

Saints' Day. The Conference return sincere thanks to all who have, in any way, assisted it during the year, and records special thanks to the Blakely Trust for a generous donation to the society's funds. The statement of accounts shows receipts amounting to £117 3s 8d, which includes balance forward, £33 19s 11d; subscriptions, £35 1s 9d; collection, £21 2s; and donations (including grant from the Blakely Trust), £27. The expenditure shows an outlay amounting to £116 2s, disbursed as follows:—Groceries, £38 10s; boots, £12; coal, £28 15s; drapery, £21; and sundries, £15 17s; leaving a balance in hand of £1 1s 8d. After the adoption of the report and balance-sheet, Rev. Father Delany commented in appreciative terms on the splendid work being done by the conference, and spoke interestingly of the many acts of charity and social uplift, which came within the scope of the society. Following are the office-bearers for the ensuing year:—President, Mrs. J. J. Marlow; vice-presidents, Mrs. W. Lennon, and Mrs. J. Nelson; treasurer, Mrs. M. J. Hade; secretary, Miss K. Reidy; wardrobe keepers, Misses M. Mullin and Layburn; buyers, Mrs. C. Mullin and Miss Carr.

CHRISTIAN BROTHERS' SCHOOL BOXING TOURNAMENT.

The boxing class of the Christian Brothers, Dunedin, held its annual boxing tournament on Friday and Saturday evenings last. Notwithstanding the inclemency of the weather, the school hall was well filled on both evenings, the bouts being watched with evident interest by those present. Messrs. Gillies, Patterson, Gawne, Saunders, and Marshall represented the O.R.A., Mr. J. Kilmartin acted as referee, and Messrs. Finnerty, Saunders and Fyfe seconds. At the close of the bout between McKendry and McCarten, the referee said he had never seen a better amateur exhibition of boxing than that given by the two boys. Mr. A. Goodman, instructor of the class, was highly complimented by several speakers.

The semi-finals and finals will be held the first week in December, under the auspices and management of the O.R.A. Rev. Fathers D. O'Neill, Ardagh, and Marlow were amongst the audience. The results were as follows: Middleweight (under 10st. 7lbs.): First Round G. Clark lost to J. Stanton; A. Todd lost to L. Field; R. O'Connell lost to M. Crowley; A. Lister lost to S. Fox; A. Laughman lost to A. Hendren. Second Round J. Stanton lost to S. Fox; L. Field lost to G. Hendren; M. Crowley a bye. Lightweight (under 9st. 7lbs.): In the final round J. O'Neill, J. Thompson, M. Williams, and M. Wakelin won their bouts. On Friday evening W. McCormack drew with Williams, but on Saturday after a close fight M. Williams got the decision in his favor. Featherweight (under 9st.): N. Culling, L. McKendry, and T. McCarten were the winners of the final round. Bantamweight (under 8st. 7lbs.): Winners of the final round were N. Waterston, P. Lennon, B. Carter, and F. Columb. Flyweight (under 6st. 7lb.): Final Round J. O'Connell, J. Paterson, T. Cummings, and C. Tulloch. Middleweight: Final Round W. McMevey, R. Stanway, P. Porter, and J. Airey.

A correspondent desires to purchase a second-hand set of volumes of the *Catholic Encyclopedia*. Communications regarding same may be sent to the manager, *N.Z. Tablet* office.

CONVENT OF THE SACRED HEART, ISLAND BAY, WELLINGTON.

The annual Spiritual Retreat for Ladies will begin at 6 p.m. on Saturday, January 8, and end on the morning of Thursday, January 13. It will be conducted by the Very Reverend A. Power, S.J., Rector of the Newman College, Melbourne University.

By applying in time to the Rev. Mother Superior, ladies wishing to make the Retreat can remain at the Convent, where they will find every accommodation. A special invitation is not necessary.

MR. DUFFY NOT EXPELLED: A BRITISH "FAKE" REPORT.

It is now officially stated that Mr. Gavau Duffy has received no order of expulsion from France.

The *Morning Post* Paris correspondent says that "no formal order of expulsion has been issued."

According to *Le Journal*, Mr. Duffy, "being engaged in propaganda and manifestations which at any moment might become awkward for our own Government, has himself understood that it would be difficult to prolong his stay in France."

The facts are, reports the Paris correspondent of the *Daily Herald*, that Mr. Duffy's appeal to the French Premier on behalf of the Lord Mayor of Cork was widely published, and that "the British Embassy immediately asked the Government for Mr. Gavau Duffy's expulsion. To this M. Millerand refused to consent, but compromised by conveying to the Envoy a polite hint that his activities in Paris were displeasing to Britain, and that a few days' absence from Paris might smooth matters down. Mr. Duffy took the hint and left for Brussels. Then a British news agency circulated a statement, obviously British-inspired, to the effect that he had received 24 hours' notice to quit Paris. This statement is now semi-officially denied. Mr. Duffy will return to Paris."

"The Bad Effect."

The *Times* expresses a hope that the "explanations" that have been given will in some measure smooth down the bad effect produced by the original information in American circles, and even in certain English circles, where conciliatory methods are in favor.

Captain MacWhite, who during Mr. Duffy's temporary absence, has taken charge of the Irish Office in Paris, is an Irishman who had had a most distinguished career in the French army, and received decorations. He was a member of the French Military Mission to the United States.

"The Government's course in the MacSweeney case is perfectly logical, but it is rather unfortunate that after being illogical with English prisoners for ten years the Government should select an Irishman to begin its logic on and should excuse itself by the gravity of his crime, when he has committed absolutely no crime at all except the crime of being born in Ireland." This is characteristic reasoning, and it comes from George Bernard Shaw, a man who does not mince his words.

OLD AND INFIRM PRIESTS IN SCOTLAND

AN APPEAL.

In nearly every diocese in missionary lands, strong, vigorous workers are needed. But youth does not last and no man has a secure tenure of health. As a consequence we often find that those who were able to live frugally on the offerings of a grateful people for whom they labored while in health are often almost destitute when the burden of increasing years has become too heavy, or when they have prematurely broken down and become unable for their arduous duties. Monsignor Hugh Cameron, Vicar General of Argyll and the Isles, has been compelled to appeal to the charity of the Catholic people on behalf of the aged and infirm priests of the diocese. Among us there are many good Scottish Catholics who will not be deaf to his words. There are many others of different nationalities who are always ready to help any Christian charity. Therefore, because it is a great charity, we put Monsignor Cameron's appeal before the readers of the *Tablet*:—

May I recall to your mind the position of our Aged and Infirm Priests' Fund concerning which I wrote to you in May? To give an impetus to our appeal for £10,000, a poor but generous benefactor has promised to place all his savings in our hands, amounting to £500, on condition that we raise £2,500 in the following manner:—Ten gifts of £100, twenty gifts of £50, fifty gifts of £10. We have received to date: Two gifts of £100, four gifts of £50, twenty-six gifts of £10. The offer remains open for several months, and we earnestly trust that you will enable us to claim the conditional £500 before long. I am fully aware of the many calls upon your generosity, but I plead that the case of our priests in the diocese of Argyll and the Isles is so exceptionally poignant as to justify a claim of priority. Apart from the help of wealthy sympathisers outside the diocese there is no prospect before these devoted men, living on a mere pittance throughout their active life, except extreme penury in old age and prolonged sickness. I feel sure that you will not refuse your aid to our needy cause.

July, 1920.

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