

He urged Catholics to attend the meetings of householders, and to take more interest in what was going on around them.

It was resolved, on the motion of the president, seconded by Mr. McLaughlin—'That the attention of parish committees be drawn to the danger of school committees being used as organisations against the interests of Catholics, and urging that more interest be taken in the election of school committees.'

#### Offensive Literature.

Mr. Hayward moved—That the Dominion Executive be directed to write to the Victorian Federation with reference to the publications named upon the catalogue issued by a publishing firm having a depot in Melbourne, upon whose trade catalogue most of the offensive anti-Catholic literature appears.' He thought that much good might be done by calling attention to this matter.

Very Rev. Dean Hyland seconded the motion, which was agreed to without further discussion.

#### The Education Question.

Speaking on the next question—That strenuous and urgent steps be taken by the Dominion Executive to have existing disabilities of Catholics in matters of education removed—Mr. Lynch said it was time that the Federation made a forward movement. He was of opinion that such a request would receive support from many non-Catholics who were in favor of religious instruction in schools.

The president said that this was one of the matters on which the hierarchy would have to be consulted. He thought that a conference between all parties concerned would be beneficial, and that the Dominion Executive might take the initiative. He moved to that effect.

Rev. Father Edge seconded the motion, and expressed the opinion that the time had come when the Federation should evolve a constructive policy. He was sure that there was a great desire on the part of many non-Catholics for religious instruction in schools, and pointed out that Catholics had so far remained on the defensive, without making any effort to find out the opinions of others.

Mr. Hayward said that the remit was intended to deal principally with the disabilities of the free-place holders. He was afraid it would be impossible to get representatives into Parliament who favored a grant for private schools.

Mr. Hussey thought some attention should be paid to obtaining the capitation grant for swimming lessons, etc. In some education districts it was paid to Catholic schools, and in others it was withheld. He hoped that the executive would make inquiry into this matter so that all may receive equal benefits from the grant.

The president stated that the grant referred to by Mr. Hussey was paid in some places. He was of opinion that their first duty was to work for the claims of the free-place holders.

Very Rev. Dean Hyland mentioned the matter of medical inspection of schools, and expressed the hope that the executive would ask that the same privileges should be granted to our schools. He gave an instance of the necessity for such inspection, and thought all children, no matter what their religion might be, should be included in the benefits of the movement.

The secretary stated that the Minister of Education had definitely refused to grant concessions to free place holders.

The motion was carried.

That it is not desirable for any member of a parish committee to be on the committee of any political candidate, until such candidate has given his views, and defined his platform on questions affecting the civil rights and liberties of Catholics, and that the foregoing should be embodied in the constitution of the Federation.

The president stated that he agreed with the principle of the remit, but suggested that an expression of opinion by the council would meet the case. It was resolved, on the motion of Mr. Hayward, seconded by Mr. McLaughlin, that the remit be received.

'The desirability of a protest from the Dominion Executive to the editor and compilers of the *School Journal* against the issuing of anything of a controversial nature, such as the "John Wickliffe" card, in the *School Journal*.'

Speaking to this question, the Rev. Father Edge said that as there was a movement to introduce history into the schools, it would be necessary to keep this matter in view, and to see that a distorted version of certain portions of English history should not be placed before the children of the Dominion.

The secretary stated that the matter of the "John Wickliffe" card had been brought under the notice of the editor of the *School Journal*, who regretted that anything offending the susceptibilities of any section of the community had appeared therein. He would take the greatest possible care that nothing controversial would appear in future, and informed him (Mr. Butcher) that great care would be taken in respect to any proposed history lessons to be circulated by means of the *Journal*.

A remit having reference to a special meeting of the council immediately before a general election, was withdrawn.

That this council desires to define as a general principle, that no Catholic holding a public position identify himself with any movement or function organised by an anti-Catholic society.'

Mr. Hayward, in moving that the remit be agreed to, said that it was sent forward in consequence of a case of that nature occurring in the diocese of Christchurch, and which had been the subject of considerable comment.

The president was afraid that the resolution set up a standard of conduct which it would be difficult to maintain. He said that any difficulty relating to a matter of the kind could generally be got over by the exercise of a little tact.

Very Rev. Dean Hyland said he was familiar with the case referred to by Mr. Hayward, and that there were many circumstances which excused the occasion.

Mr. Hayward, in reply, said that the remarks of the president showed the necessity for some such resolution.

The remit was agreed to.

#### Catholic School Reader.

Mr. Hayward stated that this remit had been placed on the agenda paper in order to ascertain the views of the council upon the question of preparing a Reader for use in Catholic schools.

Mr. McLaughlin suggested that a Reader for the sixth standard would meet the case.

The president thought that this matter might be referred to the Dominion Executive for consideration, and to ascertain the probable cost, etc.

On the motion of Mr. Hayward, this course was agreed to.

The question of the adoption of a membership badge for the Federation was discussed, and a specimen badge was submitted, but it was considered that the time was not yet ripe, and the matter was allowed to stand over for the present.

#### Federation Sunday.

The following remit was sent in by the Wellington Diocesan Council—That the first Sunday in July be known as Federation Sunday, and that a special appeal on behalf of the Federation be made in all churches throughout the Dominion on that day, or upon the first available Sunday thereafter.'

Speaking to this question, the president stated that permission would have to be obtained from the hierarchy before it could be carried into effect. The matter was referred to in the report of the executive, and the idea was to make a special effort to get in all the subscriptions at the beginning of the financial year, which would now commence on July 1.

Rev. Father Edge thought it would be of service in bringing the Federation under the notice of all the congregations upon the same day.