

sioner for New Zealand, amounting to nearly 40 large cases, and the lay secretary has received a number of most grateful letters from the recipients of these kind gifts. The first £500 received from the High Commissioner for those in distress through the war has been nearly expended, and a further £500 is expected very shortly, making in all £1000 which was definitely promised to the Federation by Sir Thomas Mackenzie. The money is in the hands of three trustees, and every care is being taken to dole out grants to those cases which are proved to be of distress caused exclusively by the war. The committee is most anxious to make further grants from this fund, and forms of application for money and clothing (with reference to the latter we have just received an intimation that the High Commissioner is sending us some more cases of clothing for distribution) can be obtained from the central office.

At the meeting of the Dominion Executive of the Catholic Federation, held at St. Patrick's Hall last evening, it was decided to donate £150 of the Catholic Field Service Fund towards renovating and improving the Catholic hall at Trentham. The thanks of the executive of the Field Service Fund were extended to the chairman of the Boxing Association for a donation of sets of boxing gloves to the chaplain of the 21st Reinforcements for the use of the men. Arrangements for the conference of the Dominion Council, which was fixed to take place at Auckland on 21st proximo, were dealt with. At this meeting direct representatives from the various diocesan councils have signified their intention of being present, and many important matters are on the business paper for that meeting. Advantage will be taken by the Auckland executive of holding a convention of Catholics at which addresses on matters appertaining to the Catholic Federation will be delivered by chosen speakers, the Town Hall at Auckland being engaged for this purpose.

DIocese OF AUCKLAND

(From our own correspondent.)

January 26.

A meeting was held on last Sunday, the 28th inst., to make arrangements for the celebration of St. Patrick's Day of this year.

Rev. Father Herring, S.M., having completed the retreat for the Sisters of St. Joseph at St. Joseph's Convent, Gray Lynn, left by train last Tuesday morning for the south.

The retreat for the diocesan clergy, conducted by the Rev. Father Corcoran, S.J., of Riverview College, Sydney, concluded this morning at the Sacred Heart College, Ponsonby.

Rev. Mother Baptista, Mother-General of the Sisters of St. Joseph, arrived in Auckland last Monday by the Niagara from Sydney, and left last night by express train for the south.

His Lordship Bishop Brodie, who was to have blessed and opened the new school at Taumarunui next month, has wired Rev. Father Forde, priest in charge, regretting his inability to be present.

His Grace Archbishop Carr and his Lordship Bishop Phelan are expected to return to Auckland from Te Aroha towards the end of next week, and will leave here for Sydney by the next Vancouver steamer.

Our worthy and very capable Mayor (Mr. J. H. Gunson) was asked by the Auckland City Council at its meeting last evening, and the request was unanimously expressed, to stand for another term as Mayor of Auckland. The Mayor consented to do so, and the citizens generally, as well as the Council, are to be congratulated on the prospects of Mr. Gunson's retention of the office of Chief Citizen.

Rev. Dr. Ormond, secretary to the Papal Delegate, addressed the men's Holy Family Confraternity last Tuesday evening, and expressed his great delight at renewing his acquaintance with the confraternity after two years. He was pleased to find it still vigorous

and flourishing, despite the numbers who had gone to the war. He then gave a most interesting account of the activity of the Church in the Commonwealth: the birth, evolution, and expansion of the great Catholic teaching Orders, the number of Sisters and Brothers engaged in primary, secondary, and University education, together with the number of educational establishments, to which would shortly be added the Catholic University College in Melbourne, were interestingly described. Dr. Ormond took charge of the Cathedral parish during the absence of Rev. Father Murphy, Adm., on retreat.

A young man found himself in an awkward position at the S.M. Court last Wednesday. He had been discussing the war with two lady friends, one or both of whom told him he should be at the front, and 'if he were in Germany and expressed such sentiments he would be shot.' To which he replied: 'That would only be carrying out that which had been meted out to Sheehy-Skeffington in Ireland.' The two women communicated with the police, the young fellow was arrested, and spent three nights in a cell, and but for evidence given by two military officers in his favor under whom the young man had served in the artillery for the last six years, and in which he was now actually a sergeant, it would have gone hard with him. Mr. Fraser, the presiding Magistrate, in giving judgment, said the two women had given straightforward evidence, but he could not overlook that of the two officers; therefore, Bennett's loyalty was not in question, but he had given utterance to disloyal sentiments, and he would be fined £2 and costs.

A moderately attended meeting of the Auckland branch of the H.A.C.B. Society was held last Sunday afternoon to consider the model proposals of the Government in relation to Friendly Societies. The branch president, Bro. A. J. Woodley, presided. The Very Rev. Chancellor Holbrook, district president, was present. Bro. W. Kane, secretary, read and explained the proposals. A general discussion ensued. Bro. the Hon. W. Beehan, M.L.C., who had taken an active interest in the measure when it was before Parliament and in Committee, favored the adoption of the proposals in some degree. Bro. Nerheny failed to see any benefit likely to accrue to the branch under the proposals. He was strongly of the opinion that it was but the thin edge of the wedge sought to be inserted by the Government with the ultimate intention of absorbing the whole of the business of Friendly Societies. The meeting finally decided to draw the attention of members to No. 1 proposal, the maternity benefit, and to No. 4, the annuity payment on a member reaching the age of 60 years.

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