

fault of the Press Association, controlled by those who were not friendly to the Catholic cause. Recently he had delivered an address on the work which the Pope was doing in connection with the war, but in no New Zealand papers had he yet seen any reference to the work of the Pope, simply because the Press Association did not forward the news.

'But what I find fault with more than anything,' continued the Dean, referring again to the leader in last Friday's *Press*, 'is this. After remarking that at last Thursday's meeting no information was given us to the authorities to whom the money raised was to be sent, the article went on to say "that information would not be necessary, perhaps, in ordinary circumstances, but it seems desirable now in view of the statements made that moneys raised in America and Australia, ostensibly for the relief of distress in Ireland, are really used for the furtherance of political agitation." That is a suspicion on the part of the editor which is not worthy of a man in his position. When it is known that the movement has been conducted by men like our own Bishop, and Archbishops of Sydney and Melbourne, who say that the funds have been asked for by the Bishop of Dublin, to relieve the distress in Dublin, such a suspicion is nothing less than an insult to the whole Catholic hierarchy of Australia and New Zealand.'

Had his health permitted, Dean Regnault went on to say, he would have been present at Thursday night's meeting at the Hibernian Hall. He would have been on the platform first of all as a Frenchman, to pay a tribute to what Irishmen at the front had done for his country. Then as a Christian he would have appealed to all generous hearts for assistance for the poor of Ireland. He was not going to pass an opinion on the recent uprising, but whatever the faults of its leaders had been, they had fought a good fight, and had died a Christian death, and had left behind women and children and relatives who were innocent victims of their efforts. Because they happened to be relatives of those who had died in what they believed to be a just cause, was it to be said that they were not worthy of sympathy and help? Surely not!

They had been told that there was no evidence of distress in Dublin. The *New Zealand Tablet* of September 7 last had stated that there was dire distress and great need of assistance, and the facts that it had set forth were as conclusive as could be. The funds collected in New Zealand were going to the Archbishop of Dublin (the Most Rev. Dr. Walsh), who had also cabled to Australia and the United States for funds for the suffering poor of Dublin. Another fund had been started by the Mansion House, and the *Irish Times* had found it necessary to establish a similar fund. Yet they were told that there was no evidence of distress. Surely those were sufficient authorities that distress existed. The *Brisbane Catholic Advocate* recently published statements of newcomers from the Old Land who told tales of awful destitution.

There was (Dean Regnault continued), very great distress in Dublin long before the war commenced; in fact, to a greater extent than in any other part of the world. Statistics showed that before the war there were 24,000 families whose weekly income was less than £1. What would our unions, our Parliament, even our National Government say if such conditions existed in New Zealand? Mr. Charles Douglas, the well-known English journalist, had written very strongly about the misery and poverty in the slums of Dublin, and had pointed out that whereas families who had suffered in other parts of the United Kingdom were receiving their share of the munitions work, high wages, and other war profits, Dublin was getting absolutely nothing. The labor returns showed that in other parts of the United Kingdom unemployment was now at its lowest. In Dublin it was shown to be at its highest.

The slums were appalling before the war, the Dean went on. How much more so were they now, especially after the uprising? The slums were there, indeed, but we must not attach to them the stigma which attached sometimes to those of other parts of the

Empire. From them thousands of men had arisen when the bugle sounded, when war broke out, and when the Empire was in danger, and went to fight for the Empire which did so little for the poor of Dublin. And they had fought in such a way on Gallipoli and in France that they had covered themselves with glory. Some regiments from the Dublin slums had been completely annihilated during the retreat from Mons, and had been replaced by men from those same slums. Were we going to despise them to-day? Those same slums had produced some of the leading men in building up the Empire, and now the mothers were looking at the blackened walls of their homes, and starving.

The Prince of Wales, Dean Regnault concluded, had provided a fine example. He knew the services of the Irish at the front; he had been in the slums of Dublin, and he knew how dire was the distress and the result was that he had forwarded £2000 to relieve the misery. Could we do better than follow in the footsteps of him who was to be our King?

(By telegraph, from our own correspondent.)

October 31.

A crowded meeting, many being turned away, was held in the Hibernian Hall on Tuesday evening. His Lordship Bishop Brodie presided. He was supported on the platform by the Very Rev. Dean Regnault, Rev. Fathers Graham (St. Bede's College), Long, O'Hare, and Murphy (Cathedral), Drs. Morkane and O'Brien, and Mr. F. Holley. After a few preliminary remarks, Dean Regnault moved—'That, notwithstanding the criticism levelled against the Dublin distress relief fund movement, this meeting of Catholics upholds the merit of the work and pledges itself to do its utmost to make the appeal a success.' The Dean spoke eloquently and at length on the subject of the motion.

Mr. H. H. Loughnan seconded the resolution, and expressed the general conviction of the dire distress existing in Dublin, and surprise at the criticism, by what is considered a reputable journal, of the action of the promoters in organising a local relief fund.

Mr. F. J. Doolan moved, and Mr. M. J. Corrigan seconded—'That this meeting expresses its sympathy with those relatives of fallen and wounded soldiers and with those who were present at the Dublin relief meeting of last Thursday, but who, notwithstanding their sacrifices for the Empire, had to bear their share of the criticism of the *Press* of last Friday.'

Mr. F. Holley moved, and Dr. A. B. O'Brien seconded—'That this meeting of Catholics offers its sympathy to Bishop Brodie for the pain caused him by the severe criticism of the *Press* in reference to the meeting held for the relief of distress in Dublin.'

In his reply the Bishop spoke at considerable length, and in the most stirring manner ever heard in this city. He had, he said, received many messages from different parts of the Dominion touching upon the subject, and sympathising with himself.

All the resolutions were carried unanimously amid cheers, and at the conclusion, 'Faith of our fathers' was sung by the many hundreds present.

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BAZAAR AND ART UNION, WAIKIWI, SOUTHLAND

COMMENCING NOVEMBER 21.

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