

Dean Hyland supported the motion. If the theatre of war was changed from France to England would the French priests be in the firing line in England? France is at war in Egypt and Serbia, and its forces had been operating in Gallipoli. French priests were employed in these countries only as chaplains, so that New Zealand, in proposing to conscript the clergy for service abroad is going further than Masonic and materialistic France. New Zealand is outstripping Great Britain in its loyalty to the Cause. In England private and ecclesiastical students are exempted from active service, or non-combatant duties.

Mr. Sievers considered that the motion was not sufficiently strong, and would go further than was suggested. He most strongly urged the imperative necessity of impressing upon the Government the fact that every priest we had, and even more, were needed in the Dominion, more particularly at a time when the Catholic body was giving up its young men in so large numbers for the fighting line, and when the consoling influences of our clergy were so greatly needed and appreciated by both parents and relatives of the Catholic soldiers. He considered these points should be strongly stressed upon the Government.

Rev. Father Kerley supported the resolution, but considered that stronger wording would be advisable. The Hierarchy had been assured in definite terms that exemption of the clergy was the policy of the Government, but it would now appear that Mr. Allen would not carry out that policy.

The president said that the proposed resolutions gave the Government an opportunity of carrying out its previously expressed policy, and also would show the Cabinet what was the feeling of the Catholics of New Zealand. If it were found that the Government would not respond to their moderate representations—stronger steps could be taken. Meetings could be called in the various dioceses, and more vigorous protests could be made.

The Very Rev. Dean Power supported the motion, and stressed the necessity of the Federation doing all in its power to assist the hierarchy in the matter set out in paragraph 3.

Mr. Fitzgerald strongly supported the motion, and particularly referred to the assistance the Federation could give to Archbishop O'Shea, the hierarchy, and clergy should further action be necessary.

The resolution was unanimously adopted, and it was decided to send copies to the Acting Prime Minister, the secretaries of diocesan councils, and to the secular press through the Press Association.

The minutes of the annual meeting were read and confirmed, on the motion of the Rev. Father Cahill, seconded by Mr. Fitzgerald.

Mr. Walsh spoke of the necessity of the council issuing a platform which would enable all speakers engaged on organising work to set out exactly the position taken up by the Federation and for an authoritative set of figures for quotation in order that there should not be differences in the line of action taken by the various speakers.

The letters of his Excellency Archbishop Cerretti, Apostolic Delegate, and from his Eminence Cardinal Gasparri were read, and on the motion of the president, seconded by Mr. Rose, it was resolved that this meeting of the Dominion Council of the New Zealand Catholic Federation, being the first meeting held since the receipt of Cardinal Gasparri's letter, desires to convey to his Holiness the Federation's grateful thanks for his kindly interest in its work, and for his paternal blessing. It feels that the encouragement accorded us by his Holiness will inspire us to greater efforts in the future. The Federation assures his Holiness of its continued loyalty. That we convey to his Excellency Archbishop Cerretti our cordial thanks for his kindness to the Federation.

An invitation from the Sisters of Mercy for the members of the council to attend the formal opening of the new science class rooms was received, and it was decided that all delegates who were able to attend should represent the council at the function.

The representatives from the dioceses of Auckland, Wellington, Christchurch, and Dunedin reported briefly on the condition of the Federation in their respective dioceses. The reports, the details of which have appeared in the *N.Z. Tablet*, were adopted.

The report of the Dominion Executive [which appears on pages 45 and 47 of this issue] was taken as read, and on the motion of the president, seconded by Mr. Rose, was adopted.

The president made appreciative remarks as to the organising tour made on behalf of the Wellington Diocesan Council by Mr. John Duggan. The executive was thanked for the excellent administrative work carried on during the half-year, several members speaking in high terms of appreciation of the good services rendered.

On the motion of Father Cahill, seconded by Dean Power, the thanks of the council were directed to be conveyed to the editors of the *St. Patrick's College Magazine* and the *Sacred Heart College Magazine* for giving space for the articles on the work and aims of the Federation.

On the motion of Mr. Sievers, seconded by Father Kerley, it was resolved that it be a direction to the Dominion Executive to request all diocesan executives to keep a careful eye upon the cablegrams of an offensive nature to Catholics, appearing in the secular press, and to take suitable action thereon. Also that the council's congratulations be conveyed to the Dominion Executive and to the Wellington Diocesan Council upon the action already taken.

(To be concluded)

Diocesan News

ARCHDIOCESE OF WELLINGTON

(From our own correspondent.)

March 10.

Mr. J. J. E. Burke has been appointed president of the United Friendly Societies Medical Institute.

The Rev. Father Smyth, S.M., of Thorndon, is at present engaged in organising a bazaar to take place at Easter.

The Rev. Father J. J. Cullen, S.M., of St. Patrick's College, was successful in gaining his degree of Bachelor of Science at the recent University examinations.

An energetic representative committee, under the direction of the Rev. Father Hurley, S.M., Adm., are promoting a bazaar and sale of work to be held at the end of April in aid of the St. Joseph's parish debt extinction fund.

A very successful entertainment and sale of work was held at the Thorndon Suburban School Chapel last Saturday in aid of the funds to liquidate the debt on that building. Through the energetic efforts of the hard-working committee of ladies under the direction of the Rev. Father Smyth, S.M., the handsome sum of £65 was realised.

According to cable advice received from London, Miss Cecilia Dwyer has been successful in obtaining the first section of the B.A. degree of the N.Z. University. Miss Dwyer is also an accomplished musician, having gained, with honors, the Teacher's Diploma of both Trinity College and Royal Academy, London.

Major F. R. McMahon, of the Royal Engineers (awarded the Distinguished Service Order), was born in Wellington about thirty years ago, and is the son of the late Sergeant McMahon, who obtained a medal for service in the Mounted Constabulary in the Maori War, and a grandson of the late Mr. Francis Dunne, of the Railway Accountant's Department. Major McMahon was a pupil of the Marist Brothers' School, and later attended school in Otago, after which he graduated at the Otago School of Mines.