

fore long, you will see figures that will simply stagger you, on account of the decrease in the number of children of a given age attending school. It will be impossible to keep up the industries of the Dominion unless we maintain the population. When I found that the figures stand as they do, it quite startled me. I have taken the records of the past sixteen years, and the decrease in the birth-rate, and then went into the annual increase of factories and industries generally, and marked out the number of men required there, etc. It would be impossible to maintain these industries without a natural increase in the population. The school figures I obtained from the Education Department's reports. It is a very serious matter indeed, and if the country has to depend upon immigration, well, it is a poor country, although I realise the value of good immigrants. This matter, no doubt, has its solution. . . . Ere long the present Government, or some other, will have to deal with the matter, and in a practical way. We are face to face with the problem, and we will have to deal with it in the best possible manner'.

Government might do much by extending in the right direction the provisions of the legislation against the introduction of opium. The medical profession, too, might effect much by setting its face more universally against the neo-Malthusianism of our day, instead of yielding (as we fear it sometimes does) a criminal compliance with the whims of a corrupt and paganising society. A Catholic preacher in Toledo (U.S.A.) said some years ago in the course of an appeal to the profession:—

'It were better to be a Herod in the judgment, with the blood of innocence and the shrieks of motherhood crying for vengeance, than one of those who sought nature's secrets to compass its ruin. We stand in the gloom of a great sorrow, witnessing the convulsion of a nation inconsolable for the death of many sons. Every arm is raised and every form bends forward to shield from even the insults of diplomacy the land that is liberty's forever. But he would be a viper coiled in the country's breast, who would confine patriotism to the exigencies of war, and in time of peace poison the manhood of an unsuspecting land; and should ever the profession, this great profession of medicine, prove faithless to its trust, that day shall mark the ruin of the people that shall witness its decadence'.

We do not know what is the 'practical way' in which the Government is to deal with this menacing evil of race suicide. But there is only one 'best possible manner' of dealing with it—namely, to induce people to retrace their steps to the Catholic teaching and Catholic principles in regard to the sacrosanct duties and obligations of the married state. The school, the home, the newspaper, the pulpit—all are needed for this great moral and patriotic work. That way alone lies the true remedy. And mere bachelor-taxing and family-bonuses, and such-like quackhead remedies are no better than spraying a cancer with lavender-water or dosing cholera-morbus with blue pills.

Notes

Christchurch Diocese and the Pope

The Bishop of Christchurch has had the happy thought of offering to the Holy Father, on the occasion of his approaching Sacerdotal Jubilee, not alone the gold that perisheth, but also the things that count for more—namely, the prayers and suffrages and good works of the priests and people of his diocese for the spiritual well-being of his Holiness and for the advancement of the Church committed to his care. Through the 'N.Z. Tablet,' his Lordship invites 'all the priests and religious communities of the diocese to inform the Vicar-General (the Very Rev. Dean Ginaty, Mount Magdala) the number of Masses, Communions, or other spiritual exercises which they intend to offer for the intentions of Our Holy Father, the Pope on the occasion of his Sacerdotal Jubilee.' Bishop Grimes, furthermore, requests them to inform the Vicar-General at the earliest convenient

moment, as it is his Lordship's desire to have these spiritual bouquets sent on with the Peter's Pence just taken up in the diocese.

Kind Words

Wiseman somewhere says that kind words are as apples of silver on beds of gold. The last mail from over-sea brought us such a feast for eye and mind in an over-kindly letter from an active and distinguished member of the Australian Hierarchy, who writes to us in very kindly commendation of the work which the 'N.Z. Tablet' is doing 'in the interests of Catholic truth.' 'I would like,' adds this able and learned Prelate in conclusion, 'to see your valuable paper read by Catholics—and by non-Catholics, too—everywhere, not alone in New Zealand, but also throughout Australia.'

For which kind encouragement, thanks, and, evermore, thanks!

The English Education Bill

'The long and the short of it is,' says the London 'Tablet,' 'that the Catholics of England are going to safeguard their schools whatever happens—with others, if possible, and if not, without them. . . . Our position in this respect has been immensely strengthened by the frank avowals of the Government that what they are seeking to secure is a Protestant settlement, with separate provision for the non-Protestant communities. Mr. Runciman's words are decisive: "We believe in providing, as far as we can in this Protestant country, for a settlement on a Protestant basis, making an exception and provision for non-Protestant parents. That, I think, sums up the policy of our Bill."'

DIOCESE OF DUNEDIN

The Rev. Father Farthing, Auckland, is in temporary charge of the Milton parish, in the place of the Very Rev. Father O'Neill, who is absent on sick leave.

The many friends throughout the Dominion of the Rev. Father O'Reilly, of St. Joseph's Cathedral, will be pleased to hear that he has so far recovered from his severe illness that he will shortly be able to take a sea voyage for the benefit of his health.

On Sunday there was Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament at St. Joseph's Cathedral from the last Mass until Vespers. In the evening there was the usual procession, in which the parish societies took part. The Rev. Father Lowham, C.S.S.R., preached an impressive sermon.

The Rev. Father Lowham, C.S.S.R., conducted a retreat for the Sisters of St. Dominic's Priory during the past week. He is engaged this week in giving a retreat to the students of Holy Cross College, Mosgiel. The retreat concludes to-day (Thursday).

The St. Patrick's Young Men's Social and Literary Club, South Dunedin, held its usual weekly meeting on Monday evening, when the programme consisted of a mock parliamentary election. There was a fair attendance of members, and all the candidates acquitted themselves in a very promising manner.

At St. Dominic's Priory on last Tuesday the following Sisters were received:—Miss Annie Corcoran (in religion, Sister Mary Ceslas), Miss Mary Frances Mullin (in religion, Sister Mary Emily). The Sisters professed were:—Miss Jane Roche (in religion, Sister Mary Agnes), Miss Maud Collins (in religion, Sister Mary Ursula), and Miss Katherine Culhane (in religion, Sister Mary Gerard). The ceremonies were performed by the Right Rev. Monsignor Mackay, assisted by the Rev. Fathers Murphy, Howard, Corcoran, Liston, Morkane, and Cleary.

The St. Joseph's Harriers assembled at the North-East Valley School on Saturday afternoon. The usual mode of returning to the starting place was abandoned by making a continuous run to St. Joseph's Hall in Rattray street. The pack, leaving the school, climbed the slopes of Pine Hill, which was covered with ice and snow, and, crossing the Leith Valley road, made for the reservoir. From here the pack skirted the golf links and made for the Town Belt, which was followed home. On arrival at the hall the harriers were kindly entertained by some of their lady friends.

On Friday evening last the St. Joseph's Glee Club, lately formed in connection with St. Joseph's Men's Club, entertained

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