

the free issue of the *School Journal* for the use of our children. The education of each one of such children at our cost saves the State nearly £7 annually, the *School Journal* (free to State schools) sells at 1d per copy. In regard to instruction of our teachers in physical training the position is not yet satisfactory, but with renewed efforts it is anticipated that a fair and equitable arrangement will yet be arrived at.

Your executive desires an expression of opinion as to the wisdom and desirability of the councils requesting the hierarchy to set aside a convenient Sunday early in each year for observing a 'Federation Sunday' in every church in the Dominion. On such a day committees could make a special effort to reach those not already enrolled, the clergy to be asked to give addresses at each Mass and Vespers encouraging their congregations to join and remain members of our organisation. Should this suggestion be adopted your executive recommends that on that day a Mass should be offered in each church, at the instance of the parish committee, for the continued welfare and prosperity of every member of the Federation.

Your executive desires to acknowledge with gratitude the gratuitous services of several of the Catholic solicitors of Wellington who have placed their valuable services at the disposal of the Federation, and whose advice has been of considerable service.

A suggestion has been thrown out that prizes should be offered to the children of our schools for the best essay upon the aims, objects, and work of the Federation. This, it is suggested, will arouse and keep alive an active and practical interest amongst the children in the work.

The executive desires again to express its gratitude to his Grace Archbishop O'Shea, and to his Lordship Bishop Cleary and the other members of the hierarchy for their continued interest in the Federation work. To the clergy throughout the Dominion earnest thanks are due for their unflinching interest and support.

It is with great pleasure your Executive acknowledges the zealous and efficient services of the hon. secretaries of each of the Diocesan Councils, whose duties in the stressful period prior to the elections have been very arduous.

In conclusion, your Executive desires to thank parish and branch committee officers, and members or committees who have taken so keen an interest in the welfare of the Federation, which has been amply termed by one of our prelates as 'the greatest movement for the benefit of the Church that has ever been inaugurated in New Zealand.'

CORRESPONDENCE

[We do not hold ourselves responsible for opinions expressed by our correspondents.]

CATHOLIC READERS.

TO THE EDITOR.

Sir,—Sagart's letter in your last issue calls for a reply. When Father O'Brien wrote commending the *American Catholic Education Series* apropos of the discussion at our Federation meeting, *re* the publication of a Catholic Reader, one naturally concluded that the work he specified was a primary school reader. It was about such only that the Federation was asked to take action. But from what 'Sagart' writes in seconding Father O'Brien's recommendation, and from the name of the work, I conclude that it is rather a manual of pedagogy for the use of teachers than a primary reader for the young.

Moreover, 'Sagart' must know that it is not within our power, even were it desirable, to introduce new methods of teaching. All that is provided for in the syllabus and inspectors' instructions to teachers and schemes of work. All that we propose is to provide a Catholic Reader, and our liberty to do so is recognised by the inspectors. Such a Reader, whilst embodying the best features of similar works in use in other

countries, would, by including suitable topical readings, meet with the approval of the Education Boards. Such a compilation should be an easy matter for the heads of our colleges and schools.

It has been pointed out to me that it is all a matter of cost, and that this cost cannot be light. It is for others to say whether such a work, approved by the Bishops for use in all our primary schools, to the exclusion of any other, would be a good business proposition.—I am, etc.,

February 28.

DELEGATE.

COMMERCIAL

Messrs. Stronach, Morris, and Co., Ltd., report for week ended March 2, 1915, as follows:—Rabbit-skins.—Our next sale will be held on Monday, 8th inst. Sheepskins.—Our next sale will be held on Tuesday, 9th inst. Hides.—We held our last sale on the 25th ult., and offered a full catalogue to the usual attendance of buyers. Competition was keen but prices were a shade easier. Quotations: Prime ox to 10d; medium, 9d to 9½d; light weights, 8½d to 9d; heavy cow hides, to 10d; medium, 9d to 9½d; light, 8½d to 8¾d; best calfskins, to 10½d; medium to good, 9½d to 10½d; inferior, 7d to 8½d per lb. Tallow and Fat.—We held our last sale on the 27th ult., and competition was keen. Quotations: Good tallow in casks to 23s 6d; in tins to 22s 6d; medium to good, 18s 6d to 20s 6d; inferior, 16s 6d to 17s 6d; rough fat, good from 15s to 16s, inferior 10s to 12s. Oats. Stocks in store are very light, and there is a good demand for any lines coming forward. Quotations: Prime milling, 4s 1s 1d; good to best feed, 3s 11d to 4s; medium and inferior, 3s 6d to 3s 10½d per bushel (sacks extra). Wheat.—Very few samples of new season's wheat have yet come to hand. There is a good demand more especially for velvet and velvet ear. Chaff.—Consignments have not been coming to hand so freely of late, and there is good inquiry. New chaff is also now coming to hand. Prime oaten sheaf, £6 to £6 5s; medium to good, £5 10s to £5 17s 6d; new chaff, £5 5s to £5 7s 6d per ton (sacks extra). Potatoes.—Consignments have been coming to hand freely and prices are easier. Prime freshly-dug samples are in most demand, medium lots not being so sought after. Best tables, to £6 10s; medium, £5 10s to £6 per ton (sacks in).

Messrs. Donald Reid and Co report as follows:—We held our weekly sale of grain and produce on Monday, when values ruled as under:—Oats.—All classes of oats in good to prime condition have been readily saleable at quotation. There is a steady export demand for prime Gartons and sparrowbills. Prime milling, 4s to 4s 1d; good to best feed, 3s 11d to 4s; inferior to medium, 3s 6d to 3s 10d per bushel, sacks extra. Wheat.—New wheat is now coming forward in small lots. A considerable quantity has been placed for forward delivery at 7s per bushel on truck at country stations convenient to the market. Velvet and velvet ear are in most demand, owing to these not being so plentiful. Potatoes.—Moderate consignments are coming to hand, most of which, being in good condition, meet with fair demand at quotations. Medium and stale lots are not readily quitted. Best freshly-picked lots, £6 10s; others, £5 10s to £6 per ton (sacks included). Chaff.—New chaff is now coming on the market. This, if sound, meets with fair demand, but some consignments being in doubtful condition, are difficult to deal with. Best oaten sheaf, £6 to £6 5s; choice, to £6 7s 6d; medium to good, £5 10s to £5 17s 6d; best new chaff, £5 5s to £5 10s per ton (bags extra).

HELD OVER

Owing to pressure on our space we have been obliged to hold over several news items and other matter.

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