

# Commonwealth Notes

## NEW SOUTH WALES.

A message from Rome states that his Holiness the Pope gave an audience to Dr. Dwyer, Bishop of Wagga Wagga. During the audience his Holiness expressed his pleasure at having received during the year the first large Australian pilgrimage to Rome.

In the course of a tribute to the splendid work being done by Catholic hospitals, the Hon. the Minister for Health, Mr. G. Cann, said that he was pleased to be present, not only from the point of view of paying a tribute to the good work done, but, as was said, the great public of Australia would soon be converted to the idea that no matter who is doing the work, as far as the Catholics were concerned in regard to their orphanages and hospitals, they should get their fair share from the point of view of the Government. He promised to go into the matter fully and see if he could not render more assistance than they were getting. He hoped that he would never be judged guilty of bigotry in regard to the work of such institutions as theirs, and if the Government could not do more than it had been doing, it will at least banish all thought of bigotry and try to be as charitable as our great Master.

Archbishop Kelly, of Sydney, blessed and opened the new church-school at Bankstown on Sunday, November 8. Situated on a commanding height, and at the rear of the old church, which dates back to 1851, the new structure brings an atmosphere of modernity to the group of buildings. The old church—now to be used as a kindergarten—is a picturesque building, with its burial ground alongside.

## VICTORIA.

The Rev. Brother Hickey, Provincial of the Christian Brothers, is expected in Melbourne shortly (says the *Advocate* of recent date). He has manifested great interest in the spread of technical education in our Catholic schools. Brother Hickey expects to gather round him for the great juniorate school and training college in Strathfield the usual large company of fine boys and young men as subjects for the congregation. Victorian Brothers are now an important section of the students of Strathfield who have pledged themselves to the Christian education of Australian youth.

It will be interesting to many persons to know that there is a possibility of St. Patrick's Hall, Melbourne, being sold. A splendid offer has been submitted for the building. On November 13, 1851, the first Legislative Council of Victoria was opened in St. Patrick's Hall by the then Governor, Charles Joseph Latrobe. A photograph from drawings made by Mr. William Strutt at that period still hangs in the office of the society, and is closely scanned by visitors when they are being shown over the building. His Grace the Archbishop was presented with a replica of the same photograph when a conversation was tendered in his honor a few years ago. Many members of St. Patrick's

Society are somewhat unwilling to part with this historic old building out of sheer sentiment, but, as the upkeep of the hall is costly at the present time, it may be that sentiment will give way to business and the place sold. A modern structure will rise in its stead.

A valuable property has been purchased in Kyneton by the Very Rev. Dean Martin, P.P., for the purpose of establishing a boys' school which will be placed in charge of the Marist Brothers. Rev. Brother Brendan, Provincial of the Marist Brothers in Australia, visited Kyneton recently for an inspection of the property.

Speaking at a Confirmation ceremony recently held at St. Mary's, East St. Kilda, the Bishop of Sandhurst (Right Rev. Dr. McCarthy) stressed the need of more vocations to the religious life amongst young Australians. This country was still obliged to look to Ireland for priests, Brothers, and nuns, which fact proved that Australia was not doing its duty in regard to the important question of fostering religious vocations.

## WEST AUSTRALIA.

Rev. Father S. Power, C.M., speaking at Malvern recently, related many interesting experiences of his recent trip across the continent, to give a series of missions and Retreats in the diocese of Geraldton (says the *H.A. Record*). This work was undertaken at the request of his Lordship Dr. Ryan, C.M., who prior to his appointment as Bishop of Geraldton had been pastor of St. Joseph's, the Vincentian Fathers' beautiful church at Malvern, Victoria. Father Power said the trip to Fremantle, across the great Australian Bight, occupied four days, and upon arrival, Father Power was the guest of the Oblate Fathers, and went on to Geraldton—a train journey of 300 miles. A visit to New Norcia revealed the most Catholic centre in Australia, presided over by the Spanish Benedictine Fathers and Brothers. It is a vast parish, extending over 30,000 square miles, having its colleges for boys and girls, and Retreats for monks, etc., where, apart from the world, the Benedictine community devote their lives to prayer and hard work for the good of souls. One of their number, Father Moreno, O.S.B., a very eminent organist and musician, has his choir trained to such perfection that the liturgical singing is unsurpassed, even in Europe. The Cathedral at Geraldton was designed and built in the first place by Father Hawes, who, in earlier years, was a clergyman of the Church of England, and also an architect of note. The building of the church at Mullewa was another work of Father Hawes, expressive of his great devotion to the Mother of God, under her title of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, to whom the priest-architect has dedicated many churches out in the wilds of the barren West, where the good nuns of the Presentation Order, brought in the first instance into the diocese by the zeal of the late Bishop Kelly, have succeeded, against almost insurmountable difficulties, in keeping the lamp of faith alive. The sparsity of Catholics in the wilds of the West is made

up for by their fervor and devotion, as it is quite an ordinary occurrence for people to come 14 or 15 miles to Mass. It was Father Power's experience to meet in the diocese the "most Catholic non-Catholic in the world," a lady who, though outside the fold, made complete arrangements for a mission given by the visiting Vincentian Father. Another outstanding monument of Catholicity noted by Father Power was the glorious church at Northampton, built by the zeal of the late Administrator, Dr. Graber, with its beautiful Stations of the Cross, donated by himself. Here, as in other parts of the desolate West the Presentation Nuns succeeded in keeping the lamp of faith brightly burning.

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