

Mayor, addressed the large gathering, congratulating the Catholic body in Blenheim on the possession of such a magnificent hall, and concluded by declaring the hall open. Father Holley introduced Father Hills to the parishioners of St. Mary's, and bespoke for him the same loyalty in spiritual and temporal matters which had been extended to the speaker. Father Hills briefly replied. The social gathering was successful in every way.

THE IRISH ENVOYS

ENTHUSIASTIC RECEPTION IN WELLINGTON

AN AUSPICIOUS OPENING OF THE CAMPAIGN

The Irish Nationalist envoys, Messrs. R. Hazleton, M.P., W. A. Redmond, M.P., and J. T. Donovan, were received by the Mayor of Wellington (Mr. T. M. Wilford) in his room in the Town Hall on Tuesday morning of last week. Most of the City Councillors and the principal officers of the Corporation were present (says the *Dominion*). The distinguished visitors were introduced by Dr. Cahill, chairman of the reception committee, and were accompanied by Mr. Martin Kennedy and members of committee. The Hon. G. Fowlds, Minister for Education, was also present.

The Mayor's Address.

The Mayor, addressing the visitors, said he desired, on behalf of the City Council, to extend to them a hearty welcome to New Zealand. They had come as the representatives of a great people, and though Wellington as a city had no politics—for no municipality in this country had any politics, and he hoped none ever would—yet they, as representatives of the citizens of the Empire City of New Zealand, welcomed their guests that day and wished them long life and prosperity. Although, as members of the Imperial Legislature, they were necessarily in close touch with this far-off British possession, yet they would gain from their visit the advantage of being able to speak as eyewitnesses, and not as the scribes, and this would also be of advantage to New Zealand. They welcomed them here as men who had won their places in the councils of their nation, men of intelligence, of high thoughts, and great personal ambitions for great causes and great deeds. The council which they were meeting that morning was the first municipal council elected on a purely adult suffrage, and the popular vote had returned as councillors men who had the confidence of the city. They also had in this city the system of rating on unimproved values, and it had worked well, so that, although there was power to change it, there was no movement to do so. The visitors would therefore be able to tell their colleagues at Home that the people of Wellington were satisfied with the system of taxing land values for municipal purposes, and that the new adult franchise had so far been exercised properly and wisely. They would not see in New Zealand anything like the abject and dire poverty that existed in their own country, but, after travelling in Ireland, he could tell them that they would behold scenes which would remind them of that land. They would see, for instance, the green fields of Taranaki, but they would notice, by way of contrast, the great numbers of the stock pasturing there, and the thickly-settled state of the country. They would realise also that New Zealand was a country of great resources, and had national assets that were as yet absolutely undeveloped, and so when New Zealand went to the London market for money they would recognise that it was not for squandering, and that it was wise to seek capital for developing the national estate. In this connection the Mayor made special reference to the iron and deposits and the discoveries of mineral oil. He concluded by reiterating a hearty welcome to the visitors.

Mr. John Smith, as senior councillor, also welcomed the envoys, and said they would see that New Zealand was a self-supporting part of the Empire, and though she borrowed money she had something to show for it. We wanted a little more money and a great many more men to go on the land. This was not a great manufacturing country, and he supposed it never would be. He hoped the visitors would have a pleasant and profitable time in New Zealand.

The Visitors' Thanks.

Mr. Hazleton said that his colleagues and himself deeply appreciated the welcome that had been accorded to them. They recognised that it was given, not on personal grounds, but because of the position they were proud to occupy, and the people they were proud to represent. He agreed that it was useful for the people of the Old Country to travel as much as possible in newer countries like this. There was a great deal to be learnt from New Zealand, and the intercourse might be beneficial to both sides. The Mayor had said that New Zealand must go occasionally to the Old Country for capital to develop her resources. For his own part, he thought people could come here from the Old Country to develop their ideas, which was equally important. As one who was interested in municipal government—he was a councillor of his own city—he had found it very instructive to listen to what the Mayor had said of municipal government in Wellington. People were often inclined

to attach too little importance to this branch of government, on which the health, prosperity, and general well-being of a community largely depended. He looked forward to gaining in New Zealand much knowledge and experience that would be useful when he returned to take part in the affairs of his own country.

Mr. Redmond said he would like to express his deep sense of gratification at the kindly and hearty reception. That they, arriving as almost utter strangers, should be thus received, was true evidence of the sense of justice and fair play, the honesty and hospitality, which were characteristic of new countries like the United States, Canada, and Australia. He recognised that they were received wholly and solely in their official capacities as representatives of the Irish nation. What the Mayor had said of the franchise for the City Council indicated a state of affairs that could not be equalled anywhere in the world. He had often heard it said by people who had travelled in this part of the Empire that nowhere in the world was there to be found a truer understanding and practice of democracy than in New Zealand and Australia. The party of which they were members was a truly representative and democratic party which had supported every effort that had been made to remedy the disadvantages that the ordinary working man labored under in the Old Country as compared with New Zealand, and it was a great gratification to them to find that in this thriving and progressive land the ideals they had been fostering at Home had borne such good fruit. He congratulated New Zealand on being, like Ireland, an agricultural country, and he hoped that neither would ever become a manufacturing country, and resemble some of those districts such as most of England was becoming to-day. They hoped Ireland would soon become more prosperous than it had been in the past, but they did not want to see it a country of chimney-stacks. It would be a great gratification to Irishmen at Home to know of the welcome which their representatives had received in Wellington.

Mr. Donovan also expressed thanks. He said he recalled with great pleasure his visit to New Zealand some four years ago, and was glad to meet again the friends who were so kind to them then. He knew of no people who had a larger conception of civic duties and broader ideas of government than the people of New Zealand, and he was glad that his colleagues, Mr. Hazleton and Mr. Redmond, would now be able to verify what he had told them about this country. New Zealand's example was being copied in many of the reforms that were being introduced into Great Britain and Ireland, and it would be an advantage if they could copy also the examples of New Zealand in keeping politics out of municipal government. They came to New Zealand with a message of good cheer and hope. They believed that with the assent of the British democracy and the British-speaking people throughout the world they were at last about to obtain a measure of the national self-government which New Zealand so well and wisely enjoyed. This would contribute not only to the peace, prosperity, and progress of Ireland, but also to the solidarity and strength of the Empire with which they were proud to be incorporated as a free unit. When that came about, in eighteen months' or two years' time, they would have to thank the people of Australasia for their practical sympathy and help. He heartily reciprocated the good wishes that had been expressed.

The guests then inspected the Town Hall buildings under the personal conduct of the Mayor.

Subsequently the envoys were welcomed by a deputation representing the ladies of the Hibernian Society, and called upon the Acting-Prime Minister (the Hon. J. Carroll). They lunched with his Grace Archbishop Redwood, and dined at the Wellington Club as the guests of Dr. Cahill.

WELCOME FROM HIBERNIAN WOMEN.

On Tuesday, Messrs. Donovan, Hazleton, and Redmond were met by a number of lady members of St. Mary's branch of the Hibernian Society, at Mr. Martin Kennedy's residence. Rev. Fathers Hickson and Venning, and Bros. J. W. Callaghan (District Deputy), P. D. Hoskins, J. E. Fitzgerald, and S. J. Moran, LL.B., were also present. Sister K. Robinson, president of the branch, extended to the delegates a hearty welcome, and hoped they would be most successful in every respect with their mission, and that when they returned they would arrive in time to vote with the 'Ayes' on the Home Rule Bill, as a reward for their labors on behalf of the cause. Miss Robinson then presented the delegates with an address each, conveying words of welcome and good wishes for their mission.

Mr. Donovan said that as a brother Hibernian he accepted with gratitude the address, which embodied the sentiments of all who had the cause of Home Rule at heart. He remembered on his last visit to New Zealand the great support that had been given by the ladies. At Home they were working for the attainment of national self-government, such as we had in New Zealand, and he was hopeful that they would get it within two years. The satisfactory position they were now in, he asserted, was due in a large measure to the determination and magnificent support rendered by the ladies in the Old Land. Ireland was entitled to self-government on national and historic grounds. When England was in a barbaric state, Ireland was far advanced, and it was Ireland's missionaries who had spread learning throughout the land. It would not be long before she