

CATHEDRAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE

FIRST ANNUAL REPORT AND BALANCE SHEET.

(From our Christchurch correspondent.)

The Cathedral School Committee was appointed and commenced operations on May 21, 1914. It consists of the following members:—Chairman, Very Rev. Father Price, Adm., the Rev. Brother Director of the Marist Brothers' School, Messrs. T. Cahill, W. Rodgers, Jas. Power, M. Garty, P. J. Amodco, W. P. Daly, M. Grimes, J. Jacques, J. Cummings, F. O'Connell, J. J. O'Gorman, J. Cunningham, and P. A. O'Connell (secretary and treasurer). At the outset the committee were confronted with liabilities on the schools of £356 12s 3d, together with a debit on the current account of £26 13s 10d. They decided that their first duty should be to free the schools from debt. With this object in view a concert was promoted, in conjunction with a bazaar, and by these means a sum of £432 8s 3d was realised. The committee were thus enabled to liquidate their initial liabilities, and expend the balance in effecting urgent improvements on both schools and on the Brothers' residence.

In presenting their balance sheet the committee desire to point out that although they had only a credit balance of £2 13s 7d at the end of the year, all current expenses have been paid. The £16 3s 9d balance brought forward from last year was all the money in hand to pay the Brothers' salary of £60, due on December 31, 1914, so that in reality there was a debit balance of £43 16s 3d to start the year with, and this amount the committee were unable to pay until April, when another quarter's salary was due. At this time the schools were in urgent want of repair, the spouting and asphaltting at both schools needing attention. The seat rents were the main means of meeting the school expenses, and, although the committee made every effort to secure new seat-holders, the amount derived was not anything near sufficient to meet the current expenses. The committee proposed the penny collection, and the Very Rev. Chancellor Price arranged for this to start on the first Sunday in May, and also arranged for a loan of £100, so as to pay the amounts due to the Brothers, and have the urgent work gone on with. The result of the penny collection has been very satisfactory, and the amount received from May 1 to December 31, totalled £225 6s 10d. The members of the committee have been untiring in their efforts each Sunday, and take these collections at the doors at all the Masses. Having raised their income by the above means, the committee decided to attend to the very necessary work of cleaning and sweeping both schools. A reliable cleaning company was entrusted with this work, which entails an expenditure of £1 7s 6d per week. For this amount each classroom is swept every evening after school hours, disinfectant being used according to the education requirements, and the rooms scrubbed in turn once a week. The outside windows and casement windows are also cleaned, and the whole of the classrooms are thoroughly dusted. Many useful additions have been made in both schools, school furniture supplied, and each classroom provided with writing blocks. With reference to the loan of £100, which was obtained on May 2, the committee were in a position to repay £50 of this amount on August 2, and the balance on December 2, while the Brothers' salaries were met on their due dates.

The committee also attend to the enjoyment of the children, and last year a picnic was held at Ashburton, and this year one was held at Little River. Both were very successful, and were patronised by the parents and adults in large numbers. The committee also promoted a very successful Catholic social in the Alexandra Hall. It was such a success that the committee intend promoting similar functions during the winter months. The committee have had their eyes on a

section adjoining the boys' schoolground as an additional playground for the children. This matter has been in the hands of the Very Rev. Chancellor Price, and the committee are able to announce that, through his instrumentality, his Lordship Bishop Brodie has passed this section over for the use of the boys. The committee have also arranged for additional help for the Brothers, and already another Brother has been added to the staff. The committee then turned their attentions to the Brothers' house, which was in a very bad state of repair. The house has now been thoroughly repaired, papered, and painted, and electric light has been installed. The furnishings have been added to, and replenished, and the Brothers have now quite a new home, which they really deserve. The whole of this work has resulted in an expenditure of quite £300. To meet this heavy outlay the committee recently organised a garden party in the Cathedral grounds. This proved very successful, and resulted in over £90 being realised. The committee are very grateful to the ladies for the good work done on that occasion, and for the patronage extended. To meet the balance still owing, it is the committee's intention to arrange another similar event later on in the year. Meanwhile, the raising of another loan has become necessary, but the committee trust that the help contributed in the past will be renewed, and thus no difficulty will be met with in repaying the amount. The committee desire to thank the Very Rev. Chancellor Price for the whole-hearted support he has accorded them, and for the deep interest displayed by him in regard to the schools. Whilst thanking all who have supported the committee in their various undertakings, it is hoped that the same help and encouragement will be forthcoming during the present year.

BALANCE SHEET

For year ended December 31, 1915.

RECEIPTS.

	£	s.	d.
To balance brought forward from last year	16	3	9
„ Seat rent	194	7	6
„ Penny collections from May 1	225	6	10
„ Balance from picnic held at Ashburton	4	7	4
„ Loan from bank	100	0	0
„ Interest, Post Office	0	16	4
	£541	1	9

EXPENDITURE.

	£	s.	d.
By Repairs, materials, etc., boys' and girls' schools	26	13	8
„ Gas, boys' and girls' schools	12	2	10
„ Insurance premiums on furniture and buildings	9	12	0
„ Water rates	3	11	0
„ Cleaning at boys' and girls' schools	41	1	6
„ Clearing sewer mains	2	10	0
„ Stamps and stationery	1	2	2
„ Asphaltting	20	15	0
„ Culvert, boys' school	4	0	0
„ School furniture and supplies	14	5	2
„ Repayment of loan from bank	100	0	0
„ Interest on loan from bank	2	14	10
„ Brothers' salaries, including quarter ending December, 1915	300	0	0
	£538	8	2
Balance in hand	2	13	7
	£541	1	9

P. A. O'CONNELL,

Hon. Secretary and Treasurer.

Audited and found correct,

M. GARTY, Auditor.