

H.A.C.B. Society.

(From our Auckland correspondent).

THE annual meeting of the N.Z. District Board of the H.A.C.B. Society was held on Wednesday evening, February 26, and the business not having concluded the meeting adjourned until Wednesday, March 5, when the proceedings were brought to a conclusion. Bro. M. O'Sullivan, D.P., presided. The following officers were present:—Bro. J. P. Stead, D.V.P.; Bro. W. Kane, D.S.; Bro. M. J. Sheehan, D.T. The delegates representing the various branches who attended were as follow:—Greymouth: Bro. Stead; Charleston: Bro. Hennelly; Grahamstown: Bro. M. Whelan; Dunedin: Bro. J. Smith, D.P.; Auckland: Bros. J. W. Williams, and F. Gordon, V.P.; Christchurch: G. Little, P.D.P.; Orehunga: Bro. Kiely; Napier: Bro. J. McNamara; Wellington: Bros. M. Carmody and W. Beehan, P.D.P.; Blenheim: Bro. W. Brown; New Plymouth: Bro. A. Buckley; Waipawa: Bro. F. O'Meara; Hastings: Bro. Corbett; Leeston: Bro. J. Patterson, P.D.P.; New Headford: Bro. O'Kane; Timaru: Bro. P. J. Nerheny, P.D.P.; Masterton: Bro. W. G. Smith; Milton: Bro. J. Gleeson; Oamaru: Bro. H. Duffin, P.P.; Waimate: Bro. H. W. McCormick; Denniston: Bro. J. O'Brien; Westport: Bro. R. Owens.

The D.S. read the officers' report which showed that the funeral claims for the half year amounted to £190, leaving a net balance of £58 18s 11d. The three branches recently established were progressing favourably, while there was every prospect that within a very short time another new branch would be opened in Gisborne. The amount to the credit of the District Financial Fund was £4703 4s 6d, and to the Management Fund £69 19s.

The D.S. moved that that portion of the law which provided for the payment of the delegates' expenses to the A.M. meetings be expunged. This question evoked a very lengthy discussion, and was ultimately carried by 20 votes to 6.

During the debate the Christchurch delegate, Bro. Little, moved an amendment, which went in the direction of a scheme showing whereby the expenses of delegates could be raised. So important was the subject that the District Treasurer and Bro. Nerheny, (Timaru) pointed out that it would be wiser to withdraw the amendment and substitute it as a notice of motion, thus giving the branches time to consider it and instruct their representatives how to vote at the half-yearly meeting next August. Bro. Little readily assented to this suggestion.

The D.S. moved that: 'This district now conforms to the new government of the Society adopted at the Sydney Convention this year.' This was agreed to.

Bro. Nerheny was elected delegate to the Friendly Societies' Conference.

The District President, in a few well-chosen words, presented P.D.P. Bro. J. Smith with a beautiful gold cross on behalf of the Dunedin Branch as a token of their esteem and gratitude for his able and continued services rendered to the branch as its delegate at its district meetings.—Bro. Smith suitably responded, and heartily thanked the Dunedin Branch for their nice present and kindly recognition of his services to them. Several delegates eulogised Bro. Smith and also the Dunedin Branch for the appreciative and kindly spirit evinced by it.

The adjourned meeting was held on March 5 at the same place. Bro. J. B. Stead, D.V.P., presided in the absence of the D.P., Bro. O'Sullivan.

An appeal against the decision of the District Executive by a member of the Wellington Branch was discussed at considerable length, when, in view of the fresh evidence tendered by the petitioner, the District Executive was advised to re-open the case and give its decision upon the matter at as early a date as possible.

The election of officers resulted as follows:—Bro. C. Little, P.D.P., having retired from the contest of president, Bro. J. B. Stead was elected to that office; Bro. W. Beehan was elected D.V.P.; Bro. W. Kane, district secretary; Bro. M. J. Sheehan, district treasurer; Bros. P. O'Kane and F. J. O'Meara, auditors.

The new officers briefly returned thanks, and assured the delegates that they would work to justify the confidence reposed in them.

The installation ceremony was performed by Bro. P. J. Nerheny, P.D.P. The names of Bros. D. O'Sullivan and D. Flynn were ordered to be placed on the merit board.

NEW ZEALAND: GENERAL

THE Cabinet has decided that the 24th of May, the late Queen's birthday, will not be a public holiday in the future.

SIR JAMES PRENDERGAST, ex-Chief Justice, has been appointed to the vacancy on the Board of directors of the Bank of New Zealand caused by the resignation of Mr. Blair.

THE Very Rev. Dean Mahoney, of Nelson, is about to take a trip to Ireland, and will leave about the middle of April by the San Francisco route.

A NUMBER of visitors from Australia and England have arrived in New Zealand for the deer-stalking season. Most of them have gone to the Wairarapa.

It is stated that the friends and supporters of Mr. P. Hally have decided to make him a presentation in recognition of the straightforward manner in which he contested the late Caversham election.

THE Right Hon. the Premier states that with the customs revenue for the month of February at his disposal the Colony's finances for the 11 months of the financial year ended February 28 show a surplus of £200,000 over the total estimate for the year.

IN consequence of Wednesday, our publishing day, having been declared a public holiday we have been obliged to go to press on Tuesday evening, so that correspondence reaching this office on Wednesday will have to stand over until our next issue.

THE Surveyor-general has informed the Auckland Land Board that the reason the Kawhia lands were withdrawn from lease with the right to purchase is that they are believed to contain valuable mineral deposits.

THE bridge across the Kaihu Creek (Auckland) collapsed last week, when a number of Dargaville school children attending their picnic were upon it, many falling into the river. A number sustained broken legs or arms, but no lives were lost.

MR. SEDDON intends to leave the Colony about the middle of April for the purpose of being present at the Coronation ceremonies. He will be accompanied by Mrs. Seddon and the Misses Seddon. Mr. F. D. Thomson, B.A., formerly of the Education Department will accompany the Premier Home as private secretary.

INSTRUCTIONS have been issued to the officers of the Agricultural Department that the proprietors of hotels, boarding-houses, and other places where boarders are taken for payment, and where one or more cows are kept to supply the boarders with milk, are now required to register their premises as dairies, and that every seller of milk for human consumption in an unmanufactured state must register.

THE Right Hon. the Premier was entertained at a banquet and conversation by the citizens of Dunedin on Monday evening. Both functions were given in connection with his departure to represent New Zealand at the Coronation. There was a large attendance, and the occasion was marked by an absence of politics or party, among those present being many strong opponents of the Government.

THE Premier, when in Timaru last week, stated that the Government had not overlooked the matter of purchasing the Levels estate. But they desired to get it at a reasonable price so that it could be subdivided and let at a rental which would enable the settlers upon it to make a living. The Government were prepared to purchase as soon as the owners were prepared to meet them in price.

ON February 21 (writes a correspondent) Mr. Joseph Browne, aged about 67, died at the Westport hospital. Deceased was a married man with a grown-up family and resided for a number of years in Adelaide, from which place he came to Westport and carried on business for a considerable time. A few weeks prior to his death, he caught a severe cold which settled on his lungs and proved fatal. The greatest care and attention were paid him by the members of St. Canice's Branch of the H.A.C.B. Society, of which he was a member. Brother-members from the surrounding districts showed their respect for their late brother by attending his funeral in a body—some 50 being present on the sad occasion.—R.I.P.

A DROWNING fatality occurred near Geraldine on Saturday morning, the Geraldine-Orari coach capsizing in the Waihi River at the crossing known as Mackenzie's. Mrs. Scott, of Woodbury, was drowned, also a child about 18 months old named Pizzey, whose parents reside at Lyttelton. The other passengers were saved, several narrowly escaping with their lives. Every precaution was taken by the driver of the coach, who first crossed the river by himself, then came back and took the lady passengers and one man across the river, which was flooded. The mishap was caused by a horse stumbling and falling into the river, dragging its mate down with it.

THE Premier states that two tenders were received by the Government for a direct service to South Africa—one from the Blue Star Line, of Liverpool, and one from the Union Company, as agents for the New Zealand and South African Company—and that the offer of the Blue Star Line, being the more favorable, has been conditionally accepted. The boats employed will be of the first-class, with capital passenger accommodation, and a speed of 11 or 11½ knots, and monthly trips will be run. The accepting of the tender is subject to arrangement of certain details, and the Agent-general has already been instructed to obtain information on several points with the view to the offer being finally accepted. The second tender stipulated for boats with a speed of from eight to nine knots, with only third-class accommodation, so that really, no difficulty was experienced by the Government in coming to a decision on this important matter.

Obituary.

MR. PATRICK MURPHY, SOUTH DUNEDIN.

THE many friends of Mr. Patrick Murphy, late of Matakanaui, will hear with regret of his death, which took place on the 8th inst, at his residence, Macandrew road, South Dunedin. Mr. Murphy was well-known on the goldfields some years ago, where he made a host of friends, he being a most genial and upright man. He was a practical and generous Catholic, and was always to the fore in the cause of religion and charity. The deceased, who was 61 years of age and unmarried, leaves one sister to mourn her loss.—R.I.P.

Our readers in Wellington and district will be pleased to know that Messrs Whitaker Bros., booksellers, have now on hand a full supply of the Catechisms of the Christian Doctrine (Nos. 1 and 2). These catechisms are published at the TABLET Office, and have received the approbation of the Catholic hierarchy of this Colony....