

ment a start under the executive control, fifteen delegates promised to take up the scheme.

Election of Officers.

The election of officers resulted in the re-election of the previous executive. The names are as follow:—President-general, his Grace Archbishop Redwood; president, Mr. J. L. Leydon; vice-president, Mr. G. Dee; hon. secretary, Mr. T. H. Forster; hon. treasurer, Mr. E. B. L. Reade; executive—Messrs. J. Fagan, M. O'Kane, and F. Galvin.

On the motion of Mr. Temm, seconded by Father Forde, it was decided that the time for transmission by the executive to clubs of the subject for the debate for the shield be altered to at least six weeks before the holding of the conference.

It was decided to hold the next conference at Wellington.

Several of the members pointed out the absolute necessity of affiliated clubs keeping in touch with the clergy. It was stated with regret that some clubs were inclined to depend too much on the support of the laity. A case was cited where the local clergy had gone to considerable inconvenience and expense in fitting up a clubroom, but, although the members had at first responded, they had eventually considered themselves and not the parish priest the owners. In one or two of the smaller towns the progress of Catholic clubs had been retarded by the tendency of Catholic young men to disregard the consideration due to their priests.

The conference closed with hearty votes of thanks to Dean Tubman for his kindness in placing the room at the disposal of the delegates, to Mr. J. L. Leydon, for the manner in which he had carried out the duties of president, and to Mr. T. H. Forster for his services as secretary, which were fully appreciated by the members.

A telegram conveying his best wishes for the success of the conference was received from his Grace Archbishop O'Shea, and letters were received from the local branch of the Catholic Federation and the Timaru Celtic Club, wishing the conference every success, and extending a sincere welcome to the delegates.

Sunday's Programme.

On Easter Sunday the delegates and the members of the Timaru club, approached the Holy Table, and were afterwards entertained at breakfast, over which Mr. Dunne presided. The chairman expressed, on behalf of the local club, their thanks for having the conference in Timaru, and, after a few brief remarks, he proposed the toast of the 'Pope and King.'

The next toast was that of the 'Federated Catholic Clubs.' Brother Egbert, in an appropriate speech, dealt with the aims and objects of Catholic clubs. They should be a recruiting ground for young men who later in life intended to enter public life. In such societies the perusal of a good Catholic paper and the encouragement of good reading would enable the members to refute the objections raised by anti-Catholic controversialists. Catholic clubs should encourage the practice of their religious duties by members, as the graces of the Sacraments would militate against gambling and other vices. Brother Egbert complimented the executive on their efforts to raise Catholic club life during the past year, and expressed a wish that the clubs would increase in numbers.

Mr. Leydon, on behalf of the executive, responded, and thanked Brother Egbert for his remarks. The federal executive was composed of men whose efforts were discouraged at times, but who were nevertheless sincere. He assured his hearers that the incoming executive would do all in their power to further the work of clubs in all branches. In short, they expected nothing but compliments at the next conference.

Mr. J. G. Venning proposed the toast of the 'Catholic Federation,' and sketched the work which was being done and had been done by the Federation, making special reference to the defeat of the Bible-in-schools proposals. He pointed out that the Federation was essentially a laymen's organisation, and should be zealously supported by every Catholic.

Mr. Temm (secretary to the diocesan executive of the Federation at Auckland) thanked Mr. Venning for

his gratifying words. He said that all should stand shoulder to shoulder, and defend their rights as Catholics. One of the principles of the Catholic Federation was the support and advancement of Catholic clubs, and for this reason, if for no other, all club members should join the ranks of the Federation.

Mr. Quinn proposed the toast of 'The clergy.' He said he was highly honored in being entrusted with the proposing of this toast. The clergy were looked up to as their guides in spiritual affairs. Their pastors had always taken a kindly interest in Catholic clubs.

Rev. Father Murphy, in responding, welcomed the delegates, and thanked Mr. Quinn for his appreciative remarks. The indifference of some priests towards Catholic clubs was due to members losing interest in the Church, and thinking they knew more than their pastors. He emphasised the necessity of the members combating the propagation of bad literature, and urged upon all the duty of co-operating with the clergy.

Rev. Father Forde also responded to the toast. He said he had much pleasure in being present at the conference, and expressed his appreciation of the way in which the business had been conducted. The spirit of unity and devotion to their priests was eminently to be desired. There was sometimes a want of understanding on the part of club members. This should not be. He counselled members to keep in touch with the priests, for this would conduce to the spiritual and material success of the clubs.

Mr. Doyle dealt with the toast of 'The visitors' in a very pleasant manner. He hoped all would have a good time, and that the delegates should enjoy themselves.

Mr. Dee responded, and referred to his visit a few months previously, when he had been received with every courtesy. He felt sure that the local club was doing its best to make the stay of the delegates in Timaru as pleasant as possible. He would be only too pleased to reciprocate the kindness shown, should any of the members of the Timaru club visit Wellington.

Messrs. Dobbs (Christchurch), Leydon (Wellington), and Foy (Auckland) supported Mr. Dee's remarks, and added their appreciation of the Timaru club's kindness.

Mr. T. H. Forster proposed the toast of 'The ladies.' He referred to their sterling qualities, and to their excellent work in connection with the Belgian fund. He complimented the Timaru Club in having such a fine number of ladies amongst them, and thanked the ladies who had provided the very excellent breakfast.

Mr. Foy, on behalf of the ladies, thanked Mr. Forster for his kind remarks.

Mr. O'Kane proposed the toast of 'The press.' He emphasised the fact that the press was powerful in shaping the destinies of mankind. He considered that the day would not be far distant when there would be what he called a 'federation of the press,' embracing the press of every civilised country.

Mr. M. J. Doyle (*Timaru Herald*) suitably replied.

Mr. Dee, in proposing the toast of 'The chairman,' paid a tribute to the admirable manner in which he carried out his duty. Mr. Dunne replied, and remarked it had been a most pleasant task. He referred to the deliberations of the conference which had been most successful, and had been carried on with a spirit of great friendliness by the delegates.

Songs were contributed by Messrs. G. Leydon, M. J. Schaab, and T. H. Forster. Messrs. J. Ardagh and M. J. Doyle acted as accompanists. Mr. M. O'Kane gave an elocutionary item.

On Sunday afternoon, all the delegates left Timaru in five motor cars, through arrangements made by the Timaru club, for a drive to Waimate and back—a distance of about fifty miles. The run was a most enjoyable one, and the visitors were most interested in the beautiful country through which they passed. On arrival at Waimate, the delegates were shown round by Rev. Father Aubry, and inspected the church and club-rooms. Mr. O'Brien (president of St. Patrick's Club) cordially welcomed the delegates.