

N.Z. CATHOLIC FEDERATION

CHRISTCHURCH DIOCESAN COUNCIL.

The monthly meeting of the diocesan executive was held on Tuesday, March 11, at St. Mary's Presbytery, the Very Rev. Dean Regnault, S.M., presiding. Correspondence was received from Timaru enclosing cheque for £20 7s 6d, dues for half-year. The general secretary notified that the head office had been removed to Fletcher's Buildings, 4 Willis Street, Wellington, and cordially inviting members when visiting Wellington to call at the Federation office, when desired information and assistance will be readily rendered by the secretary. The president's action in appointing the Rev. Father Peoples as a delegate to the Dominion Council meeting recently held in Dunedin, vide Mr. S. J. Ryan, who at the last moment was prevented from attending through illness, was endorsed. The secretary, on behalf of the delegates to the half-yearly meeting of the Dominion Council, gave a brief resume of the business transacted, touching principally on the discussions on educational matters, and also of the efforts taken by the meeting to bring about a uniform examination for the scholarships throughout the Dominion. He also spoke highly of the arrangements made for the visitation of the various diocesan institutions, and of the generous hospitality lavished on the visitors by all with whom they came in contact. The public meeting on the education question was a very fitting conclusion to the two days' celebrations connected with the gathering, and proved a happy means of acquainting the public with our views on the question, the disabilities under which our system is carried on, also the enormous amount invested in educational buildings, and in the maintenance of the same. A very hearty vote of thanks was accorded to the members of the Dunedin council for their generous hospitality, and to the delegates for their attendance at the meeting. The secretary reported that he had visited Morven, Makikihi, and Waimate on Sunday, March 16, and had addressed large meetings on the activities of the Federation, and also explained the scheme for Federation scholarships. He referred to the extraordinary increase in membership in the whole parish during the current year, and conveyed to Fathers Peoples and Stewart, and to the officers and members the appreciation of the executive of the progress made, and of the interest displayed in Federation affairs; also of the fact of Waimate being the first parish in the diocese to establish a scholarship, under similar conditions to the Federation scholarships. Great interest was taken in the addresses, and votes of thanks were accorded the speaker in each district. The secretary was instructed to convey to Father Peoples the congratulations of the executive on the fine spirit displayed throughout the parish and thanks for his practical assistance in the scholarship movement. An invitation to visit the Lincoln parish at an early date was received.

WAIMATE BRANCH.

Mr. F. J. Doolan, secretary of the Christchurch Diocesan Council, addressed a large audience in St. Patrick's Hall, Waimate, on Sunday, March 16. The lecturer outlined and lucidly explained the Federation scholarship scheme. In the diocese of Christchurch (he said) only 40 boys were receiving education in Catholic secondary schools, whereas upwards of 400 girls were enjoying that privilege. Now, the attempt of the Federation was to remedy such a disproportion by offering two scholarships valued £35, tenable for three years. The above amount to be disbursed was dependable entirely on dues (1s) from each member of the Federation, hence an ample explanation was afforded as to how the money contributed was to be spent. This move on the part of the Catholic Federation was an inducement to a more elaborate scheme. There are 21 parishes in the diocese, and with a little organisation each could carry into effect a scholarship of its own. Should such become a realised fact, we would be building up a commonwealth of educated Catholic men who would be efficient leaders in our great Catholic causes. In the course of his lecture the speaker referred to other important matters in connection with education. He complimented the local branch on its increase of membership during the year. A hearty vote of thanks, proposed by Mr. J. Sullivan and seconded by Mr. P. D. Hoare, was carried with great applause.

To-day more than ever the principal strength of the wicked is the weakness of the good; and the power of the reign of Satan amongst us, the feebleness of Christianity in Christians.—Mgr. Pie.

WELCOME HOME TO FATHER O'BEIRNE

At the commencement of the Catholic concert at the King's Theatre, Carterton, on Monday evening, March 17, Mr. J. A. Dudson came forward on the stage with Father O'Beirne, who had that day returned to Carterton after just a year's absence to visit his own people in America and Ireland, and for health reasons. Mr. Dudson, on behalf of the Catholic community, extended to Father O'Beirne a hearty welcome. The period of his absence now seemed to be a short one, but it had been a very momentous time to many of them through the war and the influenza. The epidemic had carried off Father Cronin, who had succeeded Father O'Beirne at Carterton, and many other well-known people, some 6000 in our small Dominion having succumbed to the disease. The priests and nuns of New Zealand had been among the first to do all they could to render aid to the sufferers. He was glad to welcome Father O'Beirne back amongst them alive and well, and ready to take up his work in the Wairarapa where he left it. (Enthusiastic applause.)

Father O'Beirne, in warmly acknowledging the kindly welcome given him, expressed surprise at so many having been smitten by the influenza, but bad as it was, it was nothing to what had happened in America and in England, Ireland, and Scotland, particularly in Dublin and Manchester. After referring to his visit to Ireland, Father O'Beirne said he was glad to be back, and would do his best amongst them.

Invercargill

At the quarterly meeting of the Hibernian Society held recently (writes our own correspondent), Father Woods, on behalf of the members, presented Bro. P. Condon with a handsome easy chair and a pipe as a slight token of the sincere appreciation felt by all for the work performed by Bro. Condon in connection with the penny collection at the church doors. The recipient was taken completely by surprise, and so much is the work a labor of love for the church and school with Bro. Condon, that he was very reluctant to accept the gift.

Oamaru

(From our own correspondent.)

March 25.

Miss S. Farrant, who secured her teacher's L.A.B. at the recent examination held by Dr. Hathaway, of the Associated Board, London, is a pupil of the Dominican Nuns.

There was an excellent attendance of members of the local branch of the H.A.C.B. Society at the half-yearly general Communion on Sunday last. The members met at the lodgeroom and marched to their places in the Basilica to the half-past eight o'clock Mass, of which Father Foley was celebrant.

Westport

At the recent examinations held in Westport (Local Centre) in connection with the Royal Academy of Music, two pupils of the Sisters of Mercy, with 96 marks each, and one pupil with 83 marks, were successful in the rudiments of music branch. The following successes were obtained by the Sisters of Mercy in the recent educational examinations:—Class D (Partial)—Agnes Cunningham, Eileen Costelloe. Class D (3 Groups)—Margaret O'Sullivan. Class D (2 Groups)—Rose Bulman. Public Service Entrance—Eileen Costelloe. Intermediate—Eily O'Malley, M. Lambert, Julia O'Sullivan.

NOW READY. Order Now! From all Booksellers.

'Archbishop Mannix'

CHAMPION OF AUSTRALIAN DEMOCRACY.
The Public Utterances of His Grace during the past five years, and how they have been misrepresented.

Posted to any address

240 Pages.—By CYRIL BRYAN, — Illustrated Of Newman College, within University of Melbourne. Late Australian Artillery, Australian Imperial Forces.

Foreword by VERY REV. M. J. O'REILLY, C.M., Rector of St. John's College, University of Sydney.

Supplied Wholesale and Retail from the Publishers: WM. P. LINEHAN, 309-11 Lt. Collins St. Melbourne. in New Zealand, 2/3.