

State immigrants. So is the Salvation Army for its excellent work. We Catholics do not ask so much as a bronze farthing from the pockets of non-Catholic taxpayers for even the State-certified results achieved in our schools. We ask for only a fair proportion of what we ourselves contribute to the education fund. (c) As already publicly stated hundreds of times, we are prepared to give fair consideration to any scheme for religious instruction in the public schools that may be submitted to us, irrespective of whether it includes or excludes subsidies to our schools. But we have never been consulted in a matter so intimately affecting us. (d) Within limits, as hereunder, I have all along been personally willing to co-operate with any body of believers to extend to Catholic schools a small part of the principle of State aid granted to other religious schools and societies under the New Zealand flag—and to secure (on the principle of equal treatment of consciences) any amelioration of the hard secularism of the present system. Saving a fair measure of equal treatment of consciences, those interested may, so far as I am concerned, make the system as Protestant as they please for their own children. But I ask your readers to bear this well in mind: No amount of subsidy offered to our schools would reduce, in the slightest degree, my vehement objection—and the objection of Catholics generally—to the League's proposed violation of the religious liberties and rights of conscience of teachers; to the League's negative or Irish proselytising conscience clause; and to the anti-Christian principle of deciding questions of religion and conscience by a count of voters' heads. On these matters of God-given rights and principles Catholics must ever remain actively and energetically (not merely passively) irreconcilable. This is the position taken up by me for years in the *New Zealand Tablet*, in your own columns in 1909, and many scores of times in other newspapers and on the public platform. It is a position to which I am bound by sacred principles which I can never surrender—a position from which I have never receded, and can never recede.

'In less than three years the small Catholic body in Auckland city alone has expended over £60,000 on the sacred cause of Christian education. If our friends of the Bible-in-Schools League made a fraction of the sacrifices for Christian education that we do, or if they accepted the democratic principle of equal treatment of consciences all round, the solution of the religious difficulties in education would, I believe, be near at hand. There are several sentences in the worthy Dean's letters which echo sentiments that won for him the warm goodwill of his Catholic fellow citizens. I still entertain the hope that, with his great abilities, he will yet take an honored part in another settlement of the religious difficulty, the only real and permanent settlement that is possible—namely, a settlement based upon a fair and proper measure of justice to all—both to those who desire the system to be secular and to those who desire it to be religious.—I am, etc.,

'**HENRY W. CLEARY, D.D.,**
'Bishop of Auckland.'

'September 2.'

Diocesan News

ARCHDIOCESE OF WELLINGTON

(From our own correspondent.)

September 5.

His Grace Archbishop O'Shea returned from the south on Thursday last. Next Thursday he leaves for the north.

Everything is well in hand for the Newtown schools' social, which takes place at St. Anne's Hall on Wednesday, September 10.

The Catholic Club held its half-yearly meeting on last Wednesday evening. There was a good attendance of members, and a large amount of business was put through.

The Particular Council of St. Vincent de Paul Society met last Friday evening, under the presidency of Bro. B. Ellis. Interesting reports from conferences of the circumscription were read.

Last Thursday evening a picture entertainment was given in His Majesty's Theatre, under the auspices of the St. Vincent de Paul Society (St. Patrick's Seamen's Conference), in aid of the fund for the erection of a Catholic seamen's social hall. There was an excellent attendance, and the committee, under the leadership of Messrs. D. P. Kelly and A. Little, are deserving of the highest commendation for the laudable object they have undertaken.

The Rev. Father John A. Roche, of the archdiocese of Sydney, is at present on a health trip in New Zealand, and is spending a few weeks with his relative, the Very Rev. Thomas Roche, C.S.S.R., Superior of the Redemptorist Order in New Zealand. Father J. Roche was the celebrant of a Missa Cantata in St. Gerard's Church, on Sunday last, and in the evening, before a large congregation, delivered an eloquent discourse on devotion to the Blessed Virgin.

Wanganui

(From our own correspondent.)

September 6.

In all probability his Grace Archbishop O'Shea will administer the Sacrament of Confirmation in St. Mary's Church on Sunday, September 28.

Close on 100 children are now being taught their Christian Doctrine in the outlying districts by the members of the Aramoho and Wanganui branches of the St. Vincent de Paul Society.

The second annual social of the Hibernian Society was held last Wednesday night in the Fire Brigade Hall, when there was a good attendance. The function was ably carried out by Bros. E. J. McLachlan, J. Cronin, A. J. Fitzgerald, A. McWilliam, J. G. O'Brien, W. McLubbs, and W. R. Setter (secretary). The supper, which was in the hands of the ladies' social committee of the St. Vincent de Paul Society, was all that could be desired. Most of the members were present in regalia, as were also the representatives of other societies, the presence of the latter being evidence of the feeling which exists between the various friendly societies here. At the last meeting of the branch it was reported that two members were on the sick list. The Friendly Societies' Dispensary was opened last Monday, and everything promises to be a success. Bro. W. R. Setter must be congratulated on having been elected secretary to the committee. The dispensary will be a boon to the members generally.

The following are the results of the musical examination in connection with Trinity College, conducted by Mr. Henry Saint George, at the Sacred Heart Convent, Mt. St. Joseph, Wanganui:—

Higher examination—Ruby Kathleen Curran, associate pianist, A.T.C.L., 87 (secured maximum marks for pieces); Minnie Barrie, certificated pianist (T.C.L.).

Senior—Honors: Mona Mack, 83; Kathleen Mullins, 82. Pass: Kathleen Delahunty, 77.

Intermediate—Honors: Josephine Lloyd (violin), 85 (teacher, Miss Price). Pass: Eileen Clinton, 72.

Preparatory Division—Honors: Thelma Kaganski, 86; Gladys Heindol, 85; Ellen Punch (violin), 88 (teacher, Miss Price). Pass: Dolly Perrett, 77.

First Steps—Honors: Catherine Egan, 83; Maudie Goldring, 80; Evelyn Healy, 74; Helen Missen, 74; Hilda Rhodes, 73; Mona Foster, 72; Evadne Cameron, 71. Eighteen were presented and all passed.

Ruby Curran, a little maid of 13½ years, is deserving of congratulation, having gained her A.T.C.L. in the recent Trinity College examination. Miss Curran is a pupil of the Sisters of the local convent, from whom she received her entire musical training.

The following are the results of the musical examination in connection with the Associated Board:—

Higher Division—Gertrude Neylon, Vera Neylon. Lower Division—Olive Nixon.