

OBITUARY

MR. J. W. SHEEHAN, AUCKLAND.

It is with feelings of sincere regret we report the death of Mr. John W. Sheehan, eldest son of Sub-Inspector Sheehan, of the Wellington police force. Mr. Sheehan, who had just attained his majority, was for a considerable period an inmate of the Mater Misericordiae Hospital, Auckland, the immediate cause of his death being a serious operation, from which he never rallied. From his earliest years the deceased, who was of a bright and cheery disposition, was noted for his piety and devotion, and right up to the time of his illness was one of the altar boys at St. Benedict's Church. Solemn Requiem Mass for the repose of the soul of the deceased was celebrated by the Ven. Archdeacon Brodie, who was assisted by the Rev. Father Forde. There was an unusually large congregation in the church, amongst whom were several of the clergy from different parts of the diocese. The members of the St. Benedict's Catholic Club, of which deceased was a member, acted as pall-bearers at the funeral. The last sad rites of the Church were conducted by Father Golden, of Onehunga, in which cemetery the body was laid. Sub-Inspector and Mrs. Sheehan were the recipients of messages of condolence from all over the Dominion, and in another column return their heartfelt thanks to all kind sympathisers.—R.I.P.

THE WRECK OF THE TITANIC

GREAT LOSS OF LIFE

Out of the many contradictory and conflicting cable messages which have come to hand regarding the loss of the White Star Company's steamer Titanic, we are at least certain of one thing, and that is the loss of life was appalling. The vessel struck an iceberg shortly before midnight on Sunday week on her passage from Liverpool to New York, and two and a-half hours later she sank, taking with her nearly 1600 souls. There were aboard the Titanic 2340 persons, made up as follows: First class passengers, 330; second class, 320; steerage, 750; officers and crew, 940. The Carpathia on the voyage to New York picked up 745 persons who had left the Titanic in lifeboats. She received a call for assistance from the Titanic, and sighted 16 boats at 3 o'clock on Monday morning.

The following narrative of the disaster was given by Mr. Beesley, a science master:—There was fine weather and a calm sea on Sunday, but very cold. A slight jar was felt, lasting 10 to 15 seconds, which became greater, but insufficient to create anxiety. The engines stopped, and he thought perhaps a propeller was lost. He went on deck, and found only a few about. There were card-players in the smoking-room, and these had noticed the jar. Looking out, he saw an iceberg near the vessel's side, grazing her bow. He then went into his cabin, but returned on deck later, and found that the ship was unmistakably down at the head. He went below again, but heard the cry: 'All passengers on deck with lifebelts on.' The passengers merely regarded this as a precaution. There was no panic or alarm, and no visible signs of disaster.

The boats were swung out, and this awakened them to danger. The next order was: 'All men stand from the boats, and all women retire to the deck below.' As the boats reached the lower deck the women quietly entered them, with the exception of some, who refused to leave their husbands. In some cases they were forcibly torn from their husbands and pushed into the boats. As the boats touched the water they slipped away into the darkness. There was no hysterical sobbing, but an extraordinary calm.

Three men were then ordered into each of the boats. He saw a boat half full of women on the port side. A sailor asked one if there were any more ladies on his deck, and as there were none he invited me to jump in. There were no officers in this boat. No one seemed to know what to do. We swung under another descending boat, and the promptitude of the stoker alone prevented us from all being smashed. The stoker took charge.

Mr. Beesley continued: The leviathan loomed up against the sky, every port-hole being alight. At 2 o'clock she settled rapidly at the bows. The bridge was under water. The lights flickered, and were then extinguished. Her stern tilted into the air, and the machinery roared down through the vessel with a rattle that was audible for miles. About 150 feet of the stern protruded straight up for about five minutes, and then made a slanting dive, followed by appalling cries for help from hundreds of human beings in the icy water. Survivors at a safe distance witnessed the Titanic plunge, and heard the band playing.

A New York message says:—Mr. Thomas McCormick, who is in the hospital suffering from wounds on the head, declares that he jumped when the Titanic was sinking. He got his hands on the gunwale of a lifeboat, but the members of the crew struck him on the head and tore his hands loose. After making repeated efforts to get aboard he swam to another boat, but met with the same reception. Finally two sisters, named Mary and Kate Murphy, pulled him aboard, despite the crew's efforts to keep him out of the boat.

Meeanee

(From an occasional correspondent.)

Very Rev. Dean Smyth, S.M., whose health of late has not been quite satisfactory, is enjoying a month's rest at Rotorua.

His Grace the Archbishop is understood to have expressed his desire to see the church, presbytery, and school removed to a more central location to meet the ever-growing needs of the Taradale, Greenmeadows, and Puketapu portion of the parish. The suggestion is under consideration.

His Lordship Bishop Verdon spent a few days at the college last week. His Lordship expressed himself as highly delighted with the institution and its beautiful surroundings, which speaks volumes for the unflagging energy of the Very Rev. Dean Smyth, S.M., who has brought the recently-undertaken removal to so successful an issue. His Lordship left for Auckland on Wednesday last.

For many months the ladies of the Meeanee parish have been zealously engaged in preparing for the Easter fair in aid of the presbytery building fund. The bazaar, which was opened by Mr. J. Vigor Brown, M.P., was held in the new Taradale Town Hall, and had a phenomenally successful season of ten days. The results are said to be most gratifying, something like £600 being the probable proceeds. The ladies are deserving of high commendation for the earnest manner in which they applied themselves to the work in hand, their efforts, apart from the financial success, providing a veritable feast of sights most pleasant to behold. The Very Rev. Dean Grogan, S.M., who personally supervised the arrangements, is to be congratulated on the fine result. The following clergy were present during the fair:—Very Rev. Dean Grogan, Rev. Fathers O'Sullivan and Herbert (Napier), Very Rev. Dean Smyth and Rev. Fathers McDonnell and Tymons, S.M., of St. Mary's Seminary.

Morven

The members of St. Joseph's Choir, Morven, and their friends, to the number of about 70, journeyed to Mr. Byrne's, Lower Waihao, on Easter Monday, where a most enjoyable picnic was held. The day's outing consisted of boating, sports, and trips in the motor launch. The catering, which was in the hands of the lady members of the choir, was everything that could be desired. Amongst those present were the Rev. Fathers Aubry and Berger, of Waimate. At the conclusion of the sports all present sat down to a bountiful spread, after which Rev. Father Aubry, in a few well-chosen words, thanked the choir on behalf of Father Berger and himself for the excellent day's outing they had provided, and hoped this would be the forerunner of an annual affair. The thanks of the choir are due to Mr. Peter Byrnes for the use of his grounds, also to Miss D. Delahunt (secretary), who worked up the picnic, and Mr. McAleer for invaluable services rendered.