

PERSONAL

JOHN SOMERS, of Carnew, Co. Wicklow, last address Sydenham Hotel, Christchurch, New Zealand, 20 years ago. Will anyone who has any news of him kindly communicate with his brother, Michael Somers. All communications to be addressed—'Michael Somers, c/o Catholic Times, 30 Manchester street, Liverpool, England.'

ART UNION

A Magnificent Flounce of REAL BRUSSELS APPLIQUE LACE, two and a-half yards in length, and valued at £8/8/- has been given, to be raffled for the benefit of the Redemptoristine Nuns, who have been obliged to leave their Convents in Belgium, and are now refugees in England. As these Nuns belong to a strictly enclosed Order, they have now no means of support, and depend exclusively on the offerings of the charitable. Those anxious to help them can do so by applying for Tickets (1/- each, or small books containing five tickets) for this beautiful lace, from—

MRS. T. J. BOURKE,
Hon. Secretary,
115 Hamilton Road, Wellington.

Owing to the great demand for tickets, and in the interests of this cause, we have received permission from the Minister for Internal Affairs to extend date of drawing till May 15, and the result will appear in the *N.Z. Tablet* of May 20.

MARRIAGES

CAMPION McDONALD. On February 11, 1915, at St. Mary's Church, Wanganui, by Very Rev. Dean Tolley, Roy, third son of Mr. Jas. Campion, Fardell, to Shiela, youngest daughter of Mrs. McDonald, Wanganui.

DONOVAN RALPH. On January 7, 1915, at the Pro-Cathedral, Dublin, by the Rev. Father F. J. O'Hara, assisted by the Rev. J. O'Reilly, John T. Donovan, B.L., M.P., to Ada, second daughter of Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Ralph, Princes street, Auckland.

LEACH—McSWEENEY. At St. Francis' Church, Marton, on Easter Monday, April 5, 1915, by Rev. Father Deolaghty, Walter, son of Mr. Leach, Dannevirke, to Ellen, eldest daughter of Mr. McSweeney, Marton.

NAPIER—RALPH. At St. Patrick's Cathedral, Auckland, on March 18, 1915, by the Rev. Father Cahill, assisted by the Rev. T. Furlong, William Esmond Leunox, eldest son of W. J. Napier, Devonport, to Rose, fifth daughter of W. J. Ralph, Princes street, Auckland.

IN MEMORIAM

PONINGHAUS. In loving memory of Annie Poninghaus, who departed this life at Christchurch, on May 9, 1914. Eternal rest, grant to her, O Lord.

A tender sister, true and kind,

She proved to be in heart and mind;

A loving daughter we have lost,

But trust her soul has gone to rest.

—Inserted by her loving parents and sisters.

J. LAMB & SON

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MESSAGE OF POPE LEO XIII. TO THE N.Z. TABLET.

Pergant Directores et Scriptores New Zealand Tablet, Apostolica Benedictione confortati, Religionis et Justitiae causam promovere per vias Veritatis et Pacis.

Die 4 Aprilis, 1900.

LEO XIII., P.M.

TRANSLATION.—Fortified by the Apostolic Blessing let the Directors and Writers of the New Zealand Tablet continue to promote the cause of Religion and Justice by the ways of Truth and Peace.

April 4, 1900.

LEO XIII., Pope.



THURSDAY, APRIL 29, 1915.

CATHOLICS AND THE VICTORIAN LABOR PARTY



HAT may be described as a sort of mild political crisis has arisen in Victoria, through the misguided and suicidal action of the recent annual Conference of the Political Labor Council of that State. Annoyed, apparently, by the vitality and activity evinced by the Catholic Federation at the recent elections, the Conference, by a vote of 98 to 48, adopted the following extraordinary resolution: 'That rule 38 (g) be amended to read: "No person shall be eligible to become, or permitted to remain, a member of the P.L.C. who is a member of any other organisation which selects or lends support to candidates for public positions." This means, of course, that no Catholic who wishes to remain or to become a member of the Victorian Labor Party, will be allowed to continue his membership in the Catholic Federation. We have described the resulting crisis as 'mild'—although white-hot indignation is naturally being expressed by Catholics and non-Catholics at the monumentally stupid blunder which produced it—because we do not believe that the new rule will ever become seriously operative, that it will have any serious or lasting consequences—at least so far as the Catholic Federation is concerned—or that it will amount to anything more than a nine days' wonder, of a rather ridiculous and ignominious kind. We have seen many such attempts on the part of Labor executives to dragoon their followers—though none, perhaps, quite so stupid and high-handed—and we have never yet known any of them to succeed.

We have no information as to the exact procedure adopted by the Conference in coming to a decision on this matter. In this part of the world the invariable method followed in preparing the agenda paper for Labor conferences is as follows. Each of the organisations having representation at the conference is allowed to draw up a limited number of remits, and these are all forwarded to the central executive. The executive arranges and classifies the remits so received, dropping those which have been duplicated or which overlap, and the whole revised list of remits is then submitted to each of the organisations. The organisations discuss the remits, generally at a special meeting called for the purpose; and the appointed delegates are specifically instructed how they are to vote on each proposal. There is a further full discussion at the Conference, and the final result may be taken as being as near an approximation to the voice of the Party as can well be secured. So far as we can gather from the reports in our Melbourne contemporaries, no such procedure was followed by the Victorian P.L.C. It seems clear that there was no proper notice, and no adequate consultation of the branches; and knowing fairly well, as we do, the general

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