

FEDERATED CATHOLIC CLUBS

ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The ninth annual conference of the Federated Catholic Clubs of New Zealand was held in St. Columba's Club rooms, Greymouth, during Easter week. Mr. A. H. Casey, president of the Federation, occupied the chair. The following delegates were present:—Messrs. J. Clarke (Wellington), E. Higgins (Blenheim), E. M. O'Gorman (Westport), T. M. O'Connell and H. McSwiggan (Christchurch), T. N. Warren and T. Sellers (Hokitika), A. F. O'Donoghue and T. M. Heffernan (St. Columba), H. Miles (Dunedin South).

The conference, which extended over ten hours (says the *Grey River Argus*), was attended by a large number of club members, local clergy, and Marist Brothers.

The Rev. Father McCarthy, who extended a hearty welcome to the delegates, congratulated them on the splendid work which is being accomplished through the instrumentality of the Federation, and trusted that the present conference would be the means of arousing enthusiasm among young men in general and result in the formation of many men's clubs.

The annual report and balance sheet were adopted. The report showed that there were twenty-two affiliated clubs, while a number of others were about to be admitted to the Federation. The formal business being disposed of, the following notices of motion were dealt with:—Mr. A. F. O'Donoghue (St. Columba) moved: 'An amendment of the last sentence of Rule 6. The deletion of the word "permanently," and the addition (after the word "Wellington") of the following words, viz., "or in some other place as the annual conference may, from time to time select" (referring to the location of the executive). After a lengthy discussion the motion was put and lost.

Mr. T. M. Heffernan (St. Columba) moved: 'The hon. secretary shall, from time to time, supply the various affiliated clubs with copies of the rules and regulations of the Federation at a cost to be fixed by the executive, and shall within six weeks after each conference issue to the various clubs printed slips containing such amendment and addition to rules as have been carried at such conference.—Carried.

Mr. A. H. Casey for the executive moved: An amendment of Rule 7—The deletion of the last sentence (locale of annual conference) and the substitution of the following words, viz., 'The annual conference shall be held alternately at Christchurch and Wellington.' An amendment, moved by Mr. O'Gorman (Westport), 'That the annual conference be held alternately at Auckland, Wellington, Christchurch, and Dunedin,' was negatived by 17 to 5. The motion being put to the meeting, was carried by 16 to 6.

Mr. A. F. O'Donoghue (St. Columba) moved: An amendment of Rule 10—'The deletion of the last sentence (referring to the privileges of life members).—Carried.

Mr. Miles (Dunedin) for the executive moved: An addition to Rule 10—'No person who owes membership subscription or other moneys to an affiliated club, or who has been expelled or is under suspension by any such club, shall, without the written consent of the executive of that club, be admitted a member of another affiliated club.—Carried.

Mr. T. M. Heffernan (St. Columba) moved: An amendment of Rule 7—'The deletion of the second sentence and the substitution of the following words, viz., "Such conference shall be attended by councillors or delegates representing affiliated clubs; clubs with a membership of not less than 50 be entitled to two votes; clubs with a less membership than 50 to be entitled to one vote." After some considerable discussion the motion was negatived by 13 to 10.

The election of officers for the ensuing term resulted as follows:—President-general, his Grace Archbishop Redwood, S.M., D.D.; president, Mr. A. H. Casey; vice-president, Mr. H. McKeowen; hon. secretary, Mr. J. L. Leydon; hon. treasurer, Mr. J. McGowan; executive, the foregoing officers and Messrs. E. B. L. Reade, D. Butler, and E. J. Leydon.

A suggestion was approved that the clubs' magazine be made the joint official organ of the various Catholic societies and organisations in New Zealand, bringing the publication under special joint management, to be issued monthly instead of quarterly.

A report by the president (Mr. A. H. Casey) on the recent Catholic Congress and on his observations in Australia as affecting Catholic clubs was much appreciated by the delegates, who noted many valuable suggestions.

Several valuable papers bearing pertinently on the work of Catholic clubs and boys' guilds were read and discussed. Mr. L. T. Reichel, of Wellington, and Mr. J. Burgess, of Timaru, forwarded papers dealing with 'the best means of promoting and ensuring the continuance of the welfare of Catholic clubs in New Zealand.' Both papers, which were discussed at great length, proved a source of valuable information for the delegates. The written reports (on the past year's work) from the various affiliated clubs proved that the clubs are accomplishing splendid work in their respective districts; a large number of clubs have their own rooms and are entirely free of debt, while the membership of the various clubs ranges from 50 to 200.

It was decided to support the movement for the establishment of conferences of the St. Vincent de Paul Society and the Catholic Seamen's Conferences, and to help to increase the membership of the H.A.C.B. Society.

The conference passed a motion extending fraternal greetings to the H.A.C.B. Society, sitting at Wellington.

A hearty vote of thanks was accorded Miss E. Roche for acting as shorthand reporter.

In moving a hearty vote of thanks to the chair, Mr. O'Donoghue congratulated Mr. Casey on his election to the presidency for the fifth term, assuring him that the affiliated clubs would ever strive to assist the executive in their complicated duties.

Mr. Casey, in responding, congratulated the delegates on the splendid work which had been accomplished during the session, and assured them that the executive would still continue to work diligently in the best interests of the Federation.

The next conference will be held at Christchurch during Easter, 1911.

DIOCESE OF CHRISTCHURCH

(From our own correspondent.)

April 4.

His Lordship the Bishop leaves on Friday on a visitation of the Westland portion of the diocese, beginning at Greymouth. The Rev. Father Hyland, of Rangiora, is to accompany him.

There was Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament from the 11 o'clock Mass until after Vespers in the Cathedral on Sunday last. In the evening there was the usual procession, followed by Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament.

Missions by the Redemptorist Fathers in the suburban portions of the Cathedral parish were commenced on last Sunday morning by the Very Rev. Father Hunt, C.S.S.R., and Rev. Father Lynch, C.S.S.R., at Addington and Woolston respectively.

A Triduum in honor of the recently beatified founder of the Order of the Religious of the Good Shepherd was commenced at Mount Magdala on last Sunday evening. At the close of the Triduum on Wednesday morning there will be Pontifical High Mass, at which his Grace Archbishop Redwood, S.M., is expected to be present.

The first regular meeting of the Arch-confraternity of the Most Blessed Sacrament took place in the Cathedral on last Friday evening, and was numerously attended. His Lordship the Bishop preached. The monthly Communion of Associates is arranged for the first Sundays of the month for women, and the second for men. Last Sunday was the occasion of the women's Communion, when large numbers approached the Holy Table.

The children of the Cathedral parish schools, including those of Addington and Halswell, were treated to a very enjoyable picnic at Purau, across Lyttelton Harbor, on Thursday last. The outing was arranged by the clergy, teachers, and others. Several of the clergy and Marist Brothers accompanied the excursionists, and supervised the arrangements, a pleasant day being spent in sports and games.

A bazaar in aid of the funds of the Catholic Church at Hanmer Springs was concluded on last Wednesday evening, after a very successful season. The bazaar was opened on the previous Monday with a musical programme by the Dresden Concert Company, and the hall was filled. Violin solos were contributed by Mr. Vere Buchanan, songs by Miss Winnie Dixon and Mr. J. Clark, humorous songs and recitations by Mr. W. Farquhar Young, and a humorous duet by Miss Nixon and Mr. Young. Mr. R. A. Horne was the accompanist. After an interval to permit of business, the concluding portion of the arrangements in the nature of a social gathering was carried out, Mrs. Raymond, of Timaru, kindly providing incidental music. In closing the bazaar, the Rev. Father Richards expressed his hearty thanks to those who had assisted, particularly Mr. C. McEvoy, whose artistic decoration of the hall was much admired; Mr. O. Anderson, who had carried goods for the bazaar free of charge, and the committee of Hawarden ladies who had assisted. Rev. Father Richards also thanked the people outside the Church for their generous support.

Blenheim

(From our own correspondent.)

The Marist Fathers commenced a mission in the Marlborough district on Thursday, March 31.

The Masses on Easter Sunday were attended by large congregations. At the half-past 7 o'clock Mass considerably over 300 approached the Holy Table. At half-past 10 o'clock Rev. Father Barclay, of St. Patrick's College, celebrated a Missa Cantata, the music being Gounod's Mass in C, which was nicely sung by the choir. At the evening devotions Father Barclay preached an eloquent sermon on frequent Communions.

'Catholic Marriages.' The book of the hour. Single copies, 1s posted. Apply Manager, *Tablet*, Dunedin.