

held. Two local branches have been formed in out-lying districts, and also a strong branch of the Catholic Immigration Committee, which is doing good work on the boats and trains. The work of enrolling new members has been steadily pursued, and upwards of 800 registered. The following officers were elected: Vice-presidents, Mrs. Daly and Mr. T. Foley; secretary, Mr. A. Rose; treasurer, Mr. J. Treacy; also a strong working committee. At the conclusion of the meeting, the following resolution was unanimously carried: That this meeting of St. Benedict's branch of the Catholic Federation, representing 2000 Catholics, desires to record its emphatic protest against the action of the Bible-in-Schools League in asking the Government to grant a referendum upon a question of religion and sacred rights of conscience, involving with such action the introduction of great sectarian bitterness and strife, and that copies of this resolution be sent to the Hon. Minister of Education.

#### CHRISTCHURCH DIOCESAN COUNCIL.

(From our own correspondent.)

A meeting of the executive committee was held in the Federation rooms, Wiltshire Buildings, on Tuesday evening last. The president (Mr. W. Hayward, jun.) presided. The Very Rev. Dean Hills, S.M., V.G., and Very Rev. Chancellor Price, Adm., were present, together with practically a full attendance of members. Messrs. Delany and Griffin, representing St. Mary's branch, attended and offered the co-operation of their branch and personal service in arranging a Catholic demonstration and reception to council delegates in the Art Gallery on Wednesday evening. The various duties in connection with the gathering were divided up amongst those present. Communications from Timaru were of a particularly satisfactory nature, revealing real vitality and an excellent spirit of enthusiasm. Several remits from the same source will find a place on the agenda paper for the annual meeting.

It was resolved unanimously to pass the following resolution and have the same published in the local papers and others through the Press Association—  
At a meeting of the Christchurch Diocesan Council Executive of the New Zealand Catholic Federation, representing twenty-four branches in Canterbury and Westland, a resolution was passed protesting against the proposed referendum on the Bible-in-schools question in terms similar to resolutions on the same subject elsewhere.

#### THE CATHEDRAL PARISH COMMITTEE.

(From our Christchurch correspondent.)

Mr. J. R. Hayward (vice-president) presided at the monthly meeting of the Cathedral branch committee, in the unavoidable absence of the Very Rev. Chancellor Price, Adm. (president). There was the largest attendance yet recorded in connection with the branch, reflecting very creditably the evident enthusiasm and interest of the members of the new committee

in Federation matters. It being the first meeting of the new committee the chairman welcomed those in attendance, and pointed out the urgent necessity of incessant activity and consistent effort. As a mark of appreciation of the organising and pioneer work accomplished by the retiring committee they were unanimously re-elected for the ensuing year. The office-bearers are as follow: President, Very Rev. Chancellor Price, Adm.; vice-presidents, Messrs J. R. Hayward and G. C. Hayward; treasurer, Mr. P. O'Connell; secretary, Mr. J. J. Wilson; representatives on Diocesan Council, Messrs J. R. Hayward and M. Garty.

It was decided to take action, on the motion of a lady member, in regard to the circulation of an objectionable book by one of the city public libraries; also in connection with the distribution of anti-Catholic literature to patients of our faith in the public hospital—a matter brought under the notice of the committee by the Cathedral conference of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, which provides Catholic visitors. The need of a Catholic representative to attend the Juvenile and Magistrates' Courts was also shown by the society, and it was decided to make this a subject of discussion at the annual council meeting. The president of the conference meanwhile undertook to attend the courts in the interests of Catholic children especially.

Several members expressed views on various subjects tending to stiffen up our forces, render the Catholic position stronger, and not to allow our rights to be lightly pushed aside and our faith treated with contempt.

#### LYTTELTON BRANCH.

On last Sunday week (writes our Christchurch correspondent) the Lyttelton (St. Joseph's) parish committee met and elected as secretary Mr. J. E. Doolan, to replace the late secretary, who has removed elsewhere. The general meeting was held last Sunday, the Rev. Father Cooney presiding, when Mr. J. E. Doolan and Mr. J. Mahar were elected to represent the branch on the Diocesan Council, and the new committee were appointed. An energetic enrolment of members and collection of this year's subscriptions is now in progress.

#### DUNEDIN PARISH COMMITTEE.

The committee met in St. Joseph's Hall, on Sunday evening last, the Rev. Father Coffey, Adm., occupying the chair. The following parishes were represented—Cathedral, North-East Valley, Roslyn, Mornington; and the following societies—Hibernian, St. Joseph's Men's Club, St. Joseph's Ladies' Club, Children of Mary, St. Vincent de Paul Society, and the A.M.D.G. Guild.

The following executive was appointed: President, Rev. Father Coffey; vice-presidents, Messrs J. B. Callan, jun, and James O'Neill; hon. secretary, Mr. J. Hally; hon. treasurer, Mrs. E. J. O'Neill; delegates Diocesan Council the president, and Messrs J. A. Scott and J. Hally.



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