official versus Unofficial Polls.

Taking the returns from the various constituencies, and comparing them with the private polls taken in regard to the question of a referendum, and the results then obtained, they would admit, without doubt, that he (the Dean) was justified in saying that the efforts against them had been both honest and dishonest. In the electorate of Dundas, where, according to Mr. Nicholson, there was a 5 to 1 vote in favor of the referendum, the man who carried Mr. Nicholson's flag polled 900 votes, while his opponent won the seat with 2500. They had also heard a lot about the wonderful returns from Geelong in favor of the referendum, but the man who carried that flag was defeated by 1500 votes. At Bendigo East, before the death of Mr. Glass, who was always a strong friend of justice in the matter, a private poll was taken, and it was said that there was a 10 to 1 majority in favor of the Bible in State schools. When Mr. Glass died, they were in a position to test the truth of the statement, but what was the result? Mr. Hampson stood in opposition, and the man who was defeated did not succeed in getting anything like the 3000 votes he was supposed to get. It was said, in extenuation, that, when the general election came round, and the women had the vote, the result would be different. But what was the result? Mr. Hampson was again returned, and the man next to him, who was also opposed to the referendum, carried 90 per cent. of the polled votes. There was a referendum also taken in Fitzroy; with the usual 10 to 1 result in its favor. During the election campaign Mr. Billson, who took an active part in opposition to the proposal, read a letter