

help and co-operation rendered in this connection by all who have been approached in the matter, and in an especial manner desires to express its appreciation of the encouragement shown in this work by his Lordship Bishop Cleary. To the Right Rev. Dr. Brodie and Right Rev. Mgr. Gillan an especial word of thanks is due, for it is owing to their unflinching loyalty to the cause such good results have accrued.

During the recess much time has been given by your executive to organisation, and for the past four months, weekly visits have been made to the various branches in the city, suburbs, and country, and addresses delivered on Federation matters. In addition to this, advantage was taken of the annual holiday of the late diocesan secretary (Mr. F. G. J. Temm) to send this very capable officer through the country on an organising tour, and as a result of his self-sacrificing efforts, many branches were revived and others resuscitated. The following parishes have received official visits:—St. Patrick's, Grey Lynn, Ponsonby, Devonport, Onehunga, Ellerslie, Parnell, Pukekohe, Tuakau, Thames, Paeroa, Karangahake, Waihi, Hamilton, Cambridge, Te Awamutu, Matamata, Rotorua, Taumarunui, Te Kuiti, and Huntly—21 branches in all.

Your executive has had to face, from time to time, appeals made in regard to military matters, but regret that a lack of the sinews of war prevents much being accomplished. Donations, however, were made towards the debt on the Trentham building for Catholic soldiers, and comforts were provided for the Tunnelling Corps in camp at Avondale. A special appeal has been sent to branches to forward donations whereby a fund would be available to meet the many requests made, but the result has not been very encouraging. The lack of finance has prevented your executive discharging its obligation with regard to the levy of £40, made on the diocese towards the erection of the Catholic institute at Trentham. There is still a sum of £10 owing. Of the £30 paid to that fund, the various branches have contributed the sum of only £9, the balance being met from the general funds of the council. It is to be regretted that Auckland is the only diocese in the Dominion that has not fulfilled its promise to pay its share in the cost of the erection of this building. The diocese has, in the past six months, provided two chaplains to the Expeditionary Forces, in the persons of the Rev. Father Brennan, of Taumarunui, and Rev. Father Doyle, of Remuera. Your executive desires to place on record its deep appreciation of the keen interest taken in the Federation by them. The response to the appeal made to each branch for the names of the Catholic soldiers from various parishes in this diocese has been exceedingly disappointing, many branches having apparently entirely overlooked the request. It is due to our Catholic men now serving, and still more to those who have given their lives for their country, that their names should be held in honored remembrance. We trust, therefore, that parish committees will spare no effort to have this roll completed as soon as possible.

The present position of the Catholics of New Zealand with reference to educational matters is such as to cause grave concern. By the Education Act of 1914, students at the primary schools securing scholarships were allowed to avail themselves of approved secondary schools, other than those of the State, to pursue their studies, and it was felt that, at last, some small modicum of justice had been secured. But the concession given with one hand was taken away with the other, for, at the end of that year, instructions were issued that the 'leaving certificate' hitherto granted to scholars at our secondary schools, which enabled them to proceed to the University colleges at little or no expense, had been withheld, and no reason was given for this further disability inflicted upon the Catholic scholars of this Dominion.

Your executive has had under consideration the question of an official visitor to look after the interests

of Catholic children in maintenance or juvenile cases coming before our courts where Catholic parents or Catholic children are concerned, but on learning that his Lordship the Bishop had under consideration the appointment of a chaplain to the various Catholic institutions in this city, and that such work would come within the duties of the chaplain appointed for this purpose, it was decided that no further action was necessary. Your executive has on several occasions been called upon to deal with pictures of an immoral nature, or giving a false impression of the doctrines and practices of our holy religion, which were being exhibited to the public, and it is pleasing to be able to report that in every instance the executive's requests to have such pictures removed have been promptly complied with.

In conclusion, your executive desires to express to the clergy and to the parish committees throughout the diocese, its thanks for their work on behalf of the Federation during the past half-year, and it hopes that with their valuable assistance and support, the progress of the Federation in this diocese will be as marked during the next half-year as it has been in the portion under view.

The hon. secretary of the Catholic Immigration Committee reported in part as follows:—

The work of this society has been progressing steadily since its institution in 1914. As a matter of course, there has been a decrease in the number of immigrants arriving, owing to the war. Despite the war, however, a fair proportion of men and girls have arrived in Auckland from England and Ireland during the year, and they have been met at the boats or trains, and respectable homes found for them while awaiting situations. In all these cases suitable employment has been obtained for them, either directly or indirectly, by members of the society. Girls and women are also continually arriving from the country and various parts of the Dominion, often with letters from their respective parish priests to our worthy president, Monsignor Gillan, requesting the society to find Catholic homes, and suitable situations, for these girls. Very often the members have to receive and entertain them in their homes while awaiting results of inquiries, otherwise these lonely strangers in a strange land—speaking now of the immigrants as well—would find themselves temporarily stranded in the streets, or, as has been the case, over and over again, compelled to seek accommodation in Protestant hostels, or very much worse, directed, or rather misdirected to houses of undesirable notoriety. The secretary here cites a couple of cases to show how necessary such an institution is in a large city like Auckland, and then goes on to say:—There are quite a number of Catholic girls in Auckland at the present moment in Protestant hostels, who are anxiously awaiting the establishment of a good Catholic home.

The hon. secretary of the Catholic Women's Hostel Committee reported in part as follows:—

The need of a hostel for our Catholic women and girls has been created by the exigencies of the times; but never was it so vividly realised as when the Catholic Immigration Committee commenced its work some few years ago under the aegis of the Catholic Federation. This committee, which is composed entirely of ladies, with the Right Rev. Mgr. Gillan, V.G., as president, confines its attention to the care of Catholic women and girls on arrival at the port of Auckland from the Homelands. To such a friendly hand is ever extended, and, wherever possible, they are found accommodation in Catholic homes and boarding-houses. In the performance of this important function the committee has been considerably handicapped by having to depend upon the uncertain goodwill of boarding-house proprietors; and occasionally it has been unable to secure accommodation for some persons almost destitute, and without the prospect of early employment. The Immigration Committee approached the executive of

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