

NEW CONVENT SCHOOL AT GLEN INNES.

Foundation Stone Laid by Bishop O'Connor.

IN the presence of a large gathering the foundation stone of the beautiful new Convent School at Glen Innes was blessed by his Lordship Dr. O'Connor, Bishop of Armidale, on Sunday week. The new building already gives promise of being the equal of the fine Church and Convent buildings, and will complete the very imposing pile of Catholic structures on the Meade and Church-streets corner. A silver trowel, appropriately inscribed, was presented to the Bishop by Mr. J. F. O'Connor.



**His Lordship Dr. O'Connor, Bishop of
Armidale.**

In apologising for the absence of Mr. B. M. Wade, of Inverell, the contractor for the erection of the school Monsignor Tobin said the memorial stone laid that

Tobin said the memorial stone laid that day had been presented by Mr. Wade. They were most fortunate in having Mr. Wade as the contractor, for he was undoubtedly one of the finest contractors in the State, and when the building was completed they would have every reason to be proud of his work. With them they had Mr. O'Connor, of Inverell, whose architectural mind was bringing into existence a most beautiful building. The Monsignor also apologised for the absence of Ald. Hutton and Mr. Veness (Town Clerk) who each forwarded a guinea towards the school building fund.

Praise for Dr. O'Connor.

Monsignor Tobin extended a cordial welcome to his Lordship Dr. O'Connor, "the grand old man of the north." Ireland had given many great men to Australia, both in the political life, as citizens, and as church builders, bishops, priests and missionaries, but there was none who had crossed the deep blue sea from the Old country who had done more for Australia or more for the church in Australia than their beloved Bishop. His Lordship was loved by every man, woman and child in the vast diocese. In the near future Dr. O'Connor would be celebrating his 51st year as a priest in the Armidale diocese, and he took the opportunity that afternoon of conveying the hope that his Lordship would be spared for many more years to look after the interests of the diocese that owed him so much, and for which they could never repay him.

The Monsignor accorded a hearty welcome to the Mayor and aldermen. He also welcomed his old friend, Rev. Father Hynes, of Deepwater, and expressed pleasure at the large gathering to witness the ceremony. In referring to the new building, Monsignor Tobin said it was a necessity. They must look after the children. They must train them to be fit citizens, not only for this life, but for the life to come. Proceeding. Mon-

for the life to come. Proceeding, Monsignor Tobin said Australia was the only country in the British Empire where the State did not subsidise the Catholic schools. In England this was the case, in Africa, Canada, and everywhere except in Australia. Even in Scotland the State pays the whole of the teachers and erects the material buildings for the Catholic schools. The Sisters had carried out their work well and faithfully in the old school buildings, and had turned out girls and boys now

occupying prominent places in the State and elsewhere, and the Glen Innes Convent School had been at the head of the diocese for many years. With the added facilities of the new school he felt that the Sisters would even surpass the record of the past. By the public, State and University examinations it would be seen that the boys and girls of the Glen Innes Convent School could hold their own with the State schools, which had the Government at their back; which had the money of the State at their back, and the Catholics were contributing their portion of that money. The Glen Innes Convent School was educating 300 children, with no help whatsoever from the State.

The Bishop's Congratulations.

His Lordship, Dr. O'Connor, in congratulating Monsignor Tobin upon his achievement in the direction of having the new school erected, said that he had known the Monsignor from youth, and his great characteristics were sincerity, straightforwardness and honesty of purpose. His Lordship also accorded his congratulation to the people of the church upon the wonderful courage which they displayed in facing the erection of such a fine building and in taxing themselves so heavily for its erection. The new building would cost in the vicinity of £5000. and constituted a fine effort by

£5000, and constituted a fine effort by the people for the education of their children.

Glen Innes Progress.

Proceeding, Dr. O'Connor said the plan provided for an attractive building, and he congratulated Mr. O'Connor upon the beautiful design, which Mr. Wade was now materialising, and which, when completed would be the equal in every way to the beautiful Church and Convent. The picture on the corner would be very beautiful indeed, and the townspeople would be pleased to point out Catholic buildings to visitors to the town. Glen Innes was the only town in the north and north-west that had made any real progress in the last 12 or 13 years and he was pleased that the Mayor and aldermen were interested in their town, as was evidenced by their presence at that afternoon's ceremony.

Catholics Doubly Taxed.

Referring to the cost of the erection of the school, His Lordship said it was a shame that the people of the church should have to pay a penny towards that cost. The children should be looked after by the State. In this town alone, with 300 pupils, with an average cost of £9 a year for the education of one child, the State was being saved an expenditure of £2700 annually. The Catholic people, who constituted a quarter of the population, were doubly taxed, in that they contributed to the State schools and then had to bear the cost of the education of their own children.

The Mayor of Inverell (Ald. J. F. O'Connor), architect for the new school building; the Mayor of Glen Innes (Ald. E. J. M'Intyre), the Deputy-Mayor (Ald. F. C. Bates) and Ald. Jonathan Coates also spoke.

The thanks of the Catholic people were accorded the Bishop for his presence, at the instance of Mr. Maurice Ryall and Mr. B. Kelly, while Mr. P. J. Timbs conveyed a similar compliment to the Mayor

MR. D. KELLY, while MR. T. J. THOMAS conveyed a similar compliment to the Mayor and aldermen of Glen Innes.

In the course of his address, Monsignor Tobin explained that his collections amongst the people yielded £1323/11/-, and altogether he now had roughly £4000 in hand towards the cost of the erection of the building. The contract price for the school was £4250, and with furnishings and the remodelling of the old building the total cost would be about £5000. In the course of his collecting, the Monsignor explained, Red Range—with only seven or eight Catholic families—had contributed £94/7/-, Wellingrove, £92, and Glencoe £91/18/6; while his Lordship, the Bishop, with characteristic generosity had given his cheque for £100.

The New School.

The building, in addition to its general features, has been so placed as to give a very pleasing aspect when viewed together with the two adjoining buildings. It comprises one reception hall and library and four spacious class rooms. On the northern side there is a large verandah and balcony. On the north-western

corner there will be a handsomely battlemented turret. The building will undoubtedly be a valuable addition to the architecture of the town.