

SERIOUS ILLNESS OF THE HOLY FATHER

A cable message from Rome under date April 8 stated that his Holiness the Pope on the previous day gave audience to a number of prelates. He appeared to be in his usual health, but fainted in his study during the evening from heart weakness.

A later message stated that he was suffering from an acute attack of Bright's disease, and that his temperature was up to 100.

A cable of April 9 stated that the relatives of his Holiness had been summoned to the Vatican, and that prayers had been ordered in all the churches in the Eternal City. He passed a better night, but was still very depressed and weak.

More hopeful reports came to hand on Saturday when we were informed that his Holiness was slightly better, but that the weakness of the heart and the intermittency were the cause of much anxiety. He passed a fair night, and his condition was unchanged.

A message from Rome, dated Sunday, brought the disquieting news that his Holiness had a relapse on Saturday night, and that his temperature was up to 103. His illness has been diagnosed as tracheal bronchitis.

A message, under date April 13, was more hopeful. It said: The Pope passed a tranquil night, and the fever has diminished, but the tracheal bronchial symptoms persist, especially on the left side. The kidneys are working well, and his general condition is satisfactory. The physicians are convinced he will recover. The physicians, though declaring there is no immediate danger, admit that the disease is making steady headway, and that the bronchial catarrh is extending lungward.

A message under date April 15 states that his Holiness is now free from fever, and the improvement in his condition continues.

Invercargill Catholic Club

The following are the principal points of the report to be presented at the annual meeting of the Invercargill Catholic Club:—The financial position of the club is very sound, notwithstanding the fact that only a small sum was received by way of subscriptions. This position has been attained mainly through the energy and ability of the hon. secretary (Mr. Giffedder), who undertook a great deal of work other than secretarial. We wish to impress upon members the advisability of prompt payment of subscriptions if the financial position of the club is to be kept on a sound basis. We regret that the proposal to hold a lecture by our esteemed patron, which would have greatly augmented the funds of the club, had to be abandoned. A very comprehensive programme was carried out during the year. The enthusiasm displayed by members in the debates was a pleasing feature of the club's work, and members are to be congratulated for their splendid performances in this respect. We also had some very successful social and musical evenings. A successful euchre party was held, to which the ladies of the congregation were invited. A football match was played between the Gore Hibernian Society and our club, which resulted in a draw. The visiting team, which was in charge of the Rev. Father Tobin, was suitably entertained. We have to record with regret the departure to Greymouth of the Rev. Brother Arthur, a vice-president of the club. While in our midst he was always ready to assist us in our various undertakings. We have also to record the departure of Mr. T. Cavanagh on a trip to the Home Country, and Messrs. P. Neville and V. Mitchell, who have been transferred to Wellington. Mr. James Mulvey, of the Postal Service, one of the oldest members of the club, has been promoted to Stratford. We warmly congratulate him on his promotion, but his departure will be keenly felt, not alone by our Catholic Club, but by our kindred societies and the people of Invercargill generally. The annual Communion of the members was held during the time of the mission, a very fitting occasion, and was largely attended in a body with the kindred societies. The Rev. Father

Tuohey congratulated the men on the occasion, and remarked that he highly appreciated the good Catholic spirit of the men, and that it was a record in the history of their Australasian tour as far as attendance of men in a body was concerned. Your committee desire to specially thank Messrs. P. Scully, P. Kelly, L. McCarthy, and Peter Kelly for their willing assistance. The president, though handicapped in the matter of attendance, rendered valuable assistance in the execution of the business of the club. We thank the Rev. Father Kavanagh for his continued interest in our welfare, and also the clergy and laity for assistance during the past year.

Presentation at Ngapara

A large gathering of the friends and well-wishers of Mr. and Mrs. Nolan met in the Ngapara Hall last Friday evening to bid them good-bye, and to offer them tangible tokens of the esteem in which they were held by the residents of that and the surrounding localities. Mr. McGillivray, who occupied the chair, expressed the general regret that prevailed at Mr. Nolan's leaving. Apart from carrying out in a most praiseworthy manner the duties of his position as stationmaster, Mr. Nolan had entered wholeheartedly into the social life of the town. Every movement that had for its object the well-being of the district had found in Mr. Nolan a willing and capable helper, and at all entertainments for the many objects for which public appeal had been made Mrs. Nolan's much valued services had been readily given. He assured Mr. and Mrs. Nolan that they carried with them the most kindly feelings of the residents of the Ngapara district, and hoped that their future would be cast amongst most pleasant surroundings, and that the advancement to which Mr. Nolan's abilities entitled him would not be slow in coming. Mr. E. Conlan, on behalf of the farmers of the district; Mr. Y. T. Shand, representing the tennis club; Mr. O'Connor, chairman of the pictures and sports' committee; and Messrs Duggan and Livingstone, representing the residents of Windsor, also spoke, adding words of tribute to the value and esteem in which Mr. and Mrs. Nolan were held. A handsome gold Albert, with a pendant suitably inscribed, was handed to Mr. Nolan, and a solid silver service, also inscribed, was presented to Mrs. Nolan. After Mr. Nolan had replied cheers were given for the guests of the evening. During the proceedings a programme of music and song was contributed.

Attempt to Assassinate the King of Spain

As King Alfonso was returning from a review on Sunday, three shots were fired at him. One struck the King's horse on the chest. The miscreant, a Catalonian named Alegre, who was expelled from France a few weeks ago as an anarchist, was arrested. He was seized by a policeman, who, by his action, deflected two other shots.

King Alfonso had presented the colors to the recruits, and was returning at a walking pace, when Alegre, quitting the front of the crowd, darted forward and seized the bridle of the King's horse and flourished a Browning pistol. The King, with his usual admirable coolness, realising the position, with a sudden pull of the bridle raised the horse a moment as Alegre fired, and only the horse's chest was hit.

The Queen and the Princess of Battenberg witnessed the ceremony, and followed the King in an open carriage. The Queen heard the shots and guessed what had happened. She was terrified until the King's aide-de-camp arrived and reassured her.

King Alfonso, on seeing his assailant overpowered, rose in his stirrups and saluted the crowd in military fashion, and loudly shouted 'Viva Espana.' The cry met with an enthusiastic response. The King then dismounted, smiling, and without betraying the least emotion, replied to eager questions. To his entourage he exclaimed: 'Gentlemen, it is nothing.' Then he lightly vaulted on to his horse and proceeded to the palace. At the palace there was a renewed outburst of cheering.

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