

the diocesan council, who, after giving serious consideration to the representations made to it, decided to place the proposal for a hostel before the people for final determination. Accordingly, a meeting of Catholics of the city and suburbs was duly held whereat the proposal was fully discussed and endorsed by an overwhelming majority. At the next meeting a provisional committee was elected, consisting of two representatives from each city and suburban parish, and a similar number of representatives from each parish society. As an essential initial step the finance committee authorised the circulation of an appeal throughout the diocese for voluntary contributions towards the hostel fund. The response to this appeal, while not generous, must, in the circumstances, be considered fairly satisfactory. The total amount received and banked to date is £60, and unredeemed promises total £57. We are still considerably below the minimum at which it would be wise to start the hostel. Some branches, in failing to estimate the widespread and beneficial results likely to accrue from the hostel, may at first repudiate all responsibility and obligations in connection therewith; but, once they are convinced of the necessity, will no longer hesitate to support the movement for the establishment of the hostel. In conclusion, the proposal is not premature, nor has it been given immature consideration. On the contrary, it has been scrupulously viewed from every aspect; and its practicability is demonstrated by the fact that similar institutions have been established in Christchurch and Wellington since the commencement of the war.

Matters arising out of the report were discussed as follows:—

Insurance Scheme.—On the motion of Mr. J. C. Dromgool, seconded by Mr. Lorrigan, it was unanimously agreed—That in view of the fact that no opportunity had yet occurred of consulting his Lordship the Bishop hereon, the matter be deferred for further consideration, and that the executive report to the council at its annual meeting.

Organisation.—Mr. J. C. Dromgool moved—That this conference tenders to the diocesan executive its hearty appreciation of the valuable work done by the members of the executive in the matter of organising during the half-year, and in an especial manner to Mr. F. G. J. Temm, who had conducted an organising campaign in the country districts.—Seconded by Mr. Darby, and carried with acclamation.

Military Matters.—Considerable discussion ensued relative to this matter and finance, the various speakers recognising the need that exists for funds to enable the Federation to serve the interests of Catholic soldiers in the concentration camps. Good results are likely to accrue as a result of the discussion.

Remits.—Mr. Hanson moved—That in future, all remits intended for the Dominion Council, and which failed to evoke discussion at diocesan council meetings, be either deferred for further consideration, or struck out altogether. This evoked considerable discussion, the result of which was the appreciation of the principle by the meeting.

At this stage of the proceedings, the meeting was adjourned until the following (Sunday) afternoon at 3 o'clock.

VISIT OF THE APOSTOLIC DELEGATE.

The third session of the delegates to the conference of the Auckland Diocesan Council of the N.Z. Catholic Federation was paid a very distinguished honor by a visit from his Excellency Archbishop Cerretti and the Right Rev. Dr. Cleary. This session resumed immediately after Pontifical Vespers at St. Patrick's Cathedral on Sunday evening, February 20. Notwithstanding a strenuous day, taking part in the various ceremonies in his honor, his Excellency once more demonstrated his desire to get into personal touch with the various activities of the Church in this country, by graciously acceding to the request of the diocesan executive to visit the conference.

On arrival, the distinguished party were met by the Right Rev. Mgr. Gillan, and the officers of the

diocesan executive, and escorted to the clubrooms. Here his Excellency was greeted with rounds of cheering by the large body of assembled delegates, his Lordship Bishop Cleary also being warmly welcomed.

The president (Mr. A. Rose) in a brief speech welcomed his Excellency to the conference, expressing deep pleasure at the high honor which his visit had conferred on the council. His Excellency had probably heard of the work that was being accomplished by the Federation in New Zealand, which, although, comparatively in its infancy, had exercised a powerful influence for good on the community. The speaker concluded by thanking his Excellency for the privilege he had conferred upon the council, one that would remain ever green in the memories of those who were present that evening. Mr. Rose also took the opportunity of welcoming his Lordship Bishop Cleary to the conference, and recalled in a few touching words the anxiety which his devoted people had felt during his Lordship's long and painful illness, and expressed delight and pleasure at having him once more well and strong in their midst.

The Right Rev. Mgr. Gillan, V.G., briefly extended a cordial welcome to his Excellency, explaining that the gathering before him was representative of almost every parish in the diocese, and told of the great good being accomplished in this country by the Catholic Federation.

At this stage, the secretary (Mr. P. E. Dromgool) read and presented to his Excellency the resolution of welcome, which had been passed at the first session of the conference.

Prolonged cheering greeted his Excellency on rising to reply. He expressed himself as delighted at being afforded an opportunity of being present to witness the work of the conference. He was well aware of the great good being achieved by the Catholic Federation in Australia and New Zealand. The work of the Federation had the blessing and approval of the Holy Father. All knew what the Federation had achieved in New Zealand on the education question with their champion, Bishop Cleary, at their head. He wished the Federation every blessing and success, and concluded by expressing the belief that under the wise and able guidance of his Lordship Bishop Cleary, the Federation could not fail to win success and distinction in the years that were to come. The best advice he could give them was: 'Follow your Bishop.' (Loud applause.)

His Lordship Bishop Cleary followed, and his reception was no less enthusiastic than his distinguished guest. His Lordship thanked them for the splendid reception accorded him, and also for the kind words and wishes to himself expressed by the president on their behalf. He was delighted that it had fallen to the lot of the Catholic Federation to extend to him the first formal welcome since his return from Australia. As a member and a leader of the Federation he was proud of the work achieved by it during the short time of its existence, and of the lusty and vigorous organisation which had already sprung from the small beginnings of three years ago.

Thus came to a close a memorable event in the history of the Catholic Federation in this diocese. On leaving the room the distinguished guests were again heartily cheered, and when the motor car drew away it was accompanied with further cheering and much enthusiasm by the large crowd that had congregated outside to await the departure of the party.

(To be continued.)

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