

sectarian and improper sense the Sydney Orange organ, the *Watchman*, lately described itself as "unsectarian." Even a well-known Anglican clergyman, the Rev. C. L. Drawbridge, M.A., declares that the Church of England is "not sectarian" (*Religious Education and How to Improve It*, London, 1908, p. 234). (b) I have already shown, by appeal to the contents of the "Australian" State Religion manuals, and to the League's official descriptions of its actual working, that it is dogmatic and intensely sectarian, in the proper sense of these terms. (c) In *God or No-God in the School* (pp. 79-95) and elsewhere, the present writer has also shown, on Protestant and other testimony, that there can be no such thing as a "neutral," "unsectarian," "undogmatic," or "undenominational" religion or religious teaching. And (d) why a conscience clause for children if the Government Biblical lessons are degraded into mere "literature" and purely secular and non-religious "moral" instruction?

In my lecture, and in my last letter, I cited overwhelming legal and League evidence to show—(a) that the Irish proselytising conscience clause is the only conscience clause in operation under the "Australian" system demanded by the League; (b) that this same clause—and no other—is officially demanded or supposed by the League in its official publications; (c) that, in effect, a standing argument of the League for the "Australian" system is its alleged success in proselytising dissident teachers and pupils from loyalty to the doctrines, principles, and discipline of their various faiths into at least outward conformity with the State religion. There is terrible significance in the Dean's failure to touch this deadly testimony.

Dean Fitchett tells us what he personally fancies our Parliament would do in regard to the conscience clause and the Government teaching of religion. The Dean's private surmise hereon is not in issue. We are dealing with the facts of the League's official demand and of the "Australian" system which it officially demands.

Catholics would rejoice to see Biblical religious instruction imparted in the public schools, on fair all-round conditions, to the children of those desiring it. Speaking personally, I would co-operate with any body of believers who, in this matter, would accept the principle of a proper equal treatment of consciences—of those that desire the education system to be secular as well as of those who desire it to be religious. I have always been convinced that if even one large reformed denomination adopted this Christian and democratic principle—or, alternatively, made a decent fraction of the sacrifices for Christian education that Catholics do—the religious difficulty in education would soon solve itself.—I am, etc.,

* HENRY W. CLEARY, D.D.

Bishop of Auckland.

August 2.

Diocesan News

ARCHDIOCESE OF WELLINGTON

(From our own correspondent.)

August 9.

Mother Mary Aubert's annual concert takes place at the Town Hall on October 1.

There was Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament at St. Mary of the Angels' Church last Sunday.

His Grace Archbishop O'Shea left for Meaneer on Monday morning for a short retreat prior to his consecration.

The parishioners of Island Bay will hold a social on Tuesday, August 26, at the Tutanekai Hall, Berhampore, in aid of the St. Francis' Church, Island Bay.

The H.A.C.B. Society Council's annual social takes place at St. Peter's Schoolroom on Wednesday, August 20. Everything points to a successful function.

The Ven. Archdeacon Devoy is organising a social for the schools of the Wellington South parish. It will take place in St. Anne's Hall on September 6.

The Particular Council of the St. Vincent de Paul Society met last Friday evening, under the presidency of Bro. B. Ellis. There was a good attendance of the city and suburban members, and excellent reports of the good work accomplished by the various conferences were read.

The committee, set up to fittingly mark the consecration of his Grace Archbishop O'Shea, met during the week to make final arrangements. The consecration will take place at the Sacred Heart Basilica on Sunday, August 17. On Monday a conversazione will be held in the Town Hall, at which his Grace will be presented with a purse of sovereigns and addresses from the laity and the Hibernian Society. His Grace will be escorted from his residence to the hall by the Hibernian and other Catholic Societies, St. Patrick's College Cadets, and the City and Jupp's Band.

A most successful social was held last, Wednesday evening at St. Anne's Hall under the auspices of the Children of Mary. There were nearly 200 people present, including the Ven. Archdeacon Devoy and the Rev. Fathers Peoples and A. T. Herring (director of the sodality). The hall was tastefully decorated, and also the supper-room, the tables being prettily arranged, the colors of the sodality standing out prominently. A very enjoyable evening was spent, and the arrangements reflected the greatest credit on the committee, of which Miss Una Simon proved a capable and energetic secretary.

Petone

(From our own correspondent.)

August 9.

Mr. Ellis, of Wellington, on Wednesday evening gave a very interesting illustrated lecture on 'Rome' before a large audience.

The fortnightly social was held on Friday night and was largely attended.

Mr. J. McKenzie has been picked to tour with the New Zealand football team to California.

DIOCESE OF CHRISTCHURCH

(From our own correspondent.)

August 11.

The staff and pupils of the Marist Brothers' School desire to thank Mr. S. Flood, of the Grosvenor Hotel, Sergeant Ryan, of Lyttelton, and Mr. E. Crooke, of Addington, for donations of coal sent to the school during the winter.

A letter received last week by the Very Rev. Chancellor Price, Adm., from Bishop Grimes, intimated that his Lordship left England at the end of June to make his *ad limina* visit, and that he was due there again in October. His Lordship's health, so he stated, was much improved, but he was easily fatigued.

An entertainment is to be given in the King's Theatre on next Saturday evening by the musical and dramatic section of the Marist Brothers' Old Boys' Association in aid of the necessary equipment of their section at the Cathedral fund carnival. An excellent programme has been arranged, and as the company have been vigorously rehearsing for some time a performance of more than ordinary merit may be looked for.

The following officers were elected at the meeting on last Sunday of St. Anne's Conference of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, Woolston:—President, Bro. W. Jenyns; vice-presidents, Bro. McBrearty and Bro. Clentworth; secretary and treasurer, Bro. F. Smith. Visits to the Catholic inmates of the Jubilee Memorial Home weekly, and distribution of Catholic literature were reported as some of the good work done by members.

The Very Rev. Chancellor Price, Adm., left by the Ulimaroa on last Thursday, on a brief visit to

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