

A conference of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul has been opened here, and is doing good work. Bro. C. Little, of Auckland, district president, opened the conference.

At the Hibernian meeting, held on Sunday night, two new members were initiated, and a committee was elected to make arrangements for a series of socials during the winter.

In conformity with the Holy Father's Decree directing that Sunday, March 21, be observed as a day of expiation and intercession for peace, the ceremonies prescribed were carried out here with great devotion.

Much success has attended the efforts of the Sisters of the Mission at the convent school. The results of the recent examination compare favorably with any other school in the Dominion, State or otherwise. The attendance has now reached the respectable total of 85. This is highly satisfactory for a new school, and must be very gratifying to the donor, Miss Ralph (by whose generosity and foresight the school was established).

FEDERATED CATHOLIC CLUBS

FOURTEENTH ANNUAL CONFERENCE.

(From a correspondent.)

The fourteenth annual conference of the Federated Catholic Clubs of New Zealand was held in Timaru on Easter Saturday. The proceedings were opened at 10 a.m. by Very Rev. Dean Tubman with a short prayer. Mr. J. L. Leydon (president) occupied the chair, and in the course of his presidential address, he congratulated the delegates on their attendance. After briefly reviewing the position of the Federation, he wished the conference every success.

The Very Rev. Dean Tubman, on behalf of the local clergy and the Catholics of Timaru generally, cordially welcomed the delegates. He appreciated the object of the Catholic clubs, which was to weld together Catholic men. He was of the opinion that if men met to improve themselves socially, physically, and intellectually and nothing more, it was perhaps not worth the trouble. The further object to be desired was the spiritual advancement of the members, so as to enable them to worthily defend the doctrines of the Church, and to foster a sincere spirit of Catholicity.

Mr. Temm (St. Benedict's, Auckland) considered it the first duty of the conference to record its thanks for the kind words of welcome expressed by the Very Rev. Dean Tubman. He hoped all would take them seriously to heart, and that at the termination of the conference much would have been done to uplift Catholic club life in New Zealand. The members of the local club should be envied in having a man of the capacity of the Dean as their spiritual director. He moved that the conference place on record its grateful appreciation of the kind interest taken in it by the Dean.

This was carried by acclamation, and the Dean suitably replied.

The following was the representation of the various clubs:—Rotorua, Mr. B. Sheehan; Timaru, Messrs. M. J. O'Brien and J. M. Dunne; Ashburton, Mr. J. G. Venning; Westport, Rev. Father Murphy; St. Anne's (Wellington South), Mr. T. H. Forster; Wellington, Messrs. M. O'Kane and G. Leydon; Otahuhu, Mr. T. Quinn; St. Benedict's (Auckland), Messrs. F. G. J. Temm and J. G. Foy; Marist Brothers' Old Boys' (Auckland), Rev. Father Forde; Greymouth, Rev. Brother Egbert; Waimate, Mr. M. J. Leonard; Karangahake, Mr. M. J. Doyle; Christchurch, Messrs. W. J. Dobbs and P. J. Nelson; Federal Executive, Messrs. J. L. Leydon and G. Dee.

The minutes of the conferences of 1914 and 1913 were read and confirmed.

Mr. M. J. Doyle moved—'That this conference of the Federated Catholic Clubs of New Zealand express their deep sorrow at the decease of his Lordship Bishop Grimes, of the Christchurch diocese, and record their

profound appreciation of the great work he has done for the Church since the diocese was founded.'

This motion was carried in silence, all standing.

The annual report and balance sheet, which disclosed on the whole a very satisfactory position, were read and adopted. Mention was made in the report regarding the loss suffered by clubs owing to some of their prominent members proceeding to the front.

Mr. J. G. Foy, on behalf of St. Benedict's Club, moved—'That the headquarters of the Federation be shifted from Wellington to Auckland.' This was seconded by Mr. F. G. J. Temm.

During the course of the lengthy discussion on this motion the chairman gave a ruling that the subjects for the shield competition were separate from the business of the conference in so far as the rule (9) regarding notice to clubs was concerned.

The motion was defeated by 17 votes to 5.

Mr. Foy moved, and it was seconded by Mr. Temm—'That in years to come or in future years, a shooting competition be included in the syllabus of competitions for the shield contest.'

After some discussion, the motion was lost, the conference being of opinion that it was a desirable subject, but it did not see its way clear to adopt the proposal.

Mr. Dee moved, and it was seconded by Mr. O'Kane, on behalf of the federal executive—'That there be no limit to the number of vice-presidents on the federal executive.'

The motion was defeated by 10 votes to 8.

A motion, moved by Mr. O'Kane on behalf of the federal executive, and seconded by Mr. Foy—'That for the purpose of providing prizes for competitions and assisting the finances of the Federation a biennial art union be held,' was carried unanimously.

Mr. M. O'Kane, business manager, reported fully on the republication of the *Catholic Magazine*. He stated that it would probably be published in June next. Mr. O'Kane was accorded a hearty vote of thanks by acclamation for the good work done by him, and the time so freely given in the discharge of his duties as business manager.

Club reports were received from Wellington, Timaru, Westport, St. Benedict's (Auckland), Marist Brothers' Old Boys' (Auckland), Karangahake, St. Anne's (Wellington South). They showed, taking into consideration the state of affairs generally, that satisfactory progress was being made.

The desirability of the co-operation of Catholic clubs with the Catholic Federation, the St. Vincent de Paul Society, Catholic Seamen's Conference, the H.A.C.B. Society, and boys' clubs, in extending the membership and participating in the work of these societies, was affirmed.

The secretary was asked to write to the branches of the H.A.C.B. Society with a view to the local Catholic club and the Hibernian Society interchanging monthly visits during the winter period. This, it was contended, would result in increased membership of both societies, as also in benefit to members socially and otherwise.

Catholic Social Guild.

A matter of great importance to the laity of New Zealand was dealt with at the conference—namely, the question of the federal executive taking over the Social Guild study scheme in this Dominion, and also taking over the control of the examinations in connection therewith. The hon. secretary read correspondence between the editor of the *N.Z. Tablet* and the executive, and also the questions submitted to candidates at the 1914 examinations. It was brought clearly and concisely before the conference what were the objects of this excellent course of study, and the fact that every person entitled to vote should take up this matter, considering the questions of vital importance which the study embraced. The executive was empowered by the unanimous vote of the conference to take over the scheme from the editor of the *Tablet*, hold the examinations, circularise all affiliated clubs to this effect, and give them all information on the subject. To give the move-