

CATHOLIC FEDERATION

The following is the report of the Dominion Executive presented to the eighth half-yearly meeting of the Dominion Council of the New Zealand Catholic Federation, held in Auckland on February 21:—

Personnel.

At the meeting of the Council held in August last, the constitution of the Dominion Executive was altered, and it was decided that it be formed as follows:—The members of the Dominion Council resident in Wellington, four members elected by the Dominion Council, and four members elected by the four city parishes of Wellington. By inadvertence, the fact that St. Gerard's (Redemptorist) Church Committee had been constituted a parish committee with full powers was overlooked. This occasioned some confusion, in that five city parishes were equitably entitled to elect representatives. Under the circumstances the amended rule 9 was temporarily suspended, and each of the five parish committees elected representatives. Owing to pressure of business Mr. McCosker (elected by the Dominion Council) was compelled to resign, his place being taken by the Rev. Brother Egbert. He, in turn, was obliged to resign, and, owing to the number of seats on the Executive being complete, no fresh appointment was made. Owing to his joining the Expeditionary Forces, Mr. Duggan (Wellington Diocesan Council delegate to the Dominion Council) resigned, and his place was taken by Mr. Sievers. The personnel of the executive at present consists of the following:—Rev. Father Smyth, S.M., Messrs. J. J. L. Burke (chairman), P. D. Hoskins (treasurer), J. Corry, T. P. Halpin, J. P. McGowan, B. Nolan, F. K. Reeves, R. Sievers, J. Sullivan, M. Walsh, and the secretary (Mr. Geo. Girling-Butcher).

Meetings.

Nine ordinary and special meetings have been held, and sub-committees have met as required.

Papal Benediction.

Quite the most important event of the past half-year has been the response to the Council's request, through Monsignor Cerretti, Apostolic Delegate, for the blessing of his Holiness Benedict XV., upon the New Zealand Catholic Federation. In October last his Excellency transmitted the original letter of his Eminence Cardinal Gasparri, Secretary of State, conveying to all members of the Federation, and especially to the Council, his Holiness' highest praise and encouragement, and imparting to the work itself, and to all its members, the Apostolic Blessing. Copies of the letters of his Eminence and the Apostolic Delegate were at once forwarded to each diocesan council in order that this great favor conferred might be notified to each parish committee. The letters were also published for general information in the *New Zealand Tablet* and the secular press.

Federation Sunday.

Your executive trusts that a greater effort will be made this year to bring Federation Sunday into increased prominence, and a remit as to publicity by advertisement will be brought before you.

Catholic Congresses.

Congratulations have been extended to his Lordship Bishop Brodie and the executive of the Christchurch Diocesan Council upon the success which attended the congress held in November last. The chairman of the executive, Mr. J. J. L. Burke, attended as its representative, receiving a cordial and gracious welcome. The pan-Southland Catholic gathering is again being held in February, the committee having decided upon Invercargill as the meeting place. The executive trusts that the convention to be held in Auckland immediately after the Dominion Council meeting will prove to be the forerunner of many equally successful gatherings.

St. Patrick's College Magazine.

The editor of *Blue and White* having signified his willingness to accept a contribution, an article on

the Catholic Federation was published in that magazine, especially appealing to the younger Catholic men.

Education Pamphlet.

By the kindness of Father Roche, C.S.S.R., the executive has been enabled to publish an illuminating brochure entitled *The Fundamental Principles of Education*, to which was annexed the comprehensive statistics on education compiled by Mr. W. F. Johnson, secretary of the Wellington Diocesan Council.

Rules.

The sub-committee set up to revise the constitution and rules has completed its work, but in view of certain minor alterations necessary, decided to defer reprinting until after the Dominion Council meeting.

Offensive Cablegrams.

The appearance of calumnious matter in the cable news has engaged your executive's attention, and representations have been made to the manager of the Press Association that greater care should be exercised prior to the dissemination throughout the Dominion of references insulting to the Church and to Catholics. The present war circumstances have postponed the establishment of the much-needed Catholic Press Association suggested by Mr. Hilaire Belloc.

Other Federations.

As directed by the Dominion Council, felicitations were extended to the various branches of the Federation in Australia and Tasmania, and congratulations tendered on the phenomenal success attendant on the membership campaigns. Cordial relations are maintained with the councils in Australia and England, and publications exchanged regularly. Invitations have been extended by the Australian Federation to members of the N.Z.C.F. to attend the annual conferences at Sydney, Hobart, and Melbourne.

Railway Department and the Federation.

Following upon the council's deputation to the Minister, a reply was received from the Railway Department definitely refusing to place the Catholic Federation upon equal terms with Friendly Societies in regard to the issue of railway tickets to attend Catholic gatherings.

School Certificates and Railway Cadets.

In response to a request from the Auckland Diocesan Council investigation was made as to the requirements of the Railway Department in respect to education certificates to be held by boys applying for employment. It was ascertained that no discrimination was or could be used against any class of applicant, the conditions being absolutely fixed by regulation.

Scholars' Railway Concessions.

A considerable number of cases have been investigated in which head teachers of Catholic schools have inadvertently transgressed the regulations under which railway concessions are granted to children enabling them to travel free to Catholic schools—e.g., insufficiency of distance from home to school, passing another Catholic school en route, issuing certificates from non-registered schools, etc. By means of personal intervention the executive has been able to secure in the majority of cases an adjustment of the difficulty, and it is satisfactory to be able to record that an amendment of the regulations has been secured providing that children up to ten years of age may travel free if the distance from home to school exceeds two miles, instead of three miles as formerly.

A Serious Mistake.

A case which may be typical has recently been investigated wherein a child was committed to a Catholic Orphanage, but was taken by the authorities to a Government Receiving Home. After three months the Superior of the orphanage, discovering that the child committed to her care had not been sent, communicated with the head office, and subsequent inquiry revealed the whereabouts of the infant. After a personal interview with the Assistant Director of Education, when the facts were made clear the child was

**LEARN SHORTHAND
IN THIRTY DAYS**

BOYD SHORTHAND SCHOOLS, 100 CUSTOM HOUSE QT., WELLINGTON.
Boyd Shorthand can be mastered perfectly in thirty days, and the study may be done in your own home.—Call or write for particulars.