

members to hold office and the keen interest they displayed in discussing the business of the meeting, signs which augur well for the future of the branch. After the business, a pleasant social evening was spent. Bro. R. A. McDonald, who has been appointed treasurer, is deserving of great praise for the efforts he has made to establish the branch. Bro. Doyle has been elected to the position of president.

When it was made known recently that the Thorndon parish boys' school was to lose the services of the Marist Brothers, owing to the difficulty experienced by the Rev. Brother Provincial (Brother Paul) in providing the necessary staff for the school, several deputations of Thorndon parishioners waited on the Rev. Brother Provincial and expressed a very keen desire that the school should be staffed by the Marist Brothers, and informed him that the parishioners were exceedingly anxious for the Brothers to continue the good work of the past. In replying Rev. Brother Paul expressed his desire to do all in his power to meet the wishes of the parishioners, but that it was a most difficult matter. Anyhow he would give the matter his most thoughtful consideration and communicate with Rev. Father Hickson, S.M., Adm. The result of Rev. Brother Paul's deliberations was announced at a special meeting of the parishioners on last Thursday evening by Rev. Father Hickson, and was to the effect that the requisite number of Brothers was forthcoming to carry on the school. It was then immediately moved that the motion passed at the previous meeting, to the effect that pending the engagement of another Order of Brothers, the school be handed over to the Sisters of Mercy, be rescinded. Another motion was then moved that the Marist Brothers take charge of the school. Both the motions were unanimously and enthusiastically carried. The news of the Brothers' intention to continue the school has caused widespread satisfaction to the people of Thorndon, especially those who had been old pupils of the school, and who were very disappointed when it was first announced that the Brothers were unable to carry on. Gratitude is expressed on every side to Rev. Brother Paul for his efforts on behalf of the Thorndon parishioners.

The annual meeting of St. Patrick's branch of the H.A.C.B. Society was held at St. Patrick's Hall on last Tuesday evening, there being a large attendance of members under the presidency of Bro. W. J. Feeney, P.P. The District Deputy, Bro. J. W. Callaghan, P.P., was also present. The election of officers for the ensuing half-year resulted, as follows:—President, Bro. J. J. L. Burke; vice-president, Bro. M. Walsh; treasurer, Bro. J. McKeown; warden, Bro. J. Sullivan; guardian, Bro. A. Barnes; sick visitors, Bros. Condon and O'Callaghan; auditors, Bros. H. McKeown and F. McDonald; delegate to dispensary, Bro. J. W. Callaghan; delegate to United Friendly Societies' Council, Bro. M. O'Kane; medical attendants, Drs. Cahill, Mackin, McEvedy, Clay, Bowerbank, and Anderson. The secretary presented the quarterly balance sheet for December quarter, together with the annual returns, as required by the Government Registrar of Friendly Societies, under the Act of 1909. He also presented a report for the year just ended, which proved interesting, and disclosed to the members the position of the society. From it is extracted a few interesting paragraphs:—The membership of the branch, which is the parent branch of the Wellington district, is 300, the receipts for the year totalled £1000, whilst the expenditure came to £930, leaving a profit of £70 for the year, which was considered satisfactory owing to the abnormal amount of sickness experienced, and for which no less a sum than £265 was paid. Of this sum £65 was paid to members on what is termed the superannuation allowance. During the past fifteen years no less than £800 has been paid out to this class of member, whilst the total sick pay paid out since 1894 came to £3600, or an average of £200 per annum. The management and benevolent funds also disclosed satisfactory progress. The installation of the newly-elected officers takes place at the next meeting on 15th January.

DIocese OF CHRISTCHURCH

(From our own correspondent.)

January 8.

His Lordship the Bishop assisted in parochial duty in Rakaia on Sunday last.

The Rev. Father Bartley, S.M., M.A., of St. Patrick's College, who has been conducting retreats for the Sisters of the Missions, returned to Wellington last week.

His Lordship the Bishop and Very Rev. Father Price, Adm., were the guests last week at the Mayoral dinner, given in honor of his Excellency the Governor, Lord Islington, at the Council Chambers.

There was Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament in the Cathedral from the 11 o'clock Mass on Sunday last. At Vespers an impressive discourse was preached by the Rev. Father Morkane, of Holy Cross College, Mosgiel, in the presence of a crowded congregation. There was the usual procession, followed by Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament.

The bazaar in the Railway Social Hall, Lyttelton, promoted by the local conference of the society of St. Vincent de Paul (Mission to Catholic seamen), and open during the Christmas and New Year holidays, proved a most successful enterprise. The Brothers of the society and a number of most energetic young lady friends worked almost incessantly, their efforts being rewarded by a net result of nearly £300, which will be added to the fund for the erection of a social hall for seamen and parish purposes, and meeting place for the conference. As the blocks in connection with the art union were not all returned to enable the drawing to take place as advertised—the last night of the bazaar—the time has been extended to January 31.

Mr. Joseph Blascheck and Miss Mildred Wrighton gave a short private recital in the Catholic girls' school-room, Lower High street, on last Friday afternoon. The programme consisted of songs, recitations, and musical sketches. Mr. Blascheck was heard to very great advantage in Mark Antony's oration from *Julius Caesar*, speaking the lines with great dramatic power. In numerous items he proved himself a clever imitator, and his impersonation of forgetful old men and funny little boys was very effective and laughter-provoking. A musical monologue, 'The Little Red Ribbon,' was delightfully quaint, and humorous with a slight touch of pathos, while his funny stories were very funny indeed. Miss Mildred Wrighton justified her reputation as a clever elocutionist, and proved herself the possessor of a very fine voice.

Geraldine

The annual picnic of the H.A.C.B. Society (says the *Geraldine Mail*) was held on New Year's Day on the pleasant grounds of Mr. J. Connolly, Raukapuka, Geraldine, the site selected being beside the creek at the end of the avenue, where sports and games could be watched from the grateful shade of the trees. There were fully four hundred present, and the weather conditions being altogether favorable, while the members of the society were indefatigable in their efforts to make everything pass merrily, enjoyment reigned supreme. After morning tea a sports programme was commenced, and this was continued after lunch, when the various contests resulted as follows:—Girls' race (under 6)—M. Mitchell 1, A. Connolly 2; under 10—V. O'Connor 1, — Cunningham 2; under 12—A. Buckley 1, S. Mulhern 2; under 16—Storey 1, McKay 2. Boys' races.—Under 6—J. Connolly 1, J. Lysaght 2; under 8—Mitchell 1, Lysaght 2; under 10—Scully 1, Markham 2; under 12—Kennedy 1, Mitchell 2; under 16—Connell 1, Smith 2. Wrestling (Cumberland)—M. Prendergast 1, T. Sugrue 2. Hop, step, and jump—G. Coulter (39ft 10in) 1, J. Connell (39ft 9in) 2, P. Fifield (38ft 10in) 3. 100yds open (21 entries)—J. Connell 1, J. Coulter 2, J. Guerin 3. Married men's race (for special trophy, 16 entries)—J. Brett 1, J. Earl 2. Sack race—T. Murphy 1, J. Feely 2. Married ladies' race (special trophy)—Mrs Dineen 1, Mrs. Holloway and Mrs. Charles Deadhead 2. Single ladies' race—Miss M. Burke 1, Miss McKay 2, Miss Mitchell