

On the motion of Mr. F. J. Doonan, seconded by Mr. F. C. Delany, a cordial vote of thanks was accorded the various speakers, and on the motion of Mr. Isitt, a similar compliment was passed by acclamation to his Lordship the Bishop for presiding. A subscription list was immediately opened, and within fifteen minutes £121 was subscribed.

CATHOLIC FEDERATION

DOMINION EXECUTIVE.

(From our own correspondent.)

The Dominion Executive met last Wednesday evening. Mr. J. J. L. Burke presided, and the following members were present—Rev. Father Smyth, S.M., Adm., and Messrs. Corry, Nolan, Sievers, McGowan, Reeves, and Hoskins.

Details of the Field Service Fund inaugurated some twelve months ago for the purpose of supplying Catholic chaplains at the front with funds for providing comforts for the men under their charge were laid before the meeting. The project was started with and has since received the full approval and sympathy of the hierarchy, and has met with a generous response from the various parishes throughout New Zealand. The Dominion Executive has now decided to remit the sum of £150 to Chaplain-Captain McMenamin, senior Catholic chaplain of the New Zealand Forces, in London, as the nucleus of a fund for disbursement among his colleagues on the various fronts; that sum will be augmented by instalments as contributions come along. Already most encouraging activities have been exhibited in Taranaki, Hawke's Bay, and Manawatu in the forwarding of the scheme. Marlborough has been particularly successful, having remitted £100; and it is anticipated that the dioceses of Auckland, Christchurch, and Dunedin will substantially supplement the fund. It is of interest to note that the fund is being administered by the Federation practically free of cost. It was decided to also remit to the Rev. Chaplain-Captain McDonald, S.M., £25 for use in Egypt.

The Very Rev. Father Roche, C.S.S.R. (president of St. Gerard's branch), the author of the article recently published in the *Tablet*, was accorded a hearty vote of thanks, and it was decided to get it printed in pamphlet form for distribution. It was also decided to seek the co-operation of each of the diocesan councils in the matter of sharing the cost and the proper distribution.

The following letter from the Apostolic Delegate (Archbishop Cerretti) covering a letter from his Eminence Cardinal Gasparri, Secretary of State to his Holiness Benedict XV., conveying the Apostolic Benediction to the New Zealand Catholic Federation, gave much gratification. It was decided to publish the same and send copies to the hierarchy, president, and diocesan councils:—

Apostolic Delegation, Australasia.

40 Edward Street, North Sydney, N.S.W.,

October 18, 1916.

My dear Mr. Girling-Butcher,—I enclose a letter, addressed to the Catholic Federation of New Zealand, which I have just received from his Eminence Cardinal Gasparri, Secretary of State. I am sure it will bring great consolation to the members throughout the Dominion, and at the same time encourage them to work for the greater success of the Federation.

With every kind wish, I remain, my dear Mr. Girling-Butcher,

Yours sincerely in Christ,

* B. CERRETTI,

Archbishop of Corinth.

Apostolic Delegate.

Mr. Geo. Girling-Butcher,

Secretary and Organiser, N.Z. Catholic Federation.

(Translation, kindly furnished by his Grace Archbishop Redwood, S.M.)

Office of the Secretary of State,

The Vatican, August 26, 1916.

Most Honored Sir,—

The information that has reached the Holy Father regarding the Catholic Federation of New Zealand is of such a nature that it has won, with the liveliest interest and pleasure, the attention of his Holiness to that young and really useful institution destined to gather up and discipline all the Catholic forces of New Zealand, under the direction of the episcopate.

The extraordinary activity displayed by its directors and its members, the numerous ramifications by which it has enlarged and is still enlarging its field of action, and, above all, the most consoling results obtained for the development of the Catholic religion in that country, while they afford the deepest satisfaction to the common Father of the Faithful, open also his heart to the most legitimate hopes for the future.

Wherefore, fully appreciating the Christian value of this well-deserving Federation, his Holiness has much joy in extending to all the members, and in a particular manner to the directive council, his highest praise and his paternal encouragement. And while his Holiness has good reason to expect great assistance from the hierarchy and clergy in that new land, he most heartily imparts to the work itself, to the persons directing it, and to all its members the Apostolic Blessing.

Kindly accept, most honored sir, the expression of the respectful regard,

With which I sign myself,

Your devoted servant,

B. CARD. GASPARRI.

Mr. George Girling-Butcher,
Wellington, N.Z.

With reference to the attention drawn by the Catholic Federation to the funds of the National Service League being devoted to the establishment of Salvation Army orphanages, the organiser (Mr. F. Norris) waited upon the vice-chairman (Mr. Burke) and the hon. secretary (Mr. Hoskins), of the Catholic Education Board, and explained the laudable objects of the league, but never mentioned anything about the disposal of the funds. As a letter of introduction was furnished Mr. Norris, he was written to on the fact becoming known that the funds were for the purpose stated. The following correspondence speaks for itself:—

Wellington, October 13, 1916.

F. Norris, Esq.,

Hon. Organiser, National Service League,
Y.M.C.A., Wellington.

Sir,—With reference to the letters of introduction which I posted you this week, I learn from a pamphlet which you left at our Catholic Federation office that the profits derived from the National Service League's organising campaign are to be devoted to the establishment of a Salvation Army orphanage for the children of New Zealand soldiers who have made the major sacrifice.

As Catholics we could not in conscience permit the children of Catholic soldiers being placed in a Salvation Army orphanage. We have our own Catholic orphanages to which we would send our children in such cases, consequently it is unfair to enlist the sympathies of our people in a scheme which has for its object the assistance of a denominational institution such as the Salvation Army orphanage.

Under the circumstances, therefore, I respectfully request that you will return to me the letters of introduction which I sent you—letters which would not have been given had I known the true facts of the case.

Yours faithfully,

P. D. HOSKINS,

Hon. Secretary, Catholic Education Board.