

COMMONWEALTH NOTES

NEW SOUTH WALES.

The Bishop-elect of Dunedin, the Right Rev. Dr. Whyte, at the opening of the Father Therry Centenary Bazaar at Balmain on Saturday, September 4, said that the object for which the bazaar was held was to pay off the remaining debt upon the public school taken over by Father Rohan. He understood that Father Rohan paid a fair sum for the school, and had also heard that the building was in good repair, needing only a coat of whitewash. "I should not be surprised," continued his Lordship, "that the coat of whitewash would be quite in order in regard to public schools. It was thought for a long time that that system was not perfect, as two commissioners were sent abroad, and when they returned it was learned that the coat of whitewash to the public school system would cover up defects which should have been remedied long before. Again, it had been asserted that ample opportunity had been given for religious education side by side with secular education in public schools. Against this they had the authority of various clergy belonging to non-Catholic denominations, and they inform us that the system was imperfect." In confirmation his Lordship quoted the statement of Rev. Harold Wheen, secretary of the Methodist Young People's Department, published in the *Sydney Morning Herald* in its issue of July 17, as follows: "I am, however, prepared to endorse very fully the attitude taken up recently by the Rev. Pendleton Stuart, of Bathurst, and by the secretary to the Board of Education in the Anglican diocese of Sydney, who are both convinced that the Protestant Churches have much to learn from the Catholic Church in the matter of liberal provision for the religious education of the child. For over eight years I have had special opportunity of seeing at close quarters what is being done in this direction by all the Churches in every district of the State, and am convinced that the only Church that makes adequate provision, by equipment and teaching, for child training, is the Church of Rome; and on that ground I have no hesitation in expressing my warm admiration for her policy. Protestants are not yet prepared to foot the bill. I am perfectly aware that the Catholic zeal for education is part of a policy for isolating its youth for the Church's own purposes. I am also aware that the Church uses means for money-raising for such purposes that are not approved by us. But the fact remains—she believes that the time to enthrone religion in a life is during the years of childhood and youth, and pays the price." "I will tell you a secret," continued Dr. Whyte. "A young Sydney priest is now engaged in writing the life of Father Therry. Whereas Father Therry's career was many sided, and his work very extensive, you must not expect that book to appear in the near future. It will take a considerable time to write. On account of your association with Father Therry in Balmain, I hope no Balmain family will be without a copy of the life of that great, industrious, zealous, and successful pioneer.

Right Rev. Mgr. O'Haran, who was seriously injured in a motor accident some weeks ago, is now well on the way to recovery.

VICTORIA.

In view of the fact that in both private firms and public institutions the practice of questioning applicants for employment as to their religious belief is being adopted, the Australian Catholic Federation is taking steps to have such action made illegal. At a recent meeting of the State Council in Melbourne the following resolution was carried: "That this State Council affirms that it is desirable that it be a condition of all agreements made through the arbitration courts that no question shall be asked concerning the religion of applicants for employment; also, that it be an offence against the Factories Act of the State

for employers or their representatives to ask any question concerning the religion of applicants for employment." The Federation, rightly regarding this as a matter of public interest, intends to bring this resolution under the notice of all political parties and industrial organisations.

QUEENSLAND.

One of the passengers by the Aki Maru, which arrived at Brisbane recently, was the Very Rev. Father John Blowick, Superior-General of the Irish Mission to China. He is *en route* to Ireland from China. Dr. Blowick was born near Tuam, in Ireland, in 1889. His early education was entrusted to the Christian Brothers, who speedily saw in him the intellect of his class. In all competitive examinations he took first place with honors. His career at the Royal University was very distinguished, and when he entered Maynooth College in the race for theological honors he was invariably first. Dr. Blowick was the first whom Father Galvin approached when he came to Ireland. At Father Galvin's request he resigned his professorship of dogmatic theology to found the organisation that is now known as the Irish Mission to China. Last May Dr. Blowick led the first band of missionaries to China. He is now returning to Ireland to further the interests of his organisation.

At the District Hibernian Conference held in Brisbane recently, the following cables were forwarded to the Archbishop of Melbourne, his Grace Dr. Mannix, and Mr. E. de Valera respectively:—"District meeting, representing 6000 Hibernians, Southern Queensland, enter emphatic protest at action of British Government in preventing you visiting your native land—Ireland—and congratulate you on your dignified stand against the unwarranted and unjustified persecution to which you are being subjected." (Signed) P. G. A. Murphy, District President. "District meeting, representing 6000 Hibernians, Southern Queensland, congratulate yourself and party on your noble stand for Ireland's freedom, and trust complete victory will be attained in an early realisation of a free, united, unfettered, self-governed Ireland."—(Signed) P. G. A. Murphy, District President.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

The Right Rev. Mgr. B. Nevin, Administrator of St. Francis Xavier's Cathedral, and one of the most respected priests of the Adelaide archdiocese, died at the North Adelaide Private Hospital a few weeks ago in his 83rd year. Mgr. Nevin, who celebrated the golden jubilee of his ordination to the priesthood last year, was born at Fuerty, Co. Roscommon, Ireland. After his ordination in 1869 he came out to Australia, and was first appointed to the Cathedral staff. Though never enjoying robust health, he was a grand Church worker. During 50 years he had been instrumental in raising a large sum for Church purposes.

A letter from the Archbishop of Adelaide, the Most Rev. Dr. Spence, by the last mail, dated July 8, shows that his Grace was then at St. Saviour's, Dublin, the headquarters of the Irish Dominicans, whither he had proceeded from Rome with Prior Croft, O.P., of San Clemente. His Grace met Mrs. and Miss O'Mara, of Adelaide, who were in Dublin for the ordination of Rev. Father R. O'Mara, S.J. The Jesuit Fathers had asked the Archbishop to perform the ceremony, and he had consented, conferring the order of sub-deacon on July 13, of deacon on July 14, of the priesthood on July 15. The Archbishop also presided at High Mass in thanksgiving for the canonisation of St. Gabriel of Our Lady of Sorrows, in the Passionist Church, Mount Argus. Recent cable messages show that his Grace joined in the protest of the other Australasian prelates who had visited Rome, against the treatment of Archbishop Mannix by the British Government.

No one has a right to afflict others with his own burdens. Bear your own cross.