

It so happened that he who is generally the easiest to be found of all others, was not permitted by Divine Providence to meet me. When I was returning, I spent two days at Nelson. Father Garin was in the Wairau, Father Michel very often ill, and Father Martin only awaiting orders to depart and exercise his zeal in a large sphere. On the 18th I arrived safely in Sydney in time to celebrate with the Missioners, newly arrived from France, a family feast in honor of our glorious and kind protector St. Joseph.

Before concluding, allow me, dear Father, to say a few words on the emulation, activity, and even ambition exhibited by each of those little provinces in New Zealand, in their efforts to surpass one another. On all sides searches are being made in order to discover gold mines, and a large reward has been offered to him who shall indicate where such are to be found. Then, when any gold is found, we hear on all sides the cry: Come here and you will make your fortune.

The southern provinces consider themselves very fortunate not to have been visited by the troubles of the Maoris, and they are anxious to separate their interests from those of the northern provinces, so that they may not be obliged to share in the expense of the war. Auckland insists on remaining the capital, being already in possession of the title; Wellington, on the other hand, puts forth claims to that honor, founded on its beautiful harbor and central situation.

I have already told you of the hopes of Otago; Canterbury will assuredly put forth reasons for claiming the first place. Nelson, proud of its little railway, exports chrome to England while waiting for some more precious metal. What zeal and what perseverance they give evidence of! The objects of interests they seek to secure are, I am well aware, very important; and we may well praise their energy and imitate their example. May we also be animated by a holy and noble emulation for the salvation of their souls, while enlightening them, and may we not allow our courage to fail either when exposed to sacrifices, or privation, or contradictions, no matter from what quarter they reach us! Above all, may we, in the midst of the various and powerful sects, keep our eyes fixed on God, and rely on Him alone to grant us strength and patience, for in Him and by Him alone is salvation to be obtained.

State of the Diocese of Wellington in 1864.

Since the Rev. Father Poupinel visited New Zealand, each year the number of the population has become larger. In 1860 there were but 73,000 Europeans, and at the beginning of 1864 their number amounted to 109,000. The emigration is directed chiefly to the south, whither it has been drawn by the discovery of new gold mines. From the 1st of January to the 30th of November, 1863, there were 28,738 emigrants landed in the province of Otago alone, and at the end of 1863 the population of that district has been stated to be from 60,000 to 80,000. A new province has been created at the mines; this is called Southland, its capital Invercargill. This little town of 500 inhabitants is situated on the sea, at the opening of a magnificent plain which stretches to the mountains, where the richest diggings are. A brilliant future is in prospect for this town, and its population will be speedily tenfold what it is. Other towns have sprung up as if by enchantment in Southland and become larger every year. Dunedin, the capital of Otago, had but 3000 inhabitants in 1862; at present its population amounts to 30,000. The following list gives the names of the nine provinces of New Zealand, their capitals, and the population of each:

North Island.

Auckland; capital, Auckland	15,000
Wellington; capital, Wellington	8,000
Hawke's Bay; capital, Napier	1,500
Taranaki; capital, New Plymouth	3,000

South Island.

Nelson; capital, Nelson	6,000
Marlborough; capital, Picton	500
Canterbury; capital, Christchurch	6,000
Otago; capital, Dunedin	30,000
Southland; capital, Invercargill	500

The war between the Natives and English was ended on March 18, 1862, but began again towards the close of the year, in spite of all the efforts of the Government to avoid it, and continues to the present day. The principal theatre of the first war was the province of Taranaki; this time hostilities commenced near Auckland, and are continued in Waikato. The Natives of the other provinces of the north, whilst preserving their sympathies for the Maori king whom they have elected, have taken no open part in the contest; they will not mix in it unless they are first attacked. The result of this unequal war, disastrous to both parties, is no matter of doubt; the English Government have about 10,000 soldiers or volunteers, the Maoris have scarcely half the number. Sad will be the fate of this population, so worthy of sympathy, and which excites the deepest interest in the English Governors. To the war which decimates them are added diseases, which destroy life and bring on an ever-increasing mortality. There are but few children, and those which are born die at an early age. There were 56,000 Maoris alive in 1860; it is to be feared that the approaching census will show a considerable diminution amongst their number.

(To be continued.)

HIBERNIAN SOCIETY

HALF-YEARLY DISTRICT MEETING

(From our Auckland correspondent.)

The half-yearly meeting of the New Zealand District of the H.A.C.B. Society was held on Wednesday evening, August 25, in the Hibernian Hall, Bro. P. J. Nerheny, J.P., District President, in the chair. Bros. C. Mulholland, D.V.P., W. Kane, D.S., and M. J. Sheehan, D.T., and Rev. Fathers Holbrook and Ormond also attended. The following delegates were present:—Greymouth, Bro. Nerheny; Charleston, Bro. J. Malone; Grahamstown, Bro. T. S. Collins; Dunedin, Bro. Jas. Smith; Auckland, Bros. F. Nerheny and Wilfred Wright; Christchurch, Bro. D. Flynn; Ohehunga, Bro. D. McLaren; Napier, Bro. C. Teahan; Wellington, Bros. Jas. B. R. Stead and Jas. Shaldrick; Blenheim, Bro. A. P. Walsh; New Plymouth, Bro. Wm. Beehan, M.L.C.; Waipawa, Bro. Jos. De Silva; Hastings, Bro. Thos. Keating; Leeston, Bro. John Patterson; New Headford, Bro. Chas. Delahunty; Timaru, Bro. Jas. F. Tuohy; Masterton, Bro. M. Tuohy; Milton, Bro. W. Heath; Oamaru, Bro. H. Duffin, jun.; Waimate, Bro. C. Reynolds; Denniston, Rev. Father Holbrook; Westport, Rev. Father Ormond; Gisborne, Bro. C. Little; Reefton, Bro. Chas. Reihai; Wellington South, Bro. D. Carmody; Palmerston North, Bro. M. Carmody; Ashburton, Bro. E. J. Shanley; Waihi, Bro. P. Colvin; Kaiapoi, Bro. E. H. Green; Lower Hutt, Bro. John Hayes; Hawera, Bro. F. McKenzie; Taihape, Bro. M. Hurley; Maniaia, Bro. D. Kearns; Invercargill, Bro. John Corbett, P.D.P.; Gore, Bro. C. O'Brien; Otautau, Bro. Owen Kieley; Sancta Maria, Sister E. Kane.

The D.P. briefly addressed the meeting, dealing with the half-yearly balance sheet, which showed that, though the large sum of £208 was paid in death claims, there yet remained a credit balance for the half-year of £247 19s. 9d. The funeral fund amounted to £7438 10s 10d, the general fund to £529 7s 6d (being an increase on the last year of £17 5s 7d), and the quarterly fund had a credit balance of £364 10s 10d (being an increase of £28 2s 6d). The amount loaned on freehold security was £7510. To place a stained-glass window of St. Patrick in the Church of St. Gerard at Wellington the sum of £60 was subscribed by the members throughout the district, and forwarded to the Redemptorist Fathers. The president reported that a new branch was opened by Bro. Marlow, District Deputy, at Otautau, near Invercargill, with good prospects, having started with about 50 members; there was a gradual increase in the membership in the principal branches; the Redemptorist Fathers had been interesting themselves in the interests of the Society, and it was due to their efforts that many additions had been made to the Society; and that from Taranaki, Hawke's Bay, and Canterbury favorable reports had been received.

The following motion, moved by Bro. M. J. Sheehan and seconded by Bro. the Hon. W. Beehan, M.L.C., was agreed to:—That the New Zealand District Board of the Hibernian Australasian Catholic Benefit Society in meeting assembled desires to place on record its hearty appreciation and sincere thanks to Bro. W. H. K. Redmond, M.P., for East Clare, for his untiring efforts to have removed from the Oath of Accession that portion which wantonly outrages and insults the religious feelings of Catholics throughout the British Empire. It was further resolved—That copies of the foregoing resolution be sent to the Right Hon. Mr. Asquith, Prime Minister, and Mr. William Redmond, M.P.

The Wellington delegate moved the following notice of motion to be submitted to the triennial meeting at Wellington next February:—(a) That rule 1 be amended as follows: That the word "executive" be struck out after the word district in the third line and "Board meeting" inserted in lieu thereof; (b) That Rule 5 be amended as follows: The words "Triennial moveable meetings excepted" be added after the word meeting in the second line. (c) That Rule 8 be amended as follows: That the words "Past President" be added after the letters "P.D.P." in the second line. (d) That clause 1 be deleted, and the following inserted in lieu thereof: "The executive shall meet at the district chambers on alternate Tuesdays at 8 p.m. for granting dispensations and for the transaction of any business pertaining to their office. They shall attend all district meetings but shall have no vote, the District President's casting vote excepted, but they shall have the privilege of expressing their opinion on any question brought before the district meeting and may also move any proposition on the order paper emanating from the executive."

The following officers were nominated for the next term of office: District President, Bro. C. Mulholland; D.V.P., Bro. Hubert Nerheny; secretary, Bro. W. Kane; treasurer, Bro. M. J. Sheehan; auditors, Bros. Jas. Smith and J. B. Stead. A past president's collar was presented to P.P. Bro. Jas. Corbett by the D.P., Bro. P. J. Nerheny.

The District President gave a most interesting account of the biennial meeting at Hobart, at which he represented New Zealand, and spoke most enthusiastically of the flourishing condition of the Society in the Commonwealth. The Hon. Mr. Beehan moved a hearty vote of thanks to the D.P. for his services at Hobart, which was carried by

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