

CATHOLIC CLUBS

CONFERENCE IN WELLINGTON

The eleventh annual conference of the Federated Catholic Clubs of New Zealand opened on Saturday, April 6, in St. Patrick's Hall, Boulcott street, Wellington. The vice-president (Mr. J. P. McGowan) presided, and the representatives were as follow:—Auckland, Mr. C. Carroll; Onehunga, Mr. L. Carroll; Waihi, Mr. W. Sullivan; Thames, Mr. G. Dee; Otahuhu, Mr. J. Byrne; St. Benedict's, Newton, Mr. J. J. Sullivan and Mr. B. Sheehan; Wellington, Mr. J. Webb and Mr. W. Thomas; St. Anne's, Newtown, Mr. B. A. Guise and Mr. C. Cotter; Blenheim, Mr. W. Tiller; Christchurch, Mr. M. O'Kane; Ashburton, Mr. W. Bryant; Timaru, Mr. B. Leydon; Temuka, Mr. T. Tiller; Queenstown, Mr. L. Burns; Greymouth, Mr. C. Carmody and Mr. T. Heffernan; Hokitika, Mr. W. Cudehy; Westport, Mr. H. McKeowen; Federated representatives, Messrs. J. P. McGowan and J. L. Leydon.

His Grace Archbishop Redwood, president-general of the Federation, attended. He expressed his thanks at being afforded an opportunity of being present, and accorded the delegates a hearty welcome. His Grace expressed the hope that the delegates would conduct their deliberations in the best interests of Catholic Clubs of the Dominion.

The Very Rev. Dean Regnault (Provincial), Very Rev. Father O'Connell, and Rev. Fathers Venning (spiritual director), and Herring offered many suggestions for improving the condition of federated clubs.

In delivering his presidential address, the chairman (Mr. McGowan) welcomed the visitors. He hoped that the deliberations would be conducive to the best interests of federation.

The annual report and balance sheet were unanimously adopted. The report disclosed what must be considered a very encouraging position. Twenty-six clubs are affiliated, showing an increase of three on the previous year. The approximate membership now stands at 2500. During the year diplomas of merit were awarded for oratory, Mr. J. L. Leydon being the Wellington winner. The management expenses of the federation do not run into very large figures, but it is considered satisfactory that each year it has a credit balance.

Several notices of motion were considered relative to altering the time in which the agenda paper shall be forwarded and notices of motion received.

Reports upon the workings of clubs were received from the respective delegates. In some instances, particularly Auckland, Greymouth, and Wellington, the reports disclosed considerable activity in their various adjuncts.

Many suggestions were made regarding improvements of the federation and its constituent clubs. Perhaps the most valuable came from Mr. Sullivan (Waihi) regarding the appointment of an organiser for all Catholic societies. The subject had been discussed previously, but concerning Catholic clubs the suggestion to appoint federation deputies found considerable support. Referring to his own district, Mr. Sullivan stated that it was his intention to have a goldfields conference among the Thames, Karangahake, Waihi, and Paeroa Clubs. Mr. Carroll (Auckland) advocated that the executive of the federation should become acquainted with the workings of the Catholic Association in Victoria, in the hope that it would become an active participator in the dissemination of Catholic literature. The objects of the association are to print and circulate a refutation of erroneous ideas concerning the Catholic Church.

The conference affirmed the desirableness of mutual co-operation in extending the membership and participation in the work of the St. Vincent de Paul Society, Catholic Seamen's Conference, H.A.C.B. Society, and boys' clubs.

Mr. M. O'Kane brought forward a proposal for the publication of a monthly periodical to contain club notes and club doings, and to be circulated at a nominal

cost. Mr. J. J. Sullivan (Auckland) strongly favored the proposal, and offered his services to further the interests of a much-needed journal. The financial aspect, as outlined by Mr. O'Kane, to the minds of some delegates, did not leave a sufficient margin of profit. The project was, however, referred to the incoming executive.

The following motion was unanimously carried: 'That this conference expresses its strong condemnation of the attitude of a section of the Socialist Party of violent hostility to his Grace Archbishop Redwood on account of his recently issued pastoral letter on Socialism—an attitude which displays a hostility towards the Church itself rather than a disagreement with the economic views enunciated in the pastoral; and further expresses the sympathy and pledges the loyal support of the Federated Catholic Clubs throughout New Zealand to the Archbishop under the attacks to which he has been subjected in consequence of the issue of the pastoral.'

Considerable attention was directed towards a proposal originating from Mr. P. McNamara (Christchurch) regarding the purchase of a challenge shield for interclub competition, to be conducted during the progress of the annual conferences. The subjects chosen were: (1) Debate on a subject to be chosen by the federal executive and submitted to clubs four weeks prior to the date for holding the annual conference; the judge to be appointed by the club in the town in which the conference is to be held. (2) Elocution, subject to be self-chosen, with a proviso that no competitors shall have previously won a first prize in this section at a public competition. (3) Billiards. (4) Tennis. The first competition will take place at Easter, 1913, in Christchurch.

The election of officers for the ensuing year resulted as follows:—President-general, his Grace Archbishop Redwood; president, Mr. H. McKeowen; vice-president, Mr. J. P. McGowan; hon. secretary, Mr. J. L. Leydon; hon. treasurer, Mr. C. Carmine; committee, Messrs. A. H. Casey, J. J. Sullivan, and B. A. Guise.

Before the conference terminated votes of thanks were accorded the chairman, secretary, and outgoing officers for past services.

The visitors were entertained by the Wellington Catholic Club, and on Monday evening a smoke concert was held in their honor.

Taihape

(From an occasional correspondent.)

April 9.

The church was crowded to its utmost on Easter Sunday at the 10 o'clock Mass and Vespers.

A wedding of very considerable interest was celebrated in St. Mary's Church on Tuesday, the 9th inst., the contracting parties being Mr. Alec McLeod, of the local police force, and Miss Clara Hodgson, who is very well known in the district. The ceremony was performed by the Rev. Father Connolly. The bride, who was given away by her brother, Mr. J. Hodgson, looked exceedingly graceful in a white satin de chine gown, trimmed with sprays of orange blossoms, and having a court train. She also wore an embroidered tulle veil and wreath of orange blossoms. The bridegroom's gift to the bride was a gold watch and chain. The bridesmaids were Misses Elsie and Beatrice Hodgson, and her little niece, Miss Rachael Hodgson. The bridegroom was attended by his brother, Mr. Murdoch McLeod. After the ceremony the wedding party adjourned to the Gretna Hall, where Mrs. Hodgson entertained the guests at breakfast. After breakfast and the usual toasts were duly honored, the happy couple left by train for Taumarunui, and thence for a tour of the Dominion. The newly-married couple were the recipients of many valuable presents, including cheques.

For Influenza take Woods' Great
Peppermint Cure. Never fails. 1/6, 2/6.