

Greymouth

(From our own correspondent.)

July 23.

The West Coast was favored with a visit from his Lordship Bishop Brodie, who journeyed to Hokitika to attend the jubilee celebrations at St. Columbkille's Convent. His Lordship was the guest of the Very Rev. Dean Carew, S.M., on Friday last, and during the day he visited the parish schools at Runanga, Brunner, Cobden, and Greymouth. His Lordship left by Saturday morning's express for Christchurch.

The Rev. Father Menard, S.M., who has been transferred back to Ohakune, speaking at the send-off tendered him on Sunday last at the St. Columba Hall, referred to the excellent educational facilities which the parish of Greymouth possessed. He said, that as far as he knew, there was not another parish in New Zealand which possessed such excellent schools, and great credit was due to the Very Rev. Dean Carew for the splendid work he had accomplished in the parish.

VALEDICTORY.

At the conclusion of devotions at St. Patrick's Church on Sunday evening, July 22, the parishioners assembled at the St. Columba Hall to bid farewell to Rev. Father Menard, S.M., who is under orders to return to Ohakune, the parish in which he labored for several years.

The Very Rev. Dean Carew, who presided, said that he regretted very much losing the services of such a zealous priest as the Rev. Father Menard had proved himself to be during the very short time he had worked in the parish. He was pleased, however, that the Rev. Father was returning to Ohakune to complete the great work he had commenced in that parish. He (the speaker) felt sure that if he displayed the same zeal and energy as he had shown during his short stay in Greymouth his labors would be crowned with success.

Speaking on behalf of the parishioners, Mr. H. F. Doogan said that although Father Menard's stay in the parish had been very brief, still during the few months he had worked here he had succeeded in endearing himself to the whole of the parishioners. He had worked in a quiet, unassuming way, and, although his work here was appreciated, it was also appreciated in Ohakune, as his late parishioners did not rest content until they had secured his return. This was, he thought, the best evidence of the Rev. Father's zeal and devotedness, and he could assure him that the parishioners of Greymouth deeply regretted his early departure from their midst. Although it was the Rev. Father's ambition to leave here in the same quiet way as that in which he had carried out all his work, the parishioners thought otherwise, and on their behalf, he had great pleasure in asking Father Menard to accept a well-filled purse, which he hoped would be used by him to further the good works which he had had in hand at Ohakune.

The Rev. Father Peoples, S.M., also spoke in eulogy of the zeal and devotedness of the departing priest.

Master McSherry, on behalf of the altar boys, presented Father Menard with a parting gift.

The Rev. Father Menard, in response, spoke of the kind and generous treatment he had received from the Very Rev. Dean Carew and the people of Greymouth. He thanked them all for their generous gifts, which would be devoted to the cause next his heart—that was the education of the children. He would put the money towards the erection of a school at Ohakune, which parish did not enjoy any of the facilities Greymouth enjoyed, and he hoped to place the purse under the foundation stone at an early date. He sincerely thanked the parishioners, and he hoped to again be able to renew their acquaintance.

The singing of "Auld Lang Syne" brought a very pleasant and successful function to a close.

During the day the Rev. Father was the recipient of presentations from the Children of Mary, Altar Society, and the Brunner parishioners.

THE HOME RULE CONVENTION

SITTINGS OPENED.

The historic convention, summoned to draft a scheme for the future government of Ireland, assembled on Wednesday, July 25, in Trinity College, Dublin.

Long before the opening College Green was packed with spectators, who displayed but little enthusiasm. The proceedings will be private throughout.

The Government nominees include Lords Dunraven, Desart, Granard, and MacDonnell, Sir Horace Plunkett, Sir William Goulding, Sir Bertram Windle, Sir William Crawford, Sir James McCullough, Sir Michael Murphy, and Sir G. Russell.

Chairman and Secretary.

It is officially announced that the Irish Convention has appointed Sir Horace Plunkett as chairman, and Sir Francis Hopwood secretary.

The Right Hon. Sir Horace Curzon Plunkett, D.L., P.C. (Ireland), K.C.V.O., is the third son of 16th Baron Dunsany. He was educated at Oxford, engaged in cattle ranching 1879-89, and founded the Irish Agricultural Organisation Society, 1894. He was M.P. for Dublin 1892-1900 and was Vice-President of the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction for Ireland 1899-1907. He is the author of a number of sociological publications.

The Right Hon. Sir Francis Hopwood, G.C.M.G., additional Civil Lord to the Admiralty, has been a member of many Royal Commissions. He has been Under-Secretary for the Colonies and permanent secretary to the Board of Trade. He was a member of the Commission to South Africa to advise on the Constitution for the Transvaal and Orange River Colonies. He is secretary of the Order of St. Michael and George.

The composition of the convention is as follows:—

1. The chairman of all county and borough councils.
2. Two members elected by urban district councils.
3. Four Catholic bishops: the Primate and the Archbishop of Dublin representing the Protestant religion in Ireland; and Dr. John Irwin, the Moderator of the Presbyterian Church.
4. The chairmen of the Chambers of Commerce of Dublin, Cork, and Belfast.
5. Five representatives of Irish Labor.
6. Five members nominated by Mr. Redmond.
7. Five nominated by Sir J. Lonsdale (for Ulster Unionists).
8. Two nominated by the Irish Peers.
9. Five from Southern Unionists.
10. Fifteen leading Irishmen nominated by the Government, so as to promote the object which all sober and loyal Irishmen have in view.

The names of representatives were published in the *Tablet* issue of July 19.

Later information is to the effect that at its second meeting the Irish Convention appointed a Preliminary Procedure Committee, and then adjourned until August 7 to enable the chairman and secretary to prepare and circulate material in connection with data.

Mr. Redmond has sent a message to the Dominions stating that the auspicious inauguration of the convention raises hopes that the deliberations may lead to an early realisation of an united self-governed Ireland.

Many a hurt has been left behind without a blow.
To aim high is good, but to aim at what you would hit is better.

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