

wheel race, also gaining second place in the mile wheel race. The Marist Brothers' schoolboys were again successful in defending the schools' relay shield, and it is needless to add that they received a great ovation. When the telegram, announcing that T. O'Callaghan (a member of the St. Columba Club and Hibernian Society) had won the £100 Sheffield at Blenheim, was posted on the notice board at the sports, three cheers were given for the West Coast champion. The committee will most likely make a loss over the sports, but with the art union and other profits, it is hoped to have a credit balance.

At the annual meeting of the St. Columba Club, Mr. P. J. Smyth presided, and there was a large attendance. In his opening address Mr. Smyth said that he hoped the coming session would be a most successful one, and that the club would still continue to occupy the high place it had won in the literary and debating arena. The annual report and balance sheet, which showed the club to be in a very sound position, were read and adopted. The election of officers resulted as follows:—President, Mr. A. McSherry; spiritual director, Rev. Father La Croix; hon. vice-presidents, Rev. Brothers Alfred and Arthur; vice-presidents, Messrs. K. Dillon, P. Smyth, and W. Reid; secretary, Mr. B. Rasmussen (re-elected); treasurer, Mr. M. Keating (re-elected); librarian, Mr. J. Deere; assistant secretary, Mr. J. Tryon; committee, Messrs. M. McGilligan and R. Hanrahan; delegates to conference, Messrs. B. Rasmussen and J. Deere. It was decided to nominate a team for the Federated Catholic Clubs' shield competition, the following members being selected:—Debate, Messrs. Keenan and Rasmussen; billiards, Mr. Rasmussen; elocution, Mr. J. Deere; tennis, Mr. F. Duffy. The quarterly Communion and annual reunion of the club members and Hibernian Society were a great success. Over one hundred members approached the Holy Table. After Mass seventy-five members sat down to breakfast in the club rooms.

ST. PATRICK'S DAY CELEBRATIONS

WELLINGTON.

(From our own correspondent.)

The Hibernian Society, true to its motto, honored the Patron Saint of Ireland by receiving Holy Communion in a body on the Sunday prior to St. Patrick's Day. The members of St. Patrick's and St. Mary's (ladies) branches to the number of 220 approached the Holy Table at St. Mary of the Angels' Church at the eight o'clock Mass, which was celebrated by Rev. Father Joseph Herring, S.M. (chaplain), with two of the members of Patrick's branch in regalia as servers. Rev. Father Herring addressed the members briefly. He alluded to the grand motto of the society—Faith, Hope, and Charity—and to the first question put to them when they were being initiated—'Are you a practical Catholic?' What better proof could they give of their faith than by turning out in such numbers as they did that morning? He reminded them of St. Patrick, and of the struggle their forefathers in Ireland had to preserve the faith, which had been handed down to them. He appealed to them, therefore, to keep that faith pure and undefiled, and to show by their lives a good example to fellow-Catholics and non-Catholics.

After Mass the members of both branches marched to the old Marist Brothers' School, Boulcott street, where the annual breakfast was held.

Bro. J. A. Sullivan, president of St. Patrick's branch, presided, and on his right was the Rev. Father Herring, and on his left Sister D. McGrath (president of St. Mary's (ladies) branch. There were also present Mr. B. Ellis (president of the St. Vincent de Paul Society), Mr. T. J. McCosker (Catholic Federation), Mr. A. H. Casey (Catholic Club), Mr. Moriarty (representing the *Tablet*), and Bro. R. P. O'Shaughnessy (P.P., of Christchurch).

Bro. Sullivan congratulated the members on the fine muster, which must have proved very edifying to

their fellow-Catholics. He was very pleased to welcome their worthy chaplain, and Messrs. Ellis, T. McCosker, A. H. Casey, and R. P. O'Shaughnessy, and read apologies for the unavoidable absence of Very Rev. Deans O'Shea, S.M., and Regnault, S.M. (Provincial). He said he saw around him others, the honor of whose presence they were gratified to have. He referred to those who had borne the burden and heat of the day—their former officers and old members. They were under a debt of gratitude to these members for building the society upon such a solid foundation. He was pleased to record the progress of the society; they now had over 500 branches in Australia and New Zealand, with 40,000 members, and funds totalling £300,000. Wellington was doing good work, but there was still plenty to do, and he urged members to take an active interest in affairs of the society by bringing their Catholic friends in as members. In conclusion he could not let the occasion pass without referring to the untimely death of their late chaplain, the Rev. Father C. J. Venning, whose familiar face they missed that day.

Rev. Father Herring addressed the gathering, also congratulating them on the excellent muster. He referred to the bright prospects of Home Rule, which, he hoped, would eventuate before St. Patrick's Day next year.

Bro. M. Walsh, P.P., said he was glad to see representatives from kindred societies present. He instanced the great amount of good that the St. Vincent de Paul Society was doing in relieving the distressed and needy, both spiritually and physically. The Catholic Club also had done and was still doing a lot of good for our young men. He said he was glad to see now firmly established the New Zealand Catholic Federation; it would supply a long-felt want. This was an age for organisation, and he trusted that every Catholic man and woman would be enrolled within its ranks. He also wished success to the *Tablet*, and trusted that the circulation would double in a very short time, as without a Catholic paper our organisation was incomplete. It was therefore essential that all Catholic societies should do all in their power to further the circulation of this excellent paper.

Mr. B. Ellis said it was a great pleasure for him to be present at such a magnificent gathering. The edifying sight that morning moved him to appeal to Hibernians to join the St. Vincent de Paul Society.

Mr. Moriarty in a spirited address appealed to Hibernians to support the *Tablet*. He trusted that the enthusiasm shown when the *Tablet* was mentioned would not die out in the room, but would result in an increase of subscribers.

Mr. T. J. McCosker, on behalf of the Dominion Executive of the N.Z. Catholic Federation, also spoke and traced the history of the Catholic Federation. He said the message that he brought was, 'Catholics of New Zealand, unite.'

Bro. J. J. L. Burke, P.P., spoke on the subject of Catholic education, and appealed to members to take an interest in this great cause by assisting in the scheme launched last year by the society in Wellington.

Bro. J. W. Callaghan, P.P., as vice-chairman of the Wellington Catholic Education Board, also spoke on the education question, and like Bro. Burke appealed to Hibernians to give the scheme launched by them their heartiest support. In conclusion he wished to move a very hearty vote of thanks to the ladies of St. Mary's branch and the committee for the excellent arrangements made for the breakfast.

Bro. R. P. O'Shaughnessy, P.P., on behalf of Christchurch, briefly thanked the officers for their kindness to him whilst in Wellington, and as he was returning to Christchurch shortly he wished to bid them good-bye.

Bro. M. Bohan, P.P., the first elected president in New Zealand, and who is now in advanced years, also briefly addressed the gathering. He said it was a pleasure for him to be present, as he was the founder of the branch, and was also appointed a deputy to open it, which he did on October 6, 1874. Before he came to Wellington he was instrumental in forming the Charleston branch, which was opened in 1869 with himself as the first president.