

fortunately it ceased before doing worse damage. To those who were near him at the time, his Grace remarked that something terrible was happening in some other part of Italy, and every hour brought news which confirmed his fears. No fewer than fifteen thousand of the injured were sent to Rome.

During his absence, he said, he had the privilege of an audience with his Holiness the Pope, some time before last Christmas. They spoke about New Zealand in its various aspects, and his Holiness was most interested in what was said.

Altered Plans.

The sad intelligence of the death of Bishop Grimes reached his Grace at Genoa just as he was about to depart from Italy, and he immediately telegraphed his sympathy to the head of the Order at Lyons. The German methods of warfare, which by this time had been shown to include the torpedoing of passenger boats, altered his Grace's intention of visiting England, where he had no special business. He took passage from Genoa to New York direct, landed there in Holy Week, and spent over a month in the States. In that brief period real extremes of weather were experienced. Easter Sunday was an awful day. A blizzard descended upon New York, the streets were covered with two feet of snow in a few hours, and the fall was driven by a furious gale. When in Washington a fortnight later, his Grace saw little signs of spring, and in Chicago later in the month the temperature reached 'ninety in the shade,' this being the hottest April day ever known. Strangely enough May was a cold month.

Destruction of the Lusitania.

Questioned as to how the Americans viewed the war, the Archbishop stated unhesitatingly that they were entirely for the Allies. Public opinion and newspaper opinion were absolutely in our favor. This applied to the whole population, excepting a few Germans. The destruction of the Lusitania had opened the eyes of the Americans, who now believed the stories of the atrocities committed by the Germans, and they (the Americans) were prepared to back up the stiff Note sent to Germany. The submarine outrages, said his Grace, while not piracy, because ordered by a State, constituted something even worse than piracy. The crime had been correctly designated by the Irish verdict of 'Wilful Murder' at the Lusitania inquest.

His Grace preached at the Sacred Heart Basilica on Sunday evening, and delivered a brief but interesting address. They were all occupied with one great thought, his Grace said, the thought of the great war, and with the question whether militarism, despotism, and barbarism are to triumph over civilisation. It was a great struggle, and the nations engaged in it were in deep earnest, and he was glad to see that New Zealand and Australia had made a great name for themselves already. Their bravery, their heroic courage, had been celebrated in the press of Europe. 'I am glad to tell you that the great nation of the United States, with the exception of a few pro-Germans, is entirely and strongly and emphatically with the Allies.' He was in France at the beginning of the war, at Bayonne, not far from the Spanish frontier, and saw something of the mobilisation of the great French Army. He was very much impressed by what he saw and heard, and by the spirit which officers and men displayed—a spirit of calm determination. Then there was the spirit of religion, like a wave of Divine grace, permeating the French people. The people filled the churches morning, noon, and night. The previous Government had thought that it would degrade the priesthood by compelling them to serve in the army, but the result had been to exalt them. There were about 25,000 priests in the French Army, a great many of them serving in the ranks. A great many had already been decorated for their bravery, and they would find that when the war was over the influence of the priesthood would be enormous. It was a great struggle, but victory would be on the side of the right and of true civilisation.

His Grace, who is now in his seventy-seventh year, and the fiftieth of his priesthood, is in the best of health, and although he was in Europe when the war broke out, he met with no experiences which could be regarded as unpleasant.

CATHOLIC FEDERATION

DOMINION EXECUTIVE.

The Dominion Executive met last Wednesday evening at St. Patrick's Hall (writes our Wellington correspondent). Mr. J. J. L. Burke presided, and there were present Messrs. Reichel, Fohy, Walsh, Ellis, Johnson, Hoskins, and the secretary. A deputation from a business firm on a matter of interest to the Federation attended, and after an explanation by the deputation of the proposals made, and a discussion thereon by the executive, it was decided to refer the matter to the Dominion Council for discussion. The organiser reported the result of his tour of the Hawke's Bay district, which was regarded as most satisfactory. A letter was read from the Christchurch Diocesan Council expressing satisfaction at the progress of the Federation in that diocese as a result of the organiser's visit. A letter from the president of the N.S.W. Federation, requesting information to enable him to compile a history of the Catholic Federation, was left in the hands of the chairman and secretary to deal with.

TIMARU.

(From a correspondent.)

The ordinary monthly meeting of the Timaru parish committee of the Catholic Federation was held on Sunday afternoon, June 27, in the parish hall, Dr. J. R. Loughman presiding over a fair attendance. The election of officers for the ensuing year resulted as follows: President, Very Rev. Dean Tubman; vice-presidents, Dr. J. R. Loughman and Mr. M. J. O'Brien; treasurer, Mr. T. Cronin; secretary, Mr. J. P. Leigh; all re-elected. The agenda paper for the annual meeting of the diocesan council was freely discussed, and the committee appointed Messrs. J. B. Crowley and J. P. Leigh as their delegates.

DUNEDIN.

The annual meeting of the Dunedin branch of the Catholic Federation was held in St. Joseph's Hall on Sunday evening. Very Rev. Father Coffey, A.M., presided, and there was a good attendance. It was reported that the branch was making satisfactory progress. After the transaction of routine business, the election of a committee was proceeded with, and resulted in the retiring members Mesdames E. J. O'Neill, J. B. Callan, jun., Miss Meenan, Messrs. J. B. Callan, jun., J. A. Brown, and J. Hally being re-elected. When the suburban portions of the parish, and the various societies entitled to representation have appointed their delegates, a meeting will be held to elect officers, and arrange for the current year's operations.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS

SUBSCRIBER, Seadown.—Three in the House of Representatives, and one in the Legislative Council.

From inquiries made by the *Evening Post* it appears that Australian and New Zealand life and accident insurance offices are making no extra profit on policies taken out before the war. That is to say, if a man was insured for £100 and his premium was £3 per annum, he will pay that premium still and no more, notwithstanding the risk he runs of losing his life in action and the risk the office runs. All policies that have been taken out since the war began, however, pay a war risk premium in addition to the ordinary premium. This varies, and some offices are charging up to £10 10s per cent.