

everyone agrees that it is—surely its teachers are entitled to equal remuneration with others, no matter in what school the education is imparted.

When we read that the average salary for male teachers—not including pupil-teachers and probationers—is £248 11s 3d, and for women teachers £141, it makes one wonder where is the sense of justice on the part of the responsible officers of the State, to allow the teachers in the Catholic schools to be compelled to give their services gratis to the State for conscience' sake. If the Government tax the whole people for education, surely the whole people have a right to share in the beneficial use of such taxation. Let us therefore insist 'on equal pay for equal work,' seeing that all are taxed equally for education as for other State services. Before leaving the education question, let me briefly refer to the

#### Kitchener Scholarships,

and here again, thanks to the Catholic Federation, a grave injustice to the less fortunate section of the community was nipped in the bud. These scholarships, which it is proposed to establish as a memorial to the late Lord Kitchener, owe their existence to the munificence of Colonel the Hon. R. H. Rhodes, who generously placed a substantial sum at the disposal of the Government for the purpose. To ensure that the scholarships shall effect the purpose intended, they must be subsidised by the State. Therefore the conditions of the scholarships are of public interest. It was the declared intention of Colonel Rhodes that the scholarships should be open to the children of all men who have fallen in the war, but what do we find? The Council of Education,—to which body the form of the scholarships was referred by the Government—recommended that they take the form of naval cadetships either in England or Australia, to which an entrance examination equal to matriculation would be required. As this proposal seemed to be totally opposed to the declared intention of Colonel Rhodes, and would necessarily disqualify every child in the primary schools, Catholic or otherwise, the Federation felt it to be its duty to protest to the Government against the adoption of the report of the Council of Education. In this protest, it had the whole-hearted support of the Labor Party, which roundly condemned the glaringly undemocratic nature of the proposal, a proposal which would have the effect of making the Kitchener Scholarships the perquisite of the well-to-do, instead of being as they were intended to be, the privilege of the poor. In this matter, the Federation deserves the sympathy and support of every working-man and woman in this Dominion, Catholic or otherwise.

#### Press Vigilance.

The Federation has also given its attention to anti-Catholic and offensive statements appearing in the press. Quite recently a statement was cabled out that at the recapture of Fort Douamont, 'the remains of sixty Germans who were asphyxiated some months ago by an explosion, remained immured like faithless nuns.' This cable message first appeared in the evening journals of New Zealand, and the Press Vigilance Committee of the Diocesan Council could not allow such a gratuitous insult to the devoted religious of our Holy Church to pass without a protest.

A sub-committee of the Diocesan Council—to which all these questions stand referred—took immediate steps by writing to the editors of both the morning journals in the city, calling attention to the offensive reference, and requesting that the same be deleted from their reports. This was done in both instances, and the editors thanked for their consideration. The Diocesan Council then requested the Dominion Executive to approach the Press Association, and to point out that such messages were needlessly offensive to a large section of the general public. The Federation has received the assurance that more care in this respect will be exercised in future.

#### War Distress Fund.

In the early stages of the war, it will be remembered that a large number of cases of clothing were

dispatched to the High Commissioner for New Zealand, for the relief of those in need on account of the war. It came to the knowledge of the Federation that the distribution of these gifts was being administered by a board upon which there was no Catholic representative. Representations were made to the High Commissioner, with the result that forty large cases of clothing were sent to the Westminister Federation for distribution, and £1000 was promised by Sir Thomas Mackenzie from the War Relief Funds for those in distress through the war, and his promise is being fulfilled.

The Censorship of Cinematograph Films, established in consequence of a movement initiated by the Federation, at the instance of the Wellington Diocesan Council, has more than justified its existence. Several films have been condemned, while others have been subjected to radical alterations. The Government of the Commonwealth of Australia, has just announced its intention of enacting a similar law.

The Establishment of Catholic Women's Hostels in the principal centres of the Dominion is another work standing to the credit of the Catholic Federation. It must surely be a great relief to the parents of those girls who are called upon to live in the larger cities of our Dominion, to know that a good home is placed at the service of such where there is no danger of irreligious or anti-Catholic surroundings undermining the influence of the training received at home. The hostel established in this diocese has more than fulfilled the expectations of its founders. At the conclusion of its first year of existence, it finds itself absolutely free of debt on all accounts, and with a small balance to credit on ordinary account. What a record! Now, what other organisation in New Zealand can show such a record of good works in the short time since it was established?

#### The Present Position of the Federation.

Now you will naturally expect from me some information as to the present position of the Federation; and I have pleasure in placing before you a few figures compiled from statistics supplied to me by the treasurer to the Dominion Council—Mr. P. D. Hoskins. Now it is not my intention, nor is it my desire, to play off one diocese against another, or to attempt to unduly exalt our own, but 'facts are chieftains that winna ding,' and I will content myself with giving you actual figures. The Federation was established in 1913, and up to and including December 31, 1916, the total amount received by the Dominion treasurer on account of ordinary revenue—that is to say, on account of contributions from diocesan councils for subscriptions received—was £2001 18s 5d. Of this amount, the archdiocese contributed £812 6s 7d, leaving £1179 11s 10d to be contributed by the three other dioceses; an average of £393 3s 10d. Since the books were closed on December 31, further payments have been received by the Diocesan Councils, of which the proportion due to the Dominion Council amounts to £21 19s, making the total amount sent to the head office £833 15s 7d.

With reference to the

#### Field Service Fund,

the record of the archdiocese is even more creditable. And here, before I go any further, permit me to thank the Palmerston Patriotic Society for the very handsome contribution of £50 to the fund, and the officers and members of your parish committee for having made the application for the same.

The total amount remitted to the Dominion treasurer on account of the Field Service Fund up till December 31, is £599 18s 11d, and of this amount, no less than £514 15s 4d was raised in the archdiocese, leaving £85 3s 7d to be contributed by the three other dioceses. Now I am not saying that the whole of this creditable amount has been raised by the parish committees of the Federation, as the total includes grants from the Marlborough Patriotic Society of £100, £50 from the Manawatu Patriotic Society, £157 raised by means of a concert in Napier, £78 by similar means at Wairoa, etc., but I am justified in saying that it