

# NEW BISHOP OF WILCANNIA-FORBES

DR. THOMAS M. FOX CONSECRATED  
AT THE CATHEDRAL YESTERDAY

APOSTOLIC DELEGATE OFFICIATES

LARGE CROWD WITNESSES CEREMONY

PRESENTATION OF ADDRESSES

From altar boy to Bishop of the diocese of Wilcannia-Forbes is the achievement of Dr. Thomas Martin Fox, who was consecrated by the most Rev. Bartolomeo Cattaneo, D.D., LL.D., Apostolic Delegate for Australasia, at the Cathedral yesterday. There had been much interest displayed in the consecration chiefly because of the fact that Dr. Fox was born in Broken Hill and he and his parents were so well and favorably known. This interest was not only confined to the Catholic faith, and it was not surprising to find in the vast congregation at the Cathedral yesterday persons of other denominations. The visitors included Mr. A. Blakeley, Minister for Home Affairs, and the Mayor. According to leaders of the church the gathering was the most important held in the history of Broken Hill, and was attended by the most representative gathering of prelates, clergy, and visitors yet seen in the Cathedral.

During the past week each train has brought a contingent of prelates and clergy. Bishop's House in Lane-street has been a scene of great activity, and the successful carrying out of the consecration yesterday was indicative of the vast amount of energy that had been put into the organisation work by Dean Brennan, administrator of the Cathedral. Mr. D. R. O'Neill, vice-chairman

Brennan, administrator of the Cathedral, Mr. D. R. O'Neill, vice-chairman of the organising committee, Mr. T. C. Colmar, secretary, the local clergy, and members of the committee, both men and women.

It was feared a couple of days ago that the threatened change in the weather would lead to an unpleasant day, but such was fortunately not the case. The weather was ideal.

— Scenes in Lane-street. —

The consecration was carried out at the 10 a.m. mass, but long before that hour streams of people could be seen going to the Cathedral, motor traffic being much in evidence. A strong force of police was on duty, and cars were parked on both sides of Lane-street from a point just below Bishop's House, and in Chloride and Sulphide streets. Not only did the motor traffic require regulation, but the pedestrian traffic also had to be superintended particularly near the Cathedral door which was swung open for the reception of the people about 9.20 o'clock. The crowd surged en masse to the door, and perhaps only the presence of police prevented a bad crush with probable injury to weaker people. The fact that the door was closed against the public shortly after 9.30 showed how rapidly the seats set aside for the public in

There have been two previous bishops in the Wilcannia-Forbes diocese. The first was the Right Rev. John Dunne, D.D., who was consecrated at Goulburn on August 14, 1887. He died in Broken Hill on December 25, 1916, and his remains are in the vault at the Cathedral. The second bishop was the Right Rev. W. Hayden, D.D., who was consecrated at St. Mary's Cathedral, Sydney, on September 8, 1918. He was appointed Archbishop of Hobart by Papal brief on February 11, 1930, and took possession of the Archiepiscopal See of Hobart on May 18, 1930. Dr. (then Dean and later Monsignor) Killian was responsible for the conduct of the diocese for many years. It is estimated that there are about 6000 Catholics in Broken Hill, and the seating accommodation at the Cathedral is 1000. Provision was made yesterday for seating nearly 800 in the yard. It is on record that during his term in Broken Hill as priest Dr. Fox's efforts were in a large measure responsible for the new school and church of St. Mary at Railway Town.

#### — About the Prelates. —

Most of the prelates in attendance yesterday were making their first visit. Dr. Spence, Archbishop of Adelaide, has, however, made many visits, and Dr. Killian can be classed as a regular visitor. One of the clergy said he left half of his heart here. Dr. Dwyer has been here previously. The most outstanding personality among the prelates is Dr. Redwood, the 94-year-old Archbishop of Wellington, New Zealand.

#### — Baptised New Bishop. —

Another interesting personage among the visitors is the Very Rev. P. E. Zundolovich (Father Paul), of the Presbytery Moama, who baptised the present bishop. Father Zundolovich came here in 1892 during the height of the strike. He is a linguist, speaking about half a dozen languages, and it was because of his knowledge of languages that he was sent to Broken Hill. He has served in all the principal towns in the diocese and has been at Moama for 14 years. Father Zundolovich and Dean Hughes are the senior priests of the diocese at present in Broken Hill.

Dean Hughes first came here 33 years ago. Monsignor Treacey, of Deniliquin, who will celebrate his golden

jubilee next year, is the senior priest. Monsignor Moran, administrator of the diocese, is also a visitor. His headquarters are at Nyngan, and he was last here in 1917.

#### — The Diocese. —

The diocese of Wilcannia-Forbes which was established in 1887 has an area of 160,000 square miles. A summary of the diocese is as follows— Districts, 22; churches, 45; secular priests, 29; religious brothers, 7; nuns, 198; primary schools, 25; boarding schools, 16; day schools, 6; orphanage, 1; number of children in primary schools, 3313; number of children in High School, 253; total number of pupils enrolled, 3566; Catholic population, 24,560.

It might be mentioned that the Rev. J. Black was the first priest permanently stationed at Silvertown, and he transferred his residence to Broken Hill in 1887. The late Dr. Dunne first visited Broken Hill in September, 1887, a few weeks after his consecration, and opened a small church in which a Catholic School was immediately established. The Rev. Kiely with the Rev. W. H. Connolly as assistant, took charge in January, 1888. Dr. Dunne recognising the importance of Broken Hill fixed his residence here in November, 1888.