

The address of Mr. W. H. K. Redmond was a masterpiece of advocacy of the cause of Ireland. In words that would carry conviction to the most sceptical or indifferent he brushed aside the stock arguments against an Irish Parliament, and made the well-worn Tory platitudes look pretty cheap when he had done with them. With sweeping logic he brushed aside the cobwebs of misunderstanding and misconception which have long clung to the mouldering halls of musty Conservatism. He demolished bogey after bogey—the disruption of the Empire bogey, the "Rome Rule" bogey, and all the other ancient gags that have been utilised to prop the rotten cause of bureaucratic mis-government in Ireland. And withal he held his audience in rapt attention, and roused them to enthusiasm as point after point was driven home. In his second address, acknowledging the vote accorded him, Mr. Redmond swept his audience off their feet with the fire of his eloquence. Altogether he excelled himself. Nor was his speech devoid of raciness. Here and there he gave a touch of Irish politics that appealed to the fighting blood. An encounter with an Orange drumming party in Fermanagh was entertaining. He satirised the lip-loyalists who are always threatening the throne and dragging the King's name into party politics.

The speeches of the Hon. John Hughes, M.L.C., and Dr. Warren seemed to compass the hall, and were particularly in excellent accord with the spirit and sentiment of his Eminence and Mr. Redmond. And his Lordship Coadjutor-Bishop Dwyer made a speech which set a good example for brevity, and was otherwise admirable as coming from an Australian born.

At the close of his principal speech, Mr. Redmond was called to address the overflow meeting in the lower hall. Meanwhile Col. Frechill kept announcing the donations while the collectors got to work among the audience. Sums ranging from £100 to five shillings were read out. At the overflow meeting, which opened at 8.30, his Grace the Coadjutor-Archbishop of Sydney (Most Rev. Dr. Kelly) presided. Besides Mr. Redmond, the speakers were Sir William Manning, Hon. John Hughes, M.L.C., Vice-President of the Executive Council, and the Hon. John Meagher, M.L.C.

At the conclusion of Mr. Redmond's speech Mr. John Hughes, M.L.C., Vice-President of the Executive Council, moved the following resolution:—

'That this meeting of citizens of Sydney, in the Commonwealth of Australia, in the interests of the Empire, affirms the desirability of the recognition of the right of Ireland to self-government as enjoyed by the States of the Commonwealth of Australia, the Dominion of Canada, and the province of New Zealand, and pledges itself to support the Federal Home Rule Tribute movement inaugurated by his Eminence Cardinal Moran at a public meeting on March 17, 1905, in aid of the aspirations of the people of Ireland and the National Irish members of the House of Commons under the leadership of Mr. J. E. Redmond, M.P.; and further pledges the people assembled to support by every means the petition to the people of Great Britain, in Parliament assembled, to grant to Ireland that measure—self-government—which has been so conspicuously successful in Australia; and desires that the foregoing be expressed by a resolution of the Parliament of this Commonwealth, and transmitted to the Imperial Parliament.'

Mr. Frank M'Donnell, M.L.A., seconded the motion, which was supported by the Right Rev. Dr. Dwyer, Coadjutor-Bishop of Maitland, and carried amid cheers.

Mr. John Meagher, M.L.C., moved a vote of thanks to Mr. Redmond.

Dr. Warren seconded, and Dr. M'Carthy supported, the vote, which was heartily accorded.

Mr. Redmond briefly responded, and proposed a vote of thanks to Cardinal Moran, which was supported by Mr. O'Sullivan, and briefly acknowledged by the Cardinal.

'The publication of an advertisement in a Catholic paper shows that the advertiser not only desires the patronage of Catholics, but pays them the compliment of seeking it through the medium of their own religious journal.' So says an esteemed and wide-awake American contemporary. A word to the wise is sufficient.

When colds and influenza rage,
They add to life a dismal page,
They make us all look twice our age—
And scatter death around.

'Tis then we find a friend so sure,
In WILLIAM WOODS' GREAT PEPPERMINT CURE.
Which, always certain, always pure,
Will save us many a pound.—O.

FREE RAILWAY PASSES

CHILDREN ATTENDING CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

In the House of Representatives on Wednesday (says the 'New Zealand Times') the Government replied to a question by Mr. Fisher, asking whether the attention of the Minister for Railways had been drawn to the following resolution passed by the Council of Churches:—'It is reported that the children of certain Roman Catholic residents in a suburb of one of our cities are carried to school by the Government railway free of charge, whereas the children of Protestants have to pay their way.'

The Minister for Railways addressed the question to the general manager, and received a reply from his department stating that the practice was one which had been followed by the Railway Department for the past nineteen years. The privilege granted to the Catholic children in this respect is, moreover, extended to the children of members of the community who are of Protestant persuasion in cases where they desire to send their children to private instead of to State schools. When the regulation governing the issue of free school tickets was first gazetted it applied only to the children up to fifteen years of age who attended the State schools for primary education, and those members of the community who desired to send their children to private schools for primary education had to pay the ordinary school fee of 10s per quarter for the tickets necessary to enable the children to travel by train.

After explaining very minutely the alterations in the regulations which had been gazetted from time to time, the general manager pointed out that it would appear that the Rev. Mr. Blamires (who brought the matter up at the meeting of the Council of Churches) had endeavored to show that a differentiation was being made in favor of Roman Catholic children. Such a conclusion was incorrect and opposed to facts, which could have been ascertained by the most casual inquiry. The facilities which are granted to the children of Catholic parents in respect to primary education are governed by the regulations, which are applied impartially to the children of all members of the community. To show the absurdity of the contention that Catholic children are being favored in respect to the regulations, he had taken out the number of free school tickets issued by the Railway Department for the year ending March 31, 1905. The particulars showed:—

To children attending Government schools for primary education	4562
To children attending Government schools for secondary education	4449
To pupils attending manual and technical instruction	1100
To pupils attending private schools for primary education (other than Catholic)	100
To pupils attending Catholic schools for primary education	2056

It was stated, in conclusion, by the General Manager that the existing regulation governing the issue of free school tickets to the children of all members of the community had been in operation since 1889, and it was interpreted in its broadest sense by the Railway Department alone. The children of every member of the community are given all the benefits they are entitled to under the regulation without respect to their denomination.

Messrs. Callan and Gallaway, solicitors, Dunedin, have trust money to lend in large or small sums, for long or short periods. The firm's clients do not insist upon borrowers effecting insurances in any particular office.

The Westport Coal Company, Rattray street, Dunedin, notifies that the well known Coalbrookdale Coal can be procured from all coal merchants at a moderate rate, considering its undoubted superiority....

Messrs. Herbert, Haynes, and Co., drapers, etc., Dunedin, are now making their first show of spring novelties, procured from the leading fashion centres in Great Britain and the Continent....

Mr. E. O'Connor, proprietor of the Catholic Book Depot, Christchurch, notifies our readers that he keeps a full stock of 'The Illustrated Catholic Readers' always on hand. These readers are copiously illustrated, elegantly and substantially bound, and carefully graded to suit the New Zealand National Education Code....

Heads of families in Timaru will be interested to know that Messrs. T. McWhirter and Sons, proprietors of the Zealandia Butchery, are determined to maintain the prestige of their well known business by supplying only the very choicest meat and small goods. A trial will convince anyone of the superiority of the firm's goods....

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