

of such a character as to fit in with a general system of federation later on, but it must be clearly understood that Ireland cannot wait until England, Scotland, and Wales have made up their minds to get Home Rule for themselves.'

A Libeller in Trouble

Some time ago we drew attention to the fact that a luridly-covered and venomously worded publication, bearing the imprint of 'W. P. Black,' Auckland, and containing a disgraceful and scurrilous attack on the personal character of Sir Joseph Ward, was being hawked about the streets of our larger towns; and we expressed the hope that something might be done to put an end to the scandal. In his over-eagerness to rake in the shekels by this discreditable appeal to personal and political prejudices one of the purveyors of this precious production has fallen foul of some borough by-laws: and Sergeant Bowman, of Timaru, is to be complimented on his quickness to see and promptness to seize the opportunity presented. The facts are set out in the following paragraph, wired by the Timaru correspondent of the *Dunedin Evening Star*: 'What was described by the police as a scurrilous attempt to damage a public man in his public position was before the Magistrate's Court to-day, when Lupas Black, a stranger to Timaru, was prosecuted under the borough by-laws for distributing handbills about town. The handbills announced the sale of a book attacking Sir Joseph Ward. The magistrate agreed with Sergeant Bowman in describing the distribution of the handbills as a scurrilous attempt to injure a public man, and imposed a fine of £5 and costs.'

The same amiable character—that is, the publisher of the attack on Sir Joseph Ward—is also editor and publisher of a coarse and violent Socialist paper, known as the *Leader*; and he is now 'in the soup' for a scurrilous libel which he had printed in that squalid publication. The case was heard the other day in the Supreme Court at Wellington. The plaintiff, who claimed £501 as damages and other relief, was Elijah John Carey, and the defendant William Pierrepont Black, editor and publisher of the *Leader*, the weekly Socialist paper published in Auckland. The pleadings showed that the plaintiff is president of the Wellington Trades and Labor Council, secretary of the Wellington Cooks' and Waiters' Union, the Wellington Grocers' Union, and the New Zealand Federated Hotel and Restaurant Employees' Association. It was claimed that the plaintiff had suffered damage by an article in the *Leader* on September 2 last, whereby the defendant meant that the plaintiff was a traitor and a liar, and was unfit to occupy any position of trust, and was an impostor, and unfit for any position as office-bearer in any Labor organisation. An injunction was asked to restrain the defendant and his agents from further circulating, distributing, or otherwise publishing the said article or any other articles of the same nature, or similar libels affecting the plaintiff and his offices. The article complained of was headed: 'A Lying Labor Traitor: Carey Wants a Government Job; Repudiates New Zealand Federation of Labor.' The defendant pleaded justification, fair comment, and privilege. His Honor, the Chief Justice, in giving judgment, said that the defendant had utterly failed to show that the statements were true or the comment bona fide. It was only charitable, said the Judge, to suppose that the writer was unaware of the meaning of the English language, for he used words entirely unwarranted by any facts brought under his notice. Plaintiff was entitled to recover. The Judge did not know if the full damages claimed would be too much to give under the circumstances, but to give excessive damages against a man of no means would be no use. Damages were fixed at £70, costs as per scale.

It is as well that Mr. W. P. Black should learn once for all that in civilised communities blackening people's character is not a paying occupation.

Mr. James Pascoe, Karangahape road, Auckland, devotes special care and attention to wedding and engagement rings, and has on hand a splendid assortment of trophies suitable for presentations. All orders by post receive prompt attention....

DIocese OF DUNEDIN

The Rev. Father Creagh, C.S.S.R., began a retreat for the students of St. Dominic's College on Monday. It will conclude on Friday evening.

A retreat for the members of the Sodality of the Children of Mary was preached last week in the chapel of the Convent of Mercy, South Dunedin, by Rev. Father Creagh, C.S.S.R. The morning and evening exercises were well attended. Within the past few years the sodality has steadily grown, until at present there are 117 members attending the weekly meetings. On Sunday morning the sodalists received Holy Communion in a body in the Basilica, and in the evening an edifying and impressive ceremony was witnessed, when six members made their solemn act of consecration and twenty-five aspirants joined the sodality. Rev. Father Creagh, C.S.S.R., who preached an eloquent sermon on the Blessed Virgin Mary, congratulated the Children of Mary on the fervent spirit they had shown, and urged them to be true children of their Immaculate Mother and faithful to the precepts of the sodality.

His Lordship the Bishop on Sunday afternoon administered the Sacrament of Confirmation in St. Patrick's Basilica, South Dunedin. His Lordship was assisted by the Rev. Fathers O'Malley, D. O'Neill, and Creagh, C.S.S.R., the Rev. Fathers Coffey, Adm., and Scanlan being also present. Of the 145 candidates presented 19 were adults, and four of these were natives of China. His Lordship addressed the candidates before Confirmation, and explained to them the nature of the Sacrament, the disposition with which they should receive it, and the graces which its worthy reception conferred on them. After confirmation Dr. Verdon again addressed those confirmed, and administered the usual temperance pledge to the children. His Lordship in the course of his address congratulated the children on the intelligent manner in which they had answered the questions on Christian doctrine, and complimented their teachers, the Sisters of Mercy, on their devotedness and zeal.

JUBILEE OF ST. PATRICK'S COLLEGE, WELLINGTON.

(Contributed.)

During the past three months St. Patrick's College has had many proofs of the interest taken in its work by the priests and people of New Zealand. Donations still come in freely to the jubilee fund, which shall partly wipe off the crushing debt still weighing on the college, thus enabling it to attain to that larger growth which all desire, none more so than the staff itself. But there must be many Catholics who have not yet sent the subscription which all along they intended to send. These are reminded that the jubilee celebrations are drawing near, and that he gives twice who gives quickly.

It would be superfluous to remind the readers of the *Tablet* that a Catholic college is not a mere local or class interest, like the building of a church or primary school; that it intimately touches every school, every church, every mission in the Dominion, and that on its success and well-being depend the success and well-being of the whole Church in this young land.

For 25 years our premier Catholic college has kept watch and ward over the Catholic youth of the Dominion. Twelve hundred young men have been sent forth from its walls to help in the building up of their country, and, above all, to take a hand in the growth and expansion of the Church and to fight her battles whenever it was necessary. Thirty of them have devoted their young lives to the altar, and are to-day helping to spread the work of the Gospel, whether it be in college hall, or parish church, or on the missionary field. The Society of Mary, the secular priesthood, the Society of the Sacred Heart, and the great Society of Jesus claim their allegiance. This alone is a record to be proud of, and a claim to the gratitude of all Catholics. No need to recount its other achievements, for are they not written in the lives of its old boys scattered broad and wide, up and down the Dominion, and even beyond the great seas, in the high ideals, the steady resolve, and masterful purpose displayed by them, and, above all, in their enthusiastic support of Holy Church?

These things have been done in the past; the future, please God, shall witness a greater expansion, a wider sphere of work. But the help of the laity is needed to achieve this noble aim. All who have followed the various phases of the education question during this year 1910, and who have watched the Education Amendment Bill, which is on the very eve of being adopted by Parliament, must have realised with a startling suddenness that the cause of our Catholic colleges will during the next few years be the centre of all our hopes and fears. With the splendidly endowed State institutions thrown open to all Catholic children—nay, inviting them, beckoning to them to enter their walls and breathe and adopt their spirit—it becomes a sacred duty of priests and people to make great sacrifices if need be to endow our own colleges in such a way that they can successfully compete with all rival institutions,

LANGFORD and RHIND

... (late W. and H. Langford,
16 LONDON ST. 'Phone

GENERAL

BOX 52

Christchurch

Address—HERBERT LANGFORD, 16 London St., Richmond. 'Phone, 689. Town Office—227 CASHEL ST.,
JOHN RHIND, 48 Montreal St., Hydeabam. 'Phone, 1809. Phone, 812