

CATHOLIC FEDERATION

AUCKLAND DIOCESAN COUNCIL.

(Concluded.)

The second session of the meeting of the Auckland Diocesan Council was opened in St. Benedict's Club-rooms on Sunday afternoon, February 20. On this occasion, Mr. J. R. Hayward, of Christchurch, and a vice-president of the Dominion Council, who was on a visit to Auckland, was present, and was warmly welcomed by the president. Mr. Hayward, in a neat speech, acknowledged the compliment.

Financial Statement.—The treasurer (Mr. F. G. J. Temm) read the financial statement for the past half-year, which showed the finances of the Council to be in a flourishing condition. It was resolved that delegates impress on their respective branches the urgency of providing funds to provide for the welfare of Catholic soldiers in the various concentration camps.

Immigration Committee.—The secretary read the report of the C.I.C. The report was received and adopted.

Literature and Vigilance Committee.—The report of this branch of the council was read by Mr. F. G. J. Temm, and adopted.

Hostel Committee.—Mr. G. Hansen read a report dealing with the work already accomplished in connection with the establishing of a hostel for women in this city.

Mr. Hayward, of Christchurch, congratulated the Auckland Diocesan Council on the progress made towards establishing such an institution in Auckland, and assured the meeting that such a venture would prove a success. It had done so in Christchurch and Wellington. Mr. Hayward outlined the conditions under which such an institution was carried on in Christchurch. Considerable discussion, relative to the assistance that might be rendered the hostel by the Federation, ensued, and it was finally resolved that the council recommends branches in the diocese to heartily support the efforts of the Hostel Committee in any direction such assistance may be required.

THIRD SESSION.

This session was the most memorable of the conference, because of the visit of his Excellency the Apostolic Delegate. On the departure of the distinguished visitor, the business of the meeting was resumed.

Reports were read from parish committees, in every case these showed that keen interest was being taken in Federation matters.

Resolutions.

A large number of resolutions were dealt with, the following being adopted:—

'That this council affirms the decision arrived at at the annual meeting of the Dominion Council, authorising diocesan councils to set up in their dioceses sub-diocesan councils to foster and promote the interests of branches in the more remote parts of the diocese, where a difficulty is experienced in sending delegates to diocesan council meetings, and instructs the executive committee to formulate a definite scheme, and submit same to branches prior to the annual meeting of the council.'

'That his Lordship the Bishop be requested to set aside one Sunday in the year as Federation Sunday, and to instruct parish priests to devote that day to Federation matters.'

'That the diocesan executive committee should be strengthened by the addition of four extra members, and that two of these should be the Brother Director of the Sacred Heart College and Brother Principal of the primary school, to assist in matters educational.'

At a later stage of the proceedings Brothers Benignus and Calixtus, representing respectively the foregoing institutions, took their seat on the council.

That the half-yearly meeting of the Dominion Council of the New Zealand Catholic Federation

should, for the future, be movable, and be held in rotation in the five principal centres—viz., Auckland, Wellington, Rotorua, Christchurch, and Dunedin.'

'That this council recommends that the Dominion Council forthwith undertake the work of compiling and publishing a general New Zealand Catholic directory.'

'That the work of organising the New Zealand Catholic Federation in future be carried out by the respective diocesan councils, the finances for the carrying out of this proposal to be provided by the Dominion Council.'

'That this council recommends to the Dominion Council that a sub-committee of ways and means be set up to consider the practicability of publishing a monthly Catholic Federation magazine in lieu of the "Bulletin" at present issued, each sub-committee to direct its inquiries particularly to the question of finance.'

The conference then adjourned until 8 p.m. on the following (Monday) evening, when the president announced that an address on the education question would be delivered by Brother Benignus, Director of the Sacred Heart College.

FOURTH SESSION.

On resuming, the president announced that he had received a letter from the Rev. Brother Benignus, regretting that owing to indisposition he was unable to deliver the address on the education question. It was resolved to ask Bro. Benignus to address a public meeting convened by the Federation at a date to be agreed upon. At the invitation of the president, Bro. Calixtus briefly outlined some of the disabilities under which the Catholics labor in the matter of education, and imparted some sound advice on the question. Mr. Fitzgerald (vice-president), also spoke on the question, dealing principally with the treatment of the subject at the last Dominion Council meeting.

A resolution was carried protesting against the injustice of the present system of education, whereby Catholics are compelled to contribute taxation towards the maintenance of a system of education they cannot conscientiously accept, and at the same time maintaining, without assistance from the State, their own educational institutions.

Consideration of the resolutions, adjourned from the previous session, was then continued, as follows:—
'That in view of the decision recently arrived at by the Council of Education relative to the tenability of scholarships at private secondary schools, this council recommends that the Dominion Council at once set up a deputation to wait upon the Minister for Education to request him to immediately take action to remove the disabilities under which the Catholic community, numbering as it does one-seventh of the population of the Dominion, are at the present time laboring. (a) That the time has arrived when the New Zealand Catholic Federation should consider the advisability of securing all available information relative to Catholic education in the Dominion, making a special feature of all successes and achievements gained in Catholic schools. (b) That a statistical form be prepared and supplied to schools for the foregoing purpose, each Diocesan Council to be responsible for the schools in its particular diocese, and (c) That such information be entered in a register to be kept for reference when occasion demands.' 'That this conference views with alarm the notable decrease in the birth-rate of the New Zealand, and recommends that the Government be asked to take immediate steps to inquire into the causes of this decrease, and that their attention be directed principally to the exorbitant nursing and medical fees now obtaining, which fees are quite prohibitive to the working man who is not disposed under the circumstances to undertake the responsibility of rearing a large family.' 'That in the opinion of this meeting of the Auckland Diocesan Council, N.Z.C.F. it is in the true interests of the welfare of the Catholic people of this Dominion that the Federation should undertake to promote the study of social science on the principles laid down by the Catholic Social Study

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