

Conference of Catholic Young Men's Societies.

A CONFERENCE of delegates from the Catholic societies of Ashburton, Timaru, Wellington, Napier, and Christchurch was held in the Christchurch Catholic Club's rooms, Barbadoes street, on Easter Sunday. Mr J. J. Wilson, senior vice-president of the Catholic Club, occupied the chair. The various societies were represented as follows: Ashburton—Messrs D. Moriarty and N. McDonnell; Timaru—Messrs J. G. Venning, M. Mahoney, and J. P. Fitzgerald; Wellington—Messrs J. Stratford and B. A. Guise. Mr H. McKeowen (Wellington) represented Napier. Christchurch was represented by Messrs F. Doolan and G. Dobbs. Mr R. J. Hayward, a vice-president of the Christchurch Club, was also present and took part in the discussions.

Mr Wilson opened the proceedings with a few appropriate remarks, and called upon Mr H. McKeowen as the organiser of the conference to explain the objects, benefits, etc., of the proposed federation.

Mr McKeowen having done so, and to allow discussion, moved—'That the federation of the various Catholic Young Men's Societies in New Zealand be effected.'

This was seconded by Mr J. Stratford (Wellington).

Mr G. Dobbs (Christchurch) asked what would be the benefits resulting from such a federation.

Mr McKeowen replied, pointing out the many advantages to be derived from a federation of this kind, but as to its definite outcome he was not in a position to foresee. Time was the only solution of that question.

All the delegates expressed themselves in favor of federation of the description indicated, after which the motion was put to the meeting and carried unanimously.

At this stage the chairman pointed out the advisability of appointing a secretary *pro tem* for the conference, and nominated Mr H. McKeowen as having a thorough knowledge of the business for which the conference had been called. The motion was agreed to.

The next business was to draw up rules for the guidance of the federated clubs. Mr D. Moriarty submitted rules which were drawn up by Mr H. McSherry, a vice-president of the Ashburton Society, a few years ago when the federation of the various clubs in Canterbury was contemplated.

After some additions and deletions the rules were adopted, and read as follow:—

1. That the various Catholic Literary and Mutual Improvement Societies in New Zealand form a federation under the name of the 'Federated Catholic Societies of New Zealand.'

2. The aim of the federation shall be the mutual advancement of the affiliated societies.

3. There shall be a council of the federated societies, consisting of two delegates from each affiliated society, appointed by the members thereof. In the event of a society not being able to be represented by delegates it be allowed to be represented by proxy.

4. That for the purpose of carrying out the aims of federation the following rules shall apply:—(a) The council shall meet at some central place, on the 25th December (Christmas Day) in each year. (b) That a member of any affiliated society, shall, on receiving a certificate from the secretary of his society, that he is a financial member thereof, be entitled, on removing to a town in which there is another affiliated society, be admitted as a member of such society, without payment of any entrance fee. (c) That the secretaries of societies from which such a member has so removed, shall inform the secretary of the society in the town to which such member has removed, of the fact of such member having taken up his residence in such latter town. (d) That the various affiliated societies shall endeavor to secure an interchange of original papers read by members at the meetings of such societies, and of lectures given etc. All papers etc., to be exchanged and forwarded through the general secretary. (e) There shall be an executive consisting of a president, vice-president, treasurer and secretary, to be elected annually by delegates of the council. These officers to be members of the society in the town where the next conference is to be held. Should any vacancy occur in the executive during their term of office, the executive shall have the power to fill such vacancy. (f) That each affiliated society shall pay the sum of 10s per annum towards the management fund of the federation. (g) The management fund of the federated societies shall not be responsible for expenses incurred by delegates attending the conference. (h) Any club desiring an alteration in the rules shall give at least one month's notice to the general secretary before the date of conference. (i) The Council nor executive shall not have power to interfere with the internal management of affiliated societies, save as is herein excepted.

In accordance with clause 'A' of rule 4, the appointing of a centre in which to hold the next conference was considered. A lengthy discussion arose out of two proposed centres, Ashburton and Wellington. On a division being called Wellington secured the majority of votes. The executive officers were then elected as follow: Rev. T. O'Shea, S.M.; vice-president, Mr J. J. Devine; treasurer, Mr. E. J. Fitzgibbon; secretary, Mr. H. McKeowen.

On the motion of Mr J. Stratford (Wellington), seconded by Mr J. G. Venning (Timaru), it was decided that, recognising the benefits to be derived, the clergy be requested to use their influence in forming in each centre a Catholic young men's society. This concluded the business.

The chairman thanked the delegates for their attention during the conference and wished the federation every success. Mr J. P. Fitzgerald (Timaru) proposed a hearty vote of thanks to the chairman for the able and impartial manner in which he presided over

the proceedings. This was seconded by Mr. H. McKeowen and carried by acclamation. Mr. G. Dobbs (Christchurch) proposed a vote of thanks to the secretary (Mr. H. McKeowen) for the zeal and energy displayed by him in connection with the conference, as to him was undoubtedly due the inauguration of the federation. This was seconded by Mr. R. J. Hayward (Christchurch) and agreed to.

At the close of the proceedings his Lordship Bishop Grimes attended and addressed the delegates, and complimented them on the steps they had taken. His Lordship wished the federation every success, and said it was the desire of his Holiness the Pope that links of amalgamation should be formed between the various Catholic societies.

All communications relating to the Federated Catholic Societies should be addressed to the secretary, Mr. H. McKeowen, St. Patrick's Hall, Boulcott street, Wellington.

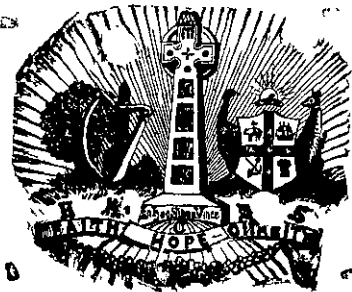
Some Religious Orders.

ST. BRUNO, the founder of the Carthusians, whose eighth centenary has recently been celebrated in his native city of Cologne (says *Church Progress*) is the second founder of one of the great religious Orders who can be claimed by Germany. The other was St. Norbert, founder of the Premonstratensians, or White Canons, who was born at Sauten, in the duchy of Cleves, in 1080.

Of the founders of the other more celebrated religious Orders and congregations of the Church Spain claims those of the Dominicans (St. Dominic), the Jesuits (St. Ignatius), and the great reformer of the Carmelites (St. Theresa), France the founders of the Cistercians (St. Robert and St. Bernard), and the Lazarists (St. Vincent of Paul), while Italy has given to the world among others the founders of the Benedictines (St. Benedict), Franciscans (St. Francis), Servites (the Seven Founders), Theatines (St. Cajetan), Barnabites (St. Antonio Maria Zacariah), Oratorians (St. Philip Neri), Redemptorists (St. Alphonsus Liguori), Passionists (St. Paul of the Cross), besides the Oblates (St. Charles Borromeo) and the Fathers of Charity (Rosmini).

England had a share in the foundation of the Cistercians in the person of St. Stephen Harding, but her only native Order was the now extinct one of the Gilbertines, founded by St. Gilbert of Sempringham.

That great queen of song, Mdlla. Dolores, better known as Tre belli, commenced a short season of song recitals in the Garrison Hall on Wednesday evening. All lovers of music should not fail to attend the Dolores recitals, which, apart from the great pleasure to be derived therefrom, are of splendid educational value. Mr Clarence Newell, an American pianist, will assist Mdlla. Dolores. The season will be limited to four or five recitals. The second recital is announced for Friday evening...



HIBERNIAN-AUSTRALASIAN CATHOLIC BENEFIT SOCIETY, NEW ZEALAND DISTRICT, No. 3.

The Catholic Community is earnestly requested to support this excellent Organisation, for it inculcates a love of Holy Faith and Patriotism in addition to the unsurpassed benefits and privileges of Membership.

The Entrance Fees are from 5s to £4, according to age at time of Admission.

Sick Benefits 20s per week for 26 weeks, 15s per week for the next 13 weeks, and 10s a week for the following 13 weeks. In case of a further continuance of his illness a member of Seven Years' Standing previous to the commencement of such illness will be allowed 5s per week as superannuation during incapacity.

Funeral Allowance, £20 at the death of a Member, and £10 at the death of a Member's Wife.

In addition to the foregoing provision is made for the admission of Honorary Members, Reduced Benefit Members, and the establishment of Sisters' Branches and Juvenile Contingents. Full information may be obtained from Local Branch Officers or direct from the District Secretary.

The District Officers are anxious to open New Branches, and will give all possible assistance and information to applicants Branches being established in the various centres throughout the Colonies an invaluable measure of reciprocity obtains.

W. KANE,

District Secretary,

Auckland