

N.Z. CATHOLIC FEDERATION

CHRISTCHURCH DIOCESAN COUNCIL.

The monthly meeting of the executive of the Christchurch Diocesan Council was held on June 10 at St. Mary's Presbytery, the Very Rev. Dean Regnault, S.M., presiding. There was an excellent attendance of members. Mr. W. Hayward reported on the very satisfactory nature of the visit to Darfield, and of the great progress and interest taken in Federation affairs in that parish. He also referred in terms of appreciation of the work of the parish secretary, Mr. P. Morrison, and of the generous hospitality extended to the delegation by Father J. Haurahan, parish priest. The secretary was instructed to convey to Father Haurahan the warm appreciation of the executive for his valued services. Mr. F. J. Doolan referred to his attendance at the annual meeting of St. Mary's parish committee on Sunday last, making special mention of a competition recently held among the school children for prizes given by the committee for an essay on the Federation. Judging by the one awarded the first prize, which was read at the meeting, a thorough knowledge of the subject was clearly shown, and the movement is one worthy of imitation throughout the diocese. Several reports were received and were ordered to be placed on the agenda paper for the consideration of the annual meeting of the diocesan council, to be held on Tuesday, July 15. The report of the conference of the head teachers of Catholic colleges and secondary schools, recently held in Wellington, dealing with scholarship examinations, was received and favorably commented upon, and will be finally adopted at the annual meeting. A hearty vote of thanks was accorded to the Very Rev. C. Graham, S.M., M.A., Rector of St. Bede's College, who attended the conference as representative of this diocese. The secretary reported having attended a meeting of the Dominion Executive on May 31, and gave a detailed account of the business transacted. His remarks on the educational policy, scholarship examinations, arrangements made for Federation Sunday (July 6), and of business dealt with in connection with the Field Service Fund, met with the warm approval of the meeting. A financial statement covering the past three months was read by the treasurer, showing receipts £42 3s 5d, and expenditure £47 1s 11d, leaving a very satisfactory credit balance in hand. Last year's membership has been exceeded, and the scholarship fund is now in credit to the extent of £70, this announcement being received with applause. At the conclusion of the meeting an acknowledgment was made to the Very Rev. chairman for the very comfortable meeting-room provided during the past twelve months, and for the warm welcome and hospitality extended to members on all occasions, the Dean suitably replying.

TIMARU BRANCH.

On June 4, the annual meeting of parishioners in connection with the Catholic Federation was held in the Browne Street Hall, which was filled to the doors. Very Rev. Dean Tubman (president) occupied the chair, and congratulated Father Bartley, to whose zeal the exceptionally large and enthusiastic gathering had responded. On the motion of Very Rev. Dean Tubman, Father Bartley was elected president for the ensuing year. The report and balance sheet for 1918-19 were read and adopted. Father Bartley, ex-chaplain with the Expeditionary Force, gave an interesting account of the means of distributing the Field Service Funds in the trenches, showing that they filled a very real want among the soldiers, and moreover that they reached their destination in their entirety, nothing whatever being deducted for administration, etc., as was the case with other funds. Father Bartley went on to urge on those present the need for renewed activity on the part of the Catholic Federation, in view of the bitter campaign which is now being waged, mainly on our education system.

Dr. J. R. Loughnan (vice-president) outlined the Federation scholarship scheme, which undoubtedly should claim the generous support of every Federationist.

Messrs. T. Cronin, M. J. O'Brien, and J. P. Leigh also addressed the meeting, emphasising the need for increased membership, and urging the people to exercise their franchise rights. The election of parish representatives resulted as follows:—President, Rev. Father Bartley; secretary, Mr. J. P. Leigh; treasurer, Mr. T. Cronin; committee, Dr. J. R. Loughnan, Messrs M. J. O'Brien, W. Gillespie, A. McDonald, P. Downey, and Sergeant Egan.

A POPULAR OFFICER

WELCOME HOME TO CAPTAIN P. A. ARDAGH, D.S.O., M.C.

A welcome home to Captain P. A. Ardagh, D.S.O., M.C., who has recently returned from the Front, was, on Wednesday evening, June 11, given by the St. Mary's branch of the Hibernian Society, Christchurch, in the Art Gallery. Amongst those present were the Mayor (Dr. Thacker), Sir George and Lady Gifford, Mr. and Mrs. Ardagh, sen., Lieutenant J. J. Ardagh, Dr. and Mrs. A. B. O'Brien, Dr. Moran, Superintendent and Mrs. John Dwyer, Very Rev. Dr. Kennedy, Adm., Very Rev. Dean Regnault, Very Rev. Dean Hyland (Rangiora), and Rev. Fathers Graham, Murphy, Long, and Roche. His Lordship Bishop Brodie, who was unable to attend, sent an apology for his absence.

Mr. J. H. Johnston, secretary of the St. Mary's branch of the Hibernian Society, in welcoming Captain Ardagh back, said that no words of his could express the great appreciation which they felt for him. Captain Ardagh had left his business to go away and attend to the sick and wounded on the battlefields of France. The speaker also referred to the excellent work of Mrs. Ardagh in her capacity as nurse. On behalf of the society he extended to them a hearty welcome home.

The Very Rev. Dean Regnault said that he had great pleasure in extending to Captain and Mrs. Ardagh a welcome back to their city. Captain Ardagh had gone away without being compelled to do so, and had done noble work on the battlefields of France and Belgium. Although wounded three times, he did not give up his work of attending to the sick and wounded. They were all very proud of the great part played in the war by the members of the medical profession in New Zealand. The Dean also mentioned Lieutenant Ardagh, who volunteered for service, and had been promoted from the ranks. He was also pleased to see there that night Mr. and Mrs. Ardagh, sen., whom he had known over twenty years.

The Mayor said that he was delighted to be present on such an occasion. He spoke feelingly as a brother medico of Captain Ardagh. It was quite true what Dean Regnault had said, that the medical profession did not receive the appreciation to which it was entitled. In speaking of the medical profession, he included the women members of the profession, whom he referred to as "angel sisters." Captain and Sister Ardagh, as she was called in the hospitals, had done noble and self-sacrificing work. Excellent work had been done by the Army chaplains. They had one amongst them that night. He would not mention his name, because if he did he would bolt for home. When Field Marshal Haig said that New Zealand produced some of the finest soldiers in the world, he included the Army chaplains. The speaker again extended a hearty welcome to Captain Ardagh and his wife, and hoped they would remain in Christchurch.

Captain Ardagh, who was loudly applauded, thanked them on behalf of his wife and himself. He described some of his experiences in the firing line.