

on the diocese. In a recent episcopal letter to his priests his Lordship says: 'I am sure the good people . . . will be cheered and consoled to learn that within the past nine months we have reduced the big diocesan debt by the magnificent sum of £41,500. This, I think, constitutes a record, not only for Australia, but the whole Catholic world. Of this sum £31,500 has been paid into the Union Bank in reduction of the huge central debt of £90,000, and the remaining £10,000 has been absorbed in paying off other mortgages on church property and sundry liabilities of a pressing nature. By an agreement, entered into with the general manager of the Union Bank last April, I undertook to pay off £40,000 by May 1 next, in order to secure the total remission of interest on £90,000 for two years. Up to the present, as the above figures show, I have only been able to pay the bank £31,500 in consequence of other pressing obligations having to be met. I still have to find £8500 by May 1, and I have every confidence that the generosity of the people, through the diocese, will enable me to find it.'

At the annual conference of the delegates of the Hibernian Society in Sydney, the District Board, in their annual report, chronicled 'a grateful measure of progress in general work, and a marked increase in membership. The branches in New South Wales total 187, with a membership of 11,588, as follows:—Men's, 139; total membership, 9545; women's, 42; total membership, 1861; juvenile, 6; total membership, 182.' The great strength of the society is evidenced by the following figures:—At the close of the year 1910-11 there were 9965 members; latest reports indicate an enrolment of 11,588 members; 2768 members were initiated, 226 members admitted by clearance; total admissions, 2994. The losses in membership by clearance were 220, by death 58, by resignation and arrears 1093; total losses, 1371, leaving a net increase of 1623 members for the year. District funeral funds showed an increase of £3165 2s 11d, and other district funds £263 15s 1d, the balance (for 1911-12) totalling £32,287 4s 3d. Branch sick funds, 1911-12, were £33,494 15s 11d, or an increase of £1892 13s 4d. Other branch funds were £3015 6s 9d, showing an increase of £377 16s 4d. The gross funds were £68,797 6s 11d, or an increase of £5699 7s 7d.

Diocesan News

ARCHDIOCESE OF WELLINGTON

(From our own correspondent.)

April 6.

The Rev. Father Schaefer, S.M., of St. Patrick's College, concluded his course of Lenten sermons on last Sunday at St. Joseph's, Te Aro.

The Marist Brothers' Junior Cadets paid a visit to the H.M.S. Encounter on last Thursday. The officers and men of the man-of-war did everything possible to interest the boys.

Mr. T. Buckley, chief electrician of the Post and Telegraph Department, and a parishioner of St. Joseph's, has returned from a twelve months' trip round the world, after inquiring into the various systems of telephony in other countries. Mr. Buckley has returned with a mass of information which no doubt will be of much benefit to the Dominion's telephone system.

To-night (Saturday) Sir Joseph Ward will open, at 8 o'clock, in the new hall, Green street, an Easter carnival and fancy fair for the liquidation of the debt on the hall. Attractive stalls will be arranged for the disposal of fancy work and numerous works of art. The children will provide good entertainment in spectacular displays and fancy dancing. An art union will be drawn in connection with the fair. The various city bands will also supply selections during the fair.

On Good Friday his Grace Archbishop Redwood celebrated the Mass of the Presanctified at the Basilica of the Sacred Heart, there being a crowded congregation. His Grace also preached. His Grace also officiated at the Stations of the Cross in the afternoon.

In the evening the Rev. Father Cullen, S.M., of St. Patrick's College, preached on the 'Passion.' The Rev. Father Eccleton, S.M., of St. Patrick's College, preached on the 'Passion' at St. Joseph's in the evening.

The eleventh annual conference of the Federated Catholic Clubs of New Zealand was opened in St. Patrick's Hall, Boulcott street, at 11 a.m. to-day. Representatives of about twenty Catholic Clubs in various parts of the Dominion are in attendance. Amongst the questions to be discussed is that of establishing federal literary competitions for a challenge shield. A number of papers dealing with matters affecting the welfare of the clubs will be read at the conference, and discussions will take place upon methods of improving and extending the St. Vincent de Paul Society and other Catholic organisations.

The men's mission at the Basilica of the Sacred Heart was concluded on last Sunday evening, the Basilica being crowded with men. The Very Rev. Father O'Connell, S.M., preached, and at the conclusion of his sermon imparted the Papal Blessing. The mission right through has been a splendid success, and the missionaries have every reason to be satisfied with the result of their labors. Over 1350 confessions were heard, whilst 4000 Holy Communions were administered. On Sunday Rev. Father McCarthy opened a mission at Northlands, in the Thorndon parish, whilst the Rev. Father Kimbell conducted one at Wadestown, and on Monday Very Rev. Father O'Connell opened one at Makara. They were all successful, and concluded last Wednesday.

On Holy Thursday, at St. Joseph's Church, Te Aro, Solemn High Mass was celebrated at 7.30 by the Very Rev. Dean Regnault, S.M. (Provincial), Rev. Father S. Mahoney, S.M., being deacon, Rev. Father J. Herring, S.M., subdeacon, and Rev. Father Hurley, S.M., master of ceremonies. The Altar of Repose was beautifully decorated by the ladies of the Altar Society, and the choir, under the baton of Mr. D. MacLaughlin, rendered appropriate music. In the evening there was a crowded congregation, the Rev. Father J. Herring, S.M., preaching on the 'Rosary.' Solemn High Mass was also celebrated at St. Anne's, Wellington South, by the Ven. Archdeacon Devoy, S.M., Rev. Fathers Peoples and Segrief being deacon and subdeacon respectively. At the Basilica of the Sacred Heart, Thorndon, his Grace the Archbishop officiated. There was Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament all day on Thursday at the churches mentioned, and hundreds of the faithful visited the churches during the course of the day.

Members of the Wellington Catholic Club attended in large numbers at the club rooms on Tuesday last to bid farewell to Mr. S. J. Moran, LL.B., who is leaving this city. Mr. Moran is severing his connection with the legal firm of Messrs. Casey and Moran, and, in conjunction with Mr. Maurice Lavery, intends to take over the business of the late Mr. Pownall, of Masterton. Mr. Moran has always been actively associated with Catholic Club matters, and testimony to the good work he has done in the various branches of club life was given by Mr. J. P. McGowan (chairman of the executive), Messrs. H. McKeown and P. J. McGovern (representing the Federation of Catholic Clubs), Messrs. L. Leydon and T. O'Sullivan (on behalf of the cricket club), and Mr. J. W. Callaghan (district deputy of the H.A.C.B.S.). Mr. Moran, in the course of an eloquent and impressive reply, disclaimed any credit for anything he had done. He held that it was the duty of a Catholic young man to do his share to further the interests of a Catholic club. He regarded it as a privilege to have had the honor of associating with the gentlemen present that evening. He assured his hearers that although absent from Wellington he would ever fondly cherish the memory of his connection with the club; its career would be carefully followed by him, and none would be more pleased than he to hear of its continued success. Various musical and elocutionary items were contributed, and the gathering closed with ringing cheers for the guest of the evening.