

The work of the meeting which was perhaps of the most general and far-reaching importance was that connected with the enactment of changes and amendments to the constitution. Of these the principal amendment was the establishment of an entirely new body to be known as the Dominion Council, which will take the place of the old Dominion Executive. The Dominion Council is to consist of the Archbishops and Bishops of the Dominion *ex officio*, and three representatives elected by each Diocesan Council, and is to meet half-yearly in Wellington, in the months of August and February. At its annual meeting it elects a Dominion Executive, consisting of the members of the Dominion Council resident in Wellington, together with seven other members, all of whom are to be residents of Wellington. The general control of the Federation is to be vested in the Dominion Council, which is empowered to initiate all work coming within the scope of the aims and objects of the Federation; but during such time as the Dominion Council is not in session, the powers of the Council are to be vested in the Dominion Executive who will be responsible to the Dominion Council, and will report to each half-yearly meeting of that body. The position, then, is that for the future the central governing body of the Federation will be the Dominion Council; and the Dominion Executive will carry on while the Dominion Council is not in session. The proposal is an experiment and a compromise. Under the old provisions for the Dominion Executive—as they appeared tentatively in the Provisional Constitution—representatives from distant dioceses could not possibly have attended the meetings, which would thus have become in a serious degree unrepresentative. As Mr. Poppelwell remarked, the new proposal will have the effect of preserving intact the representation of the Diocesan Councils, while it will enable the affairs of the Federation to be managed in Wellington during such period as the Dominion Council is not in session. The expedient gives promise of proving a workable and practical solution of what is in this country, with its peculiar geographical features, a somewhat difficult problem—namely, how to get a governing body which shall be able to operate from a single centre and which shall yet be representative of the whole Dominion. If the new Dominion Council pans out successfully, well and good; if not, we will have to make a fresh effort to adapt the generally accepted features of the Federation organisation to the special circumstances of this country.

Other minor but not unimportant alterations adopted in the constitution were an amendment which gives the clergy direct representation on the Diocesan Councils by making each parish priest a member *ex officio* of the Diocesan Council, and a further amendment which enacts that all members of the Parish Committees not elected by societies shall be elected by the parishioners. It was felt that the clause in the Provisional Constitution which directed that six members of the committee should be nominated by the parish priest placed upon the priest a duty that might be very invidious; and it was at the strong and general wish of the clergy that the change was made. The question of the exclusion of members of Parliament or of local bodies from participation in the work of the Federation was discussed at length; but the overwhelming weight of opinion at the gathering was strongly against the proposal. Finally, as an interpretation of the Constitution it was decided: 'That Clause 2 in no way debar any member of Parliament or of any public body from becoming a member of the Federation, or holding any office of the Federation, or of any of its committees.' The all-important subject of finance naturally received much attention from the delegates; and it is obvious that the arrangements under this head require tightening up. As the meeting was not favorably disposed towards the proposal to strike a levy for literature purposes, it might be worth while to consider the question of establishing a special Literature Fund, to which special donations could be given by individual members of the Federation, and which the Dominion Council or Executive would be empowered to

supplement from time to time by allocations from the general fund.

The holding of what was in effect the first meeting of the permanent governing body of the Federation marks an important stage in the development of the organisation in this country, and has invested the movement with fresh life and interest. Gradually but surely the Federation is finding its feet, and taking definite shape and form; and there are unmistakable indications that the arduous and effective work accomplished by the Provisional Executive during the year that is past is only an earnest of the still greater successes that are to come.

Notes

The Hawera Debacle

The following letters, which appeared in the *Hawera Star* on the eve of Dr. Gibb's lecture, explain themselves. They are, as we think will be admitted, the most eloquent and expressive piece of correspondence that has appeared in the press for many a day. The first is addressed by Dean Power to the Editor of the *Hawera Star*—

'Sir,—To effectually remove a false and widespread impression, created by an advertisement which has been appearing in the *Star*, and which colporteurs of the League have been showing from door to door, may I ask you to publish the enclosed correspondence without any comment from me beyond that contained within brackets in letter 6; any further comment from me would but mar a thing of beauty.—I am, etc.,

P. J. POWER.

(Copies.)

'1. Hawera, July 29, 1913. The Very Reverend Dean Power, Hawera. Rev. Sir,—I am directed by the Hawera branch of the Bible-in-Schools League to inform you that Dr. Gibb will deliver a lecture in favor of the Bible-in-Schools platform on Friday, the 1st August, at 8 p.m. Would you kindly acquaint Bishop Cleary of this fact?—R. G. SELLAR, hon. secretary, Hawera branch.

'2. St. Joseph's, Hawera, July 26, 1913. Dear Mr. Sellar,—I think that the notice to Dr. Cleary should be sent directly by the League. I do not wish to impose upon his generosity by inviting him on this extraordinarily short notice. Bishops as a rule have their engagements made a fortnight beforehand, and moreover, I was sorry to read in Thursday's *N.Z. Times* that his Lordship was confined to his house through illness. However, if you invite him directly, I am sure he will come with a heart and a-half if it be at all possible.—Your faithfully, P. J. POWER.

'5. St. Joseph's, July 27, 1913. Dear Mr. Sellar,—I have been informed by telephone from Wanganui that Dr. Gibb has refused absolutely to make his lecture in Wanganui a reply to Bishop Cleary, and that he wishes this to be distinctly understood. In view of this I shall be glad of a personal assurance that the *Star's* special advertised is quite correct in saying that the Dr. will reply to the Bishop in Hawera on Friday.—Yours faithfully, P. J. POWER.

(Telegrams.)

'3. Reverend Dr. Gibb, Wellington.—Will your Hawera address be a formal reply to Bishop Cleary. If so, I shall invite him.—DEAN POWER.

'4. Wellington.—No.—JAMES GIBB.

'6. Hawera, 27/7/13. Dean Power, Hawera. Dear Sir,—There is to some extent an error in the advertisement. Dr. Gibb's lecture will, I now understand, be a positive statement as to the platform of the League, and to that extent will be a reply to Bishop Cleary—[that is to the same extent as it will be a reply to Smith, Jones, and Robinson, or to any others who condemn the League's platform.—P.J.P.]—I must take sole responsibility for the advertisement, and will have the nature of the lecture, the scope of which

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