

justices under which the Catholics of the Dominion are oppressed, especially in consequence of the present educational system, which penalises Catholics for their attachment to their holy faith and forces them to erect and maintain their own schools, thereby depriving them of the share of educational expenditure to which, as citizens, they are justly entitled. For the congress four speakers have been secured, who will ably explain the Catholic position, and will amply justify the contention that the Catholics of New Zealand are treated most unjustly. This meeting is destined to have far-reaching results, inasmuch as it will exercise a great educational influence on Catholics, giving them a fuller knowledge of the question. For non-Catholics it will be instructive, giving an impartial explanation of the educational legislation, and when we remember that amongst our non-Catholic fellow-citizens there are very many quite ready to listen to and become conversant with the full facts of the case, this result of the congress will enable us to take preliminary steps towards the adoption of some measure which will lead to the redress of our grievances. It is my heartfelt wish that this congress will be a great success: a large and overflowing crowd is all that is now required to ensure that success. As the meeting is being held at a time when there will be Catholics in Christchurch from every part of the diocese, I would wish the gathering to be representative of all parishes in the diocese. I therefore ask the clergy of the respective parishes to notify their people of the congress and its importance, to urge their attendance, to depute at least two from each parish to act as representatives of such parish, seats being provided on the platform for parish representatives. It would be well to have all the clergy present who can possibly attend, so that it will be seen that the bond existing between priests and people impels them to unite in this great cause of such far-reaching importance to their holy faith and to this young Dominion, which is the home of their birth and their adoption. The Catholics of this diocese have at all times shown their readiness to respond to the call of holy faith, and I rely on my devoted clergy and their faithful people by their presence to make this congress a memorable event in the history of Catholicity in the diocese. With every best wish and blessing for yourself and your good people.

Yours most sincerely in Christ,

\* MATTHEW J. BRODIE,

Bishop of Christchurch.

#### New Headford

(From an occasional correspondent.)

A pleasant evening was spent in the Hibernian Hall on October 19, when Bro. P. E. Ryan, who is retiring from the position of branch secretary (a posi-

tion he has held for a number of years), was presented with a set of hair brushes. Bro. J. Cunneen, in making the presentation, paid a high tribute to the good work rendered to the branch and Hibernianism generally by Bro. Ryan. Other members endorsed the speaker's remarks. Bro. Ryan feelingly replied, and concluded a neat speech by wishing his successor (Bro. Joseph Doherty) a long and pleasant term of office. Vocal items were contributed by Bros. Jas. Moran (2), L. Manion, J. Doyle, J. Doherty, and J. Ryan

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