

Our Sports Summary

TIMARU.

(From our own correspondent.)

The Marist Brothers' second Rugby football fifteen recently visited Christchurch and played a match with a junior team, when the visitors won by 12 points to 6, after giving a splendid display of football. The Timaru boys were billeted by some kind friends, and the Brothers desire to express their gratitude for the hospitality shown them—a number of whom had visited the City of the Plains for the first time.

The Christchurch boys visited Timaru last Friday and played the return match with the Marist Brothers' junior A team at Anzac Square on Saturday, when the local boys were just beaten by a try scored near the close of the game. There was a good attendance of spectators, who were treated to a well-contested game. The visitors were billeted by a number of friends and supporters, and greatly enjoyed their stay in Timaru.

The annual seven-a-side football tournament, promoted by the Schools' Sports Association, was held at the Athletic Grounds on the 23rd ult. Rev. Brother Palladius is a prominent member of the controlling committee. The Marist Brothers entered three teams, and the junior A fifteen were successful in their competition, after playing four times during the day. The following players will receive medals: Masters Mason, Hall, Ryan, Fulton, Henry, Peyer, and Gilmore.

The members of St. Patrick's Miniature Rifle Club have had a very successful season for a young club. The members took part in the *Timaru Herald* tournament, also the South Island championships, and acquitted themselves remarkably well. The following parishioners and supporters generously donated cash trophies for competition amongst the members: Mrs. F. W. Clark, Messrs. W. McCulloch, P. J. O'Leary, C. Hall, M. Mullins, V. Meehan, M. O'Meehan, T. P. Crowe, M. Houlihan, J. Collins, T. Cronin, J. Murphy, G. B. Lamborn, and R. Rodgers. The prize-winners are Messrs. McCulloch, J. Collins, J. Leigh, W. Stirling, J. Crowley, C. Knight, J. O'Leary, W. McGrath, C. O'Donoghue, P. Downey, and H. Travis. Mr. Con Byrne very kindly donated a fine silver cup for most points in the aggregate, which was won by the popular secretary of the club (Mr. F. Bartos), who will retain the trophy till next year. The winner also gained a gold medal (donated by Mr. J. O'Leary), and a handsome challenge medal (donated by Mr. D. Doyle, jun).

The Rifle Club held a successful social last Thursday night, a large number being in attendance. The social committee's arrangements were completely satisfactory, and much appreciated.

GAELIC PASTIMES.

Aonach Tailteann:—The following summary of work done by Aonach Tailteann Council has been issued to all countries concerned:—Appreciating your great work in organising teams in your adopted country to take part in the revived Tailteann Festival, and realising that your disappointment is as great as ours, we hasten to tell you of the hopes we had, and the preparations we had made that Aonach Tailteann should prove worthy of its noble design, creditable to our island home, and demonstrative of the talent, virility, and recuperative powers of the Irish race.

On the fertile plains of Meath thousands of years ago the scattered clans were wont to assemble in friendly contest at stated periods. From ancient Annals, poems, manuscripts, and modern history, it is clear that during the August month all that was best in our ancient nation was wont to assemble. Aonach Tailteann was the big event in the social and athletic Gaelic year. Each chieftain brought his retinue of athletes, charioteers, cavalry, poets, musicians, shanachies, champions of spear and battleaxe, swimmers and wrestlers. We are told the retinue of horse-men alone stretched along the plain below Teltown for six Irish miles. We are told Tailteann was one of the three greatest events in that epoch of glorious chivalry. We are told of the friendly invasions of the Gaelic clans from Scotland, Wales, and Northern France; we have in our annals a picture of peace and plenty, of gallantry and glamor, of social festivity and friendly intercourse, which must have had a powerfully cementing influence on the scattered branches of Celtic civilisation.

But Aonach Tailteann is not gone. The central committee will keep together. After a month or so of respite we start with new vigor on the enlarged scheme of 1923, and in their working we seek your continued and enthusiastic support. Many fresh items will be included, and, benefiting by this season's experience, more exhaustive preparation will be possible. It is proposed to hold an International Congress of Sport in Dublin in August, and here, amongst other matters, the prospects of 1923 Aonach Tailteann will be fully discussed. Confident that brighter prospects are in store for our country, we propose to start preparations for an ambitious national celebration next year, lasting a full 14 days, from August 1 to 15, in which no branch of activity in our nation's life shall be overlooked. From out the ashes of the past new forms shall grow and brighten Eire. Paul Carroll, the Australian representative for the quarter and half-mile at the Tailteann Games, who arrived at Plymouth recently, was keenly disappointed

that the Games had to be abandoned, but hopes, nevertheless, to come across next year.

The Famous Diggers

The Famous Diggers is one of the few travelling companies which have survived the strenuous period we have just passed through, and it speaks well for the merit of its performances that this war-born organisation has been able to hold its head up in the hard times.

Recognising that better times are ahead, the management decided to produce an all-eclipsing programme which has left all previous efforts far behind.

A fine new comedian and dancer, Jimmy Norton, known throughout America as "That London Boy," has been imported to New Zealand to assist Joe Valli, Tano Fama, and Gus Dawson keep the comedy ball rolling. Mademoiselle Claire Gooley, a cantatrice with a delightful soprano voice, is an attractive young singer who adds delicacy and charm of manner to a wonderfully sweet voice. The *Sydney Bulletin*, in speaking of Miss Gooley, says: "Of the performers on this week's Tivoli bill, we must hand it to that prince of Comedians George Carney and to Claire Gooley. The latter is a true cosmopolitan, wisely mixing popular songs with the more difficult operatic arias. She was recalled five times." Gus Dawson is responsible for the many dancing features in the entertainment and he has devised some fine ballets for the "Super Six" dancing girls who now grace the show. Broad, laughable burlesque, clever satire, smart jokes of the unhoary type characterise the evening's entertainment, and such side-splitting absurdities as "The Rest Cure," "The A.B.C. Restaurant," and the quaintly funny "Roof Garden Scene" are calculated to raise a laugh from the most blasé theatre-goer. The comedy is in the hands of Messrs. Jimmy Norton, Joe Valli (the Scottish comedian), and Tano Fama. Stan Lawson, although he has not entirely dropped the feminine impersonations which have earned him an international reputation as a "Misleading Lady" (a charming deceit) will be seen in "the man" parts and his histrionic ability stands out greater than ever. Claude Bell, the new baritone, has, until recently been singing under Harry Musgrove's management and was selected in Australia from forty-six applicants. The Big Orchestra is still a feature of the show.

Plea for Peace in Ireland

ARCHBISHOP'S MOVING APPEAL.

In the course of his sermon at last Mass in Tuam Cathedral on a recent Sunday, his Grace the Archbishop of Tuam said:

"I sympathise most deeply with the young men of Ireland in the tragic situation in which they now find themselves. Cruel and barbarous reprisals by the British forces helped to concentrate the attention of the world on Ireland's struggle for freedom. In response to the prayers of the people, there came a truce; next came a treaty.

"There was a tide in the affairs of our nation which, taken at the flood might have led to a new stable Government, but the great men failed the masses of the people, and most of the young men were in favor of the compromise. There was a constitutional way of settling the difficulty, but it was rejected. While the great majority wanted peace, sinister influences prevailed, and here we are now," he said, "in the throes of a disastrous domestic war. The noble, responsive young men of Ireland who allowed themselves to be drawn easily into a kind of war against what was called a British Government, are now ranged in serried columns pouring deadly fire into their own ranks. I appeal to them to ground arms, and insist on the constitutional way of ending this conflict. There is already enough of Irish blood shed. There is enough of destruction done in the country. Irish property is being daily destroyed by Irishmen. Railways are cut, bridges broken, property commandeered, women and children are living in terror. Work is abandoned, and the grim spectres of famine and disease are standing at our doors. The moral law is violated; consciences are tortured; hearts are torn, although by the use of common sense and moderation our country could now be smiling as it never smiled before, in its freedom from outside control.

"In the name of God and in the name of Ireland I appeal to the young men to save the old land from destruction. Let them insist on a Truce of God, with a view to the restoration of ordered conditions in the country. During the Truce let Parliament meet and let Parliament rule. Let us have one Government, namely, that accepted by the majority of the people's representatives. Let us have one army, one police force, and one Ireland. Is this a fair solution? Is it a just solution? Is it not the only way to political salvation? Is it not morality, patriotism, and common sense? The alternatives are too terrible to contemplate. There can be no glory in this war. Its continuance to the bloody end will leave Ireland a pallid skeleton, awaiting death, with no pitying eyes to weep for disasters brought upon us, not by our foes but by ourselves. Let us then proclaim a Truce of God. Let us all join in prayer while our Parliament is laying the basis of a constitutional Peace, as we cannot expect God's blessings unless we keep His Commandments. Let those concerned set about making restitution and reparation for damage, as far as they can do so. May God, through the intercession of the Blessed Virgin, St. Joseph and the Irish saints give the young men of Ireland the moral courage to do what conscience proclaims to be right."