

CORRESPONDENCE

[We do not hold ourselves responsible for opinions expressed by our correspondents.]

PENALISING CATHOLIC SCHOOLS.

TO THE EDITOR.

Sir,—At every meeting of Teachers' Institutes, Education Boards' Conferences, School Committees, etc., we hear the same old shibboleth, "our (alleged) free, secular, and compulsory system must be maintained." It has been prattled so often that the majority of non-Catholics believe it is free, and that secular means neutral. It cannot, of course, be free to any Catholic who knows his duty to God and his children, nor can it be acceptable even if it were neutral, which of course it cannot be, for as *America* says, "objective neutrality in all that concerns religious instruction is as impossible as a square circle." Would it not be advantageous for every branch of the Catholic Federation throughout the Dominion to pass a resolution similar to the following, have it published in the local papers, and forwarded also to the Government and every member of Parliament?

"That, while recognising the right of the Government to see that every child is being properly educated, we, the members of the — branch of the Catholic Federation, enter an emphatic protest against the action of the N.Z. Educational Institute and certain Education Boards in asking the Government first to compel religious and other private schools to pay a special registration fee not paid by secular schools, and second to deprive the children in these schools of the right to gain the Government school certificates. We regard such resolutions of these bodies as acts of tyranny, and as attempts, by the imposition of further penalties and persecution, to wrest from parents their inalienable and God-given right to have their children educated according to their religion and the dictates of their conscience. We also pledge ourselves to use all lawful means to have the present sectarian system in which only one section, or denomination—viz., the secularists—is catered for at the expense of all, replaced by a truly national system of education such as obtains in the British Isles, Canada, and other parts of the Empire: a system in which each section of the community, whether Catholic, Protestant, or secular, has spent on its own schools the money that each section contributes through taxation for the purpose, in proportion to the number of children being educated, provided that these schools are fully abreast of all State requirements."—I am, etc.,

T. P. ROBINSON.

Napier, October 10, 1919.

As a footnote, I would like you to publish the following from the report of the monthly meeting of the Hawke's Bay Education Board, the members of which are evidently all primo bigots:—"Department advised that legislation would be necessary before the board's suggestion re registered schools could be adopted.—Resolved to urge the department to bring down the necessary legislation." The original resolution was:—"The Government be urged to impose a special tax or registration fee on all private schools." Although these survivors from 16th century bigotry are poor sports, they evidently believe that attack is the best form of defence. What are we going to do? When shall we realise that we must attack to defend, but, unlike our opponents, we shall play the ball, not the man, attack the system, not the people? These people want for their sectarian system not only their money, but ours also. We want only our own. Why can't we get it? "Know ye slaves who would be free yourselves first must strike the blow." T.P.R.

One half of a successful life is action—the getting of things done in the right way at the right time. But the other half is no less useful—endurance, patience, the bearing of things that are hard, the steadfast holding to a difficult position. In other words, half of success is getting out of seeming failure.

N.Z. CATHOLIC FEDERATION

CHRISTCHURCH DIOCESAN COUNCIL.

The monthly meeting of the Diocesan Executive of the Christchurch Diocesan Council was held on October 7, the Very Rev. Dr. Kennedy, Adm., presiding. The following members were present: Very Rev. Deans Regnault and Hyland, Very Rev. C. Graham, Messrs. P. Considine, W. and J. R. Hayward, and F. J. Doolan (secretary). Apologies were received from Messrs. Holley, Ryan, and J. E. Doolan.

The quarterly reports received from parish committees were all of a satisfactory nature. St. Mary's Committee, Christchurch North, returned for the quarter 1208 members, the largest number ever yet returned in one quarter, and the announcement was received with applause. The receipts amounted to £97 7s 5d for the month. The first donation in response to a diocesan appeal on behalf of the Catholic Girls' Hostel debt extinction fund was received from the Temuka Committee, and it is hoped it will prove the forerunner of many other parish donations.

An invitation from his Grace Dr. Mannix, Archbishop of Melbourne, to send a representative to the Australasian Irish Race Convention, to be held at Melbourne on November 3, was accepted, and Mr. T. Cahill, a member of the executive who is at present in Australia, was appointed to represent the council. The best wishes of the council were extended to the promoters for the success of this historic gathering for the advancement of Ireland's efforts towards self-determination.

Satisfaction was expressed with the grants made from the Field Service Fund to the chaplains attending the invalid soldiers at Hammer, Cashmere Hills Sanatorium, and Timaru Hospital. The Scholarship Committee reported that five scholarships will be awarded on the result of the December examinations, and that the regulations and forms had been printed and distributed to all the parish priests and committees and to the heads of our schools throughout the diocese. The examination papers had been received from the examiner, and would be printed at an early date, and the other necessary arrangements were fast approaching completion. The report was adopted, and it was decided that candidates must secure 50 per cent. of the marks allotted to Christian Doctrine, otherwise a scholarship will not be awarded. The annual report and balance sheet of the Dominion Council were read and discussed. Arrangements were made for the annual visit to the Temuka parish on October 26.

WEDDING BELLS

RYAN—GILMORE.

A very pretty wedding was solemnised at St. Mary's Church, Christchurch North, on Wednesday, September 3, when Miss Sara Ryan, fourth daughter of the late Stephen and Mrs. Ryan, of Ashburton, and John Gilmore, youngest son of Mrs. Gilmore, Woolston, Christchurch, were united in the bonds of holy Matrimony. The Very Rev. Dean Regnault, S.M., officiated, assisted by Father Fogarty. The bride, who was given away by her brother, Mr. Daniel Ryan, was attired in a frock of white charmeuse and georgette, daintily trimmed with pearls and silver. She wore her veil in mob-cap style, and carried a prayer-book. The bride was attended by her sisters, Misses Maggie and Annie Ryan, as bridesmaids. Each wore dainty frocks of heliotrope and lemon crepe de Chine, and picture hats of black and gold trimmed with rose and lemon, and carried sheaves of arum lilies. The bridegroom was attended by his nephew, Mr. H. Bennett, and by his brother, Mr. William Ryan, as best man and groomsmen respectively. The bridegroom's gifts to the bride and bridesmaids were gold bangles, and the bride's gift to the bridegroom was a silver shaving outfit. During the ceremony appropriate music was played by Mrs. W. Cronin (organist), and Miss Cushla Ryan, cousin of the bride, sang the Bach-Gounod "Ave Maria" and Bordese's "O Salutaris." After the ceremony a large number of relations were entertained at the residence of the bride's sister, where the customary toasts were duly honored, that of the bride and bridegroom being proposed by the

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