

give that portion of the diocese an impetus in Federation matters. The motion was carried.

The meeting concluded with usual votes of thanks to chair, etc.

PARNELL.

(From our own correspondent.)

The annual meeting of the Parnell branch of the Catholic Federation was held on Sunday, June 28, and was attended by a majority of the members. The Rev. Father Patterson presided. The secretary's report was read and adopted. The president expressed his appreciation of the efforts of his committee in the enrolment of members during the year, and thanked the members for the fine way in which they had responded to the call. He hoped before long to see every man, woman, and child in the parish enrolled in the Federation. Resolutions (three) of protest against the proposal to grant a referendum on the question of Bible-reading in the State schools, were passed by the Federation, the Sacred Heart Society, the Altar Society, Children of Mary, and Young Men's Club combined. Copies of these resolutions have been forwarded to the Minister of Education and to the Member for the district. The following officers were elected for the ensuing year:—Vice-president, Mr. J. O'Sullivan; committee—Messrs. H. J. Skinner, H. Young, P. J. Barry, A. Markey, John O'Sullivan, T. M. Taylor (secretary and treasurer), Mesdames O'Keefe, O'Shea, and Blackburn, Misses M. O'Sullivan, K. Taylor, and C. Taylor, and Messrs. G. Follas and Andrew Markey. A vote of thanks to the Rev. Father Patterson, for the whole-hearted manner in which he had directed the organisation of this branch, was carried by acclamation.

LAWRENCE.

(From our own correspondent.)

July 20.

At large and enthusiastic meetings of the branches of the Catholic Federation of Roxburgh and Miller's Flat, held on Sunday, strong resolutions were passed against the proposed referendum on the Bible-in-schools question. In both centres Rev. Father O'Connell addressed the meetings and put before the members the reasons why Catholics object (1) to the referendum, and (2) to the League's platform. In Miller's Flat the motion of protest was moved by Mr. D. Mullane and seconded by Mr. J. Hand, while in Roxburgh the resolution was moved and seconded by Mr. H. Waigh, jun., and Mr. H. Brady respectively. In each case the motion was carried with enthusiastic unanimity. These protests were wired to Mr. Scott, Member for the district, and to leaders of the two parties in the House.

WINTON.

(From our own correspondent.)

The annual meeting of the local branch of the Catholic Federation was held on July 5, when a great deal of interest and enthusiasm was shown. The Rev. Father O'Neill, in addressing the congregation, explained the objects of the Federation, and the good work it had already accomplished in various parts of New Zealand, and strongly urged all his parishioners to join. It being inconvenient for himself to act as president, Mr. Timothy Cosgrove was appointed. The election of the committee resulted as follows:—Vice-presidents, Messrs. M. Daley and D. O'Malley; hon. secretary, Mr. H. O'Reilly; hon. treasurer, Mr. M. O'Reilly; committee—Messrs. P. Kerr, A. McDonald; Sacred Heart Society, Messrs. J. Kerr and M. Holland; Children of Mary, Misses M. Dugan and M. Ryan. During the evening a strong resolution of protest against the proposed referendum on the Bible-in-schools question was carried. The meeting closed with a hearty vote of thanks to the outgoing committee.

IRISH HOME RULE

THE KING COMMANDS A CONFERENCE.

London, July 20.

The King has invited the Government, the Opposition, the Nationalists, and the Irish Unionists to a conference at Buckingham Palace to-morrow. Each party will appoint two representatives. Mr. Asquith and Mr. Lloyd George, Lord Lansdowne and Mr. Bonar Law, Mr. J. E. Redmond and Mr. John Dillon, Sir E. Carson and Captain Craig have been selected to represent the several parties at the conference. The invitation was arranged on the Prime Minister's advice, although the suggestion probably originated from his Majesty himself. It explains the delay in the King's departure for Portsmouth, and is the outcome of feverish activity in Ministerial circles for the last few days. Newspapers describe the conference as effecting a complete change in the immediate situation. The Opposition were not consulted beforehand. The Unionist and Ulster leaders instantly responded to the Royal summons, and declared their resolve to do their utmost to make the conference a success. Mr. John Dillon was chosen as Mr. Redmond's companion because he represents more especially the older generation of Home Rulers.

Mr. Redmond said: "My colleagues and myself take no responsibility for calling this convention, and I do not think I am called upon to express an opinion whether the result will be useful or the contrary. The invitation was accepted by us as a Royal command."

LABOR ANTAGONISM.

The Labor Party held a meeting in the House of Commons and carried a resolution protesting against the King summoning a conference. They subsequently requested Mr. Asquith to forward the resolution to the King.

WILL NOT YIELD AN INCH.

Mr. Redmond presided over a meeting of the Nationalist Party in the House of Commons to protest against any further concessions. The meeting gave Messrs. Redmond and Dillon plenary powers at the Peace Conference. The Nationalists are firmly resolved not to yield an acre or a man of Tyrone or Fermanagh.

Mr. Devlin is actively engaged in the organisation of the Nationalist Volunteers.

MR. DEVLIN'S THREAT.

Leading Nationalists at Belfast approve of the leaders' repudiation of responsibility for the conference.

Mr. Devlin intimates that he declared if the Government betrays them it has itself to blame. The most desperate acts of the Fenians will be child's play to what would happen throughout Ireland.

T.P.'s OPINION.

Mr. T. P. O'Connor, M.P., writing in *Reynolds' Newspaper*, says:—"We are in the mood of travellers after a long voyage. The Home Rule ship has arrived in harbor, and will soon be berthed. Restlessness and acute anxiety prevail. We must reject Sir Edward Carson's demand for all Ulster, even at the risk of facing Carson's rifles."

DIocese OF AUCKLAND

(By telegraph, from our own correspondent.)

July 20.

It is expected that one of our Catholic schools in the city will, from the first of August, be a free school, as financial arrangements for that object have been satisfactorily adjusted.

Rev. Father Furlong, of Devonport, and Messrs. B. McLaughlin (president), G. Rose (vice-president), and Frank Temm (hon. secretary) of the Auckland Diocesan Council of the Catholic Federation, have left for Wellington to attend the Dominion conference of the Federation as representatives of Auckland.