

tude for the great interest the Very Rev. Dean takes in their welfare. The Rev. Fathers Hoare and Dignan were also present. A musical programme by the children was excellently rendered and thoroughly enjoyed. At the conclusion of the programme the Dean was presented with a beautiful lace rochet, which was worked at the Technical School of the Sisters of Charity, Beneda Abbey, Tubbercurry, County Sligo. The following address was read by Miss Cissie Barrett:—

Ad multos annos. May thy years
Be full, and crowned with every gift,
Each ideal reached, each hope fulfilled,
For this our prayerful voice we lift.
Ad multos annos. May each feast
E'er holier, happier be for thee,
Each dawn in hope, and set in joy
A treasured memory each to be.
Ad multos annos. May we still
Enjoy your kind, indulgent care
For many, many years to come:
This is our earnest, heartfelt prayer.
Ad multos annos. Take our wish,
Born of our gratitude sincere:
Ad multos annos. May you yet
See many a happy feast-day here.

The Dean thanked the children for the beautiful gift and the good wishes expressed in the address, and concluded by granting the children a holiday for the remainder of the week.

CATHOLIC FEDERATION

CHRISTCHURCH DIOCESAN COUNCIL.

(From our own correspondent.)

On Tuesday evening, the half-yearly general meeting of the Christchurch Diocesan Council of the Catholic Federation was opened in the Christchurch Catholic Club rooms, Wiltshire buildings. The president, Mr. W. Hayward, jun., presided. The clergy were represented by the Very Rev. Dean Hills, S.M., V.G. (St. Mary's, Christchurch North), Very Rev. Chancellor Price, Adm. (Cathedral), Rev. Dr. Kennedy (Methven-Rakaia), Rev. Fathers O'Donnell (Ashburton), Richards (Hawarden), Cooney (Lyttelton), and O'Connor (Lincoln), and various diocesan branches of the Federation by Messrs. J. R. Hayward (Cathedral), T. H. Cape-Williamson (St. Mary's, Christchurch North), T. Keenan (Greymouth), W. Barry and W. Gallen (Fairlie), P. Randle and P. Tully (Rakaia), M. Poff and T. McAnulty (Methven), J. A. Black and S. J. Ryan (Rangiora), and J. E. Doolan (Lyttelton). The above mentioned clergy also incidentally represented their respective parochial districts. Owing to the harvest operations many of the appointed delegates of country branches were unable to attend, and at the request of some proxies were appointed as follows:—Geraldine, Mr. P. C. Augarde; Temuka, Mr. J. J. O'Gorman; Ross, Mr. F. Smith, Ahaura, Mr. T. Sheehan.

The president in a brief address cordially welcomed the delegates. He said that he was gratified by the excellent attendance, especially in view of the long distances many of the delegates had travelled to be present, and trusted all would speak freely on the subjects appearing on the agenda paper. Although the Federation movement in the diocese was not yet a year old the results achieved were eminently satisfactory.

The Very Rev. Dean Hills commented in a pithy address on the excellent work that had already been accomplished in the matter of organisation. The good results accruing were even now manifest, and he warmly commended the energy and enthusiasm displayed in what was but really the beginning of a great movement that must eventually prove beneficial in an eminent degree.

The report of the Diocesan Council Executive and treasurer's statement were read and adopted. Comprehensive reports were given on behalf of all branches represented as to organisation, local activities, and statistical information.

Particulars were given of the recent formation of three branches—viz., at Rangiora, Lyttelton, and Hawarden, with most satisfactory results. Spirited discussion ensued upon the following subjects:—Organisation, the activities of the Catholic Immigration Committee and the best methods of co-operating, literature, the education question, the Bible-in-schools question, and other matters of pressing importance to the Catholic body.

On the question of organisation excellent speeches were delivered. Mr. J. J. O'Gorman and Mr. T. H. C. Williamson showed how vigorously this work had been undertaken, and how unresponsive were the people generally. The former thought that there would be better results were the congregations made to feel that joining the Federation was a strict duty, and not, as many supposed, a purely optional proceeding with but a visionary object.

The Rev. Father Cooney advocated educating the people on the many advantages of the Federation, and incidentally instilling into them the hopelessness of individual action in improving the Catholic position, or bringing about a settlement of the many questions affecting Catholic interests. He was strongly of opinion that if lectures were given by some one, who would make a close study of the aims and objects of the movement and the many advantages it embraced, every desired object would be attained.

Mr. J. R. Hayward said he had great faith in the power of the clergy to influence the people in a way that lay advocates of any movement, if they did not entirely fail, could but meet with inconsiderable success. He strongly advocated pulpit reference.

Mr. T. Keenan was strongly of opinion that the Federation should advance a solid programme, and work on a well defined platform. A purely sentimental movement would attain nothing. What all branches wanted was a goal to strive for in the concrete; abstract principles were all right in theory, but what enthusiasts in any cause desired was something that would enable tangible results to be achieved. In educational matters, Mr. Keenan said, there was much to be desired. Many of the schools should be better equipped, and in the accommodation of the teachers there was room for vast improvement. People should be made to realise more fully how much they were indebted to the Marist Brothers for the splendid work they were doing in the Dominion. Here was a subject that could well be advocated by the Federation. A lead was wanted, and the Federation should give it.

One of the most inspiring addresses on this subject was given by the Rev. Father Richards, who remarked that in his wide parochial district, the work had been most enthusiastically taken up at Hawarden and Amberley; but he insisted that the towns, with all their facilities and favorable conditions, must give the lead to the country, and the results, so far as the country was concerned, need not be feared.

Several speakers contended for a clear-cut 'objective' being defined on questions most affecting Catholic interests as a guide to all branches.

The president made a statement regarding the operations of the Catholic Immigration Committee, and mentioned that only the previous week a small contingent of Catholic newcomers were met on arrival and speedily placed in positions.

The secretary spoke on the question of literature and the measures taken to suppress the circulation of anti-Catholic and other objectionable productions. He suggested that branches be recommended to get a supply of Bishop Cleary's writings, and distribute them to candidates for political honors, to clubs, libraries, and reading-rooms, and wherever they could profitably fulfil the mission they were intended for.

Several speakers expressed views on the subject, and it was finally agreed that attention having been

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