

four and a half millions of population, who were to-day fighting for their very existence upon their own soil. (Applause.) He now came to another aspect of the Irish question. In Australia there were splendid social and economical conditions—everybody seemed successful—but the social conditions of Ireland were the reverse. The average wage of the Irish agricultural laborers was 8s per week, and they worked from 6 in the morning till 8 at night, and were compelled to live in houses consisting of one single room, in 80,000 cases. The dog kennels of the landlords were castles compared with the peasants' squalid houses. One in every forty-four of the population was living on outdoor relief, and lunacy, consumption, and cancer were alarmingly on the increase, due to wretched food, poor clothing, and squalid houses. This was the first result of foreign government of the country. While the population were going down, industries disappearing, and the economic conditions becoming more appalling, their fiscal responsibilities became greater, and the burden of taxation was bearing more heavily upon the people year by year. As the population went down, taxation went up. With its former population of nine million Ireland paid £2,000,000 into the Imperial Exchequer; with 4½ million population, they were paying £10,000,000 taxation. Though Ireland was one of the most crimeless countries in the world it paid £1,000,000 a year more for its police system than did Scotland; it paid £500,000 more than Scotland for its judicial system, although there was not so much litigation; and £750,000 more than Scotland for local government administration, which was perhaps the most foolish and ignorant in the world. The police system was a military garrison, and the judiciary was an emblem of everything that was the negation of constitutionalism. There had been

Three Famines, Two Rebellions, and Numerous Coercion Acts,

the gift of the English Government. Was it surprising that the people asked for the right to manage their own affairs? (Applause.) It was governed at present by a sort of bureaucracy, a government by departments, uncontrolled by Parliament or any public body in Ireland, as Lord Dunraven had said. Mr. Chamberlain once said it was a system founded on the bayonets of 30,000 soldiers encamped permanently, as if in a hostile country. He (the speaker) thought he was entitled to claim that whatever view was taken of the Irish question, they were justified in Ireland in agitating for Home Rule. (Applause.) Ireland, with her great natural resources, picturesque scenery, sympathetic, bright, and intellectual people, was ordained by God for a holier and higher purpose than to be forever dragged at the chariot wheels of another country. They were told by objectors that if Ireland was granted a system of responsible government, it would mean the disintegration of the Empire, and separation. The Irish people asked for no more than was enjoyed in the Australian States and New Zealand—to devote themselves purely to the task of developing their own resources and their material prosperity. It had not made the Australian States and other colonies disloyal, but far more loyal than if denied responsible government. It would create greater loyalty and a better understanding. (Applause.) Then it was objected that Home Rule for Ireland meant Rome Rule. It was a mystifying misrepresentation. The Irish Catholics had not attempted to persecute the Protestants. The objection was merely an academic denunciation. Out of 86 Irish members voicing the convictions of the Irish people in the Imperial Parliament, 25 of them were

Irish Protestants Returned by Irish Catholics.

(Applause.) He mentioned several individual instances. In County Longford, with 94 per cent. Catholic, Mr. Blake, the son of an Irish Protestant Bishop, was returned. He admitted that in the past a large section of Irish Protestants in the North were opposed to the aspirations for Home Rule, due to the evil spirit of sectarianism and religious bigotry inspired by Irish landlords; but now that opposition had been greatly reduced, a new spirit in favor of Home Rule had sprung up in Ulster, and he had been returned in favor of that great measure by Belfast—the first Catholic to represent Protestant Belfast. (Applause.) The Home Rule movement was unsectarian in character. Every great Irish leader, for the last 100 years, had been an Irish Protestant, mentioning Grattan, Emmett (the noted Irish Protestant), Thomas Davis, Jno. Mitchell, Smith O'Brien, Isaac Butt (the Irish Presbyterian), and C. S. Parnell. Sectarianism was being stamped out of Ireland, and he trusted it would never take root in the fertile soil of New Zealand. (Cheers.) The mission of himself and colleague in Australia had proved very successful, and he hoped they would be the

last envoys found necessary to send to Australasia to help a persecuted race in their struggle, that the next envoys would convey the thanks of Ireland to these countries, and the welcome message that the conflict was over, and Ireland was free. (Prolonged Applause.)

Resolutions, Etc.

Very Rev. Dean Burke moved, that the citizens of Invercargill and settlers of Southland, assembled at this meeting, enjoying themselves the privilege and great benefit of self-government, declare it to be their desire that free autonomy should be granted to Ireland, a sister country, believing that such concession would not only promote the prosperity and contentment of Ireland, but would, by cementing the bonds of union within the British Empire, contribute to its greater strength and solidity. Dean Burke, in the course of an able speech, dealt in detail with the three leading ideas contained in the resolution, concluding with references to the happy results of Home Rule in the States of the American Union, Canada, Switzerland, Hungary, New Zealand, and the Commonwealth of Australia. The motion was seconded by Mr. M. Giffedder in a short speech, and carried unanimously amidst rounds of applause.

Mr. J. A. Hanan, M.H.R., also spoke in favor of Home Rule for Ireland, and concluded with a vote of thanks to Mr. Devlin for his eloquent and brilliant discourse. This was seconded by Mr. Carr and carried with acclamation. Mr. Devlin suitably replied and proposed a vote of thanks to the Mayor. The meeting concluded with three great cheers for Mr. Devlin and one for the Mayor.

During the evening selections were played upon the stage by the Municipal Band, and 'The Dear Little Shamrock' (which was heartily encored) was sung by Miss H. Sweeney.

On Tuesday morning the pupils of the Catholic schools, Invercargill, presented an address to Mr. Devlin, and gave a musical entertainment in his honor.

OTHER ENGAGEMENTS.

Oamaru, Thursday, December 13; Timaru, Friday, December 14; Ashburton, Saturday, December 15; Waimate, December 17; Christchurch, December 18; Rangiora, December 19.

Diocesan News

ARCHDIOCESE OF WELLINGTON

(From our own correspondent.)

December 8.

Arrangements are now being made for the usual monster Catholic picnic on Boxing Day.

A debate, to take place during the Christmas holidays, has been arranged between the Catholic Young Men's Clubs of this city and Christchurch. Messrs. S. J. Moran, Kane, and C. Gamble will represent the Wellington Club.

The annual University examinations for Matriculation and Junior Scholarships are being held here at present. A large number of pupils from St. Patrick's College are sitting for Matriculation, and some also for Junior Scholarships.

The newly-formed Catholic Young Men's Athletic Club was not slow in justifying its existence, and gaining a reputation. On Saturday last at the Y.M.C.A. sports in the Basin Reserve, the club secured five firsts, three seconds, and four thirds—quite a splendid record.

The Rev. Father Goggin, of the Society of the Crusade of Rescue, London, spoke on the work of the organisation on last Sunday morning in St. Joseph's Church, Buckle street, and also in the evening at St. Mary of the Angels, Boulcott street. Collections in aid of the mission will be made at these churches to-morrow.

Mr. Fred W. Crombie, who has acted as secretary in connection with some of our largest bazaars here, was assistant secretary to the bazaar undertaken in October last by the members of St. John's Ambulance Nursing Guild. As a token of the warm appreciation of his valuable services in this connection to members of the Guild, he was the other day presented by the lady stallholders with a very fine pair of silver-backed hair brushes and a silver stud box.

An ordination service was held by his Grace the Archbishop on Sunday morning, when the Rev. Bernard Quinn was ordained priest and the Revs. Daniel Hurley and Henri Le Boutellier deacons. Among the large congregation present were a number of students from Meance. His Grace was assisted in the ceremony by the