

MARIST BROTHERS AND WAR

A FURTHER REFERENCE.

When the adjourned case of a Marist Brother teacher, John Francis Welch, was called on before the Third Wellington Military Service Board, Mr. A. O'L. Considine said that in the future these cases, he thought, should be dealt with from an educational standpoint. Teachers from the State schools were being called up, he added, and were not being appealed for because their places could be filled by men on account of the salary given, but the salary in the case of the other teachers (the Marist Brothers), what was it?

Captain Baldwin: The magnificent sum of £60 per annum, sir; that, I understand, is all that they can afford.

The Chairman (Mr. H. J. Beswick): So far as I am personally concerned, I am going to treat these cases purely from an educational point of view.

Mr. Considine: So will I.

Mr. H. F. O'Leary (appearing for the appellant): Taking into account, sir, I hope, the difficulty of replacing them.

The Chairman: The cases will be dealt with from an educational point of view; each on its merits.

SCHOOL MEDICAL INSPECTION

Replying to a question by Mr. Jennings, M.P., the Hon. Mr. Hanan (Minister of Education) said: "As would be seen from the recent public statements made by myself, the national importance of the work of school medical inspectors had been a matter to which he had given a considerable amount of attention. A report of a very interesting and instructive character will shortly be issued dealing with the work of the medical inspectors and of the principles upon which the medical inspection is based. Proposals are under consideration to increase the number of school medical inspectors and of school nurses, and also to make provision for co-operating with Plunket nurses for the benefit of school children in outlying districts. When it is remembered that there is only one school medical inspector for each 45,000 school children it will be recognised that the number of the present staff falls far short of the ideal. It was hoped to add to the number as soon as improved conditions make it possible to secure the services of additional school medical inspectors, so that they may be able to cope with the inspection of the whole of the school children of New Zealand, irrespective of the schools they attend. The Government was fully alive to the value of school medical inspection and to the possibilities of its development, recognising that it was necessary to build up from the foundation a healthy and vigorous race without which all our attempts at education and social progress will be, to a large extent, handicapped."

This, no doubt, is the outcome of the representations made by the Catholic Federation both by deputation and correspondence. Already we have the swimming grants. Our next is the *School Journal*, then scholarships, and free places, and finally a capitation grant.

The answer to most of life's riddles and perplexities is simply wait.—Christian Reid.

Never go out of your depth in business, for the best swimmer may be seized with cramp.

God is well pleased with a humble heart, for it is like unto Jesus, Who was humble of heart.

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THE FUTURE OF JERUSALEM

Ecclesiastical circles in Rome are following the victorious march of the English on Jerusalem with a great and natural interest. The occupation of the Holy City is believed to be only a matter of weeks. I need not point out how this event, which will not be one of the least sensational of the present war, will affect all Christendom. It will very likely result in Palestine having a new status. Saved at last from the Turkish yoke, it will be placed under the protectorate of the Great Powers—Catholic, Protestant, and Orthodox.

Before the war the population of Jerusalem was about 60,000; 45,000 of these were Jews, 8000 Mahomedans, 6000 Orthodox Greeks, 3000 Latin and Greek Catholics, and about a thousand Protestants. Most of the religious institutions belonged to France and Italy. It is only during the last few years, especially since the famous voyage in the East of Wilhelm II., that the Germans have tried to develop their influence in Palestine. Wilhelm II. presented the German Benedictines with a piece of land known as the Dormition, on which a monastery has been built. There are also two other German monasteries, but all these institutions together, small as they are, cannot compete with the innumerable establishments of every sort, schools, hospitals, orphanages, churches, convents, seminaries, etc., which France and Italy have built—especially France, who from the time of Francis I. has enjoyed the privilege of having a protectorate over all the Christians in the Holy Land.

It is obvious that war has changed all this. Since Turkey came into the struggle nearly all the monks and nuns who were subjects of the Allies have been expelled and their monasteries and convents looted and turned into barracks. From the point of view of the Catholic hierarchy Palestine forms a diocese governed by a bishop having the title of patriarch, and who is nearly always an Italian. It is unknown what has happened to the present Patriarch of Jerusalem, Mgr. Camassei. For many months the Vatican has received no news from him. All that is known is that the German monks, who used to be a very small minority before the war, are to-day the masters of Jerusalem. This has naturally not stopped the Turks from committing every sort of profanation and vandalism under the benevolent eye of the German Consular authorities. When the British troops enter Jerusalem—and everything leads us to believe that the day is not far distant—let us hope that they will not find too much destruction and ruin.

Just one thing is causing the Vatican anxiety at the moment: this is lest the dream of Zionism may be fulfilled and Palestine become a Jewish kingdom instead of remaining the inalienable property of all the Christian Powers. An Italian paper, discussing the question of Zionism, recently made an interesting comment: it is that the re-constitution of Palestine as an independent Jewish state would have as its necessary consequence the denationalisation of all the Jews in Europe, who, as a result of the re-establishment of their nationality, would be regarded and treated as foreigners in all the countries where they live at present. Now the Jews have no interest in changing their present position for that of the subjects of a little Asiatic state. It is therefore unlikely that the coming peace congress, when it considers the question of Palestine, will seriously consider this idle fancy of Zionism which haunts the imagination of a small minority of Jews. What appears to be certain is that the Holy Land will be internationalised and put directly under the great Christian Powers.—*Journal de Genere* (Rome correspondent).

"Tis greatly wise to talk with our past hours, and ask them what report they bore to heaven."

To practise virtue is to subject ourselves to the principle or duty. Duty is the highest law of the soul.