

the Bible-in-schools propaganda had 'won its way' into the confidence of the country; and so much, also, by way of warning to New Zealand politicians who are inclined to dally with the League's dangerous and unjust proposal. The statement that wherever the League's system was adopted the Catholic question immediately received its quietus has proved equally wide of the mark. A strong Labor Government, with the Hon. T. J. Ryan at its head, has been formed; and one of its first acts, according to our contemporary, the *Brisbane Catholic Advocate*, has been to announce its intention at an early date of authorising a referendum on the question of State aid to denominational schools.

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It is much to be regretted that the referendum should ever have been adopted in Queensland as a means of settling this question, for it is obviously and unmistakably an unsatisfactory method of dealing with a matter in which serious issues of religion and conscience are involved. Catholic claims in regard to educational recognition are just, no matter what a count of heads may say; and the Bible in Schools League's proposals, in which the rights of Catholics are violated or ignored, are so far wrong and unjust, no matter how many electors may record their votes in favor of them. Possibly the idea of the new Government in falling back upon the referendum method may be to work out a sort of poetic justice, in which the somewhat noisy and clamorous League may be hoist with its own petard. However pleasant a denouement that might be, we cannot but hope that the Government will choose rather the obviously better way: take its stand upon sound principle; and frankly declare that, as the consciences of the non-Catholic elements of the community have been met by the adoption of the Bible-in-Schools League's scheme, the consciences of the Catholic taxpayers, as a matter of simple justice, must also be met in a manner consistent with their principles. That affords the only sure and lasting solution of the difficulty; and the Government is strong enough to be able, without hesitation, to give effect to it. In this way all parties will be given the kind and measure of religious instruction which they desire; a truly national system of education will be established; and the Queensland Government will have an achievement to its credit of which it will have every reason to be proud. The Queensland situation is an extremely interesting one; and the outcome will be keenly watched by the friends of religious education throughout the length and breadth of Australasia.

Notes

Registration of Catholic Schools

We direct attention to the reference which we have elsewhere made to some important provisions of the new Education Act bearing on the registration of Catholic schools. We will be glad to answer any inquiries, and to explain matters further to any of those interested who may still be not quite clear as to the position.

A Gentle Hint

We are sorry to note that one of our esteemed Australian contemporaries is developing a mild form of kleptomania. With ever increasing frequency, and half unconsciously no doubt, it 'lifts' whole articles, editorial or contributed, bodily from the columns of the *N.Z. Tablet*, without the faintest hint or whisper of acknowledgment. We are glad, of course, that *Tablet* matter should be deemed of sufficient interest to merit reproduction, and we are far from being scrupulously particular about a formal acknowledgment for every little scrap or paragraph that may be made use of. But when lengthy editorials, or articles which have been headlined as special to the *N.Z. Tablet*, are transferred, we feel called upon to suggest, in the friendliest possible way, that it would be an act of bare justice to give some indication of the source from which they are taken. We are quite sure that this gentle hint

will be sufficient, and that our contemporary will make a successful effort to overcome its little infirmity.

The Lusitania: Some Irish Victims

The Irish *National Volunteer*, after referring to the great loss sustained by the death of Father Maturin, who, as it states, was a Dublin man, proceeds to give particulars of other notable Irish victims of the Lusitania tragedy. 'Another Irish victim was Sir Hugh Lane, whose priceless services to art had enriched the Irish Capital, and whose death robs our country of a man of rare genius who has no successor. A third victim was William O'Brien Butler, a musical composer whose achievements were marked by exceptional brilliancy, and gave promise of still more fruitful results. To Ireland his splendid talents were entirely devoted. He was an Irish-Irelander in the best sense of the term.'

Flanders

The reflections which might naturally be expected to occur to those who, through the patriotism and sacrifice of others, are able to sit at home in safety and comfort are effectively crystallised in the following lines in a London paper:—

Under the lee of the little wood
I'm sitting in the sun;
What will be done in Flanders
Before the day be done?

Under my feet the springing blades
Are green as green can be;
It's the bloody clay of Flanders
That keeps them green for me.

Above, beyond the larches
The sky is very blue:
It's the smoke of hell in Flanders
That leaves the sun for you."

By nests in the blossoming elm-tree
The wise rooks rock on bough,
What blasts of hell, in Flanders,
Have the bare branches, now?"

DIocese OF DUNEDIN

There was Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament at St. Patrick's Basilica, South Dunedin, on Sunday from the last Mass until after Vespers, when the usual procession was followed by Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament.

The members of the Christian Brothers' Choir offered a general Holy Communion on Sunday last for the repose of the soul of Sergeant-Major T. Laffey, who was killed in action at the Dardanelles. The Holy Sacrifice was offered for the same purpose during the week.

A progressive euchre tournament in aid of the church site funds was held in St. Mary's Hall, Mornington, on Friday evening, when a very pleasant time was spent. The winner of the lady's prize was Miss Dougherty, and the gentleman's, Mr. McKenzie. The committee desire to thank all who contributed to the very enjoyable programme.

A large number of friends of Lieutenant P. Spiers assembled at the residence of Mr. Salmon, Cumberland street, on Thursday evening last, to bid him farewell on the eve of his departure for the training camp, prior to proceeding to the front. Among those present were the Rev. Fathers Buckley and Corcoran. The former, in an appropriate speech, congratulated Lieutenant Spiers on having volunteered, and, on behalf of his friends, presented him with a dressing-case and money-belt, at the same time wishing him a safe return to his home. Lieutenant Spiers in reply said that his aim would be to do his duty and uphold the honor of the Christian Brothers' School and those he represented. A very pleasant evening was concluded with cheers for Lieutenant Spiers, and the singing of the National Anthem.