

Catholic primary schools, with scarcely an exception, are examined annually by the State inspectors, this means that the Junior National Scholarships are made available for practically all our Catholic primary pupils. An even wider extension has been made in the case of the Board Scholarships. Sub-clause 3 of clause 28 of the Bill provides that 'all Scholarships heretofore or hereafter established by the board shall be open to all school children of school age.' In other words, they are to be open to all New Zealand.

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These concessions—important and well-intended as they undoubtedly are—would be an evil and not a blessing to us if successful Catholic candidates were to be debarred from taking out their Scholarships at approved Catholic secondary schools. The Catholic conscientious objection applies not less to secular secondary schools than to secular primary schools, and the spirit of justice and fair play which has prompted the recognition of that objection by throwing Scholarships open to the pupils of private primary schools finds its natural and logical complement in making such Scholarships available at approved private secondary schools. And, as efficient educational institutions, our Catholic secondary schools are entitled, on their merits, to this recognition. The curriculum of our secondary schools covers—as does that of the other secondary schools—the ground which qualifies for Civil Service and Matriculation, and every year an ever-increasing number of Catholic pupils are successfully entered for these examinations. There is, moreover, ample precedent in various of the Australian States for the course suggested. In Queensland bursaries and scholarships have been thrown open for competition to every child in the country, and Catholic children are able to get the benefit of their State Scholarships in the Christian Brothers' College, Nudgee, All Hallows Convent, Brisbane, and other Catholic high schools; while Church of England or other Protestant Scholarship holders who may desire it are permitted to take out their Scholarships at the Church of England College. In Victoria the Jesuit College at Kew, and in West Australia the Christian Brothers' College at Perth are, we believe, similarly recognised. In New South Wales the new Minister of Education has just announced his intention to give effect to a similar proposal, recognising the great secondary schools in the community that are not under the direct control of the Government. The broad principle underlying the question was admirably expressed by Inspector Stuart, of Auckland, at the Inspectors' Conference held in February last: 'If a Catholic child gained a Scholarship at a Catholic primary school, and wished to attend a Catholic secondary school, he saw no reason why such Scholarship should not be tenable at the higher grade Catholic school. There was a great principle involved in the question. If a member of the community contributed to a public fund for a certain object, on no reasonable grounds could he be excluded from the benefits which that fund implied.'

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The Education Amendment Bill contains no provision specifying that State Scholarships may be taken out at Catholic secondary schools; and many of those interested in the question have concluded therefore that our secondary schools are still absolutely debarred from participation in the benefits of the State Scholarship system. That is not precisely the position. The new Bill contains no reference whatever to the institutions at which the State Scholarships are to be available; and the matter is therefore governed by existing legislation. As regards Board Scholarships, the consolidated Education Act provides that 'the holder of any such Scholarship shall receive the amount of his Scholarship only so long as he prosecutes his studies to the satisfaction of the board, at a secondary school or its equivalent approved by the board.' And in respect to National Scholarships, the Act provides: 'The holder of any Junior Scholarship shall be required to prosecute his studies diligently, to the satisfaction of the Inspector-General of Schools, at a secondary school or its equivalent approved of by the board and the Minister.' Practically the only stipulation, therefore, in both cases is that the secondary school at which Scholarships are to be taken out shall be one approved of by the board.

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The position, then, is that there is not now, as heretofore, any legislative obstacle to the recognition of Catholic

secondary schools, and that the administrative question involved is entirely in the hands of the Education Boards. It was generally understood that the new Bill was to settle the matter once for all on clear and definite lines, and it is much to be regretted that when the opportunity presented itself the Government should have failed to rise to the occasion. However—as we have indicated—we have at least made one legislative step forward, and are so far in a better position than formerly. The obvious course would now seem to be to allow Catholic pupils to compete for Scholarships, and—where they are successful—to let application be made to the board to have the Catholic secondary school selected by the candidate 'approved.' There are one or two boards—in the smaller Education districts—in regard to which we believe such application would almost certainly be granted. In the case of the majority of the boards, however, it is quite impossible to predict what the attitude will be. All that can be done in the meantime is to put the matter to the test. If the boards fall into line—as they have now finally done in the matter of inspection of our primary schools—well and good; if not, we will at least know where we are and what further steps to take. The one thing to be avoided at all costs is an ignoble sitting still under injustice.

Notes

St. Patrick's College Jubilee Celebrations

We direct our readers' special attention to the cordial invitation extended, through our advertising columns, to all the friends of St. Patrick's College, Wellington, to be present at the Silver Jubilee celebrations on the 11th, 12th, and 13th of the present month.

The Post Office and King Manoel

The *Figaro* states that a number of copies of that journal sent since the revolution to its royal subscribers, King Manoel and Queen Maria Pia of Portugal, have been returned to Paris with the remark in Portuguese, 'Left; present address unknown.'

'F.C.G.' on the Situation

'F.C.G.' in the *Westminster Gazette*, illustrates the new position with regard to Home Rule by drawing Mr. Redmond sitting in a bower, and gazing through the trellis-work at him is an old lady, called 'Old Tory Party,' who says:

'Well, I declare if he isn't quite a pleasant-looking gentleman—and I used to think he was so horrid! And I rather like the smell of the cigar [Home Rule] he's smoking!'

That American Interview

A good deal of attention was devoted in the press of the world to the report of an interview alleged to have been given by Mr. Redmond—while in America—to the New York correspondent of the *Daily Express*, in the course of which the Irish leader was represented as considerably watering down the terms of the Irish demand for Home Rule. As might safely have been anticipated, Mr. Redmond has taken the earliest opportunity of repudiating the accuracy of this American 'interview,' and of issuing the following explicit statement on the point:

'Our minimum demand is for an Irish Parliament with an executive responsible to it and full control over all purely Irish matters. This is the definition of Home Rule to which the British Prime Minister and the entire Liberal Party stand pledged, and is our minimum demand.'

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'What is understood as "devolution," or the creation of a council in Ireland without legislative powers, was proposed by the Liberal Party in a Parliamentary Bill in the year 1907, and was rejected by us. Devolution is dead, and there will be no resurrection for it. As for what is called "Home Rule all round," or a general system of federalism, of course, if England, Scotland, and Wales desire to have Parliaments of their own under a federal system, Ireland would have no reason to object. I think we would agree that our Home Rule constitution should be

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