

that night, they were giving with their whole hearts, and they knew that it would be used to the best advantage. The Bishop had a duty, to guard those who were not able to care for themselves; and this was not the first occasion in Australia that a Bishop had been prosecuted for caring for those who were weak. The first priest in Sydney, because he fought for those who wished to exercise their religious rights, was ordered to leave the country, and he would not go. If a sinister power was abroad in the land to-day, the Bishop of Wagga would be ordered to leave the country, and they could be sure that he, too, would refuse to go. (Cheers.)

Right Rev. Monsignor J. O'Gorman, P.P., caused much laughter when, after announcing that he was going to make the best speech of the evening, he proceeded to read out a lengthy list of big donations to the fund for Dr. Dwyer. A letter was read by Monsignor O'Gorman from his Lordship the Bishop of Maitland (a brother of the Bishop of Wagga), saying that he was, to his regret, unable to be in Sydney that night. His Lordship stated in the letter that a benefit had been conferred upon the nuns, Catholics generally, and, in fact, the whole community, as a result of the recent law action. His Lordship enclosed a cheque for £50. A congratulatory telegram from his Lordship Right Rev. Dr. O'Connor (Bishop of Armidale) was also read to the meeting.

His Grace the Archbishop then read a letter from Mr. Peter Meagher, of Manly, expressing congratulations on the triumph of Dr. Dwyer, and enclosing a cheque for £25.

Very Rev. Dr. M. J. O'Reilly's View.

Very Rev. Dr. M. J. O'Reilly, C.M. (Rector, St. John's College within the University), said they were celebrating that night a great victory. In the first place, they were celebrating a victory over the yellow press of Australia. It was the yellow press of Australia that deliberately created the atmosphere that made any trial possible in this case. The yellow press of Australia was the guardian of the "yellow pup." If the yellow press would only take advice from him—which, to his sorrow, they had never yet done—they would either poison the yellow pup, or, if their tenderness of heart prevented them from that drastic course, take him out and lose him. The reason why he gave this advice was that the representatives of the press present that night would be able when they went back to their respective offices to tell their chiefs that there was a long price against the yellow pup.

They were also celebrating that night a victory for the young, clean-minded men and women in this community. It was a personal victory for the Bishop of Wagga. Throughout the case he had conducted himself as the kindly man that he is. Long before the trial was over every man and woman in the community was proud and delighted with the Bishop of Wagga. It was a victory for the Catholic Church in Australia. The enemies of the Bishop did not look to the man. They wanted to down the Catholics of Australia, and they took it for granted that if they defeated the Bishop they would have defeated the Catholics; and, therefore, the victory of the Bishop was a victory for the Catholics as a body. We had come out of this thing stronger than we had gone into it.

We were not going to allow our nuns to be attacked, Dr. O'Reilly proceeded. They are the very flower of our Catholic womanhood. He was proud that he had two sisters of his own who were nuns, and there were any number of people there that night whose proudest boast it was that close relatives of theirs were consecrated to God in the cloister. They were the very pick of our Catholic women, and any man who touched one of them, touched the very apple of our eye. We were all the more indignant when the touch was an unclean touch.

It was recently suggested that you could not believe a Catholic on his oath. The Orangeman who made that suggestion was a man who had some pretence to education, but, judging from his action, he was a low cad. Any man that brings that accusation against Catholics, and tries to poison the public mind against them, was not fit for decent society. We would not allow people, sheltered, as they

were, behind the privilege of power, to hurl an insult of that description against the Catholic people.

Dr. O'Reilly moved, and Mr. Butler, of the Irish National Foresters, seconded, a motion, which was carried, urging the country districts to take the matter up.

His Grace the Archbishop announced to the meeting that the collection had realised £1500.

Mr. P. S. Cleary then asked the gathering to carry a vote of thanks to his Grace. The motion was carried with great enthusiasm, and, with his Grace's reply, the proceedings terminated.

N.Z. CATHOLIC FEDERATION

DUNEDIN DIOCESAN COUNCIL.

The annual meeting of the Dunedin Diocesan Council of the Catholic Federation was held at St. Joseph's Hall, Rattray Street, on last Thursday evening. The president (Very Rev. Father Coffey) presided. His Lordship the Bishop was present, and manifested a keen interest in the proceedings. The official list of representatives of branches contained the names of Very Rev. J. O'Neill (Waikiki), Rev. Father Buckley (Riverton), Messrs. Martin Reddington (St. Joseph's, Dunedin), J. J. Marlow (South Dunedin), and D. L. Poppelwell (Gore). Branches represented by proxy were—Milton (Mr. J. Dunne), Invercargill (Mr. W. Kennedy), and Queenstown (Mr. J. Hally). Mr. T. J. Hussey (diocesan treasurer) was also present. An apology was received for the absence of the Very Rev. Father O'Donnell (Gore).

In opening the meeting the Very Rev. President urged the necessity for renewed and sustained interest on the part of Catholics generally to keep the Federation in the very forefront of parochial activities. Organisation on these lines was forced upon us in defence of our just rights, and at no time in its history did it strive for or expect special privileges. This Dominion was not alone in having to adopt measures to defend the interests of our Faith, the same movement as the Federation here being a strong factor in safeguarding our Church and its social and educational institutions in England and throughout the Empire, as well as in foreign countries. Our primary concern at the present time in New Zealand was the question of the refusal of the State to pay the scholarships honestly won in open competition by our Catholic boys and girls if taken out in Catholic secondary schools, despite the fact that these scholarships in the majority of cases are mainly gained in our Catholic primary schools. Although our secondary schools for a brief period enjoyed, during the regime of a Government with a wider and juster vision than the present one, the rights to which they are undoubtedly entitled—and unjust penalties were not exacted of our talented boys and girls—these rights, at the behest of a noisy, narrow-minded, and bigoted section of the community (and a very small one at that) by which the Government has allowed itself to be dominated, have now been withdrawn. In the face of the opposition thus shown (said Father Coffey) the efforts of the Federation must be concentrated in providing the sum for scholarships on the same terms as those provided by the State, and, through the meanness of the Government, withheld from the Catholic secondary schools. So far as the diocese of Dunedin is concerned, the sum required will probably total £200 annually. The decision arrived at by the Diocesan Council Executive provides that any Catholic pupil throughout the diocese winning a scholarship shall be entitled to take the same out in a Catholic secondary school on exactly the same terms as are granted by the Government in State schools, even boarding allowance being granted where necessary. We are determined (Father Coffey said in conclusion) to provide for Catholic pupils continuing their education from the primary schools right through to the university. He was very pleased to have the opportunity of assuring his Lordship the Bishop that the Federation would support the Catholic Hierarchy in any stand taken on the education question, as it would, also, in all their undertakings. The Catholic