

Catholic laymen belong to the ranks of labor, everything that relates to social and economic conditions necessarily has a special interest for them. As they form such a large proportion of the working class, it is their bounden duty to take an active and intelligent part in all that pertains to their industrial interests. Most of them are members of the various trades unions established to conserve and protect their rights—and they are wise in their generation in thus uniting for self-protection. But there is still a lot more to be done. Membership is all very well. Active interest is much more important, and here it is that the Catholic worker too often shows his weakness. Instead of taking a prominent part in Trades Hall matters, he is conspicuous by his absence. From modesty, laziness, or indifference he will not come forward as a candidate to represent his council at the Trades Hall. He will not shoulder his share of the burden, and very often leaves to an inferior, but more industrious, man, the task of performing a duty that should rightly be his.

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“It is absolutely necessary,” continues our contemporary, “that our Catholic workers should not shirk their duty in this regard. They should make themselves acquainted with what the Church teaches regarding Socialism and the rights of property, and should be able, without obtrusiveness, to put before their fellow-workers the views of the Church on industrial troubles and kindred matters. Thus fortified they would be of immense value, both to their union and the State. Catholics sometimes complain of the Socialistic tendencies of unions of which they are members, but a little close questioning will always elicit the regrettable fact that they have not in any way tried to influence the views of their brother workers. They are not in the inner councils to give the Church’s views when subjects of momentous issue are discussed. If Catholic workers did their part honestly and fairly they would prove to be the leaven that leaveneth the whole. They would advance the cause of Labor and stay the progress of Socialism. The latter is the bugbear which checks and always will check the advance of Labor. If the general public were assured that the terms Socialism and Labor were not synonymous, Labor would be continually triumphant. But until the loud-tongued and shallow-brained Socialist demagogue is silenced the progress of the Labor cause will be retarded.” We have only to add that the Catholic worker has not the shadow of an excuse for not being well posted on Catholic principles in regard to the Labor question, as there is a cheap, abundant, and easily accessible literature on the subject.

DIOCESE OF DUNEDIN

The annual Peter’s Pence collection will be made at St. Joseph’s Cathedral on next Sunday.

The annual meeting of the St. Vincent de Paul Society (ladies’ branch) will be held in St. Joseph’s Hall on Friday evening.

In the supplementary list of junior Civil Service candidates the names of the following pupils of St. Dominic’s College appear:—R. Wakelin, M. Nolan, M. Lane, A. Moritzson.

On Monday evening a euchre party was held in St. Joseph’s Hall in aid of the hall funds. There was a very good attendance, and a most enjoyable evening was spent. Musical items were contributed by Miss M. Wood and Messrs. H. Poppelwell, H. Gallagher, and Blair.

A euchre party in aid of the Dominican Convent building fund was held in the Sacred Heart School, North-East Valley, on last Friday evening. The lady’s prize was won by Miss Fogarty and the gentleman’s by Mr. Cottle. Songs were contributed by Misses Johnston and Wood, and a recitation by Miss Anderson.

The members of the Dunedin Police Force met on Monday evening in the Police Library to make a presentation to Constable Skinner, on the eve of his

marriage. Senior-sergeant King, on behalf of the force, wished him long life and happiness, and presented him with a time-piece. A number of others spoke in eulogistic terms of Constable Skinner, who thanked the members of the force for their present and their kind wishes in appropriate terms.

Mr. C. R. Bossence, Education Board Inspector, in his report on the Sacred Heart School, North-East Valley, conducted by the Dominican Nuns, states that Valley, conducted by the Dominican Nuns, says:—“There were 67 children present at the examination. good; time-tables are suitable, the schemes of work make adequate provision for the requirements of the syllabus; the methods have been well chosen, and generally have been applied with good effect.”

“In all the oral work the pupils render a ready response to the efforts of the teachers. Order, discipline, and tone are very good; the manners and general behaviour are excellent; buildings are in good condition.” “On the whole the school is in good condition, handwork, singing, and needlework meriting special mention.”

The Education Board Inspector, Mr. John R. Don, reporting on St. Mary’s Convent School, Mosgiel, conducted by the Sisters of Mercy, says: “The organisation of the school, and the classification of the pupils are satisfactory. Registers are in order.” “The schemes of work have been arranged with due regard to their interest and educative value, and the work professed has been well carried out; the work of the infant classes is well varied and thoroughly taught; the attention given to oral expression and clear enunciation being specially pleasing.” “The upper department has been skilfully taught, the proficiency candidates doing very well in all their work. Physical exercises and singing are very good; handwork and needlework are excellent; order, discipline, and tone are very good; the manners and general behaviour of the pupils are excellent; the new school rooms are very suitable.” The pupils presented totalled 50.

SOCIAL GATHERING AT MOSGIEL

On Tuesday evening the stallholders, assistants, and others who took part in the recent Empire Carnival were entertained at a social gathering in the Coronation Hall, Mosgiel. Mr. A. F. Quelch presided over a very large attendance, and among those present were Rev. Father Coffey, Adm., Rev. Father Liston (Rector of Holy Cross College), Rev. Father Delany, Rev. Father Buckley, and the clergy of Holy Cross College. The programme consisted of a euchre tournament interspersed with musical selections. At an interval in the proceedings an artistically illuminated address was presented to Rev. Father Liston on behalf of the stallholders and assistants at the bazaar.

Mr. Quelch, in asking Mr. Walls to read the address, spoke at length on the good work done in the parish by Father Liston, and on the high esteem in which he was held by his people.

The following was the address*—

“Rev. and Dear Father,—Now that the most successful carnival ever held in this district has just been concluded, we take this opportunity of recording our appreciation of your untiring efforts, your kindness and consideration to all the assistants, and the ability you displayed in making the carnival such a success. We recognise not only your sterling personal worth, but your exceedingly successful management of the affairs of the parish. You have entirely cleared off the debt, besides purchasing and paying for a splendid school for the Sisters of Mercy. Considering the small congregation in Mosgiel, the result achieved, in the space of about 18 months, is one that any priest might well be proud of. Time may dull the memory, but the convent school, Mosgiel, will remain a lasting memorial of your work as parish priest in the Taieri. Again we congratulate you on the success of the Empire Carnival, which has been the means of liquidating a large portion of the parish debt. We pray that you may for many years to come enjoy good health, and that you will be

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