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Commercial

WOOL

Mr. M. T. Kennelly, 217 Crawford street, Dunedin, reports as follows:—

Rabbitskins.—Prime winter does, 17d to 18d; second does, to 16½d; prime bucks, to 16d; incoming and early winter, 14d to 15d; autumn, 12d to 13d; racks, 7½d to 9d. Horsehair, 16d to 19d; catskins, 4d to 6d each.

Sheepskins.—Halfbred, 6d to 8d per lb; fine crossbred, 5½ to 7d; coarse do., 5d to 6½d; pelts, 3d to 5d.

Hides.—Sound ox, 6d to 8d; do. cow, 5d to 6½d; damaged ox and cow, 3d to 4½d; calfskins and yearlings (sound), 6½d to 9d. Horsehides, 8s to 14s each.

Tallow.—Best in casks, to 26s per cwt; do., 24s; mixed, 18s to 20s; rough fat, 16s to 20s.

Prompt returns. No commission.

DIOCESE OF AUCKLAND

(By telegraph, from our own correspondent.)

January 1.

The retreat of the Diocesan clergy commences on January 15.

Brother Paul, Provincial of the Marist Brothers, is at present on a visit to Auckland.

Rev. Father Hunt, C.S.S.R., will conclude the retreat of the Sisters of Mercy on Wednesday next, on which day he will commence a retreat for the Marist Brothers.

Captain Breen is in port with his splendid new steamship Zealandic, on its first voyage. It was built in Belfast. It is a coincidence that the Delphic, formerly in charge of Captain Breen, is also in port, and is in charge of Captain English, who, like Captain Breen, was born in Wexford.

Mr. John McCormack, the famous Irish tenor, is announced to give one concert in the Town Hall on January 18. He gives but two concerts in the Dominion, the other being in Wellington. A movement is on foot amongst local Irishmen to give their illustrious countryman a fitting reception.

At the Cathedral last evening the Rev. Father Liston, Rector of Holy Cross College, preached a fine sermon on vocation to the priesthood. He showed that from the time of the Apostles to the present day it was the policy of the Church everywhere to encourage a native clergy. We should encourage our young men to aspire to the priesthood, and to parents, particularly to mothers, he addressed his remarks, for to pious mothers the Church was indebted for many of its greatest ecclesiastics, notably in the case of the celebrated Vaughan family. Opportunities were now within reach for the training of the clergy in this Dominion, and shortly one so trained at Holy Cross College, Mosgiel, would take up his duties in the Auckland diocese, Father Liston afterwards gave Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament, Rev. Fathers Ormond and Doherty being deacon and subdeacon respectively. This morning (New Year's Day) very large numbers received Holy Communion at the early Masses.

WANTED KNOWN—That Bill Heads, Circulars, Cards, Wedding Invitations, Programmes, and General Printing of every description are executed at the *Tablet* Office. Moderate rates.

DIOCESE OF CHRISTCHURCH

(From our own correspondent.)

January 1.

To-day, the Feast of the Circumcision, Masses were celebrated in the Cathedral at 6, 7.30, 9, and 10 o'clock, all being well attended.

Dr. Arthur O'Brien and Mrs. O'Brien and their family left on Thursday by the Moeraki for Sydney to catch the Orama for London, on a twelve months' holiday. During Dr. O'Brien's absence his medical practice is being carried on by Dr. Morkane.

Christmas at the Good Shepherd Convent, Mount Magdala, was observed with the joyous festivities of former years. Midnight Mass was celebrated in the Convent Chapel by the Rev. Father Gilbert of St. Patrick's College, Wellington. The inmates and the little orphans feel deeply grateful and indebted to the generosity of his Lordship the Bishop, and the many kind friends who sent Christmas gifts, and thus greatly contributed to their happiness.

The Rev. Father Morkane, of Holy Cross College, Mosgiel, celebrated the 11 o'clock Mass (Missa Cantata) in the Cathedral on Sunday last, and also preached. At Vespers an impressive sermon, appropriate of the season, was preached by the Rev. Father Foster, S.J. His Lordship the Bishop presided at Solemn Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament, attended by the Rev. Fathers Morkane and Hanrahan. The 'Te Deum' was sung in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament exposed.

After the ceremonies at the Cathedral on Christmas evening the members of the choir were entertained by his Lordship the Bishop and Very Rev. Father Price, Adm., at the episcopal residence, when appreciation was expressed of the choir's services during the year, and notably on the festivals of the Church. Advantage was taken of the occasion to make a presentation to Mr. R. Beveridge, who is severing a long and valued connection with the choir, owing to his early departure from Christchurch. His Lordship the Bishop, in presenting Mr. Beveridge, on behalf of the choir, with a travelling outfit, referred in complimentary terms to his fifteen years' constant and zealous service in the interest of the church music of the Cathedral, and expressed the hope that, should the opportunity again occur, Mr. Beveridge would rejoin the choir. The organist (Mr. A. J. Bunz), warmly eulogised the services rendered to the choir by Mr. Beveridge, who, besides being of the greatest assistance musically, added regularity and punctuality—attributes which were invaluable where success was sought, and most essential in choir matters. In acknowledging the gift, which he would very highly value, Mr. Beveridge expressed gratitude for the good will shown towards him. This he felt he possessed, and therefore to give a tangible proof of it was unnecessary. He intended going to England for a year or so to gain experience, and hoped when he returned to rejoin the choir the severing of his association with which was to him a severe wrench.

Lyttelton

(From our Christchurch correspondent.)

With the object of adding to the fund for the erection of a social hall and reading-room for seamen, the members of St. Joseph's Conference, Society of St. Vincent de Paul, assisted by friends and members of St. Joseph's Catholic Church, Lyttelton, have organised a bazaar and art union, which was opened on Saturday evening, December 23, in the Railway Social Hall. The idea of erecting the building was initiated in May, 1905, at a meeting of St. Joseph's Conference Mission to Catholic Seamen, a branch of the St. Vincent de Paul Society's special works, known throughout the world for its efforts amongst seafarers. During the past six and a half years members of the Conference have zealously carried on the work amongst the seamen visiting port, and have exercised a remarkable influence for good. It has been felt that the work could be better carried on if a hall were available where seamen could meet and spend a social hour or two. It was at