

CATHOLIC FEDERATION

AUCKLAND DIOCESAN COUNCIL.

(From our own correspondent.)

The executive committee of the Diocesan Council have been very much engaged lately in connection with the present agitation by the Bible-in-Schools League. Messrs. F. G. J. Temm and M. C. Tully have been visiting neighboring parishes on Federation matters. Numerous letters of appreciation of the services of Mr. Temm, as diocesan secretary, have been received by the committee from all parts of the diocese, and general regret is expressed at his retirement. As showing the enthusiasm and interest displayed by Mr. Temm it is interesting to note that he has conducted the secretarial duties of the city parish, and is also treasurer and diocesan secretary, having about forty parishes under his jurisdiction. Two more branches have been established in this diocese.

The annual meeting of this Council takes place in St. Benedict's Clubrooms, Auckland, on Wednesday, July 15, at 7 p.m., when the annual election of officers will take place. All branches are requested to see that they are represented.

ELLERSLIE.

The Ellerslie branch of the Federation held its annual meeting on Sunday last in the schoolroom at Ellerslie. There was a fairly large attendance. The Rev. Father Torney presided. The annual report on the affairs and progress of the Federation was read by the parish secretary (Mr. W. Shearman). A number of parishioners from the Panmure portion of the parish were present, and several expressed pleasure at the position of the Federation after its first year's existence.

The following resolution, moved by Mr. W. H. Pohlen, and seconded by Mr. Sexton, was passed—'That this meeting of the Ellerslie branch of the Catholic Federation wishes to convey and express its grateful appreciation of the great assistance rendered to our organisation by our eminent and respected Bishop, the Right Rev. Dr. Cleary, and further recognises the able manner in which he has championed the cause of the Catholic Federation.'

Mr. F. G. J. Temm also moved: 'That this first annual meeting of the Ellerslie branch of the New Zealand Catholic Federation, desires to place on record its sincere appreciation of the valiant stand taken by the Right Rev. Dr. Cleary against the attack that is now being made by an organisation in this Dominion upon the most sacred rights of conscience and religious liberty.' This was seconded by Mr. McCaffery, and carried unanimously.

The following committee was elected for the ensuing year:—President, Rev. Father Torney; vice-presidents, Messrs. Thomas and Pohlen; parish secretary and treasurer, Mr. F. G. J. Temm; members—Messrs. McCaffery, McDermott, Drumm, Strong, Shearman, and Malone.

The parish committee and all the affiliated Catholic societies in the parish have recently carried resolutions protesting against the referendum on the Bible in State schools.

GREY LYNN.

A branch of the Catholic Federation has been established in Grey Lynn with Mr. G. Little as president, and Mr. W. Fleming as secretary. The first meeting of the new committee was held in the schoolroom on Thursday, July 2, Mr. Little presiding. There were present the Rev. Father Holbrook and a full attendance of the committee.

Messrs. F. G. J. Temm (diocesan secretary) and M. C. Tully (assistant diocesan secretary) were present, and gave the committee much valuable information with regard to the working of the branch. It was pointed out the first and most important duty of the committee

was the enrolling of every Catholic in the parish as a member of the Federation. Various schemes for the most expeditious course to be taken were discussed. The committee passed a resolution against the proposals of the Bible-in-Schools League.

It was decided to suggest to the Diocesan Executive the desirability of organising a monster public demonstration of protest against the Referendum Bill, to be supported by all the city and suburban parishes. Mr. Temm promised to look into the matter, and see what could be done, and advise the committee.

After the meeting, members of the committee were hospitably entertained by the Rev. Father Holbrook at the presbytery.

PONSONBY.

(From the Corresponding Secretary.)

The annual meeting of the Ponsonby branch of the Catholic Federation took place on Sunday, June 28. Rev. Father Cahill (president) occupied the chair, there being a fair number of parishioners present. The secretary, in his annual report, referred to the fact that the outgoing executive, which had been in office only five months, had been responsible for infusing new energy into the Federation in the parish, making it one of the most active branches in the city. Special attention had been given to organisation, and the branch was interesting itself in the establishment of a juvenile club. The membership had shown a decided increase over last year, and it was confidently anticipated that the end of the financial year would witness the enrolment of every parishioner. Much of the success achieved by the executive was in a large measure due to the enthusiastic spirit displayed by the president, the hope being expressed that he would be permitted to remain in Ponsonby for many years.

The election of a new executive for the ensuing year resulted in the return of the old executive to office, on the motion of Mr. Cavanagh, seconded by Mr. Maguire, in recognition of the amount of work achieved in so short a time, and in order to give them an opportunity to carry out the schemes already under consideration. The personnel of the committee is as follows: Rev. Father Cahill (president), Messrs. J. G. Shanaghan (treasurer), J. F. Fitzgerald (hon. secretary), P. Darby, T. Darby, T. Bellamy, A. Bennett, H. McGuire, P. Hall, J. Prendergast, Mesdames Cooke and Hennesley, and Misses N. Flynn and L. Hickey.

Mr. P. Darby spoke in glowing terms of the capabilities of the secretary (Mr. Fitzgerald), and congratulated the Ponsonby branch of the Federation on possessing so able an officer. The amount of work done by him had been phenomenal, and it was the more praiseworthy, as the position was purely honorary. At the request of Mr. Darby, appreciation of the secretary's services was acclaimed with a round of applause. Mr. Fitzgerald suitably and feelingly acknowledged the vote of thanks.

In view of the agitation favoring a referendum on the Bible-in-schools question, the meeting unanimously resolved to forward to the Prime Minister, the Minister of Education, and the member for the district (Mr. Bradney) the following resolution: 'That the Government be respectfully requested to give due consideration to the conscientious objections of the Catholic community in the matter of the referendum on the Bible in State schools question.'

ST. BENEDICT'S BRANCH, AUCKLAND.

(From the Corresponding Secretary.)

June 28.

The annual meeting and election of officers of the above branch was held last evening, the Right Rev. Mgr. Gillan, V.G., presiding over a large attendance of members. The secretary (Mr. A. Rose), in submitting a report of the work done during the past term, congratulated the members on the splendid progress made. During the past six months nine meetings have been