

practised very hard during the week, were rewarded for their industry by defeating their opponents by four wickets and 4 runs. Thorn (19), A. Tarleton (17, not out), and C. Tarleton (10) were the highest scorers in the winning team. Christian Brothers' bowling analysis: Hally, 5 overs, 9 runs, 1 wicket; Otto, 4 overs, 18 runs, 2 wickets; Toomey, 5 overs, 13 runs, 3 wickets; Bond, 3 overs, 4 runs, 2 wickets; Fogarty, 6 overs, 5 runs, 1 wicket.

The half-yearly meeting of the Dunedin Diocesan Council of the Catholic Federation will be held in Dunedin on Tuesday, February 25, when it is hoped delegates from the various parish committees will be present in good numbers.

General Pau and those of the French Mission who remained behind with him during his recent indisposition, attended the nine o'clock Mass at St. Joseph's Cathedral on Sunday, and left for the north by Monday morning's express.

A well-attended meeting of the members of St. Joseph's Cathedral branch of the Catholic Federation was held on last Sunday evening, after devotions. The Very Rev. J. Coffey, Diocesan Administrator, presided, representatives being present from North-East Valley, Kaikorai, and Mornington. The Very Rev. chairman explained that the principal business to be considered was in connection with the approaching half-yearly meeting of the Dominion Council, which was appointed to be held in Dunedin on Wednesday, February 26. Father Coffey outlined a suggested programme covering the period the delegates would likely devote to Federation work and attendant functions. This was generally approved of, and a committee comprising the officers of the Diocesan Council Executive—Very Rev. J. Coffey (president), Mr. J. Hally (treasurer), and Miss Freda Kennedy (secretary) and Messrs. M. Reddington, J. O'Neill, St. J. Dunne, M. Miller, J. Brown, and P. Byrne was appointed to arrange details. This committee met on Tuesday evening and fully discussed matters likely to have an important bearing on the success of the Dominion Council Conference. It was decided to arrange a public meeting, to be held on Thursday evening, February 27, when selected speakers will be asked to address the assemblage on important subjects.

IRELAND SHOULD BE REMEMBERED.

Under the title, "A Plea for Justice," the *Catholic Register* and *Canadian Extension*, of Toronto, Canada, the most influential Catholic journal in that section of the Dominion, said editorially just before the close of the war:—

"This is a time when those who owe anything to Ireland—whether it be birth or blood or admiration for heroic endurance of unutterable wrongs and for the steadfastness of a martyr to the Faith—should strive to pay their debt. For this is one of her dark hours of need. And it is also an hour when the thoughtless, even among the descendants of her own children in this Empire and in the United States, are doing her less than justice.

"A prodigious effort is being made to bring her into hatred with the people of the United States. The *Freeman's Journal* of Dublin charges that this is being done by British war propaganda, at the head of which is our former Canadian, Lord Beaverbrook, who has certainly done his share to bring one institution into thorough disrepute in this Dominion, as was recently evidenced in our House of Commons.

"Whether or not this be the case, it is at least quite evident that a well-organised campaign to discredit Ireland is being waged in America. It is well recognised that in the friendship of the United States, and in the devotion to Ireland's cause of the descendants of her exiles there, lie perhaps her very greatest hope of securing that right to self-government for which she has so long and valiantly striven; and that

if the sympathy of these and of their fair-minded fellow-citizens of other origin could but be successfully alienated from her, that her right might, for a time at least, be denied her. And for a similar reason, if in a less degree, the sentiment of the Canadian people is sought to be turned from her.

"Of course the charge against her is failure to take her part in the war for civilisation, and many shallow and excitable people are accepting without question everything that is said against her on this subject. They do not stop for a moment to consider the fact that on the day when Britain decided that honor bound her to fight for the integrity of Belgium, the great advocate of that course, the man who, more than any other living, so far as the world knows, had striven to keep the peace of Europe, declared Ireland to be the one bright spot upon the dark horizon.

Such was the enthusiasm with which the Irish people flung themselves into this war for the world's freedom. Of the causes which eventually drove Ireland to a great extent out of the war it should be enough to say that they have been characterised by the British Premier himself as stupidities and malignities on the part of the War Office. They have been recounted over and over again in Parliament and in the press. They are almost unbelievable.

"Irish recruiting was actually discouraged at the outset of the war. Irish Catholic officers would not be appointed: chaplains were refused the men until the Bishops had to threaten to forbid enlistment. Everything conceivable was done to crush any war enthusiasm in Ireland.

"Meanest and most despicable of all the malignities, all mention of the gallant deeds of the Irish regiments at the Front was suppressed. Recruits raised for their support were diverted to other units. The late John Redmond told, if not the whole at least a portion, of the almost incredible story in the House on October 18, 1916. Not one word of justification was, or could be, offered.

"And if some of the stupidities and malignities have ceased, other forms of exasperation of the Irish people have been continued, and are in practice at the present moment. To say nothing of the Government's betrayal of them in regard to Home Rule, there is the persistent policy of governing Ireland not only without consulting the wishes of her people, but in direct opposition to those wishes.

"The Government instituted the Convention; the Irish leader went to extraordinary lengths to ensure the Unionist and Protestant minorities in Ireland far more than their proportionate representation upon it. The report of the overwhelming majority of that body was utterly ignored. A committee of its members—three out of five of them Unionists—unanimously reported that to attempt to conscript Ireland without first establishing an Irish Parliament and securing its assent to the measure would be absolutely disastrous. The very day the Convention Report was received that disastrous course was taken by the Government.

"There was a young and brilliant Irishman of whom his country was proud—the late Prof. T. M. Kettle. He not only made an extraordinary recruiting record in Ireland, but he himself enlisted and gave his life for the cause. The other day his young widow was subjected to the unspeakable insult of having her house searched by the authorities. Fancy the United States War Department searching the home of the widow of the late Joyce Kilmer on alleged suspicion of its owner's implication in a German plot!

"Thus was the enthusiasm of the people of Ireland for the war killed. Thus is it being kept from reviving. To speak of them as if these things had never happened is to be guilty of folly—even when done by so eminent and ordinarily reasonable a man as Mr. William H. Taft. For men of Irish descent to do so is a shame. It would be a scandal that these should be less reasonable and sympathetic towards the oppressed country of their origin than are thousands of patriotic Englishmen for whom papers like the *Manchester Guardian*, the *London Daily Chronicle*, and the *Evening Standard* speak.

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