

# His Excellency the Apostolic Delegate at Christchurch

## AN ENTHUSIASTIC WELCOME

### Opening of St. Mary's School :: Numerous Social Functions

The Catholic community of Christchurch (says the Press) gave a warm welcome on Saturday night (the 12th inst.) to his Excellency Archbishop Cattaneo, Apostolic Delegate to Australasia. His Excellency came up from Dunedin by the second express, and was met at Oamaru by his Lordship Bishop Brodie. A committee of the laity, co-operating with the clergy and members of the religious Orders, had arranged for an impressive demonstration of welcome. The members of St. Mary's, St. Patrick's, and the Sacred Heart (Addington) branches of the Hibernian Society attended in regalia, and formed a guard of honor at the railway station. His Excellency was greeted with rousing cheers, and as soon as he was conducted to the waiting motor car (which was draped in white and yellow), the procession, headed by St. Bede's College Cadets in uniform, started off along Moorhouse Avenue to the episcopal residence in Barbadoes Street. The pupils of the several Catholic schools in Christchurch also joined in the procession, and striking effect was lent to the scene by the girls of the high school, wearing white dresses and red sashes, while the Nazareth House girls were in blue dresses and had yellow sashes. The frontage of the Cathedral was decorated with electric lights, and the drive in the Presbytery grounds was similarly decorated, a large archway at the main entrance having a scroll on top with the Gaelic welcome "Cead Mile Failte." After a few minutes' rest his Excellency proceeded to the Cathedral, where he officiated at Pontifical Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. The large building was packed. As the Pontifical procession went up the nave, the combined choir from the Cathedral, St. Mary's, and Addington sang "Ecce Sacerdos Magnus" (Stadler). During the short ceremony hymns were also sung by the convent girl pupils.

His Lordship Bishop Brodie, in a few words, extended a welcome on behalf of the citizens of Christchurch and the Catholic community of the Christchurch parishes and the diocese to his Excellency, who came as the representative of his Holiness the Pope. He was gratified at the deep feeling of the people, as shown by the warm demonstration that night.

The Most Rev. Archbishop Cattaneo said he could not express in a few words how great his joy was to receive such a fine welcome. It showed a deep sentiment, and how great was the faith in the hearts of the Catholics of Christchurch.

#### Sunday's Celebrations

The 8.15 Mass at the Cathedral on Sunday was celebrated by Archbishop Cattaneo. An exceedingly large number received Holy Communion at the hands of the representative of the Supreme Pontiff.

Pontifical High Mass was celebrated at 11 o'clock, when there was a large congregation. The combined choir sang Gounod's No. 3 Mass. His Lordship Bishop Brodie was celebrant; Very Rev Father Graham, S.M., assistant priest; deacon, Rev. Father O'Hare; subdeacon, Rev. Father Burger; master of ceremonies, Rev. Dr. Kennedy; assistant master of ceremonies, Rev. Father Gallagher; deacons at the throne, Dean Bowers and Rev. Dr. Farrelly. The sermon was preached by the Rev. Dr. Kennedy.

In the afternoon his Excellency blessed and opened

#### St. Mary's Memorial School

On arrival at St. Mary's Presbytery, his Excellency, who was accompanied by his Lordship Bishop Brodie and other members of the clergy, was met by the Rev. Father Kerley, acting parish priest, the members of the H.A.C.B. Society forming a guard of honor. A procession was then formed. His Excellency proceeded through the church grounds to the new school, where he conducted the cere-

mony of blessing it. Subsequently the building was declared open, and a number of speeches made from a platform erected at the rear of the church. Rev. Father Kerley, in extending a welcome to his Excellency on behalf of the clergy and laity, stated that the honor of his visit was deeply appreciated. He regretted that the Very Rev. Dean Regnault, parish priest, was unavoidably absent from such an important function. He was at present on the water. It would give him the greatest pleasure when he learned that his Excellency had opened the school. The memorial had been erected to the soldiers of the parish who had fallen in the war. It would be quite large enough to hold all the children at present in the parish, and if necessary the school could be added to later. His Excellency was the direct representative of his Holiness the Pope, who was thus showing his interest in the educational movement. The great attendance was a compliment to his Excellency, because, although the function of opening the school was one of importance, the speaker had little doubt that had his Excellency not been with them, the attendance would have been much less. In conclusion, he again extended a welcome to his Excellency. (Applause.)

Rev. Father H. Seymour said that it was just two years since the first meeting was called to consider tenders for the new school. The tenders ranged from £36.5s to £81.9s, and were subject to reservations regarding rises in material and wages. Acceptance of a tender meant the obligation to pay what was asked; hence it was decided to do the work by day labor. When the work was commenced, the building was so precarious an undertaking that it was only the urgent need of accommodation that prevented a delay until more favorable times. From the beginning difficulties were met with and contingencies which the tenderers were careful to insure themselves against had to be faced. The price of wages and materials increased, and in this respect there had been practically nothing in the way of a pleasant surprise at any time during the progress of the work. During the past four and a half years, by means of various entertainments, the sum of £8681 6s 5d had been collected, but with the expenditure that had taken place there was a debit balance to-day of about £3000. The honors board to be set up would contain some 300 names. He hoped that the parishioners would give the panels for the names, also a piano for the use of the hall. He wished to thank his Excellency Archbishop Cattaneo for his attendance, also his Lordship Bishop Brodie, Catholic and non-Catholic visitors, the committee (especially Mr. Prendergast). He drew attention to the success of scholars attending the school at recent examinations. The loyalty of the Catholics of St. Mary's parish was proved by the number of names on the honors board. The men whose names would adorn the board fought for freedom and that would always be insisted on by the Church, especially when the powers that be threatened to infringe on the right of the Church to give education to its children. "The building," concluded Father Seymour, "is a monument to our men who fought. It is a monument to our parishioners, and if I am proud of it to-day it is because it is a fitting monument to the faith, the zeal, and the devotion of the loyal parishioners of St. Mary's."

#### At Opening of St. Mary's School

His Lordship Bishop Brodie said:—In my few words to-day I must speak of the absence of one who is very deeply interested in the opening of these schools, the Very Rev. Dean Regnault; his parting message to me was to try and arrange this opening function. He has not the privilege of being with us, but when he learns by cable or letter that his Excellency has blessed and