

issue an encyclical formally condemning the present regime, 'which leads not to renovation, but to destruction; not to reform, but to unrest; not to liberty, but to slavery; not to well-being, but to poverty.' The Holy Synod, of course, foreseeing the futility of presenting such exaggerated demands to the Government, declined to receive the petition of the 'true Russian people.' The appointment, in February, 1909, of Privy Councillor Lukjanow to the head procuratorship of the Holy Synod raised for a while the hopes of the obstinate Orthodox circles.

The condition of the Catholic Church in Russia has somewhat improved during the past year by the appointment of several new Bishops. To the See of Mohilew, vacant since 1905, Monsignor Apollinaris Winukowski was appointed last spring, but died shortly afterwards. As suffragan Bishops were appointed Monsignor John Cieplak and Monsignor Stephen Denisevich. On April 30 Bishop Cieplak began a visitation of Siberia. The visitation began in Walogda, and is to terminate on the island of Sanchalin. The archdiocese of Mohilew is the most extensive in the world, covering fourteen million square kilometres. Five dioceses are still vacant—Kielzy, Sandomir, Sejny-Augustow, Samogitia, and Wilna—whose last Bishop, Baron von Ropp, was deposed by ukase of the Czar on October 14, 1907, charged with using disrespectful language and being too friendly towards the Poles.

CATHOLIC CONVERTS' LEAGUES

The Apostolic Mission House at Washington (says an American contemporary) is gradually growing to be the centre of a group of lay organisations known as Catholic Converts' Leagues. The original league was organised some years ago in New York, and it has given a good account of itself. The Feast of the Immaculate Conception was selected as the day for the organisation of the Washington centre, and leagues are forming in other cities.

Some objections have been offered to the organisation on the grounds that it is a mistake to group converts together in an organisation and segregate them apart from the great body of the Catholic people. This objection is made by some who do not understand the purpose of the league. That is just what the Converts' League is not—a body composed of converts alone—and whenever a new league is to be formed special care is taken to emphasise the fact that the Converts' League is not a league of converts, but a league for convert-making.

The preliminaries of organisation were conducted by Very Rev. A. P. Doyle, presiding over an audience which filled to overflowing the assembly hall of the Apostolic Mission House. In his opening address Father Doyle said: 'The Catholic Church is attracting unto itself in these days many of the brightest and most intelligent minds. There were 28,709 converts received on profession of faith in the United States last year. They were spiritually-minded people who came in spite of many difficulties and often in the face of almost insurmountable obstacles and many heart-burnings and wrenching of old affections and associations. They weighed all the gains, however, and set them in the balance over against the losses. So numerous are converts becoming that it becomes necessary not only to organise for their welcome, but to help to clear the approaches of the Church of some obstacles that encumber it. It becomes necessary to disseminate a wider and surer knowledge of things Catholic, to dispel many of the illusions and bizarre misrepresentations of the Church that prevail in some minds and extend to inquiring non-Catholics every facility for reception into the Church. For these reasons we are organising the Catholic Converts' League here in Washington. It may be hoped that after the models set up here there will be organised similar leagues in other cities, and these in turn will form a national organisation. These leagues will consist not of converts alone, but also of men and women who have been born in the Church, who shall extend to the incoming throngs of new Catholics the fraternity of welcome and also assist them in many spiritual ways until they have become accustomed to their new surroundings.'

This view was incorporated into the constitution which was unanimously adopted by the charter members then present, which further specified the methods to be followed by the league. Each member undertakes to offer prayers, Communion, and good works for the intentions of the league, and especially to recite and cause others to recite frequently the Litany for the Conversion of America. Each member shall select one soul for whose conversion he shall pray and labor with particular fervor. Personal example shall be considered a prime influence to encourage conversions by open profession of the faith and fraternal assistance in all ways dictated by prudence. Particular stress is laid on dissemination of literature through libraries and book-racks at doors of churches.

Mr. R. M. Green, chemist, Taranaki and Vivian streets, Wellington, calls attention to his new season's Norwegian cod liver oil in bottles at reasonable prices, also his white pine expectorant for coughs and colds. All prescriptions entrusted to him are carefully and accurately made up....

Diocesan News

ARCHDIOCESE OF WELLINGTON

(From our own correspondent.)

March 26.

The Easter carnival in aid of the Wadestown school chapel building fund was opened to-day at the Sydney street schoolroom.

It is with sincere regret that I record the death of Sister Mary Bernard, who was a novice at the Home of Compassion, Island Bay. Deceased passed away on Friday, March 11.—R.I.P.

The committee of the St. Patrick's College Old Boys' Association is making an effort to raise from amongst its members a sum to be devoted towards the erection and equipment of a science laboratory in connection with the college.

A conference of the St. Vincent de Paul Society has been established in connection with the Wellington Catholic Club, to be known as the St. Stanislaus Conference. This makes the seventh men's conference of the St. Vincent de Paul Society now organised in the city of Wellington.

Masses are now celebrated at Seatoun at 8 o'clock every Sunday, and the Rev. Father Goggan, S.M., who is in charge of the new institution for the priests who are making their second novitiate at Island Bay, has control of the local parish church, which will enable the clergy at Newtown to devote more time to the Kilbirnie and Seatoun parishes.

According to the annual report of the inspectors to the Wellington Education Board, laid before the Board on March 22, the total number of pupils attending schools in Wellington district is 17,761. The average age is 11 years 4 months. In Catholic schools there were 1344 on the roll and 1265 present at the inspector's visit. The average age is 11 years and 6 months.

The Very Rev. Father James Byrne, Adm., the Cathedral, Brisbane, after spending about seven weeks of a most enjoyable holiday with his sisters and friends in the North and South Islands, and several days with the Ven. Archdeacon Devoy, S.M., left on March 18 by the Warrimoo for Sydney. The Very Rev. Father O'Farrell, C.S.S.R., who had so far recovered from his illness as to be able to travel, was also a passenger.

Last Saturday afternoon the Wellington Catholic cricket team played their final match against an eleven representing the Ocean Insurance Company, the former winning by an innings and 116 runs. The scores were Catholic Club 6 wickets for 207, and Ocean Insurance Company 38 and 53. Those who performed creditably for the winners with the bat were Warne (85 runs), McGrath (61 runs), and with the ball Leydon (10 wickets for 40), Carroll (3 for 24), and Warne (3 for 21 runs). The club has had a very successful season.

The following pupils from Catholic schools have qualified for the certificates issued by the New Zealand Amateur Swimming Association at the Thorndon Baths during the season just ended under the supervision of Messrs. A. W. Smith and A. Firth:—Sacred Heart Convent—Myra W. Duggan (600yds), Ethel M. Duggan (250yds). St. Mary's Convent, Hill street—Cecil Dealey (450yds) and Patrick J. Keegan (440yds). Marist Brothers' School—Hugh J. O'Sullivan (440yds), Creagh F. O'Sullivan (440yds), and J. Shivan (440yds).

The conclusion of St. Patrick's Day celebrations took place on Saturday afternoon, March 19, when a sports meeting under the auspices of the Wellington Catholic Club and H.A.C.B. Society was held at the Basin Reserve. Fine weather favored the gathering, which was attended by about 2000 people, who took the keenest interest in the events, especially in the tug-of-war. Every event was got off to time. The promptitude displayed by the officials in the despatch of the programme was worthy of great praise. The secretary (Mr. H. McKeown) and his co-workers deserve great credit for the way the sports meeting was well conducted. The arrangement of the programme was most complete and satisfactory, and they have every reason to be gratified with the successful results of their efforts.

A shooting competition for company trophies, also for a trophy presented by Messrs. Hallenstein Bros., Ltd., was held last Saturday, March 19, at Trentham, among the cadets formed in connection with the St. Aloysius' Boys' Club, Newtown, 44 boys being present. This was the first time that the members of this company had fired at Trentham. The shooting of the boys was very creditable, and they should develop into men who will be a credit to the Dominion. Capt. R. E. J. Martin was in command. On the previous Wednesday forty members of the company went to Polhill Gully for shooting. The boys went into camp at Seatoun on Wednesday evening for a week's training. There are over seventy boys under canvas. They are under the supervision of Rev. Father Herring, S.M., and Captain Martin.