

"Friends of the Cathedral" movement. The fee for qualification as a Friend is five shillings, subscribed annually, and the sponsor of the movement, the Rev. N. F. Benham, rightly contended that this would give the people here an opportunity to assist in the work. We understand that contributions will be received, and members—or "Friends"—enrolled by the Diocesan Secretary, Mr. R. E. H. Pilson. The Bishop announced in Synod that someone had started the movement with a gift of £5 5s., and the Dean had also received a promise of £2 per annum for five years. This is an excellent start, and if the possibilities of this scheme are fully exploited, there is no reason why we should not see the new and even more glorious Cathedral erected and consecrated within the next five years.

### THE CHURCH AND UNEMPLOYMENT.

The Church is rapidly departing from a neutral attitude with respect to public affairs, and recent utterances by those in authority in the Church give evidence that the Christian conscience is not to be satisfied by the mere enunciation of high principles, but demands appropriate action to have those principles made effective. The Church Gazette of Auckland has been sternly taken to task by the clergy concerned in the appeal which appeared in our last issue for its strictures upon their action. Our Bishop in his Synodal address looks forward to some kind of corporate action when he says, *inter alia*, "the time may come, and may not be far distant, when the Christian conscience will no longer tolerate the crime of war, and will repudiate the unequal distribution of the fruits of the earth, and of the results of labour."

The Bishop of Waikato is fearlessly outspoken on the grave national question, and his words to his people are worthy of the utmost consideration. He writes:—

"I write this month about a matter that seems to me of the highest importance. One had the idea that the "right of free speech" was one of the liberties of the subject provided that the ordinary rules of courtesy, reverence and respect were adhered to? Are the Clergy debarred from expressing their minds? That would

seem to be the opinion of some. No doubt when the expression of those minds disturbs an otherwise easy conscience. It was the same with the Prophets of old; it was the same with our Lord; and those who follow His example now have the courage to speak out and the KNOWLEDGE FROM FIRST HAND which enables them to do it with conviction can expect no better treatment.

I suppose that there is nobody who knows anything about it, who is satisfied with the way that our unemployed in this country have been looked after. We pay large enough taxes; and would willingly pay more if it were wanted, but the huge surplus in hand and the further lowering of this particular tax surely show that there is something wanting somewhere. People ask for something "constructive." Here are TWO which I give for what they are worth.

(1) Do away entirely with the Unemployment Board. Let the Mayor and Council of Boroughs with the Chairman and Councils of Counties be asked to be responsible for the proper looking after of men and women out of work in their own Borough or Counties. I know them in their own town and county (Waikato). They are both from the point of view of knowledge and sympathy fitted for this work and they would get plenty of volunteers to help them, free of all cost. Let the taxes collected ALL go to the people for whom they are collected: no expense for administration is necessary. There is something wrong if in these times in this country a man is expected to maintain his wife and family on 27s. 6d. a week; if a man is expected to whittle away ALL his thrifty savings before he can be counted an "unemployed"; if he has to surrender a house for which he has been paying for fourteen years and only has three to go before it is his own. We clergy know of these things, and dozens more of a like nature.

To say that the unemployed problem is dealt with as well in New Zealand as in any other country is absurd. The problem is entirely different in the United Kingdom for instance, as any one who knows the North of England (where the unemployed are) is fully aware. There should be no problem in this rich country, with a mere handful of people the unemployed among

whom can easily be looked after quite adequately and properly if the matter were tackled in the only right way: e.g., ensure the safety of the home; see that sufficient food and reasonable clothing are provided and then start to worry over relief works and kindred schemes.

(2) Forbid the law the glaring injustice of the "week's notice" supposed to be attached to the weekly wage. Is working in a shop or with one's hand any less valuable than working with one's head and using a pen? Why cannot all workers have reasonable notice, and of the same length of time? Can the mother of a family, with a tidy house and children to be cared for, know REAL comfort if there is the risk of the breadwinner being, even temporarily, out of work, in a week's time.

There are plenty of rules and restrictions in New Zealand, peculiar to this country, some of them wise, some of them foolish, but possibly designed by way of experiment: no harm would be done by making a few more, such as the one suggested.

Let us all think, and, if we get the opportunity, support those who are calling on us to think and act."

### PORANGAHAU PARISH

(Rev. W. S. G. Cameron, Vicar.)

A very wet day greatly affected the attendance at the Annual Meeting of Parishioners. We appreciated, however, the attendance of those who did brave the weather, and are also grateful to the members of the Ladies' Guild who dispensed afternoon tea.

The Vicar's report showed that the Communicant life of the Parish had been maintained, in some districts increased, and that services had been extended to Ti Tree and Wilder Settlement.

**Sunday Schools.**—The Sunday School had continued to do good work, with the exception of Porangahau, which, owing to Mrs. Cameron's accident and the departure of the remaining teachers, Mrs. Breed and Miss H. Cameron, from the district, had had to be closed down temporarily. Membership of the Mail Bag Sunday School was increasing, and grateful acknowledgement was made of the services of Mr. A. B. Harper, Hastings, and his staff of teachers. Advantage was also being taken of the Lone