

further announcement that these plotters 'have valuable allies and sympathizers in the upper ranks of the old army,' and still worse, that they 'have been closely in touch with British head-quarters in France' for the last year. Other papers, discussing the same subject, say plump and plain that the Northcliffe scheme was nothing less than to hoist Sir Edward Carson into the British Premiership. This aspect of the conspiracy is more than hinted at in an editorial in the *Morning Post*, from which we quote a portion. 'The Coalition,' this paper says, 'has failed because it was formed, not on national but on party lines. The men were chosen, not for their qualities but on the basis of proportional representation—so many men for one party, so many for another. The whole thing is rotten, and the best men in the country should unite to make an end of it. This might be done by the creation of a national Government selected, not on claims of party, but on grounds of efficiency. . . . The party claim must be swept away. Mr. Lloyd George, for example, seems to be as much in earnest as Sir Edward Carson. If they are both patriots and both with the same clear, overmastering end in view, then they would both work together, irrespective of the past. These two men and Lord Kitchener might find others to work with them of the same mettle, and might be able to form a small, efficient Cabinet for the purpose of fighting Germany and not for the purpose of keeping two effete political parties in a state of suspended animation. What is most urgently required is that those who think with Sir Edward Carson range themselves upon his side and organise themselves into a possible alternative Government, strong enough in men and interests to take over the heavy responsibilities which are being shirked by the present holders of office.' Some of the 'heavy responsibilities' which this precious junta were prepared to take over are plainly indicated by the London special correspondent of the *New York World*. Referring to the work mapped out by the leaders of the new combination in English politics, he says: 'The scheme is to form a Unionist Ministry under Lloyd George, to carry on the war and when the war is over to destroy the Home Rule Act. This latter purpose is understood to be the particular condition on which Carson would take office again.' So far the conspiracy has completely failed, and the only effect of Sir Edward Carson's unworthy and unpatriotic action has been to demonstrate that the Cabinet and country can get along very comfortably without his services.

Diocesan News

ARCHDIOCESE OF WELLINGTON

(From our own correspondent.)

December 18.

The Marist Brothers, of Tasman street, will go to Auckland for their annual retreat.

Mr. William Kane, district secretary of the Hibernian Society, is at present in Wellington on a business visit.

Good progress is being made with the preparations for the Very Rev. Father O'Connell's parish festival, which commences on January 22.

Mr. Ivan Campion, a St. Patrick's College student, left during the week for England, where he intends to join the aviation school.

The Sacrament of Confirmation was administered by his Grace Archbishop O'Shea at St. Mary of the Angels', Boulcott street, last Sunday to over 100 candidates.

A handsome stained glass window to the memory of the late Mr. John Gallagher, who died on December 16, 1914, was unveiled in St. Joseph's Church, Buckle street, on the 16th inst. The window, which represents the Apostle St. Peter, is richly colored.

The Marist Brothers, of Thorndon, left by the south boat on Wednesday night for their annual retreat, which is to take place at Christchurch.

Mr. Paul F. Stratford, a member of St. Patrick's branch of the H.A.C.B. Society, and who went into camp recently, has been promoted to the rank of sergeant.

The quarterly meeting of the St. Vincent de Paul Society was held at St. Anne's Hall on last Sunday. There was a large attendance of members, and much valuable business was transacted.

Mr. J. J. Sullivan, of Auckland, who unsuccessfully contested the Parnell seat at the last general election, was in Wellington during the week, and visited his old confreres at the Wellington Catholic Club.

The Boxing Day Committee met again on Tuesday evening under the presidency of Mr. J. J. L. Burke, when final arrangements were made for the picnic which is to be held at Karori Park in aid of the Catholic education fund.

DIocese OF CHRISTCHURCH

(From our own correspondent.)

December 20.

The annual retreat for the secular clergy is to be preached by the Rev. Father Barry, C.S.S.R.

It has been decided to make an addition of two classrooms to the Addington Catholic School building to cope with the increasing attendance which now numbers 150 children.

The Marist Brothers of the South Island entered on their annual retreat in Christchurch on last Friday. The retreat is being conducted by the Rev. Father O'Sullivan, C.S.S.R., and is to terminate on Christmas Eve.

On Sunday evening at Vespers, the Rev. Father O'Sullivan, C.S.S.R., gave an impressive and instructive discourse on the approaching Feast of the Nativity of our Lord, and the means that should be taken for its proper observance.

The Sisters of the Missions enter on their annual retreat at the Convent of the Sacred Heart, Lower High Street, on the evening of Boxing Day. The retreat is to be conducted by the Rev. Father McCarthy, Marist Missioner.

After a two years' sojourn in Europe and America, making a close study in her profession, Mrs. Arthur Mead returned to her home in Christchurch last week. Before leaving New York Mrs. Mead gave a recital, and scored a conspicuous success.

Masses will be celebrated on Christmas Day in the Cathedral at 6, 7, 8, 9.30, and Solemn High Mass at 11 o'clock. Masses will also be celebrated in the suburban churches as follow—Addington, 8 and 8.30 o'clock; Halswell, 10 o'clock; Woolston, 8 o'clock; and Sumner, 9 o'clock.

At the River Bank Carnival, held on Anniversary Day, the primary schools' mile championship was won by L. Neilson (Marist Brothers), with G. Getson (Marist Brothers) third. C. Batchelor came first in both novelty races, and P. Gregory was second in the 220 yards championship.

The Catholic branch of the Red Cross Society have been generously given by Messrs. A. J. White, Ltd., the use of suitable apartments in Wiltshire Buildings for work and meeting rooms. The ladies meet there on Tuesday afternoon next for sewing work, and henceforward it will form their permanent location.

The Sacred Heart College and all the Cathedral parochial schools, conducted by the Sisters of the Missions, had their annual entertainments last week, prior to the Christmas vacation. In each instance the proceeds, including the amount usually expended in prizes, were donated to patriotic funds. The Marist Brothers' School also held its annual entertainment, and reports of each will be given later.