

An Offer From Spain

Last week's cables, per *Times* and Sydney *Sun* services, contained the following: 'A Rome message says it is reported that an invitation from Spanish bishops to transfer the Holy See to Spain is being excitedly discussed.' Careful readers were aware that the statement as to the excitement attaching to the discussion might very safely be discounted, but there was nothing intrinsically improbable in the substance of the message. The following paragraph from late American papers seems to throw some light on the facts, and serves to make clear the Pope's intentions: 'A despatch to the *Morning Post* from Madrid says: 'Senor Dato, the Premier, has stated that in view of the new situation created for the Pope by hostilities between Italy and Austria he had offered the Pontiff the hospitality of Spain, placing at his disposal the Palace of the Escorial as accommodation for his Holiness, the Cardinals, and the necessary Vatican officials. The Pope in reply expressed his deep sense of the kindness of the Premier's suggestion, but declined the offer, stating that he had no intention of leaving Rome at present.'

Exaggerated War Babies

Some time ago statements appeared in many English papers to the effect that in one district alone, the scene of a large military camp, no less than 20,000 illegitimate births were expected. Similar unpleasant reports were circulated regarding other camp localities in England. Further inquiry goes to show that the facts, like the premature announcement of Mark Twain's death, have been much exaggerated. The Charity Organisation Society report that inquiries in forty-five centres are unanimous in describing the likelihood of a very high illegitimate birth-rate in places where troops have been stationed as a 'great exaggeration.' Thus in one locality where it was said 1000 births were expected, inquiry brought to light one case only. The society say they wish to point out that the inquiries show that the soldier is responding to the high ideal formed of him, and that those who have spread what turn out to be grotesquely exaggerated rumors to the detriment of his character have neither served him nor his country.

DIOCESE OF DUNEDIN

His Lordship Bishop Verdon leaves for Wellington to-day (Thursday) by the Mokoia.

The Rev. Dr. Kelly, of Opunake, paid a brief visit to Dunedin last week, and left for the north on Monday.

A euchre party and social evening will be held in St. Mary's Hall, Mornington, on Friday evening, the object being to raise funds to pay off the debt on the church ground. The committee expect a large attendance.

On Sunday there was Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament at St. Joseph's Cathedral from the last Mass until after Vespers. In the evening there was the usual procession, followed by Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament.

The writer of Association football notes in the *Otago Daily Times* gives the following list of members of the Christian Brothers' Football Club, Dunedin, who have joined the Expeditionary Forces:—T. J. B. Laffey (killed), M. O'Brien (missing), D. Rendall (wounded), M. Piper (wounded), T. Dwyer (wounded), P. O'Connor (wounded), J. Marlow (wounded), J. Cassidy, E. Salmon, H. J. Salmon, P. Spiers, J. O'Connor, M. O'Connor, T. Fitzpatrick, G. McCormick, G. Lovell, R. Leonard, W. Bevis, E. Spain, J. Daly, F. Cameron, J. Temple, H. Wilson, J. Brady, J. Joyce—total, 25.

St. Joseph's Harriers assisted with considerable success in the street collection on Saturday afternoon. They took part in the procession, and from a lorry (generously lent by Mr. C. Speight) gave a series of street-corner concerts, which were much appreciated.

Besides a number of choruses by the harriers, items were given by the following:—Miss E. Murphy excellently rendered the 'Marseillaise' in French, Mr. Devlin gave a bagpipes selection, the Wilson trio of children gave an exhibition of Highland dancing, and Misses Coughlan and Rodgers sang a duet, 'Only a penny.' Other members of the company contributed solos, which were received with applause. The piano was kindly lent by Messrs. Begg and Co. During the afternoon the sale by auction of a white rabbit brought a considerable sum. Next Saturday the club will take part in the sports meeting, which is being held in support of the Sports Queen.

CATHOLIC SEWING GUILD.

The Catholic Sewing Guild for Belgian relief met as usual on Wednesday, when the following donations were received:—Miss Cotter, 10s; Mrs. Le Brun, 5s; Mrs. Just, 5s; goods from Mrs. Meenan, Miss Connor, Mrs. Hogg, and Mrs. Hannigan (Nuggets).

CATHOLIC FEDERATION

SACRED HEART PARISH, WELLINGTON.

The parishioners of the Thorndon parish assembled in large numbers at the Basilica of the Sacred Heart on Sunday for the purpose of electing their representatives on the local committee of the New Zealand Catholic Federation. Stirring addresses were delivered by—among others—his Grace Archbishop Redwood, who expressed his sincere gratification at the work that had been done by the committee and the Federation during his absence from the Dominion; by the Very Rev. Dean Regnault, S.M., Adm., chairman of the committee, and several lay members of the organisation, including Mr. G. Girling-Butcher, organising secretary of the Federation, and Messrs. R. P. Flanagan and Walsh, all of whom stressed the need for the organisation of the members of the Church in defence of their interests. More than usual interest was taken in the election of the committee, which resulted in Messrs. M. Walsh, R. Sievers, J. E. Fitzgerald, J. McGowan, and McKeown being returned.

ST. JOSEPH'S PARISH, WELLINGTON.

St. Joseph's parish committee met at the presbytery, Patterson street, on Wednesday, June 23, the Rev. Father Barra being in the chair. Messrs. A. Cassie and Parsonage were elected delegates to the annual meeting of the Wellington Diocesan Council. The remits for the annual meeting were discussed at length, and the delegates instructed accordingly. The question of entertaining visiting delegates while in the city was discussed, and it was decided to suggest to the diocesan executive to call a meeting of the delegates from the city parishes to consider the matter.

The annual meeting of parishioners of St. Joseph's parish will be held after devotions on Sunday, July 11, when it is hoped there will be a big attendance.

CHRISTCHURCH NORTH.

The following is the report of St. Mary's parish committee for the six months ended June 30:—During the past six months the committee have given very strict attention to the enrolment of members, and as a result have to report a total membership to date of 544. This success is in no small measure due to the visit of Mr. Girling-Butcher. Much greater interest is being taken in Federation matters by the general body of Catholics since he delivered his instructive address at St. Mary's. This branch was represented by Miss Geaney at the half-yearly meeting of the Diocesan Council at Timaru on January 18, who brought the matter of the Catholic Girls' Club under the notice of the meeting, and received hearty support from the council. It is to be regretted that the club is not at present working under the auspices of the Federation. Arrangements have been made for a supply of Catholic Truth Society's pamphlets which will be distributed at