

# Town and Country News

## HASTINGS NOTES (From our own Correspondent.)

January 24.

Passed away early in this month Miss Maddison, of Nelson Street. She had held a responsible position in well-known families of the district and won the admiration of all by her untiring and cheerful devotion to her work. Her long illness was supported by an admirable patience and resignation to the will of her Maker. Her going was strengthened by the last rites of Holy Church, and was as calm and peaceful as her life had been earnest and strenuous. Father Goggan administered the last Sacraments and officiated at the church and at the graveside.—R.L.P.

The funeral of Mr. James Hennessy was attended by a large and representative body of citizens. The last rites at the graveside were conducted by Father Goggan.—R.L.P.

During the absence of the Rev. Father McDonald who attended the ceremonies in connection with the diamond jubilee of Mother M. Clare at Hokitika, we were privileged to listen to interesting and eloquent sermons from the Rev. Fathers H. Seymour and K. McGrath (Marist Missioner).

The Sisters of St. Joseph left Hastings for their annual Retreat and well-earned rest after a strenuous school year.

Wednesday, January 21, saw a very pretty wedding in the Sacred Heart Church. When Rev. Father McDonald united in the bonds of wedlock Miss Marion Augusta Grace Hunter to Mr. Vernon D. Reynolds, formerly sheep farmer of Little River, Canterbury. The "Wedding March" was played by Miss D. Sturrock.

## ASBURTON NOTES (From our own Correspondent.)

January 22.

The fortnightly meeting of St. Patrick's branch (No. 420) of the H.A.C.B. Society, was held on Monday evening last, the president (Bro. H. Lemon) presiding over a large attendance. Two brothers were reported on the sick fund. The past president (Bro. F. L. Brophy) performed the ceremony of installing the newly elected office-bearers, all of whom suitably returned thanks for the honor conferred on them. Two new members were initiated by the president. One clearance from St. Mary's branch, Geraldine, that of Past President Bro. Patrick James Clark was received, and he was welcomed by the president. The quarterly and annual Government returns were presented by the secretary and adopted. Several brothers spoke of the splendid progress made during the past year, the sick and funeral fund showing a credit of just over £1000, while the management fund also showed a healthy balance. The prospectus of the proposed Friendly Societies' Dispensary was discussed at length, it being evident for many meetings that keen interest was being taken in the subject by members. A motion endorsing the action of the United Friendly Societies' Association in its endeavor to open a dispensary and assuring the Association of

the branch's hearty support providing the membership was 1000, was carried unanimously.

A Retreat to the Sisters of the local Convent is at present being given by one of the Redemptorist Fathers, who also preached to a large congregation in the local church on Sunday evening last.

Miss Eileen Kirk, who for the past three years has resided with her grandmother, Mrs. P. O'Connor, has returned to her home in Napier. Miss Kirk, who is only 17 years of age, recently gained her L.T.C.L. in music, and was one of the most promising pupils the Sisters of the local convent have had for many years.

## ROTORUA NOTES (From our own Correspondent.)

January 26.

Sunday, December 28, was a day of special note in the history of the Catholic Church in Rotorua, in as much as it marked the steady growth of Catholicism in that district, for on that day the new St. Michael's Convent School was opened and blessed by the Right Rev. Dr. Cleary. For the past thirty years Dean Lighthouse has administered to his flock at Ohinemutu on the shores of the lake, but the growth of residential area towards Whakarewarewa necessitated further provision being made for parishioners in that direction. The building, claimed to be one of the finest Catholic schools in the Dominion, is built on four acres (freehold), contains six spacious class-rooms, two teachers' rooms and large central hall, and is built of reinforced concrete, rough-cast outside. A new convent is shortly to be erected on an adjoining property. His Lordship was presented with a gold key on behalf of the contractors (Messrs. Geany and Clark) by Dean Lighthouse. The Bishop addressed the gathering in English and Maori. Several Maori chiefs responded. The Arawa Trust Board donated £100 towards the new building, and an additional £100 had been raised by means of fortnightly card parties and dances. A debt of about £800 still remains. In the morning his Lordship administered Confirmation to about 50 candidates, a goodly number being adult Maori parishioners. In the evening a most interesting and instructive sermon was preached by Father Gondringer, of Auckland, who took for his subject "Faith of Our Fathers living still in spite of Dungeon, Fire, and Sword." He took his congregation in spirit to the great devotional gatherings he had witnessed in Egypt, Rome, France (a visit to Lourdes), America, Germany, Holland, England, Ireland, and Scotland. The following two or three days the Bishop spent in visiting Rotoiti, Murupara, and Taupo districts where Confirmation was administered.

Miss Cora Moore, who has been organist at St. Michael's for the past five years, has returned after a month's holiday spent motoring round Auckland, Wellington, and Hastings.

The first of a series of fortnightly card parties for 1925 was held in "Dixieland" last Monday. It is hoped that a substantial

cheque will result from these card tournaments this year, which will go towards the debt on the new convent school. The ladies' first prize was won by Miss Cora Moore; the consolation prize going to Mrs. Cohule. The gents' first prize was won by Master Pennington; the consolation prize going to Mrs. Skelton who played a gent's hand. The card tournament was played on the stage while the body of the hall was reserved for dancing, Mr. Gibb's orchestra supplying very spirited music; the Monte Carlo prize being won by Miss R. McKinder and Mr. N. Blake.

## OAMARU NOTES (From our own Correspondent.)

January 29.

Two of our local Catholic girls (Miss M. Cooney and Miss M. Curran) who are now employed at the Christchurch Hospital, passed the State nurses' examination held recently, are to be complimented on their success.

His Lordship Bishop Whyte, who is becoming quite a frequent visitor to North Otago, no doubt attracted by its genial skies and bracing atmosphere, paid us another visit last week. His Lordship put in a strenuous Sunday, celebrating both Masses at the Basilica, giving a brief instruction in the morning at 8.30 Mass and delivering two sermons—one at midday Mass and another in the evening. St. Joseph's schoolroom was pencilled for an address on "Lourdes" by Bishop Whyte, on the following Monday night, but the unfortunate accident resulting in Father Marlow's death, necessitated the lecture being abandoned for the time being, and the Bishop's hurried return to Dunedin.

When everything on the farm looked lovely a couple of months ago North Otago reckoned on a bumper harvest, but several pesky things have come along to keep the farmer awake o' nights bemoaning his unhappy lot. The pessimists say that what crops the heavy rain has not flattened and spoiled the caterpillars are feasting on; what the Hessian fly missed the rust has destroyed, and what escaped these pests, "take-all" has helped itself to. But despite all the wailings of lugubrious individuals some excellent yields are recorded all over the districts.

Monsignor Mackay, Fathers Fenelon and Ardagh, left during the week for the annual Retreat of the priests of the diocese. Despite his burden of years, the Monsignor continues to scorn the delights of ease and lives laborious days frequently entailing long motor journeys.

Oamaru was invaded a week or so ago by some 1300 residents of Waimate and district. The picnic committee were delighted with our town as a picnic resort, especially with the public gardens; so, too, were the picnickers. Everything was done to make our neighbors' sojourn pleasant.

The local Friendly Societies' (including the H.A.C.B. Society) held their annual picnic recently at the adjacent seaside town of Timaru, about 45 miles north of Oamaru. Some 1200 people made the excursion and all were delighted with Caroline Bay and its environs.

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