

## ARCHBISHOP O'SHEA IN TARANAKI

### CIVIC RECEPTION IN HAWERA

His Grace Archbishop O'Shea, who arrived in Hawera on Monday afternoon, October 13, was in the evening accorded a civic reception in the Borough Chambers (says a local paper). Senior Councillor T. Barmby presided, in the unavoidable absence of the Mayor (Mr. A. W. Gillies), who is still confined to his home as the result of the recent motor car accident in Wanganui. There was a large gathering of citizens. Apologies for absence were also received from Councillor Reid, Messrs. R. H. Nolan, and W. A. Parkinson. Very Rev. Dean Power and the Rev. Father Duffy, of Patea, were present.

Cr. Barmby said it gave him very great pleasure to extend to his Grace a hearty welcome on behalf of the citizens of Hawera. He apologised for the absence of the Mayor, who was suffering somewhat from his recent accident, and Mr. Gillies had asked the speaker to take his place. Cr. Barmby said it was a very pleasing duty to take part in welcoming one back to his native town, if not the town of his birth, very nearly so, especially under the very honorable circumstances his Grace had come back among his fellow townsmen and fellow churchmen, he having attained by dint of perseverance, diligence, and ability, both in literary and theological attainments, and also by his sterling good character, to the highest position which can be attained in the Catholic Church in this Dominion. He had not the pleasure of knowing his Grace in his youth, but he had had the pleasure of living next door to his good old mother for two years. He had had many conversations with those who had known his Grace when a boy in Hawera, and who had spoken well of his Grace in the athletic field. The high and honorable position to which Archbishop O'Shea had attained must be very gratifying to Dean Power, to the members of his Grace's Church, and to the citizens of Hawera generally. It always gave the citizens pleasure to recognise merit and to honor those who had gained good positions in any walk of life by dint of hard work, good character, and industry. The great administrative abilities of his Grace must have been recognised by the rulers of his Church, or else he would not have been placed in the high and honorable position he now occupied. He was quite sure his Grace must be gratified at seeing such a large number of his own people present, together with members of other churches connected with the town, who were all very pleased indeed to welcome the Archbishop on this his first archiepiscopal visit to his native town. He was expressing the opinion of all the citizens in saying he wished his Grace God-speed in his noble work.

Cr. Morrissey said that perhaps he was the only councillor who remembered his Grace thirty years ago. Although he had not gone to school with his Grace, he had known those who had, and who had spoken to him of the energy his Grace had put into his work. It was very gratifying to know that so high an honor had been conferred upon his Grace—a position which would require a great amount of tact and judgment, and he thought his Grace would have those qualities. He felt sure this archdiocese would be very safe in the hands of his Grace, and he would like to congratulate Archbishop O'Shea upon the high honor that had been conferred upon him.

Archbishop O'Shea, on rising to reply, was received with enthusiastic applause. His Grace said he was very thankful to Cr. Barmby and the large number of ladies and gentlemen present for the warm reception to the town, in which he had spent his boyhood, and in which he had gone to school. He felt, with respect to the dignity which he had been raised to, and the honor which went with it, that the people of Hawera could claim a share of that honor. It was about thirty years since he had left Hawera to go to college; he had really never lived here since that time, but he had often visited the town, and he had

spent many delightful holidays in it. He had therefore shared in the progress and prosperity associated with the town and district. The fact of his mother and relatives still living in the district helped him to keep up his interest in the town. During the last few days he had visited various parts of the province, and everywhere he had seen signs of that prosperity for which Taranaki was now famous. He had found, however, that many of the old pioneers had passed away; but their virtues were being reproduced in their sons and daughters, and the work which was commenced by the early settlers was being well and ably carried on by their descendants. He might mention that his advancement was an indication that the highest honors in the Church and State were opened to young New Zealanders. He was quite sure there were many more who would one day be found occupying the position he had been raised to, and who would be able to fill it more ably than he could. His duties would carry him into many parts of the Dominion and into various lands, and he hoped to be able to sound the praises of his province and of his town: to speak not only of the richness of its land, and of the grand mountain which acted as a sentinel over the land; but to be able to do some good for Hawera and for his fellow-citizens. 'If the people will not believe an Archbishop, whom will they believe?' asked his Grace, amidst much laughter. He had to thank the citizens for their kind welcome, and he only regretted, with Cr. Barmby, that the Mayor had been unable to attend, and he would ask the chairman to tell him how very sorry he was to hear of the circumstances which had prevented his Worship from coming that evening. His Grace, in conclusion, said he would do all he could to forward the interests of the town, regardless of creed and of class.

The gathering then dispersed, his Grace being afterwards introduced to many citizens. The Archbishop also met a number who remembered him in his early days.

### RECEPTION AT THE CONVENT SCHOOL.

His Grace Archbishop O'Shea was given a reception by the pupils of the Hawera Convent School on the following afternoon in the presence of a large gathering of parents, guardians, and friends.

Very Rev. Dean Power presided, and in the course of a few introductory remarks pointed out that one of the special reasons why the pupils should be pleased at welcoming his Grace was that the Archbishop had been a pupil at the school.

After a number of musical items had been rendered in capital style by the children and members of the choir, Miss Barry presented an address inserted in a beautiful silver frame, to his Grace, while at the same time Misses Mollie Nicholson and Doris O'Donnell presented his Grace with pretty bouquets.

His Grace, who was received with applause, said he was very grateful indeed for the kind welcome, and he was also very pleased with the concert, which reflected the greatest credit upon the children and those who had trained them. Some of the items were by no means easy, and they were all capitally rendered. He wished to thank the children deeply for their beautiful address, and he was very thankful to them for their offer to help him in his great responsibility of the office which he had been raised to. One of their reasons why they, as children, had given him a heartier welcome than to another, was that he was once a pupil of the school. It was thirty years ago since he was a pupil of the school, and he desired to congratulate the parish upon having such a splendid school. Catholics had always recognised the necessity for religious education, and that was the reason why they had established their own schools under Catholic teachers, so that their children could receive the necessary religious instruction, together with the subject's that required them to complete their primary education according to the syllabus imposed by the Government. The Hawera parish was one of the first to establish a Catholic school, and the school had gone on progressing, and all through the past thirty or more years had done an immense amount of good for the rising generation. There had