

Mgr. Gillan to the clubrooms, and thanked him for the great interest he had always displayed in the welfare of the club. He also extended a very hearty welcome to Rev. Father Carran, of Ponsonby, and explained that at the conclusion of the ordinary business a little social entertainment in honor of the visit of Father Carran and the accession to office of the new chaplain would take place. Monsignor Gillan then introduced the Rev. Father G. Kelly, as chaplain to the club, and expressed the hope that under his guidance the club would continue to prosper. Father Kelly briefly replied, thanking Monsignor Gillan for the confidence placed in him, and for the cordial welcome extended to him by the members. At the conclusion of the general business, refreshments were partaken of. A short musical programme was rendered, and was interspersed with the usual toasts. Rev. Father Carran briefly addressed the members of the club, and thanked them for the hearty welcome tendered him. He assured them that he had always taken a great interest in the welfare of the club, and wished it every success.

IMPRESSIONS OF VICTORIA AND NEW SOUTH WALES

(From our Wellington correspondent.)

Your representative interviewed Mr. John Duggan, member of the Dominion Council of the Catholic Federation, who returned by the Ulimaroa on January 17 from a visit to Victoria and New South Wales. Whilst in these States he came in contact with many Catholic personages, and had the pleasure of visiting many Catholic institutions. During his stay in Melbourne, Mr. Duggan was present at the meeting of the State Council of the Victorian Catholic Federation, whose president (Mr. F. E. O'Connell) extended him a cordial welcome, and invited him to address the council with reference to the progress of the Federation in New Zealand. Mr. Duggan had also the honor of being received by his Grace Archbishop Carr and his Grace Archbishop Mannix. He also met a fellow-New Zealander, who is shedding lustre upon his native land, in the person of Rev. Father W. J. Lockington, S.J., parish priest of Richmond, where the corporate life of the Catholic community is developed to a remarkable degree. The parishioners, amongst other things, own a picture show, the profits of which are devoted to the upkeep of the schools. Mr. Duggan, in company of Mr. Kerin, of the staff of the *Austral Light*, visited Abbotsford Convent, conducted by the Sisters of the Good Shepherd, which is almost a township in itself, containing a population of over 800 persons—a monument of the care of the Church for the social needs of the nation. Through the good offices of Mr. T. Burke, late president of the A.N.A., Mr. Duggan had the pleasure of meeting the Hon. Messrs. Tudor, Mahon, King O'Malley, and Tate, members of the Federal Ministry.

Whilst in Sydney, Mr. Duggan had the honor of being received by his Excellency Archbishop Cerretti, Apostolic Delegate. He addressed both the State Council and the State Executive of the Catholic Federation of New South Wales. The special campaign for the securing of 70,000 members commenced at the beginning of the New Year, and Mr. Duggan had the honor of being associated with Mr. P. S. Cleary (president of the N.S.W. Federation), at a splendid general meeting held in the Franciscan Church at Woollahra, the community of which includes Rev. Father J. Bartley, formerly resident in New Zealand. Mr. Duggan had also the pleasure of renewing acquaintance with his old teacher, Brother Borgia, who is at present director of St. Joseph's College. In the company of Mr. John Hughes, LL.B. (president of the Old Boys' Union), a visit was paid to St. Ignatius' College, Riverview, presided over by Very Rev. T. Gartlan, S.J.

Mr. Duggan was introduced to the Catholic Club, whose energetic president is Mr. Mynahan, M.L.A.

The Lord Mayor of Sydney (Mr. R. D. Meagher) evinced much interest in Catholic affairs in New Zealand. The Westmead Home for boys, which was visited, showed the great hold that the St. Vincent de Paul Society has upon the sympathies of the Catholic body. A visit to Sydney would not be complete without a call at the historic Church of St. Patrick, in the care of the Marist Fathers, who are noted in Sydney for their zeal and earnestness. Mr. Duggan bore tribute to the excellent work being done by such representative Catholic newspapers as the *Advocate* and the *Tribune* (Melbourne), and the *Freeman's Journal* and the *Catholic Press* (Sydney). The Catholic Federation was in full vigor throughout the States. Already the Victorian Federation had started a fighting campaign for educational rights. A splendid recruiting effort had resulted in a total of over 70,000 members, which achievement had heartened both the hierarchy and the laity for the long and stern fight that lay ahead. A fact borne in upon a visitor to the several States is that the social and political conditions of each beget the particular line of action adopted by the Church in the advocacy of her claims. In New South Wales the Federation is proceeding along non-political lines, and has achieved great successes. This Federation is now busy striving to emulate Victoria in raising the total membership to over 70,000, with every prospect of success.

In conclusion, Mr. Duggan spoke enthusiastically of the great kindness that he had received everywhere, especially from Messrs. T. O'Brien and C. Lawlor, the general secretaries respectively of the Federations of Victoria and New South Wales. Through them he had been enabled to glean many facts and ideas that might prove useful to our own Federation. The work of the Federation in New Zealand was closely observed by the sister organisations in Victoria and New South Wales, and the success of the recent campaign against objectionable cinematograph films came in for favorable comment. The establishment of hostels for Catholic women was the subject of inquiry by the Catholic Women's Association, and arrangements are being completed for the establishment of a similar institution in Sydney.

THE BREHON LAW

In ancient Ireland (says *Notes and Queries*) judges were called Brehons; and the law they administered is now commonly known as the Brehon Law. The Brehons had collections of laws in volumes or tracts, all in the Irish language, by which they regulated their judgments. Many of these have been preserved, and of late years some of the principal ones have been published with translations. The most important are the 'Senchus Mor,' chiefly on Irish civil law (published in 3 vols. by the Brehon Law Commissioners, Dublin, 1865-73), and the *Book of Acaill*, on the criminal law and the law relating to personal injuries.

The Brehon code forms a great body of old Irish civil, military, and criminal law; it regulated the various ranks of society from the monarch down to the slave, and defined their several rights. Minute rules are given for the management of property; for the several industries—building, brewing, mills, watercourses, fishing weirs, bees, and honey; for seizure of goods for tithes; trespass and evidence; the relations of landlord and tenant; the fees of professional men—doctors, judges, teachers, builders, artificers; the mutual duties of father and son, of foster parents and foster children, of master and servant; and the law of contracts. In criminal law the various offences are set out—murder, manslaughter, wounding, theft, and every variety of wilful damage; and accidental injuries from flails, sledge-hammers, and all sorts of weapons. Injuries between man and man were atoned for by a compensation payment; homicide, whether by intent or by misadventure, was atoned for by a money fine, or 'eric,' adjudged by