

directed, branches could use their own judgment on the matter.

The subject of education, with reference to the necessity of Catholics taking part in school committee elections, occasioned considerable discussion, the principal speakers for and against being the Rev. Dr. Kennedy, Rev. Father Cooney, Rev. Father O'Donnell, Rev. Father Richards, Mr. J. J. O'Gorman, Mr. T. Keenan, Mr. P. Randle, and Mr. J. E. Doolan.

It was decided, on the motion of Mr. Keenan, seconded by Mr Randle, and supported by Rev. Father Richards, that no action be taken.

The Very Rev. Dean Hills, S.M., V.G., introduced the Bible-in-schools question, and recommended a continuance of the methods advocated throughout the Dominion for Catholics to combat the efforts of the League advocates.

Rev. Father O'Connor, Mr. F. Smith, and Mr. Williamson also spoke on the subject.

Mr. J. R. Hayward moved, and the Rev. Dr Kennedy seconded the following motion—'That it be a recommendation to the Dominion Executive to draw up a list of questions to be submitted to all candidates at the forthcoming elections.'

This was carried unanimously.

With regard to general politics, this was regarded as outside the functions of the Federation, which should confine itself at the present stage to the urgent necessity of having every Catholic voter enrolled on both the Parliamentary and Municipal rolls.

The acting executive was elected formally as the official body, in accordance with the constitution and rules, with the addition of Messrs. J. J. O'Gorman and J. E. Doolan.

Nineteen branches of the Federation, with a number of sub-committees, are now in working order in the diocese, with a membership of several thousand. It is anticipated that before the next general meeting in July no parochial district in the Christchurch diocese will be outside the Federation, and that when organisation is complete it will be possible to concentrate all efforts in the solid work for which the Federation was established. Leeston, Darfield, and Akaroa parochial districts only remain to be organised, and it is the intention of the members of the Executive to endeavor to personally visit and open branches there in readiness for the visit of the general secretary and organiser (Mr. Girling-Butcher).

The presence at the meeting and the weighty and logical utterances of the clergy on the subjects discussed demonstrated, beyond all doubt, how absolutely essential for the success of the Federation it is to have their active co-operation and steadying influence when questions of the utmost importance to the Catholic body are to be considered and settled. This fact was frequently emphasised in branch reports, and verbally, at the conference. Impressive, too, was the keen

grasp of subjects and debating ability displayed by the lay delegates, revealing a latent power that must eventually prove an effective force, and gain for the Church and religion in the Dominion that rightful measure of recognition and consideration, its numerical strength demands.

The president closed the meeting by thanking the clergy and lay delegates for their attendance at considerable inconvenience and loss of time so far as their every-day duties were concerned. He felt sure all would agree that the meeting, and all similar ones, would have the desired tendency in proving the value of the Federation.

AUCKLAND.

(By telegraph, from our own correspondent.)

On Sunday evening after devotions, a very successful meeting of the Catholic Federation was held in the schoolroom, Otahuhu. Very Rev. Father Buckley presided over a very large attendance. The meeting was addressed by the organiser (Mr. Girling-Butcher), who explained in detail the aims and objects of the Federation, and his address was listened to with much interest throughout. After the meeting an enrolment of members took place. The proceedings closed with votes of thanks to the lecturer, chairman, and to Mr. Little, who kindly placed his motor car at the disposal of the organiser to enable him to visit Otahuhu on the Sunday evening.

Mr. Girling-Butcher addressed a large meeting of the St. Patrick's Cathedral branch of the Federation on Monday evening, February 2, in the Hibernian Hall. He leaves Auckland to-night for Whangarei, Dargaville, and Helensville, and will be engaged in the Northern Territory for about a week. On Monday, February 9, he will return to Auckland and address a meeting in the Remuera parish, and on Sunday, February 15, he is to address a meeting at Hamilton.

On Sunday afternoon, a large meeting of the ladies of Auckland was held in St. Benedict's Hall for the purpose of forming a Catholic Immigration Committee for the port of Auckland. The meeting was addressed by the organiser of the Catholic Federation (Mr. Girling-Butcher), who explained the great necessity for such a committee and the work that was already being done in Wellington. As a result of the meeting a committee of forty ladies was elected to carry out this important work of the Federation. The Right Rev. Mgr. Gillan, V.G., was elected president of the C.I.C., and Miss A. Lorrigan hon. secretary. The Cathedral parish meeting, to be addressed by Mr. Girling Butcher, has been fixed for Monday, February 9, in the Hibernian Hall, and it is expected to be a very large gathering.

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