

N.Z. CATHOLIC FEDERATION

CHRISTCHURCH DIOCESAN COUNCIL.

The seventh annual meeting of the Christchurch Diocesan Council was held in the Hibernian Hall, Christchurch, on Tuesday, July 20. His Lordship Dr. Brodie was present, and the Very Rev. Dr. Kennedy, president of the council, presided. The following delegates and officers were present:—Akaroa, Mr. A. Kottowski; Addington, Mr. E. O'Rourke; Cathedral, Very Rev. Dr. Kennedy, Messrs. T. Cahill and F. O'Connell, Hawarden, Rev. J. C. Murphy; Lincoln, Rev. D. Leen, Miss C. Ryan, and Mr. P. F. Ryan; Morven, Messrs. J. Tangney and P. Hanley; Makikihi, Mr. J. Cooney; Rangiora, Rev. M. Fogarty, Mr. J. Catherwood; Pleasant Point, Mr. J. Coll; St. Mary's, Christchurch North, Very Rev. Dean Regnault, S.M., Miss M. Callaghan, Messrs. Albertson and C. Garrigan; Timaru, Rev. D. Hurley, S.M., Mr. J. G. Venning; Temuka, Rev. E. Kimbell, S.M., Mr. W. Hally; Waimate, Rev. W. J. Peoples, S.M., and Mr. M. Leonard; treasurer, Mr. W. Hayward; secretary, Mr. F. J. Doolan. Very Rev. C. Graham, S.M., M.A., Rev. F. Kerley, S.M. (St Bede's College), Rev. Father Bonetto, and a number of interested members were present during the day. Mr. J. G. Venning was appointed minute secretary. The Very Rev. President extended a hearty welcome to his Lordship the Bishop, the clergy, and the assembled delegates. In welcoming his Lordship he thanked him for his deep interest in the Federation and for his advice and assistance so willingly rendered during the year, and bespoke the same during the coming year. In dealing with the work of the year he considered admirable progress had been made, touched on various matters that required attention, and concluded a very interesting address by asking one and all to combine and extend the Federation to its utmost limits in the diocese. The secretary read the executive's report, which dealt very fully with the work accomplished during the year. The membership shows an increase of 1779. Reference was made to the parishes visited, Federation scholarships, special committee for furthering the interests of boys, Catholic girls' hostel, Field Service Fund, and other interesting questions. His Lordship the Bishop addressed the meeting and complimented the officers and members of the executive on the zeal displayed by them, and on the satisfactory results of their labors as disclosed in the more than favorable report just read. He was deeply interested in extending the influence of the Federation, and was pleased to note the large increase in membership. The work that was being done in the cause of education, the founding of scholarships, and the welfare of our boys were matters that should appeal to everyone, and referred in appreciative terms to the successful efforts of the Federation in dealing with these important questions. In referring to St. Bede's College he congratulated the Very Rev. Rector and his staff on the great success that was attending their efforts in the cause of secondary education, and said that the roll of 80 students was proof of its necessity and of its timely establishment in the diocese. Speaking on the Dominion's immigration policy, he invited the Federation to assist in every possible way their co-religionists arriving to settle in this country. The statement of accounts read by the treasurer showed substantial credit balances in the general and scholarship accounts. The Catholic Girls' Hostel report and balance sheet were read, disclosing a record year. The accommodation was shown to be insufficient for present requirements, although alterations and additions, carried out at a cost of £145, had supplied extra room. The average number of permanent boarders had been 29, and 250 visitors had stayed at the hostel for varying periods. A motion was carried to the effect that the parish committees be again appealed to for financial assistance to reduce the debt on the property.

The secretary read annual reports from the following parish committees:—Akaroa, Ahaura, Addington, Brunnerton, Cathedral, Darfield, Fairlie, Greymouth, Lincoln, Little River, Leeston, Methven, Morven, Makikihi Ross, Rangiora, Rakaia, Pleasant Point, St. Mary's, Christchurch North, St. Andrews, Timaru, Temuka, and Waimate, all being considered satisfactory. St. Mary's Parish Committee holds the premier position, the next in order being Timaru, Greymouth, and Waimate. Sixteen committees show increased membership over any previous year, while some have practically doubled their numbers during the year. Ahaura, Cathedral, Fairlie, Rakaia, Ross, St. Andrews, and Timaru committees have forwarded donations to the Scholarship Fund, and Rangiora, St. Andrews, and Temuka committees donations to the Girls' Hostel Property Fund. A motion proposed by the Very Rev. Dean Regnault—"That his Lordship the Bishop be asked to issue an appeal to the parish priests of the diocese to take up a special collection annually under the auspices of the Federation, for the purpose of providing scholarships,"—was adopted. Father Kimbell moved—"That a special day should be set apart for enrolling the school children, and that the teachers and others should be invited to address them on the aims, objects, and activities of the Federation."—Carried. Mr. Doolan moved—"That the envelope system of enrolling members be adopted in this diocese." He mentioned that by this means 700 enrolments were received on one Sunday at the Cathedral recently. The motion was carried. Miss Callaghan moved—"That the Federation take steps to encourage Catholic University students, and to safeguard their interests. The mover read a paper on this subject, and after several of the delegates had spoken thereon, the motion was carried. During the discussion of general business Rev. Father Hurley stated, on behalf of the Timaru Parish Committee, that Drs. Talbot and Loughnan had medically examined the children attending the Catholic schools in Timaru, and that the parents had been notified on a specially printed form of any defects found by them. If the parents were unable to pay the cost of medical attendance to remedy these defects, arrangements were made to treat them at the Hospital. He warmly praised the action of these two medical gentlemen, especially the former, who was a non-Catholic, in accepting their self-imposed task. It was resolved that the executive consider this question in the interests of the children of the diocese, and to send an official letter of thanks and appreciation to Drs. Talbot and Loughnan.

To meet the convenience of delegates from Westland, it was decided to hold the next meeting of the council on a Thursday instead of on Tuesday as heretofore. Several other matters of importance were discussed, and ordered to be sent on to the Dominion Council for final decision.

The election of officers resulted as follows:—President, Very Rev. J. A. Kennedy, D.D.; vice-presidents, Rev. D. Hurley, S.M., and Mr. J. R. Hayward; treasurer, Mr. W. Hayward; secretary, Mr. F. J. Doolan; committee—Very Rev. Deans Regnault and Hyland, Very Rev. C. Graham, Rev. Father O'Connor, Miss M. Callaghan, Miss Farrow, Messrs. P. F. Ryan, E. O'Rourke, T. Cahill, M. Grimes, F. Holley, Albertson, and C. Garrigan; delegates to Dominion Council meeting, Rev. Dr. Kennedy or Father Hurley (to be arranged between themselves), Messrs. P. F. Ryan and P. J. Doolan.

The delegates were entertained to luncheon by Mr. and Mrs. T. Tansley, of the Excelsior Hotel, who were cordially thanked for their generous hospitality.

A brief visit was paid to the Girls' Hostel during the afternoon adjournment, where the matron and the ladies of the board of management dispensed refreshments to the delegates.

Father Kimbell thanked the ladies on behalf of the visitors, and congratulated them on the fine building, and the great success of their work.

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