

On the motion of Mr. Sandys, seconded by Mr. Robinson, the report was unanimously adopted.

Before proceeding with further business, Mr. Poppelwell moved the following resolution of condolence with the diocese on the great loss sustained by the death of Bishop Verdon:—"That this, the first meeting of the Dunedin Diocesan Council of the Catholic Federation since the death of Bishop Verdon, places upon record its sorrow at the death of so saintly a prelate, and its appreciation of his great and successful work in the diocese, especially in the establishment of Holy Cross College, an institution which will long speak eloquently of his memory through the mouths of the several priests who already, and will in the future, claim it as their Alma Mater."

After Mr. Poppelwell had spoken at some length on the saintly life and manifold good works of the late Bishop, the resolution was adopted, all present standing.

After an amount of general business had been transacted, and reports from various branches had been received, a very hearty vote of thanks was, on the motion of Mr. Poppelwell, passed to the chairman for presiding.

#### GISBORNE BRANCH.

The monthly meeting of the Gisborne Branch Committee of the Catholic Federation was held in St. Mary's School on last Sunday, Father Lane presiding (writes our own correspondent, under date February 28). The secretary (Mr. J. H. Reidy) read various circulars from the diocesan secretary. The scheme of Federation scholarships, as outlined, was considered excellent, and should meet with unanimous approval. The treasurer (Mr. Dudson) read the financial report for the month, which was adopted. It was resolved to take up the collection for the Catholic Field Service Fund on the second Sunday in March.

#### DOMINION COUNCIL.

In connection with the half-yearly conference of the Catholic Federation Dominion Council (the first meeting of that body held in Dunedin), there was Solemn High Mass in St. Joseph's Cathedral, commencing at 9 a.m. on Wednesday. Father O'Connell (Wanganui) was celebrant, Father Kaveney deacon, Father Spillane subdeacon, and Very Rev. J. Coffey (diocesan administrator) master of ceremonies. The occasional sermon was preached by the Very Rev. J. Liston, Rector of Holy Cross College, Mosgiel, the subject being "The Duties of Laymen." Fathers Delany, Hurley, Peoples, Kerley, and Rooney were present in the sanctuary. The conference of the Dominion Council was commenced in St. Joseph's Hall, Rattray Street, immediately after Mass. The delegates present were—Wellington, Rev. J. A. O'Connell, S.M., Rev. D. Hurley, S.M., Adm., and Major Halpin; Auckland, Messrs. F. Burns and J. T. Fitzgerald; Christchurch, Rev. F. Kerley, Rev. W. J. Peoples, and Mr. F. J. Doolan; Dunedin, Very Rev. J. Coffey, diocesan administrator, Messrs. D. L. Poppelwell, and T. J. Hussey. Miss A. Girling-Butcher, general secretary, was also in attendance. The president (Mr. D. L. Poppelwell) presided.

#### Wanganui

(From our own correspondent.)

March 1.

The new school at Castlecliff is proving a wonderful success. The first roll-call numbered about 38, and it now has reached 50, without having exhausted all possibilities. As the Sisters cannot be spared to live at the beach suburb, two of them make daily pilgrimages in the tram car, and go down as well on Sundays for catechism. The building serves the dual purpose of church and school, and although ministering to the

children's needs is its daily glorious work, the fact of being able to hear Sunday Mass in it is, to us selfish week-enders, its noblest attribute. Long enough ago, our St. Vincent de Paul men went off to Castlecliff to teach catechism, and through their interest and general hard work, Mass once a month became possible. The rest of the month, however, week-ending at the beach was out of the question, and the very nicest invitations had to be declined. In those days the Catholic toiler's week-end in the surf usually commenced some time after the first car from town on Sunday afternoon. The new schoolhouse has altered all this, and perhaps some of us will be taking the neat little cottage adjoining the school, which also is church property.

The Convent High School started with a record attendance of over 100. Last year's examination results to hand are very satisfactory, all candidates presented having passed. In the Public Service Entrance were Lucy Carroll, Beryl Guylee, and Mary Heneghan, and in the Intermediate Section Muriel Craig, Ray Duncan, and Grace Clark.

The parish school, too, has a big roll. This year opportunity has been given our children to attend the Municipal Baths, and thrice a week the girls, under the supervision of the Sisters, hurry away in that direction. They cannot get into the water quickly enough, and under the kindly but ever-watchful eyes of the custodian (Mr. King), they enjoy themselves thoroughly.

Rev. Brother Basil is out of town just now collecting for the new novitiate to be. Brother Walter is a newcomer into the boys' school this year.

Chaplain-Father Moloney was here for a day or two during the week looking bronzed and fairly well. Father Moloney has finished military duty and probably will be relieving in one of the Wellington parishes for a time.

Father Buckley, a visitor from the South, was here during the week.

Father Ginisty is down from Jerusalem, Wanganui River, on a periodical visit to the Maoris in this part of the mission.

Mr. and Mrs. McDonald and party, visitors from Auckland, spent some hours at the convent, Mount St. Gerard. Our friends from the northern city were delighted with the convent, its wonderful situation (the climb is delightful in a car), and the magnificent view from the uppermost look-out.

#### CATHOLIC SOLDIERS' EDIFYING EXAMPLE.

As a result of seeing the consolation given to Catholic soldiers by receiving the last Sacraments fifty Protestant soldiers were converted on their deathbeds by Rev. Arthur F. Florack, a United States Army chaplain at a New Jersey camp during the recent epidemic of influenza. Father Florack was curate at St. Andrew's Church, Rochester, before he volunteered for army service. So many soldiers had contracted the disease at the camp that the hospital facilities proved inadequate. The sick were cared for in a large room which afforded little privacy. This did not deter the Catholics from making their confessions. The effect on the Protestants near by was astonishing. One after the other, realising that he was near death, called for a priest. "What can I do for you?" Father Florack asked. "Anything at all to prepare me for death," answered the boys. Those who had not been baptised received the Sacrament of Baptism, while those who had been made a general confession—a new experience to them, but one gladly undertaken. The soldiers eagerly sought the consolation of the Church, and thus prepared themselves for a happy death.

#### LADIES!

A new style of dressing the hair is quite in order, but the purchase of a delicious appetiser, like MILITARY PICKLE is sound judgment. Sold by all grocers. Buy it now.