

the Very Rev. Dean Tubman to present Miss Guiney, on behalf of the delegates, with a handsome silver-backed hand-mirror, as a memento of the occasion, and in appreciation of the able manner in which she had represented her branch, being the only lady delegate present. The meeting was terminated shortly before noon.

### DUNEDIN DIOCESAN COUNCIL

The half-yearly meeting of the Dunedin Diocesan Council was held on Friday evening at the Bishop's House, Very Rev. Father Coffey (president) being in the chair, and the following delegates were present:— Very Rev. Mgr. O'Leary (Lawrence), Very Rev. Dean Burke, V.F. (Invercargill), Very Rev. Father Hunt (Cromwell), Rev. Father O'Dea (Ophir), Rev. Father Lynch (Palmerston), Rev. Father P. O'Neill (Riversdale), Mr. Poppelwell (Gore), Mr. J. B. Callan, jun. (Dunedin), Messrs. J. J. Marlow and Miscall (South Dunedin), Mr. T. J. Hussey (treasurer, proxy for Oamaru), and Mr. J. A. Hally (secretary). Apologies were received from several delegates, including one from Mr. Kelleher (vice-president), who sent a telegraphic message regretting his unavoidable absence.

After the minutes of the previous meeting had been read and confirmed, the secretary read the report for the half-year, which stated that it covered the slack period of the year, as far as the roll of membership was concerned. Thirteen branches had forwarded complete returns with remittances, three had made partial settlements, and three others, although urgently requested to do so, had made no move. The executive regretted very much the resignations of branch secretaries, Messrs. A. Quelch (Mosgiel) and F. J. Pender (Alexandra South). The latter had joined the Expeditionary Force, now serving in Egypt. The executive are satisfied he will do his duty, and wish him every success and a safe return. In noting the measure of success achieved by the Federation in the Bible-in-Schools Referendum campaign, the executive feel that this occasion should not be allowed to pass without recording their heartfelt gratitude to the Right Rev. Dr. Cleary for the magnificent work he had performed on behalf of the Catholic people in that lengthy and strenuous struggle. The exposing of anti-Catholic slanderers and the promotion of Catholic interests are still receiving attention from our ably-conducted Catholic paper, the *N.Z. Tablet*, and your executive warmly commend all Federationists to assist that journal in every possible way, bearing in mind the words of the late Pope, Pius X.: "In vain you will build churches, give missions, found schools—all your works, all your efforts will be destroyed if you are not able to wield the defensive and offensive weapon of a loyal and sincere Catholic press." The Dominion Executive urged this Council (but gave too short notice) to take action with regard to Catholics attending the annual meetings of school committees. The matter is now placed before you, so that if anything is to be done this year, there will be ample time for preparation. The question of orphan and indigent children was brought under the notice of your executive by the Dominion secretary, and referred to all the branches. In Dunedin the question is dealt with successfully by the Sisters of Mercy and the ladies of the St. Vincent de Paul Society, but as our responsibilities cannot be placed on other shoulders, it is hoped that something will be done in this matter during the current year. Your executive desire to record their sincere thanks to the members of branch committees for their work during the past year, and especially the officers and secretaries, and trust their efforts to spread our useful organisation throughout the diocese will be continued until every Catholic will be enrolled.

Very Rev. Father Coffey, in proposing the adoption of the report, expressed regret that there was not a better attendance of delegates. The principal matter in connection with the work of the Federation during the period under review was the part which they took in the Bible-in-schools campaign, which had been fought

most successfully. With regard to Catholic orphan children, the position in Dunedin was that the girls, when committed, were sent to the St. Vincent de Paul Orphanage, and Catholic boys were handed over to the legal manager of the St. Vincent de Paul Industrial School, who has undertaken to board them out in Catholic homes. The assistance of the Federation, in providing good homes, would be welcomed.

Mr. Poppelwell (vice-president), in seconding the motion for the adoption of the report, said that information should be sent to the secretaries of the various branches as to when the financial year begins, and when reports should be sent in. There was evidently some misunderstanding with regard to remittances and returns. Most of the branches were not founded until the end of 1913, and accordingly contributions for that year should be credited to 1914.

Very Rev. Mgr. O'Leary said that if they wanted the Federation to succeed they must put more vim into it. He hoped the organisation would progress and continue to do good work.

Very Rev. Dean Burke said there was no reason to be pessimistic about the progress of the Federation. The people in the local districts were doing their work well, and, as there was no burning question to be dealt with at the council, they did not feel called upon to attend the meeting. They felt they could very well leave the work in the hands of the Dunedin executive.

Mr. Poppelwell pointed out that by the parish committees sending delegates to the Diocesan Council, and the councils in turn sending representatives to the Dominion Council, the Catholics of New Zealand were kept in touch with one another.

The motion for the adoption of the report was agreed to.

Mr. T. J. Hussey (treasurer) presented the balance sheet for the half-year, which was also adopted.

A discussion then took place as to the necessity of a half-yearly meeting, some being of opinion that if the half-yearly meeting was done away with, a meeting of the council could be called at any time that questions of importance were to be dealt with. Eventually, it was decided, on the motion of Mr. J. B. Callan, jun., that the delegates to the meeting of the Dominion Council move in the direction indicated.

The secretary read correspondence which he had received from the Dominion secretary, who forwarded copies of the following notices of motion which were to come up for discussion at the meeting of the Dominion Council:— 1. That Rule 4 be amended by altering the due date subscription to "1st July" and making such subscription cover the period until the 30th day of June in each year. 2. That Rule 8 be amended by adding to paragraph (a) the following words: "And five other members resident in Wellington to be elected by such council at its annual meeting." 3. That Rule 9 be amended by repealing all the words in paragraph (a) and substituting the following in lieu thereof: "The president and the archbishops and bishops of the Dominion, and the Dominion Council representatives of the Wellington Diocesan Council, and the members of the Dominion Council resident in Wellington shall be an executive body to be called the Dominion Executive. In the absence of the president, the Dominion Executive shall elect one of its members to be its chairman. The secretary and treasurer of the Dominion Council shall be secretary and treasurer of the Dominion Executive."

On the motion of Mr. Poppelwell, it was decided to instruct the delegates to the meeting of the Dominion Council to support the foregoing remits.

Mr. Hally handed in his resignation as hon. secretary of the council. He found, he said, that the work required more of his time than he could possibly devote to it.

Very Rev. Father Coffey and Messrs. Hussey and Poppelwell expressed their regret at Mr. Hally's resignation, and paid a well-deserved tribute to the zealous and able manner in which he had carried out his duties during the time he filled the office. At the earnest request of the council Mr. Hally consented to retain the