

his appointment to the Irish Secretaryship, not having had any previous experience of Irish administration, said:—"I am the person responsible for secret service in Ireland. There is no underling who is able to spend secret service money in Ireland at his own discretion. There has not been, since I knew anything about it, any agent provocateur or anything approaching it in Ireland. What there may have been in the past I do not know, and am not answerable for." I make no imputation on the absolute *bonae fidei* of Mr. Shortt and on his belief in the truth of these words. In view, however, of Mr. Shortt's ignorance of Irish affairs, and of the character of the instruments with whom he had to deal, the position, in my judgment, of the Irish Executive in reference to secret service expenditure is more accurately described by Mr. Dillon in the same debate. "I do not believe," said Mr. Dillon, "that Lord French goes into the details of this secret service in Ireland. I am quite sure the Chief Secretary (Mr. Shortt) does not, because he would not have the knowledge to do it. How in the name of goodness could he handle secret service money? He would not know the agents. He must be some individual who is acquainted with the dark places and the dubious characters of Irish life, and has all the threads of it in his hands. . . . If unknown sums of this secret service money are to be placed in the hands of irresponsible officials, they may in the course of the next six months produce a condition of things where no man's life or reputation will be safe if he is obnoxious to Dublin Castle."

N.Z. CATHOLIC FEDERATION

WELLINGTON DIOCESAN COUNCIL.

The monthly meeting of the Executive Committee was held at the Federation Chambers, Willis Street, on Wednesday, June 4, Mr. J. A. Scott presiding in the unavoidable absence of Father Hurley, S.M. (president of the council). The following members were present:—Major Halpin, Mr. J. E. Gamble, Mr. J. P. McGowan, Mr. P. E. Cairns, and Mr. W. F. Johnson (hon. secretary). The treasurer (Major Halpin) reported that there was every prospect that last year's revenue on general account would be largely exceeded, as several important committees had yet to make returns. The net credit balance was the highest on record, and the position of the federation in the archdiocese was most satisfactory. The council's representatives on the Hostel Board reported that the house was still full, and expressed the board's appreciation of the assistance given to the building fund by the Diocesan Council. Some discussion arose as to the disposal of the surplus of the field service fund, and eventually it was resolved that the Dominion Council be requested to devise a scheme for the allocation of the balance to credit of the field service fund, with the recommendation that scholarships be founded for the benefit of sons of members of the Expeditionary Force. The report of the conference of headmasters of Catholic secondary schools with reference to examinations for scholarships was laid before the executive, and approved. The report recommends the adoption of the Junior National Scholarships examination, with a special examination in Christian Doctrine. Further arrangements for the annual meeting of the Diocesan Council, on July 10, were approved, and it was decided to hold a special meeting of the executive on June 30, to consider the report, and also the balance sheet; and the secretary was directed to request parish committees to forward remittances not later than Wednesday the 25th inst. The Federation Mass will be offered at the Basilica of the Sacred Heart, Hill Street, at 9 a.m. on the day of the meeting.

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THE SUFFERER.

Pain drove his lancet in her side;
 "Thou art the friend of Christ," she said,
 "Thou art my friend"; he touched her head;
 "Lord, I am blessed in this," she cried,
 "Thy love crowns me"; he touched her face:
 The petal beauty that had been,
 Withered as blows a little space
 A flower, and withers: "Now by men
 I am rejected"; and God smiled;
 The beauty hidden in His child
 Shone to high Heaven like a star,
 Uprose the incense of her prayer
 More fragrant than June meadows are;
 God said: "Lo, pain that is My friend
 Since the first days of sorrow were,
 Pain shall not leave thee till the end,
 Nor till the end shall these things cease,
 When thy soul garmented in peace
 Shall come to me." She bowed her head:
 "I am Thy handmaid, Lord," she said.

—CATHAIC O'BRAONAIN, in *Studies*.

Nelson

(From our own correspondent.)

June 3.

An enthusiastic meeting of convent old pupils was recently held, when it was resolved to form a hockey club, to be affiliated to the local ladies' association. The club has been accordingly established on a good footing, considerable keenness being displayed in the matter of training. Teams were entered for the King's Birthday tournament, when the honors were with the Convent A team. This team defeated the representatives of the Rewa, Motueka, and Kia Ora Clubs.

The classes in nursing, instituted with a view to meeting epidemic conditions, should such again occur, have been largely attended, and have proved the wisdom of the Hospital Board's action. Father McGrath, as a member of the Epidemic Defence Committee, urged on the congregation the advantages of these lessons, a fair number availing themselves of the opportunity to secure this useful training.

The press announces the early closing-down of the Boys' Industrial School at Stoke. At the last meeting of the Education Board it was resolved to protest against the menace of boarding out inmates, who were undesirable in ordinary public schools. There are now only 40 boys at Stoke. Mr. L. B. Bradstock lately resigned from the staff, and Mr. M. D. Flaherty is acting-manager. It will be interesting to see the effect of the board's representations to the department.

Mr. A. J. Muller, postmaster at Reefton, has been promoted to the position of inspector of the Midland district, with headquarters at Nelson, where he will be cordially welcomed.

MERITED RECOGNITION.

Catholics are receiving merited recognition here and there (says the *Catholic Bulletin* of St. Paul, U.S.A.): General Robertson, the new Commander-in-Chief of the British Army of the Rhine, will find on his arrival in Germany a fellow-Catholic in the person of General Dickman, American Commander-in-Chief; Major-General O'Ryan is to head New York's military forces; Rear-Admiral Glennon, U.S.N., assumes command of the 3rd Naval District at New York, and Rear-Admiral Fechteler that of the 5th Naval District, while Lieutenant-Commander Dinger is appointed Commander, U.S.N.; Judge Baker, of Phoenix, is the lately appointed Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Arizona; Mr. Francis P. Garvan succeeds Mr. A. Mitchell Palmer as Alien Property Custodian.

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