

out in Catholic schools immediate steps should be taken by the Dominion Executive to insist on the privilege of junior free places being also allowed. Also that free *School Journals*, and agricultural and swimming grants be extended to Catholic schools examined by Education Board inspectors, and that a petition be prepared and presented to Parliament emphasising our rights in these matters.

This was seconded by Mr. J. P. Leigh (Timaru) and adopted.

Mr. J. P. Leigh (Timaru) moved, and the Rev. Dr. Kennedy seconded, a proposition calling the attention of the Dominion Executive to the fact that no apparent action has been taken in regard to compiling a Catholic Reader for our schools, as directed at the last half-yearly meeting of this Diocesan Council, and urge that the matter be at once attended to.

On the motion of Mr. F. J. Ryan (Lincoln), seconded by Mr. J. Cumteen (Lincoln), it was decided to direct the attention of the Dominion Executive to the desirability of appointing an organiser for the Federation in the South Island when funds permit, the opinion being expressed that until this is done the progress of the movement will be limited.

On the motion of Mr. F. J. Ryan (Lincoln), seconded by the Rev. Dr. Kennedy, and supported by Mr. J. R. Hayward, a motion was unanimously passed recognising the admirable services rendered by the *New Zealand Tablet* in advocating the rights and privileges of Catholics generally, and the editorial ability displayed in conducting the journal, and expressing the appreciation felt by this Diocesan Council at the manner in which Catholic Federation matters are kept in the fore-front.

Motions were also passed expressing appreciation of the work done by the executive committee and of the hospitality extended to the delegates to the present meeting.

The president thanked the delegates for the time and attention devoted to the business, and declared the conference closed, the meeting having occupied about ten hours.

ST. MARY'S PARISH, WELLINGTON.

The annual meeting of St. Mary's parish branch of the Catholic Federation was held in St. Patrick's Hall on June 31, under the presidency of Rev. Father A. Venning, S.M. The annual report and balance sheet, which were read and adopted, showed the financial membership to be 329, and the balance at credit £4 16s 10d. The report stated that in connection with the Bible-in-Schools Referendum Bill the committee had been successful in placing over 100 names on the electoral rolls, and had questioned the various political candidates as to their views on the matter. A careful supervision was kept on the various booksellers' shops and stalls for objectionable and anti-Catholic literature. Rev. Father Venning concisely reviewed and commented on their efforts during the year, and exhorted all present to do their utmost to enrol their fellow-parishioners in the Federation. At his request, Mr. W. F. Johnson, secretary to the Diocesan Council, addressed the meeting, and delivered a stirring appeal on its aims and objects, and showed that if all did their share what its future power would be. The delegates elected for the coming year were as follow: Messrs. Halpin, Dalton, Levett, Dee, and Madden.

INVERCARGILL.

The following is the annual report of the Invercargill branch of the Catholic Federation:—In presenting the second annual report, your committee have pleasure in recording a successful year's work. The membership reached the total of 800, which represents an increase of 176 for the year. It must be remarked, however, that there are still a number of Catholics in the parish who have not subscribed to the Federation. Its aims and objects should by this time be apparent to all, and there is no reason why every Catholic worthy of the name should not belong to the Federation. It is confidently expected that the figures for the coming year

will exceed the 1000 mark. The subscription is merely a nominal one, but the numbers tell, and it is by the subscriptions alone that the Dominion Executive is enabled to employ a permanent secretary and organiser, and to carry on its work as the central controlling body. One-sixth of the total contributions is retained by the parish committee, and a reference to the balance sheet will show that the year closes with a credit balance of £9 10s 9d. The principal work the committee were engaged in during the year was the second Pan-Southland gathering. Every detail had been attended to, and, notwithstanding the boisterous weather experienced, the numbers present exceeded that of the first gathering. This great annual exposition of our faith has come to stay, and although the climatic conditions were disappointing on the last occasion, everything went off smoothly, and we look forward to future gatherings with every confidence. We are pleased to be able to chronicle that we did our share, by petitions and in other directions, to defeat the unjust proposals of the Bible-in-Schools League. Other matters, such as the arrangements for assisting of immigrants, etc., have justified the existence of the Federation in these parts. All the members of the committee have been regular attenders at the meetings, and have thus justified the confidence reposed in them. The thanks of the committee are due to the Very Rev. Dean Burke, V.F., for the interest he has at all times taken in the Federation, and also for the use of his room for committee meetings. The committee also desire to place on record their appreciation of the assistance given by those ladies and gentlemen who helped so considerably with the enrolment of members.

DUNEDIN DIOCESAN COUNCIL.

The annual meeting of the Dunedin Diocesan Council of the Catholic Federation takes place on July 28.

WEDDING BELLS

BOLGER-POWELL.

A wedding of considerable interest was celebrated by the Rev. Father Cahill in the Kaponga Catholic church on July 7, the contracting parties being Mr. James Bolger, eldest son of Mr. Martin Bolger, Hawea, and Miss Mary Powell, second daughter of Mr. G. Powell, Kapuni. The marriage ceremony was followed by a Nuptial Mass. The bride's dress was of cream champagne satin trimmed with pearls, with an overdress of crepe de chine, and the usual veil and orange blossoms. Her travelling dress was of purple face cloth, and mole hat, with purple ruche. The chief bridesmaid (Miss Hannah Powell) wore a dress of pink figured colienne, trimmed with silk lace, and white felt hat, with wings. Miss Kate Bolger, bridesmaid, wore a dress of cream duchesse satin, with violet sash and violet plush hat. The shower bouquets carried were of violets and asparagus. Mr. J. Bolger acted as best man and Mr. G. Powell as groomsman. The bride's present to the bridegroom was a dressing case; that of the bridegroom to the bride, a set of Siberian fox furs. The bridesmaids' presents were pendants of peridots and pearls. The wedding presents were numerous and costly, the cheques alone amounting to £170. The bride and bridegroom are related to most of the families in the Kaponga parish, and are deservedly popular. The guests were conveyed in numerous motor cars to the Kapuni Hall, where the wedding breakfast was partaken of. Later the happy couple left to spend their honeymoon in Christchurch and Dunedin. On Monday evening a kitchen tea was tendered to the bride at Mrs. Barleyman's residence.

Oamaru

(From our own correspondent.)

Mr. P. Corcoran received on Monday a cable from his son, Patrick J. Corcoran, who is with the Australian Brigade at the Dardanelles, that he is quite well.

A very enjoyable time was spent in St. Patrick's