

and the Radical-Socialist 'bloc' or Tammany. The French Tammany has at one blow deprived the parochial clergy of their homes, furniture, income, and means of subsistence. They have followed this up (as at Saint Servan) by fining or clapping into prison any priest convicted of requesting offerings or 'subscriptions' for his support. Henry VIII., in like manner, seized the patrimony of the clergy and of the poor, sold it, or handed it over to his creatures. The poor were thus at one fell swoop deprived of their means of subsistence. But Henry's laws had all beggars who were not aged or infirm whipped at the cart's tail for their first offence of asking alms. For the second offence the beggar's ears were slit, or bored through with a red-hot iron. If caught a third time, the law-made beggar suffered death as a felon. He was, however, spared the extreme penalty (a very barbarous one in those days) on one condition: provided some 'honest person' having £10 in goods or 40s in land, or some householder approved by the justices, would take the poor fellow into his service for two years, and enter into a bond of £10 (a very large sum in those days) for the good behavior of the condemned man. This law remained in force for sixty years. In the days of Queen Elizabeth it was again passed by both Houses. Modern France has repeated a bit of the history of sixteenth century England. It has also made beggars by Act of Parliament. But it has given the old, infirm, and decrepit mendicants of its creation none of the latitude that was allowed to the same class of unfortunates even under the most blood-thirsty royal reign of modern times.

HIBERNIAN SOCIETY

TRIENNIAL MOVABLE MEETING

(From our Auckland correspondent.)

The triennial movable meeting of the New Zealand district of the H.A.B.C. Society was continued on Friday, March 15, the president (Bro. P. J. Nerheny) in the chair.

Executive Retained by Auckland.—Over six hours were occupied in discussing the proposal to remove the district office from Auckland to Wellington. Almost every delegate in the meeting expressed his views on the subject, most of which were a repetition of the views of those who spoke on Thursday, with the exception that the question of centralisation was more prominent in the too lengthy debate. During the afternoon the delegates had their photographs taken, and just before the adjournment for tea the debate was closed, after which Bro. J. J. Callaghan, Wellington, made a spirited reply in defence of the motion.

Before putting the question to a vote, the president stated the executive had invested in property at Auckland the sum of £6475, and the Government valuation of the same was £13,289, showing that the money was profitably and wisely invested. Scrutineers were appointed, and the name of each branch was called out, the representative in response intimating before the whole meeting how he wished his vote recorded. The president then announced that the district was to be retained by Auckland, the voting being: For removal to Wellington, 18, against 36. The result was received with enthusiastic applause.

A Defeated Motion.—Bro. G. J. Sellars, Christchurch, moved that a further sum not exceeding £20, in addition to the £20 now paid on death of a member, be paid, the sum to be raised by levy on the members. Bro. J. Callaghan seconded. The motion evoked much discussion, the custom of the Druids' Order being frequently quoted. The motion was lost.

The meeting then adjourned until Saturday morning, when a motion, proposed by the Christchurch delegate, Bro. G. J. Sellars, which had for its object the abstention of the District Executive officers from voting on the question of the removal of the district headquarters, was lost on the casting vote of the president. It was decided that rule 8 should be amended in order to make the branch presidents, branch past presidents, branch secretary, and branch treasurer eligible for the positions of district officers. The delegate for Christchurch, Bro. G. J. Sellars, wished to have

a rule altered so that a uniform rate of contributions and sick and funeral benefits throughout Australasia might be paid. At present the minimum charge per week in New Zealand is 1s 1d, and the maximum charge is 4d, while in the Australian States contributions are from 1s 1d to 1s 10d per week. The meeting considered that as local circumstances in New Zealand and Australia were different, it would not be advisable to make the proposed charge, and the motion was lost. It was decided to hold the next triennial movable meeting at Wellington. For the hospitality accorded to the delegates, the Auckland branch was ordered to be presented with a formal copy of the photographs of the delegates attending that conference by the district executive.

On the motion of Bro. M. J. Sheahan, seconded by Bro. G. J. Sellars, Christchurch, it was decided to cable the following resolution to Mr. J. Devlin, M.P. for West Belfast:—That the New Zealand District Board of the Hibernian Australasian Catholic Benefit Society, at its triennial movable meeting now sitting at Auckland, at which are assembled delegates from all parts of the Colony, desires to place on record its hearty appreciation of the arduous and successful labors throughout New Zealand on behalf of Ireland by Messrs. Joseph Devlin, M.P., for West Belfast, and Mr. John T. Donovan, LL.B. The result of the mission of the Irish envoys has been to dispel many if not all the slanders continuously levelled against Ireland and its people. For this we are deeply grateful to the envoys, and heartily congratulate them. It was decided to ask the Bishops of New Zealand to become honorary chief chaplains of the society in their respective diocese. Mr. J. Corbett, vice-president, was elected district president; vice-president, Bro. E. Dane; district secretary, Bro. W. Kane; district treasurer, Bro. M. J. Sheahan; district past president, Bro. P. Nerheny; district auditors, Bros. F. J. O'Meara and J. B. R. Stead.

St. Mary's Convent, Christchurch

(From our own correspondent.)

March 25.

His Lordship Bishop Grimes spent the afternoon of Tuesday, 19th inst., at St. Mary's Convent and schools, Colombo street. He was accompanied by the Very Rev. Dean Carew, Rev. Fathers Marnane, Ahern, Bonnetto, O'Hare, Peoples, and O'Dwyer. The Sisters of Mercy presented his Lordship with an oil painting, valued at £20, and the following programme was given so excellently by the pupils as to earn the great appreciation of all present:—Many happy returns of the day, Pupils; address, Miss Edith Chamberlain; pianoforte duet, Misses M. Simpson, E. Chamberlain, C. Cooper, G. Harding, D. Blank, A. McDavitt; recitation and dance, "The minuet," junior pupils; violin solo, Miss Lily Burrowes; chorus, "Flowers of the garden," Pupils; pianoforte solo, Miss Mabel Thomas; Irish jig, Miss Aileen Green; Advance guard march, (mandolines), Misses L. Burrowes and A. Parrett, (violin) Master Alfred White; Flower garland drill, pupils; pianoforte duet, "Les muscadins," Misses Norah Sey, M. Thomas, H. Ryan, K. Zachariah, G. Haughey, A. Snowball; chorus, "Home by the river," pupils.

All the pupils presented by the Sisters of Mercy were successful in passing the examinations in musical knowledge, which were held in Christchurch in December, 1906. The following is the list of successful candidates:—Senior division—Vera de la Cour (honours), Annie Gill, Darfield (honors), Violet Shaw. Junior division—Grace Haughey (honors), Alice Barnett (honors), Gertrude Morrison, Darfield (honors), Ruby Caldwell (honors). Preparatory division—Christina Cooper (distinction), Doris Blank.

The costliest Government is the French. The Government salaries aggregate £750,000.

Queenslanders learnt with the very deepest regret that Mr. Frank McDonnell, senior member for Fortitude Valley, had decided to retire from political life, for a time at any rate, owing to ill-health. He will not be a candidate at the next election.

In a recent issue the New South Wales 'Government Gazette' notified that the following animals are protected:—The phascoglossus cinereus, the tachyglossus, aculeatus, and the ornithorhynchus anatinus. The average hushman will scarcely recognise in these high-sounding names the native bear, the porcupine, and the platypus.