

CATHOLIC FEDERATION

WELLINGTON.

(From our own correspondent.)

There was a large attendance at the annual meeting of the Island Bay branch of the N.Z. Catholic Federation at the Church of St. Francis in that district last Sunday evening. The Ven. Archdeacon Devoy, Vice-Provincial, was in the chair, and his Grace Archbishop O'Shea was present. The report of the branch read disclosed a very satisfactory position, and was adopted on the motion of Messrs. Hoskins and Whitaker. Mr. P. J. O'Regan moved a resolution against the proposed introduction of the Bible-in-Schools Referendum Bill, and in the course of a spirited speech in support thereof severely criticised the policy of the Bible-in-Schools League. He referred to the iniquitous proposal of deciding a question of religion by a plebiscite, and showed by instances from the early history of New Zealand that at the very birth of civilised government the great principle of religious equality had been insisted upon. The injustice that would be inflicted upon the teachers would be intolerable, and represented nothing more nor less than a breach of faith with them. Mr. O'Regan concluded by looking upon the position of Catholics in districts where by necessity they were compelled to use the State schools, and pointed out the inevitable aggravation of their present conscientious difficulties.

His Grace Archbishop O'Shea seconded the resolution, and pointed out the inconsistencies of the so-called Bible-in-Schools League, and the confusing issues to be placed before the electors. Some people said that the passing of this so-called referendum would be the best means of obtaining State aid for Catholic schools. Even take it for granted that that were so, nevertheless Catholics would cry out at the injustice of a majority ruling the minority in matters affecting conscience. Personally, he would always be on the side of minorities to do all in his power to assist in combating such iniquitous measures as the one proposed.

Mr. Girling-Butcher supported the resolution, which was unanimously carried.

The following committee was elected for the ensuing twelve months: Messrs Krohn, Whitaker, Redican, Dallow, and Pender.

AUCKLAND.

(From the club correspondent.)

The annual meeting of the Auckland Diocesan Council was held in St. Benedict's Catholic Clubrooms, Auckland, on Wednesday, July 15, 1914.

Mr. B. McLaughlin (vice-president) presided. The following branches were represented: St. Patrick's, St. Benedict's, Ponsonby, Grey Lynn, Devonport, Parnell, Eilerslie, Onehunga, Ohaupo, Paikau, Huntly, Ngaruawahia, Hamilton, Cambridge, Astoria, Paeroa, Waihi, Thames, Te Awamutu, Tamaranui, Dargaville, Coromandel, Tauranga, Pukekohe, Ormond, Gisborne, Mata, Okaihau, Opotiki, and Whangarei. Apologies for absence were received from his Lordship Bishop Cleary and Ven. Archdeacon Hackett.

The president, in his opening remarks, welcomed the delegates, especially those who had come great distances and at some personal sacrifice and inconvenience. This showed they had the cause of the Federation at heart and augured well for the movement.

The annual report was in part as follows:—One of the most important matters arranged during the year has been the obtaining of an office in the city for the conduct of the Federation's business. This was due to the courtesy of Mr. J. C. Gleeson of this city, who gave to the use of the Federation an office in High street.

The committee has established an employment bureau, and has already been successful in placing several of our members in positions. We have also formed an accommodation bureau, and in this con-

nection have been of considerable use and assistance to visiting Catholics from other parts of the Dominion, in securing Catholic hotels and boarding houses.

Catholic Immigration. Since the last meeting of the Council, a strong Catholic Immigration Committee has been established for the port of Auckland, and is doing good work.

In connection with school committee elections the Diocesan Executive, acting under the instructions of the Dominion Executive, arranged for our branches to take an interest in the elections.

The Auckland branch of the Federation has entered into the fight against the Bible-in-schools movement with a will, and a strong determination to do its utmost to defeat the objects of the League. All our branches are working on this question, and have passed resolutions of protests and forwarded same on to the Government. Much publicity has been given these protests in the press. The committee desires to impress upon each delegate present the extreme importance of dealing with this important matter with all our strength, and requests each parish committee and local committee to show their weight on this question.

Your committee here desire to bring before your notice the great volume of work being put into this fight on behalf of the Federation and the Catholic people by his Lordship Dr. Cleary, and hereby call upon each branch in this diocese to support and second the efforts of our champion in this struggle for our freedom.

Every branch is again reminded of the importance of getting all our people on the rolls.

The committee is pleased to record that the important matter of organisation is steadily improving, and that parish committees are generally increasing their membership. Several new branches have recently been formed, and altogether the position of our organisation is steadily improving.

Before concluding this report, we wish to record our regret that Mr. J. J. Furlong was, owing to being transferred to Invercargill, compelled to resign his position a month ago. The good work of Mr. Furlong was much appreciated by his fellow-members of the committee.

A large quantity of correspondence was read to the meeting from a number of parishes, and showed that the Federation was steadily improving. A letter was also received from the Westminster Catholic Federation of England, enclosing a copy of their last annual report. A telegram was also received from the Dominion Executive wishing heartiest congratulations to the meeting.

The treasurer's report showed that branches were sending in their remittances better this year. A remittance of £100 had been sent on to the Dominion Executive, and the council had a balance of £33 in hand.

The delegates present submitted a report upon the affairs of the Federation in their respective parishes, which showed that the branches were endeavoring to promote the interests of the Federation. Every branch had taken up very strongly the fight in connection with the Bible-in-schools movement. Resolutions of protest were passed by every branch.

The election of officers resulted as follows:—President, Mr. B. McLaughlin; vice-presidents, Messrs. A. Rose and P. J. Nerheny; diocesan secretary, Mr. F. G. J. Temm; assistant diocesan secretary, Mr. M. C. Tully; diocesan treasurer, Mr. M. J. Sheahan; delegate to Dominion Council—Messrs. B. McLaughlin, F. G. J. Temm, and one of the vice-presidents as may be mutually arranged between them at time of council meetings.

Remits from Parish Committees.—The Hamilton branch moved to increase the subscriptions from one shilling to two shillings per annum, and to admit all under 21 years of age free. The motion was lost. Rev. Father Murphy (Cambridge) moved—'That the next half-yearly meeting of the Diocesan Council be held at Hamilton.' Mr. F. G. J. Temm seconded, considering that it was in the best interests of the country branches to assist them in this connection. It would