

CATHOLIC FEDERATION

MEETING OF DOMINION COUNCIL.

OFFICIAL REPORT.

The sixth half-yearly meeting of the Dominion Council of the N.Z. Catholic Federation took place at St. Patrick's Hall, Boulcott street, Wellington, on Wednesday, March 1. The president (Mr. D. L. Poppelwell, of Gore) occupied the chair, and the following delegates were present:—Auckland—Rev. Father Forde, Messrs. P. E. Dromgool and D. P. Cahill; Wellington—Messrs. W. F. Johnson and J. Duggan; Christchurch—Very Rev. Dean Hyland and Rev. Father Kerley, S.M.; Dunedin—Very Rev. Father Coffey and Mr. D. L. Poppelwell; Dominion Executive—Mr. J. J. L. Burke and Mr. P. D. Hoskins; Rev. Father Hurley, S.M. (hon. treasurer), Mr. G. Girling-Butcher (secretary and organiser). Apologies for non-attendance were received from the following: Very Rev. Dean Power (Wellington), Mr. T. J. Hussey (Dunedin), and Mr. J. R. Hayward (Christchurch).

His Grace Archbishop O'Shea was present to represent the hierarchy, and letters of regret at their inability to attend were read from his Excellency Archbishop Cerretti, Apostolic Delegate to Australasia, and his Grace Archbishop Redwood.

The president, in welcoming his Grace Archbishop O'Shea, and the delegates, said that the most important event of the past six months had been the visit of his Excellency the Most Rev. Archbishop Cerretti, Apostolic Delegate, to our shores. Opportunity had been taken of this visit of the representative of the Holy See to express to his Holiness the Pope, through the Delegate, the unswerving loyalty of the members of the Catholic Federation. The members of the Federation had everywhere been prominent in connection with the functions connected with the visit of his Excellency, and had given evidence of the spirit of Catholic citizenship developed by the Federation. Mr. Poppelwell referred to the appointment and consecration of the Right Rev. Dr. Brodie to the See of Christchurch. His Lordship had been a delegate to the last meeting of the council, and members present on that occasion had had an opportunity of judging what an excellent choice had been made for that important position. On behalf of the council he desired to offer hearty congratulations to his Lordship. The excellent results of the film censorship conference would be at once recognised, and the initial action of the Federation, coupled with the activity of educational and local bodies, would, it was confidently hoped, result in the passing of legislation under which all films shown would be subjected to the censorship in New Zealand of a competent board. The speaker referred to the happy position of the Trentham Camp church-hall, which was to be the subject of a remit at the present meeting. He explained the attitude taken up by the executive in reference to the proposed erection of a church-hall at Featherston Camp. The Federation recognised that the spiritual care of soldiers was a matter of vital concern, and was prepared to assist in every way possible.

With reference to the recommendations recently adopted by the Council of Education, it appeared to him that the intention of the Legislature in setting up this body was that their function should be of a purely advisory nature. This council had, however, advised on matters outside their jurisdiction, and concerned themselves with matters of policy. Replying to the deputation of the hierarchy and Federation, the Minister had given some satisfactory assurances of his intentions with regard to Catholic schools, as set out in the executive's report. It was, however, generally considered—and he endorsed this very strongly—that in view of the number of educational establishments—Catholic and other—which might be termed 'private' schools, that the Government should appoint to the Education Council at least one member whose duty it

would be to care for the interests of those attending schools other than those under the control of the Education Department.

Speaking of the disastrous war now in progress, Mr. Poppelwell said that the position taken up by the Catholic young men of the Dominion was a credit to them. The numbers of those who had enlisted were far in excess of the proportion of Catholics to the population, and very many had been killed in defence of the rights of the Empire.

His Grace Archbishop O'Shea, in the course of a brief address, welcomed the delegates, and congratulated them upon the good attendance, despite the number of meetings and functions at which they had been recently engaged. He congratulated the Dominion Executive on the very excellent work which they had accomplished during the past six months. Since he had last the pleasure of addressing the Dominion Council he had paid a visit to the United States of America. By invitation he had been present at a very large gathering of the American Federation held in Ohio, at which there were no less than 25 prelates in attendance, together with an enormous body of the laity. The proceedings were full of enthusiasm, and the devotion to the faith exhibited by this very large concourse of people was most edifying. Although the Federation in New Zealand had been established comparatively only a short time, there was little or nothing in the methods of the American Federation from which the New Zealand body could learn. The Catholics of New Zealand had reason to be proud of the zealous and efficient efforts of the controlling bodies of the Federation for the advancement of the interests of Catholicity. He endorsed the president's remarks as to the necessity of representation in the interests of private schools upon the Council of Education. His Grace explained that the ecclesiastical authorities had taken action in connection with the erection of the Featherston Camp church-hall, and in conclusion expressed his confident hope that the membership of the Federation throughout the Dominion would continue to increase, and that their efforts towards obtaining justice for the Catholic people would be more and more successful.

His Grace's remarks were received with applause, and on the motion of the president, seconded by Very Rev. Father Coffey, a hearty vote of thanks was accorded him.

On the motion of the Rev. Father Hurley, seconded by Mr. Dromgool, the minutes of the annual meeting, held on August 25, 1915, as printed, were confirmed.

REPORTS ON DIOCESAN WORK.

Auckland.—Mr. Dromgool reported on the work of the Auckland Diocesan Executive. Twelve meetings had been held, each of which had been marked by a full attendance of members. The returns from parish committees had not been in all cases satisfactory, but the executive hoped for an improvement in this regard. A progressive policy had been carried out so far as possible, and the resolutions of the council dealt with as directed. A considerable amount of work had been done in connection with the establishment of the Catholic Women's Hostel, and a committee, representative of the leading Catholics, having the matter under consideration, it is felt that the hostel will be an established fact in the very near future. Much time had been given to organisation, weekly visitations having been made and addresses given in the city, suburbs, and country districts—in all 21 branches have received attention. Much credit is due to Mr. F. G. J. Temm, who visited many of the country branches while on his annual leave, and as a result of his self-sacrificing efforts many branches were revised and others resuscitated. Considerable attention has been paid to the requirements of the military camps, more particularly at Avondale. From this diocese two chaplains have gone to the front, namely Rev. Father Brennan of Taumararui, and Rev. Father Doyle, of Remuera. The response from branches to the request for the names of Catholic soldiers has not been up to expecta-