

clergymen in New Zealand (Rev. Professor Hewitson, Rev. A. Cameron, ex-Moderator; Rev. Dr. Erwin), and hundreds of other clergymen.

36. These, and all conscientious opponents are habitually described by League leaders and organs as 'atheists,' 'infidels,' 'enemies of the Bible and religion,' 'traitors' to their faith, 'birds that foul their own nests,' 'an indecent survival,' 'a tatterdemalion crew,' etc. For details, see evidence before Education Committee.

37. Overwhelming evidence has been submitted to the Education Committee to the following effect: That the League has seriously misled honest and conscientious electors by statements to the following effect: That this is 'a battle for the Bible'; that the League is THE friend of God and the Bible, and all opposed to the League are enemies of God and the Bible. All signatures obtained by these means were obtained through grave misrepresentation.

38. The misrepresentations referred to above are only a few samples. For fuller details, see the report of the Parliamentary Education Committee.

NEGLECTED OPPORTUNITIES.

39. The League and its leaders have denounced the present secular system as 'anti-British,' 'anti-national,' 'pagan,' 'Godless,' 'a relic of barbarism,' that it 'degrades morals,' and so on.

40. A number of earnest clergy of various faiths have made great personal efforts and sacrifices to bring religion to the schools. Their efforts have been blessed and encouraged by the Presbyterian General Assembly, etc. A Parliamentary return of November 2, 1903, shows that only one in eight of the League clergy took the trouble to bring religion to the children of their faiths in the schools which they now describe as 'Godless,' morally degrading, and so on. Official evidence shows that in New South Wales the clergy utilise only one-tenth of their opportunities.

41. The League clergy are seeking to abdicate, in part, one of the most sacred duties of the Christian ministry, and to force it on the unwilling shoulders of public servants. Will you help them to do so?

LEAGUE THREATS.

42. League pamphlets, League leaders (such as Rev. Dr. Gibb, vice-president), and League organs declare what follows: That they will 'wreck' the 'National system,' and establish an 'anti-national' denominational system—unless Parliament and the country does their bidding. Bishop Julius (a League vice-president) declares, furthermore, that he will demand grants for his denominational schools. For detailed quotations, see evidence laid before Parliamentary Education Committee.

MONEY BETTER SPENT.

43. The League has flung gold by thousands into an effort to force State teachers, under pain of dismissal, to do work which the League clergy and the League Churches should do. A fraction of that expenditure would enable the League to get paid and volunteer teachers to teach religion to League children in public schools from end to end of New Zealand.

44. The following words were spoken in 1904, by Rev. J. Chisholm (Dunedin), one of the ablest and most respected Presbyterian clergymen in New Zealand. His words are equally true to-day. He said: 'I think that if half the amount of energy that has been spent in trying to introduce Bible lessons in schools had been spent in endeavoring to revive family piety, our Church would have been vastly the better by now.'

Lord Edmund Talbot put a question lately in the House of Commons, asking what number of Catholic chaplains were serving with the British Expeditionary Force abroad, and whether it was intended to increase the number. The answer was that at present there are twelve Catholic chaplains with the British Force on the Continent. The War Office did not at present see its way to send any more, but as soon as possible any necessary additions would be made.

Palmerston North

(From our own correspondent.)

The new school fund has been opened with two munificent sums of £50 each from the Rev. Father McManus and Mr. M. O'Connor. It was explained on Sunday that the erection of the new school did not mean a delay in the laying of the foundation stone of the new church, as many people imagined. The present school occupies a portion of the ground on which the new church is to be erected, so that the removal of the old school building is really making way for the edifice which is to be built.

A very severe earthquake was recorded here on Sunday evening last, many chimneys being brought to the ground.

The children of the local parish and Convent-High Schools have been working hard at their cantata, 'The children's queen,' which is to be produced on December 7. The ticket-sellers have met with a splendid response from the parishioners, and a great success is assured. The proceeds are to be devoted to the Belgian relief fund and the new church fund.

Invercargill.

(From our own correspondent.)

The Irish national concert in aid of the Belgian relief fund took place in the Municipal Theatre on Wednesday, November 25. The spacious theatre was literally packed, many patrons having to be contented with standing room, while late comers had to be turned away. The proceedings opened with a lively French air by the Hibernian Band, after which the Very Rev. Dean Burke, V.F., delivered an appropriate speech, which is reported elsewhere in this issue. The Dean's remarks were punctuated with generous applause and cheers, especially when reference was made to the number of Irishmen serving at the front. These remarks were particularly appropriate, in view of some of the news contained in cablegrams from London concerning the Irish and recruiting. All the artists met with a flattering reception, particularly Mr. J. McGrath, from Dunedin, whose items pleased the huge audience immensely. Mr. McGrath, who is an ex-Invercargillite, was in splendid form, and the audience was roused to a great pitch of enthusiasm by his vocal efforts. He sang four songs, and also the solo in the marching song, 'It's a long, long way to Tipperary,' which concluded the concert. One of the most interesting and pleasing features of the programme was the marching and singing of some 60 odd boys from the Marist Brothers' School, under the direction of the Rev. Brother Boniface. The singing of 'A nation once again,' which ended with a magnificent and effective tableau, entitled 'Erin go bragh,' fairly 'brought down the house,' while a maze march, and the song 'I want to be a soldier' (in which a number of tiny 'Belgian soldiers' caused great amusement) were no less effective. The boys were taught the maze march and the drill by Sergeant-Major Laffey, to whom great credit is due, especially when it is considered that he had the boys under him for only a little over a week. The boys did not make a slip in the maze march, and the applause was so sustained that an encore was imperative—a flattering tribute to the boys, but more particularly to their instructor. The other performers were Misses Officer, Ward, Davey, and Smail, and Messrs. Robson, Moore, Wills, and a group of convent girls, all of whom rendered excellent items and had to submit to encores in nearly every instance. The accompaniments were creditably played by Miss Collins, A.T.C.L., and Mrs. Cahill. Before the concert, and at intervals, a bevy of girls sold home-made sweets, the proceeds from which amounted to nearly £30. The stage-management was in the experienced hands of Mr. R. Wills, and the secretarial work was capably performed by Mr. A. Keaney. The ladies' committee, under Mrs. Dr. Snow, Mrs. Timpany, and Miss Kane, and the general committee are to be congratulated on the great success of the function, which will increase the Belgian fund by considerably over £100.