

DIocese OF DUNEDIN

His Lordship Dr. Whyte is to return from Lawrence this week. He will open the new church at Papanui on next Sunday.

Father Andrew Feulon, a young Irish priest recently ordained at Carlow College, where he completed his ecclesiastical studies, has arrived to take up missionary duties in the Diocese of Dunedin. He is the first Irish priest ordained for Dunedin for many years.

St. Vincent de Paul Society will hold a euchre social at St. Patrick's School, South Dunedin, on Wednesday, the 5th inst. A drawing for a special prize will be held. The proceeds will be in aid of the St. Vincent de Paul stall at the forthcoming bazaar.

A garden party will be given on Saturday next by Mrs. Jas. Hegarty, at the residence of Mr. W. Shiel, 42 Forbury Road, St. Clair, in aid of St. Vincent's Orphanage Fair. A number of well-stocked stalls will be arranged on the grounds, and entertainment provided by two orchestras and leading Dunedin artists. Afternoon tea will be a specialty of the afternoon.

A euchre party will be held on Thursday evening next, March 9, in the Sacred Heart Schoolroom, North-east Valley, in aid of the Orphans' Building Fund. On Monday, March 13, a social dance will be held, and it is intended to hold similar functions fortnightly from this date in order to augment the funds of Orphans' Building Fund.

The jumble sale for the Catholic Orphanage was an encouraging success. At a future date there will be held, also in the Old Post Office, a sale of second-hand clothing. And on March 22, Mrs. E. J. O'Neill will give an "America Tea" in the Overseas Club.

The Irish Free State Some Misconceptions Removed

There are two difficulties which I have heard urged against the acceptance of the peace treaty, viz., the oath of allegiance to the Republic which has been taken by members of the Dail, and the place offered to Ireland as part of the Commonwealth, the implication in the latter being that Ireland could not be, at one and the same time, merely part of a Commonwealth and a truly Sovereign State. These difficulties I shall try to clear up as briefly and as clearly as possible (writes Michael Cronin, D.D., M.A., Professor of Ethics and Political Science, University College, Dublin, in an exchange).

As regards the Dail oath of allegiance to the Irish Republic, there is first the answer given by Professor O'Rahilly that the Dail itself as the Government of the Republic can absolve from such an oath. The point need not be labored here. I should like, however, to urge two considerations in addition. The first is that there is no opposition between the peace terms and the oath of allegiance to the Irish Republic. There is nothing whatever to prevent Ireland from developing as a republic within the group of nations forming the British Commonwealth of Nations." How can this be it will be asked. How can a republic find a place within a group headed by a king? The answer is very simple: It has been done. In the German Empire before the war, headed as it was by a king-emperor, there were three republics, viz., Hamburg, Bremen, and Lubeck. These small republics had the same constitutional rights as the kingdoms and grand duchies that with them went to make up the German Empire. Why should not Ireland develop as a republic within the Commonwealth group?

Dail's Oath Implication

Secondly, the oath of allegiance to the Irish Republic does not imply what some would seem to think it implies. There are many forms of State—monarchical, aristocratic, republican, and various combinations of these. The republic is only a form of government. It is not the State itself. A State might change its form from monarchical to republican and back again, and still remain the same State. Now an oath of allegiance is never to a mere form of government but to the State itself, which may or may not happen to be a republic. And the oath of the Dail is no exception. If the oath were to the republican form of

government and not to the State itself, see what would follow. Should the people of Ireland wish to make Mr. de Valera or Mr. Collins a king, the persons taking that oath would be bound to resist such a movement and to maintain the republican form against all assaults made on it. But could there be a more absurd conclusion? The old oath, therefore, was an oath to maintain the State of Ireland, and it would not be in the least affected if the Dail were to declare for some other form of government than the republic. So much for the oath taken by members of the Dail or others who have sworn allegiance to the Irish Republic.

Ireland's Sovereignty Unaffected

The second difficulty, based on Ireland's partnership in a commonwealth and the supposed opposition between such a position and full sovereignty, is answered by a simple distinction known to all students of political science. As opposed to unitary States like France, Italy, Spain, where there is only the sovereign parliament and government, we consider two kinds of group States. These are federal States and confederations of States. The federal State is a single sovereign State, composed of many partly sovereign States. Obvious instances are the United States, Germany, Switzerland. Here the competent States are only partially sovereign. But in the confederations such as the Germanic and Swiss confederations in the first part of the nineteenth century, all the component States were completely sovereign. The link in those cases binding the States together and representing it in public was the Diet. Evidently the new Commonwealth of nations which Ireland is invited to enter will be of the nature of a confederation, every member of which will be completely sovereign.

Oath to Free State

The Dominions have for some years now been gradually drawing near to a position of sovereignty. The last impetus to this remarkable development is given by the setting up of the Free State of Ireland. Nor is the sovereignty of the parts diminished by their undertaking obligations relatively to the whole. Such obligations are undertaken every day by States admittedly sovereign. Witness the Franco-Russian pact and the triple alliance before the war. It is the privilege of a sovereign State to undertake any obligations it wishes. Ireland, therefore, will be a sovereign State within the commonwealth.

I wonder was the oath in the agreement specially devised to express this sovereignty? It is an oath of "allegiance" to the Free State of Ireland (allegiance being always to the sovereign) and of faithfulness to the King as head of the Commonwealth group (faithfulness can be to an equal). Whether it was or was not so devised, certainly there could be no better expression of her sovereign status before the international world.

Cardinal Logue Acknowledges Final Remittance for Relief Fund

Ara Coeli, Armagh,

January 14, 1922.

My dear Father,

I have received your kind letter, enclosing a draft of £125 18s 3d, which I am sending on to the Bishop of Down and Connor. I am very grateful for the draft, which is very much needed. Almost every day still Catholics are being killed and wounded in Belfast.

I am, dear Father,

Yours faithfully,

*MICHAEL CARD. LOGUE.

BOOKS FOR READERS OF THE "TABLET"

We beg to call the attention of our readers to the fact that the Manager has recently received a new stock of Catholic and Irish books. Among them are such useful reference volumes as *The Catholic Who's Who* and *The Irish Year Book*; also timely devotional books such as *Holy Week Book*, *The Imitation*, *Missal for the Laity*, etc. There are also several copies of Irish historical and poetical works, and some good fiction. Lastly, we have the *Christian Brothers' Irish Grammar*, and Canon O'Leary's *Seadna*, and *Niamh*. Order early, as the supply is limited.