

OBITUARY

MRS. AUGUST KRAKOFSKY, ROSS.

The many friends of the late Mrs. August Krakofsky (writes an occasional correspondent) will regret to hear of her demise which occurred on Sunday, April 13, at the residence of her mother, Mrs. Boyle, Donohues. The deceased had been a most patient sufferer, edifying all with Christian fortitude and resignation. Fortified by all the rites of the Church, and in the presence of her sorrowing husband and sisters, she passed peacefully away. On Wednesday the funeral cortege, composed of representatives from all parts of Westland, moved to St. Patrick's Church, Ross, where a Requiem Mass was celebrated by the Rev. Father Hanrahan. Then the cortege proceeded to the cemetery where in the presence of a still more numerous assemblage the burial service was read. On Sunday, the Rev. Father Clancy at Hokitika referred in touching terms to the bereavement which had afflicted two families notable for their devoted attachment to Holy Church, and requested the prayers of the congregation for the eternal repose of the soul of Mrs. Krakofsky.—R.I.P.

MRS. MARGARET RALPH, PONSONBY.

We regret to report the death of Mrs. Margaret Ralph, who passed away at the family residence, Ponsonby, on April 6. The deceased, who was born in the Old Country, spent a number of years in India, her knowledge of that country and her recital of the stirring deeds of the Mutiny times always being most interesting and graphic. Some 65 years ago (says a local paper) Mr. and Mrs. Ralph arrived in New Zealand, so that they participated in the strenuous and stirring times of the Dominion's early history. Their first home was a Maori whare, but, acquiring land in this district, they set up their modest home near the site of the present King's Hall, in Huntly, where they brought up a large family, and settled down to develop the resources of the district as well as to lay the foundation of that prosperity which was naturally the consequent of hard work carried out on sound and permanent lines. In the town which her family founded Mrs. Ralph took the greatest interest. She watched it grow, and to the very last evinced that anxiety for its welfare that still characterises her descendants. Keen and shrewd, possessed of great mental powers and natural business acumen, the late Mrs. Ralph possessed all the qualities that go to make a loving mother, a helpful life-partner, and a pioneer settler of the right sort—one of an early band who, believing in the principles of self-help, put their hands to the plough, and, despite obstacles and drawbacks, carried on their work with the courage and determination to which the present generation owe so much. The history of Mrs. Ralph and her family is the history of Huntly, with which their names will for ever be indissolubly connected—not only as the founders of the town, but as benefactors whose donations of building sites for churches, for a library and other purposes, as well as their generous contributions to every scheme having for its object the common weal, will form a monument more lasting than one of brass or stone. After Sir Walter Scott had transformed Abbotsford from a bare, bleak patch into a delightful and palatial demesne, a visitor once remarked to the novelist: '*Si monumentum requiris, circumspice.*' So with the deceased lady; for, while her virtues and her excellences may be forgotten, the imprint of a strenuous active life has been indelibly written over the face of this district. Mrs. Ralph had a large family, and is survived by Messrs. W. J. and E. V. Ralph, of Auckland; Mrs. L. B. Harris, sen., of Harrisville, Huntly; Mrs. Lovell, of Taupiri; Miss Ralph, of Auckland; and Sister Ignatius, of Dunedin, to all of whom is extended public sympathy on the death of a revered and beloved mother.—R.I.P.

MR. PATRICK WALSH, BROWNS, WINTON.

During the height of the floods on Friday, March 28 (says the *Winton Record*) a report reached Winton

of a sad drowning fatality a mile or two beyond Browns. Later intelligence proved that the report was only too true and that the victim was Mr. Patrick Walsh, an old and highly esteemed resident of Browns. It appears that on Friday morning Mr. Walsh accompanied Mr. J. Dixon in a trap to Mr. W. Dixon's farm across the Otapiri river. The stream was then fairly high, but not sufficient to cause the occupants of the trap any alarm. About 2.30 the Dixon brothers and Mr. Walsh started on the return journey to Browns. Shortly after entering the river, which had risen considerably, Walsh said, 'Turn back,' but it was too late, the horse being immediately swept off its feet. The three men jumped out of the trap into the deep water. Mr. W. Dixon struggled to a gorse bush, while his brother and Mr. Walsh clung to the trap. Messrs. Bell and Irwin came to the assistance of the men in danger, and rode their horses well into the river and cast out a rope with a piece of wood attached to keep it afloat. Walsh got hold of the rope and called out 'all right, pull away!' Unfortunately the line got fast on something, and the rescuers could make no headway. Bell was pulled out into the deep water, and lost hold of the rope and Mr. Walsh immediately disappeared. Desperate efforts, and at great risk, were made to reach the Dixon brothers, who were in deep water. Mr. W. Dixon struggled to a gorse bush. Finally a boat was procured, and Mr. J. Scott rescued the two young men from the perilous positions they had been in for over four hours. At mid-day on Saturday the body of Mr. Walsh was recovered a few feet away from the scene of the accident. The sad event cast a gloom over the whole district. Deceased, who was 57 years of age, was an honorable, upright man, and was esteemed by all. The deepest sympathy prevails for the bereaved widow and family in their sad and sudden trial.—R.I.P.

MRS. J. A. MACEDO, BUENOS AIRES.

News has been received in Dunedin of the death of Mrs. Macedo, wife of Mr. J. A. Macedo, well known as a Catholic bookseller in Dunedin some years ago. The late Mrs. Macedo was born in Carlow, and left Ireland in 1864 and arrived in Dunedin with her sister, now Mrs. Pearson. She was married to Mr. Macedo three years after her arrival, and lived in Dunedin until 18 years ago, when they left for Sydney where they kept a news agency. About ten years ago they went to Argentine, where they engaged in farming, from which they retired and went to reside in Buenos Aires. The deceased lady had been in ill health for some time, and she passed away fortified by all the rites of the Church, being attended by an Irish priest resident in the city. She leaves a family of three daughters and one son (Mr. J. F. Macedo, of Feilding). The deceased was a sister of Mrs. Pearson, and an aunt of Mrs. Pringle, both of Mosgiel.—R.I.P.

The inauguration of the first city branch of the Catholic Federation took place on Sunday evening, April 13, in St. Mary's Cathedral, Sydney, in the presence of an immense congregation. Leading citizens from all professional ranks are giving whole-hearted support to this grand movement, and, ere long (says the *Freeman's Journal*), branches will flourish in every parish in the State to act as living sentinels and champions against insidious evils, base influence, and pernicious literature which is undermining the morals of Australia. The general secretary of the Victorian Catholic Federation, Mr. T. J. O'Brien, was one of the speakers during the evening, and in his address he outlined the remarkable success achieved by the Federation in the sister State.

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