

The Irish Delegates

(From our Christchurch correspondent.)

The amount of subscriptions raised for the Home Rule fund in the Ashburton County totals nearly £200.

The total amount collected in South Canterbury through the Timaru committee (Waimate district making a separate collection) for the Home Rule fund is £375 6s 6d.

Mr. J. T. Donovan arrived in Christchurch from the south on last Tuesday evening. During his stay in this city he was a guest of the Very Rev. the Vicar-General at the episcopal residence. He met many of the clergy and leading sympathisers of the Home Rule movement and spent Wednesday at the Exhibition. On Thursday he left for the West Coast.

A meeting of the committee in connection with the recent visit of Mr. J. Devlin, M.P., to Christchurch was held on last Friday evening. The Very Rev. Father Le Menant des Chesnais, S.M., V.G., presided, and there was a good attendance. The secretary (Mr. E. O'Connor) presented a report and balance sheet, which showed that £200 from all sources was in hand to pay over to the treasurer of the fund. Votes of thanks were passed for exceptional services rendered by the Very Rev. chairman and the H.A.C.B. Society, for generous assistance, and to Messrs. E. O'Connor (secretary), P. Burke, and W. Jones.

NAPIER.

(From our own correspondent.)

January 17.

The long-looked for visit of Mr. Devlin, the Irish envoy, has come at last. The very high expectations formed of Mr. Devlin as an orator have been more than realised, the general opinion here being that he is by far the best speaker that ever graced a Napier platform. Mr. Devlin's visit will do an immense amount of good in enlightening ignorance and removing honest prejudice or misunderstanding.

The sum of £150 was collected in Hastings, and £230 in Napier. Mr. Dillon, M.H.R., for Hawke's Bay, moved the resolution, at Hastings, in favor of self-government for Ireland, and Mr. Fraser, M.H.R., acted in a like capacity in Napier. The Mayors of Hastings and Napier presided at the different meetings, and Mr. Devlin was agreeably surprised and altogether delighted with the warmth of the welcome extended to him in Hawke's Bay.

GREYMOUTH.

A press message states that Mr. Donovan met with an enthusiastic reception at the Opera House, Greymouth, on Saturday evening, when he delivered an address on Home Rule. The hall was crowded, and the speaker was received with continuous applause. He treated his subject in a masterly manner, being most temperate in his views. The address lasted for an hour and a-half, after which the Hon. Mr. Guinness, M.H.R., moved, and the Hon. James Marshall, M.L.C., seconded, a motion thanking Mr. Donovan for his able address and in favor of Home Rule for Ireland. The motion was carried unanimously and enthusiastically.

LAWRENCE AND MILTON.

Mr. James Airey, the secretary of the Lawrence committee, has forwarded the sum of £61 19s to Mr. Martin Kennedy, the general treasurer of the fund at Wellington. Milton's contribution is over £62.

HASTINGS.

The Princess Theatre, Hastings, (says the Napier "Daily Telegraph," of January 16), was crowded to the doors, and beyond, last evening on the occasion of the address of Mr. Devlin, M.P. The Mayor (Mr. T. J. Thompson) presided, and there were also on the platform Messrs. A. Dillon, M.H.R., A. L. D. Fraser, M.H.R., D. O'Reilly, G. P. Donnelly, D. Scannell, C. Hughes, G. Ellis, S. McGreevy (Waipawa), T. Butler (Waipawa), the Very Rev. Dean Smyth, and Mr. J. D. Donovan (hon. secretary reception committee).

Mr. A. Dillon, M.H.R., moved the following resolution:—That this meeting, in extending a hearty welcome to Mr. Devlin, as representative of the National party now so ably advocating the cause of Home Rule for Ireland, wishes to give expression to its sympathy with the movement, and to promise all the moral and material support in its power until that country shall have received from the hands of the British Parliament the right to govern her own inter-

nal affairs a measure which, whilst largely benefiting Ireland, would result in making her sons already loyal still more loyal, and would foster and cement more firmly the bonds of unity and fellowship so necessary for the well-being and consolidation of the Empire.

In his introductory remarks Mr. Devlin, who was received with enthusiastic applause, said he thought the meeting he was about to address was unique in one remarkable circumstance. In other centres the audiences he had addressed waited to hear him state his case for Home Rule before carrying a resolution in its favor, and in this they recognised a principle, inasmuch as the self-government which had done so much for New Zealand could be applied with equal benefit to another constituted part of the Empire.

At the conclusion of Mr. Devlin's address, on the motion of Mr. A. L. D. Fraser, seconded by Dean Smyth, a vote of thanks to the lecturer was carried with acclamation, and a vote of thanks to the chairman proposed by Mr. Devlin, concluded the proceedings.

WAIMATE.

There was a very good audience in the Oddfellows' Hall, on the evening of January 14 (says the "Waimate Advertiser") to hear an address on Home Rule by Mr. Donovan. His Worship the Mayor (Mr. John Manchester) occupied the chair, and there were also on the platform Sir W. J. Steward, M.H.R., the Very Rev. Dean Regnault, S.M., and the reception committee, consisting of Messrs. M. J. Corrigan, J. Sinclair, Twomey, Milsom, Freeman, Foley and Connolly (Studholme). Prior to the address, an orchestra played several selections.

The Mayor, before introducing the speaker, tendered him on behalf of the town a hearty welcome. In regard to the question at issue, it was a great one, and the speaker would greatly supplement their knowledge of a question many had looked on as a distant one and not affecting them.

Mr. Donovan then delivered a very fine address, which was frequently applauded, and at its conclusion Mr. Milsom moved and Mr. J. Sinclair seconded the following motion, which was carried unanimously—“That this meeting of the citizens of Waimate having heard the exposition of the Home Rule question by Mr. Donovan, is of opinion that a full measure of national self-government should be conceded to the Irish people at the earliest possible moment, being convinced that the granting of this measure of national justice will not merely conduce to the prosperity and happiness of the Irish people, but tend to the consolidation and strengthening of the Empire.”

The mover and seconder both briefly spoke in support of the motion.

Sir W. J. Steward, M.H.R., said that as a consistent Liberal for many years he supported the claim of the Irish people to Home Rule; but they could not hope to have peace in a household unless each member were fairly treated. As an Englishman he was ashamed of the way the Empire had treated Ireland. If even for their services on the battlefield not one Englishman should raise his voice against Irishmen having control of their own domestic affairs: They wanted control similar to what they had in the colonies, and why should they not have it? He wished Mr. Donovan and his colleague every success in their mission.

Mr. Donovan briefly thanked the meeting for its vote proposed, a vote of thanks to the Mayor for presiding, to Messrs. Milsom and Sinclair as proposer and seconder, and Sir W. J. Steward for his remarks, and the meeting was at an end.

NOTICE RE FUNDS

Mr. Devlin asks us to notify local treasurers to forward as soon as possible the amounts realised in the different centres in the Colony that have been visited by the delegates, as it is intended to remit the whole to the hon. treasurers of the parliamentary fund in Dublin on February 15. Mr. Martin Kennedy is leaving for Europe on February 22, and is anxious to have the total contributions forwarded before his departure. About £1000 have already been subscribed in New Zealand, and it is expected that the total will be well over £5000.

Messrs. Duthie Bros., George street, Dunedin, are now giving ten per cent. discount on cash purchases of men's suits, mantles, jackets, trimmed millinery, ladies' hose, etc....

The end-of-the-season sale at Messrs. Mollisons, George street, Dunedin, commences on the 31st inst., and will be continued for thirty days. Catalogues can now be had on application....