

DISTRICT NEWS.

MAYFIELD

DOMINICAN CONVENT FAIR.

Already there has been abundant evidence that the branch of the West Maitland Dominican Convent, recently established at Mayfield, will make rapid headway towards filling an important place in the educational sphere. It is charmingly situated on the three-acre property, until recently the home of Mr. Julian Windeyer, at Kerr-street. The surroundings are delightful, and from the grounds views may be obtained of the Hunter River and the steel works at Port Waratah. From the lofty position of the convent, and the open surroundings, the impression gained is that for a boarding-school the site is ideal. In the short space of three weeks nearly 70 names have been entered on the students' roll, and the teaching staff of four will probably soon be augmented. Dominican nuns are specially trained for educational work, and their schools stand well out among the registered secondary institutions. In charge of the new convent is Mother Mary Conceptor. Father O'Lavery has control of the schools in the parish.

In aid of the school equipment fund a bazaar was held the other week at Tighe's Hill, but the effort was hampered by inclement weather, and a garden fete was arranged for Saturday. On this occasion the weather was pleasant, and the convent grounds, decorated with flags, and containing neat stalls held a large gathering. Girls attired in patriotic dresses enhanced the spectacle. On the lawn the Steel Works Band, under Conductor J. J. Kelly, provided enjoyable selections. At three o'clock the Mayoress of Waratah accepted the invitation of Father O'Lavery to declare open the fair. Mrs. Miller's remarks were supplemented by the Mayor.

Mr. Windeyer, who donated three guineas towards the fete, referred feelingly to the loss of his old home, but remarked that although he was a Protestant, there were no people to whom he would have sooner parted with the place than the present occupants. In view of the objects in view. He was heartily in favour of the system of combining educational and religious instruction, and considered that if we followed the lines advocated by some people we would tend to establish a race of atheists.

The Very Rev. Father O'Donohoe, at whose instance a vote of thanks was carried to the Mayor and Mayoress and Mr. Windeyer, expressed his pleasure at Mr. Windeyer's outspokenness. He made a humorous speech, during which he said he had always been under the impression that lawyers were heartless, but Mr. Windeyer had changed his opinion.

The opening ceremony concluded, brisk business began at the stalls, and in other directions. The effort was organised by a committee headed by Father O'Lavery, president; Mr. J. Crosby, treasurer, and Mr. H. Studdart, secretary. Those in charge of the stalls were: Mrs. McGregor and Miss Crothers, sweets and refreshments; Mrs. Hogan and Mrs. Crockett, fancy; and Mrs. Krohn, jumble. Novelty was provided by Mr. Taylor's balloons. The popular girl competition was won by Miss Z. M. Fitzgerald and Miss Rose Crockett. The jam sandwich competition was won by Mrs. Norgard.

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