

of the Rev. Father Mahoney, and the late Mr. Mahony, father of Mr. E. Mahony, solicitor. Again it must be noted that the work was done in the far away forties, when the means at the disposal of the craftsmen were of a primitive order. The exigencies of the times, together with the ravages of wear, have necessitated the destruction of what our American friend declared was a rare and first-class work, and which Mr. White said the other day, and with regret, was the best piece of work in Auckland.

Napier

(From our own correspondent.)

October 20.

A splendid meeting was held in the Theatre Royal last Monday evening to discuss matters in connection with the forthcoming visit to Napier of the Irish delegates, Messrs. Devlin and Donovan. Mr. John Higgins presided, and in a patriotic speech appealed to all of Irish descent to rally round the National cause, and show that there were true Irishmen in Napier as well as in other parts of New Zealand. Mr. Higgins suggested that a grand national social or an entertainment of some kind should be held to provide the sinews of war in regard to the reception of and presentation to the Irish envoys of a purse of sovereigns.

Mr. Patrick Gleeson, in a vigorous speech, thought a social was not the proper means of providing the sinews of war on an occasion like the present. He said that he was a stauncher Home Ruler now than when he landed in the colonies 54 years ago, and as he felt that the present time was the time to act, he asked the chairman to put his name down at the head of a subscription list for £50 as his contribution towards the Home Rule fund. The effect of this announcement acted like magic on the meeting, and Mr. M. F. Bourke immediately offered 20 guineas towards the fund, followed by Mr. John Higgins with 15 guineas. The following additional subscriptions were promised in the room:—Rev. Fathers Goggan and O'Connor, £5 5s each; Messrs. C. O'Donoghue, P. Barry, and W. J. McGrath, £5 5s each; Mr. J. Mahony, £5; Messrs. F. Minogue and P. J. Barry, £3 3s each; Mr. M. Quinn, £2 10s; Messrs. J. Moroney, and J. Mannix, £2 2s each; Mr. M. Clarkin, £2; Messrs. T. Fitzgerald, J. Maxey, D. O'Donoghue, J. Lynam, M. McKenna, P. Foley, M. Clarke (Wellington), and B. O'Rourke, £1 1s each; Messrs. W. Higgins, D. Higgins, P. McNamara, M. Roache, £1 each; the Misses Murphy, 10s; A widow's mite, 5s 6d, and other minor amounts, making the total approximately £141 18s 6d.

Mr. M. L. Gleeson was then appointed permanent secretary to the reception committee, and Mr. J. Higgins treasurer. A strong executive committee has been formed, and a house-to-house canvass for subscriptions will be made. A meeting of the executive committee was held in St. Patrick's Hall on Friday evening, and it was decided to send out circulars to all the outlying districts asking for co-operation in the good work.

The Irish people of Hastings intend to give the delegates a great reception there. A strong committee has been formed, and it is anticipated that a substantial sum will be presented to Messrs. Devlin and Donovan on the occasion of their visit.

Destructive Fire in Wellington

The most destructive fire that has ever taken place in Wellington occurred at an early hour on Monday morning. The outbreak, which originated in a one-storey wooden building situated on Lambton Quay, spread with great rapidity, owing to the shortage of water through the main supply pipe bursting. In less than two hours two banks, two hotels, two insurance establishments, and several business premises were destroyed. Over 100 firms were affected by the conflagration, whilst the damage is estimated at £100,000. The insurance on premises and stock destroyed is over £80,000. The following is a list of the destroyed premises:—Hallenstein's auction mart; Miss Roach's fruit shop; Pincock's Trocadero (private hotel); O'Dwyer's Commercial Hotel; Coban's fancy goods bazaar; Levi's optician establishment; Shield's tailoring shop; Whitcombe and Tombs's printing establishment; Bank of New South Wales; Union Bank of Australia; Castendyke and Focke's warehouse; Worger's Strand Cafe; the Alliance Insurance buildings; the Wellington Trust and Loan buildings; the New Zealand Insurance buildings; A. T. Bates's premises.

The estimated value of the buildings destroyed is £100,000, the chief values being—Bank of New South Wales, £40,000; Whitcombe and Tombs, £8000; the Trocadero, £8000; New Zealand Insurance Company, £2000; Commercial Hotel, £2000. The others ranged from £750 to £1000. Holiday Bros. own the premises in which the fire occurred and also Mrs. Roach's. Hamilton Gilmer owned the Trocadero, the Commercial Hotel, and Levi's. Whitcombe and Tombs, the Bank of New South Wales, and the Union Bank owned their premises, and the latter owned the Strand Cafe (occupied by F. Dakin). Mrs. W. B. Rhodes owned the Wellington Trust and Loan's, C. M. Banks's (stationer), and Bates's premises, also those of Focke. The Alliance Assurance Company own their premises and those occupied by Wilson. All the buildings destroyed, with the exception of the Bank of New South Wales, the Trocadero, and Whitcombe and Tombs, were old wooden structures and old landmarks. The Central Hotel, opposite the Bank of New South Wales, had a hole burned in the roof, and many incipient fires from sparks were reported. Several houses on the terrace overlooking the scene of the disaster narrowly escaped.

Interprovincial

On and after November 1, 1906, the postage on letters and letter-cards for places within New Zealand will be one penny for each four ounces or fraction thereof.

A large influx of tourists to the Southern Alps is expected during the coming season, and the Government has approved of a scheme to erect an annexe to the Mount Cook Hermitage to provide sleeping accommodation for 24 persons in view of the anticipated extra tourist traffic. The extension is to be completed at the earliest possible moment.

In the House of Representatives on Friday evening the Public Works Statement was laid on the table. The total amount proposed to be appropriated this year is £2,484,858, as compared with £2,602,156 last year. Some £884,025 is to be devoted to railways, and £50,000 is set down for the Otago Central Railway, £20,000 for the Lawrence-Roxburgh line, and £20,000 for the Catlins-Waimahaka line.

The Speaker of the House of Representatives (the Hon. A. R. Guinness) has given notice to ask the Premier whether he will, before the session concludes, propose a motion for an address to be presented to his Majesty the King in similar terms to the address adopted by the House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Australia urging that Home Rule should be granted to Ireland.

The Premier has received a cablegram from the Postmaster-General of the United States announcing that New Zealand letters prepaid 1d would be delivered in the United States without surcharge after November 1. Sir Joseph Ward, on making this known in the House of Representatives, said that he had replied thanking the Postmaster-General, and congratulating him on the establishment of penny postage between the United States and New Zealand. He hoped the day would soon arrive when penny postage would be established throughout the world.

Rarely, if ever (writes our Wellington correspondent) have the beauty and impressive nature of our Church ceremonial and the strong faith of our people been so strikingly manifested in this city as they were on Sunday morning at St. Joseph's Church. The early Masses were largely attended, and great numbers of men approached the Holy Table. The Mass at 7.30 was celebrated by the Rev. Father MacDermott, C.S.S.R., the two officers of the college cadets acting as acolytes. The church, filled in every part with worshippers, including members of the Permanent Artillery, local volunteers, and college cadets, in full-dress uniform, presented a solemn spectacle, the effect at the consecration as the bugler sounded the royal salute being particularly impressive. The sight of nearly the whole congregation of men receiving Holy Communion was indeed a most encouraging one, and the source of keen satisfaction to the Redemptorist Fathers, who have labored so hard during the past week. At the conclusion of Mass the Very Rev. Father Clune delivered a stirring address to the men, in which he exhorted them to be faithful to the resolutions they had made, and to hold fast to the practice of their religion.—On Sunday next the Hibernians are to receive Holy Communion in a body. The mission will be solemnly closed on Sunday night.

J. G. CALDER, CARGILL ROAD & CUTTEN STREET, will open Dental Rooms at Cargill's Corner, South Dunedin, on October 8th. All dental work undertaken. Teeth extracted One Shilling.