

the veteran's skill, youth's fire and manhood's heart of steel," will succeed in throwing open the doors of the old Parliament House on College Green to the legislators of a newly born nation.—We are, etc., etc.

In reply, Mr. Devlin, who was greeted with loud applause, said that his very grateful and heartfelt thanks were due to all for their cordial and whole-hearted reception and for having assembled at that inconvenient hour, to show their sympathy with cause of Irish self-government. He had only been in New Zealand for a little less than one week, and had not much time to view personally, her lavish display of nature's grandeur, or to become acquainted with local conditions, but in the short time at his disposal he could agree with the address that this was a country of great scenic beauty and manifold resources, and that its progress was stimulated and assured by the great blessings of responsible government. He was not surprised that in a land such as this, which might be called, as Ireland once was, 'God's own country,' her people inspired by the spirit of self-government, should like to see that priceless privilege also given to another integral part of the British Empire.

The proceedings then terminated with a vote of thanks to the chairman.

In the evening Mr. Devlin gave an address in the Theatre Royal. The Garrison Band played a national selection or two in the street as the audience assembled.

The Mayor, Mr. Craigie, occupied the chair, and again welcomed Mr. Devlin to Timaru. He considered it his duty and privilege as Mayor to welcome distinguished visitors to Timaru—Governor, Premier, member of the House of Commons, or sweet singer of national songs. He introduced Mr. Devlin as an eloquent, exponent of Irish national sentiment. Twelve years ago they had a visit from another member of the Imperial Parliament, the late Michael Davitt, whose character and work he highly eulogised, and contrasted with the Conservative element in society and politics at Home, an element which foresaw disruption of the Empire if Ireland were granted Home Rule. New Zealand, he said, was a refutation of that idea, with its prosperous and contented people living under a democratic form of government and notably loyal to the Empire. They were not controlled from England at all, save through their Governors. The present and the late Governors were both Irishmen, and so long as they sent such men as Governors New Zealand would never ask to have the link severed. Mr. Craigie spoke of the great men whom Ireland furnished in every branch of public life, political and military, in all parts of the world. It was absurd to say that if Ireland were granted Home Rule it would mean destruction of the Empire. Mr. Craigie concluded by apologising for having to leave the meeting to attend a statutory meeting at which he must be present, and he nominated Mr. Wm. Evans to take his place as chairman.

Mr. Devlin thanked the Mayor for his kindness and public spirit in according him a hearty welcome on his arrival at Timaru. He recognised in the Mayor one who had only to make up his mind, and he would take the right course with decision and energy. He rejoiced to find, though he had been only eight days in New Zealand, that New Zealanders of all nationalities were heart and soul with Ireland in her desire for those blessings of self-government which inspired the flourishing institutions of this prosperous land. Mr. Devlin then went on to speak of self-government for Ireland, the main points of his speech being similar to those dealt with in the southern centres.

Mr. S. G. Raymond proposed the following resolution:—That this meeting appreciates the great efforts that have been made by the party led by Mr. John Redmond, and is satisfied that conferring Home Rule on Ireland is necessary for the contentment of the country, and will greatly promote its prosperity and the stability of the British Empire. Mr. Raymond said they had listened to a speech than which nothing could be more convincing except a visit to Ireland. He had lately travelled through Ireland, and the spectacle he saw, of languishing industries, while those of England were flourishing, the gloom resting upon the people, the miserable habitations of many of them, impressed him with a firm conviction that some material and radical change was absolutely necessary.

Mr. Evans seconded the resolution. He said he had done that sort of thing before, when Home Rule was not so popular. He too had lately been through Ireland, and came away more in favor of Home Rule than ever. Mr. Evans gave some of his personal recollections of older Home Rule movements, and concluded by saying that Mr. Devlin's splendid speech must have given many people a better idea of Home Rule.

The resolution was put and carried unanimously.

Mr. Alpers proposed a vote of thanks to Mr. Devlin for his speech. In the course of a few remarks, he said that Mr. Devlin himself was a stronger argument than any speech, of the fitness of the Irish to rule themselves. He was himself a countryman of their Queen, and like her, only an Englishman by naturalisation, but as an outsider he recognised the justice of Ireland's claims. Mr. Alpers pointed out that throughout the 19th century England had granted free institutions to one colony after another, the latest being the Transvaal, while the people were still disaffected. He had come to the meeting with nothing Irish about him but the color of his neck tie; he left it Irish also at heart.

Rev. J. G. Chapple, St. Andrews, seconded the motion, and in doing so justified his position as a speaker at a Home Rule meeting. He stated that he was converted to Home Rule when a youth, through reading up the subject in order to take the affirmative side in a debating club in Queensland, when no one else would do it.

The motion was carried with applause, and Mr. Devlin returned thanks for the motion, to the Mayor for his remarks, and to the Mayor's locum tenens for his kindness. Mr. Evans, he had been told, had supported Home Rule when it was not fashionable, and was one of its bravest defenders and boldest advocates. He thanked the Mayor for his public spirit in taking the chair, and also those gentlemen who had pleaded the cause of Home Rule with an ability and a knowledge which would put to shame many of his own countrymen.

A MAGNIFICENT RESPONSE.

Mr. Devlin's visit to Timaru (writes our own correspondent) has been most successful, the total amount cleared, when all returns are to hand and expenses paid, cannot be far short of £400, a very creditable amount indeed. Mr. Mullin, chairman, Mr. Mahoney, treasurer, and Mr. Dennehy secretary of the reception committee, did splendid work, and to their efforts and unsparing devotion Timaru's fine contribution to the Home Rule fund is directly due. Mr. Devlin contracted a severe cold on his way to Timaru, and after his address there he was ordered a week's complete rest. However, on this (Monday) morning he is greatly improved, and hopes to be able to fulfil his engagements in Christchurch to-morrow (Tuesday) night. In the meantime his meetings at Waimate, Ashburton, and Rangiora have had to be abandoned.

INVERCARGILL

The subscriptions in Invercargill on behalf of the Home Rule fund are expected to reach £100 by the time the lists are closed. Gore subscribed £100, including, as previously stated, the sum of £25 from Queenstown.

HAWERA

A largely attended meeting was held in the convent schoolroom, Hawera, to discuss the question of inviting the Irish envoys to visit the town. The Very Rev. Father Power presided, and delivered a stirring address on Home Rule. Mr. Bunting addressed the meeting on somewhat the same lines. Mr. D. Hughes, jun, spoke from the standpoint of an Irish colonial. Mr. Clarkson (Normanby) said that he was not Irish—he was English—but had been brought up from the cradle to regard Home Rule as the Irishman's birthright, his father having been a most enthusiastic Home Ruler.

Messrs. B. McCarthy and G. Ryan were elected joint secretaries, and Mr. Cullinan treasurer. All present—about 40—were elected as the general committee for Hawera, and committees from each of the centres between Waverley and Opunake (inclusive) were appointed. Very Rev. Father Power, Messrs. D. Barry, T. O'Neill, Kelly, Cullinan, D. Hughes, and the secretaries, were appointed an executive committee.

Over £50 were collected at the meeting, some of the amounts being as follow: Very Rev. Father Power and Mr. O'Neill, £5 5s each; Mr. Barry, £3 3s; Rev. Father O'Dwyer, Messrs. D. B. Hughes, A. A. Quin, Fred. Quin, E. Cullinan, M. Kelly, M. Kelly (Te Roti), T. McPhillips, and J. O'Dea, £2 2s each.

POSTPONED MEETINGS

The meetings announced for Ashburton on December 15, Waimate on December 17, and Rangiora on December 19, were unavoidably postponed, as Mr. Devlin suffered from a cold in the throat, though otherwise in excellent health. The few days' rest since the Timaru meeting on Friday have completely removed the passing trouble, and Mr. Devlin was in excellent voice and vigor at the Christchurch meeting on Tuesday night. The postponed meetings will be addressed by Mr. Donovan, who is expected to reach New Zealand on December 31.

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