

which the Irish had been subjected, but they would never be satisfied until they had the right of making their own laws in their own country. Some ameliorating measures had been passed, but they had only been passed through the persistence of the Irish members and against the opposition of the House of Lords.

An Imperial Aspect.

They did not care whether they had representation in the Imperial Parliament or not. What they wanted was their own Parliament—self-government for themselves in Ireland. Apart from the claim to govern themselves, they could prove that ever since the robbery of the Irish Parliament the Government of Ireland by England had been one long series of failures. The late Lord Salisbury had once declared that the Irish people were not fit to govern themselves, and yet Mr. Gerald Balfour, a member of the Conservative Government, introduced and passed the Irish Local Government Bill. Mr. Balfour said that if that measure was administered with business capacity and in a spirit of conciliation, it would mitigate one of the arguments that had told heavily in England against Home Rule. Since then the nominees of the British Government had year after year stated that no work, no business, no transactions could be done more efficiently, with less cost, with more economy, or in a better manner than the work under that Act had been done by the people of Ireland.

Able to Rule.

He further ridiculed the suggestion that Irishmen were not capable of ruling. Here in New Zealand he said, the Prime Minister was of Irish extraction, and sitting on his left was the Acting-Prime Minister, of the foreign name of Carroll. The speaker also gave illustrations to show that sectarian differences in Ireland were rapidly dying. In the County Tyrone, in Ulster, with a population of 55 per cent. Catholic, a majority of the county councillors were Protestant, and 90 per cent. of the officials were Protestant. In Ulster, with 33 seats in Parliament, no less than 16 seats were solid for Home Rule. The speaker covered some of the ground traversed by the previous speaker, and concluded by stating that the Irish question was the Imperial question.

A COLLECTION.

Mr. Martin Kennedy urged the people of New Zealand to respond to the appeal for funds which had been made by the delegates. On the last occasion New Zealand contributed some £5000, and they hoped that this time they would be able to raise at least 50 per cent. more. Lists had been sent out, and two that he held in hand totalled £220.

While the orchestra played a selection a collection was made.

VOTES OF THANKS.

In moving a vote of thanks to the envoys the Hon. J. Carroll, who was received with loud applause, described the delegates as 'emissaries from our Sister Emerald Isle. They knew that the soil of Ireland had been drenched with the tears of a distressed nation; she had stood the storms of oppression, but had now sailed into the calmer waters of rational consideration. What were the facts in favor of Home Rule? Ireland years ago had its Parliament. It had clamored for ages for the right to administer its own affairs, and the claim would go on until a solution of the problem was discovered. There was a strong federal growth throughout the Empire, and Home Rule had become almost an acceptable fact. Scotland and Wales were for Home Rule, and England was at the least in a state of passivity on the subject. The overseas Dominions, he went on to say, were not successes as Crown colonies, so they demanded autonomy. Should we, enjoying the blessings of self-government, stand in the way of those in Ireland claiming like privileges? Why should they? They were neighbors shouldering the great burden of Empire, and why should not Ireland enjoy equal privileges with us in New Zealand? Why, he added, even here the Maori race had its special representation. It was not now a question of Home Rule, but of how to give effect to it, to what length should it be carried. All that might take some time, but the principle would, he felt sure, be generally accepted.

The motion was seconded by the Hon. T. W. Hislop, who also was cordially received. He thought the chief reason for the visit of the envoys was in the wishes of a great and generous people who are located in this country, and who, not content with having left the evil things behind them at Home and enjoying the good effects of self-government, also preserved in their generous minds a regard for those whom they had left behind.

The vote of thanks was supported by his Grace Archbishop Redwood. The achievement of Home Rule, he said, would be a great glory for the Liberal Party in England. He felt certain the day was not far distant when prosperity would return to Ireland, and capital would flow back to it as a result of the granting of autonomy.

A WORLD-WIDE ASPECT.

In returning thanks, Mr. Donovan said the collection taken up amounted to £700. This was a very inspiring opening to the campaign. He regretted that time would not permit of his dealing with the Irish question from the standpoint of Empire. He could have presented a case showing that not only would Home Rule tend to the pacification of Ireland, it would in a larger measure tend to

strengthen the Empire as a whole. Was the friendship of America not to be valued in these days? Was an alliance with America not of Imperial importance? Irishmen were scattered the world over, and he could tell his hearers, and it could go forth to the people of New Zealand, that there could never be any alliance with America so long as the Irish question was unsettled. The twenty millions of Irish people or their descendants had sufficient influence in that mighty Republic to prevent any alliance being brought about till the Irish question was settled. It was, therefore, from the standpoint of Empire, most expedient that this question should be settled at as early a date as possible. He added that if a vote on Home Rule was taken in the House of Commons to-morrow it would be carried by a majority of from 120 to 130. He paid a tribute to the valuable aid given them by Mr. Martin Kennedy in organising the campaign, and pointed out that there is urgent need for funds to assist the Irish Party in carrying on the campaign to a successful conclusion. They were also about to organise a great campaign throughout Great Britain, until the introduction of the Home Rule Bill next January.

The meeting concluded with a vote of thanks to the Mayor, proposed by Dr. Cahill, president of the reception committee, and carried unanimously.

AT ST. PATRICK'S COLLEGE.

The Irish envoys visited St. Patrick's College on Wednesday, and were the guests of the Very Rev. Dr. Kennedy and the faculty at luncheon. They also addressed the students, who presented them with a purse of sovereigns as a contribution to the Home Rule campaign funds. Mr. Donovan mentioned that this was the first contribution they had received since landing in Wellington.

Masterton

The Irish envoys delivered addresses in the Town Hall, Masterton, on Thursday night to a fairly large but most enthusiastic audience. The chief speaker was Mr. Hazleton, who emphasised the fact that Home Rule did not mean sectarianism. Two of the speakers asserted that if the House of Lords rejected the Veto Bill, upon which the Home Rule Bill depended, the King had given guarantees which would enable Mr. Asquith to swamp the House of Lords.

A collection was taken up, which resulted in a handsome sum being raised.

Wanganui

Judging by the attendance and the enthusiasm shown at the meeting held in Dustin's Rooms on April 21 of those interested in the forthcoming visit of the Irish delegates to Wanganui, the mission is likely to receive much support here (says the local *Herald*). Mr. C. O'Leary presided. Apologies were received for unavoidable absence from his Worship the Mayor (Mr. C. E. Mackay), and from Mr. J. T. Hogan, M.P., Mr. G. Spriggins, Mr. G. Hutchison, and others.

Mr. P. Keogh said it had been decided to call a meeting of all sympathisers with the question of Home Rule. He said that not only were the delegates prominent members of the Irish Party, but they were worthy of support in every way. He had no doubt the democrats of New Zealand were in total sympathy with the cause, and that the delegates would be well received in all parts of the Dominion. Mr. Keogh concluded by explaining that the gathering had been called for the purpose of forming a committee to assist those gentlemen who were coming here to fight a battle on behalf of the people of Ireland.

After some discussion it was decided that all those present, with power to add to their number, form a committee to make arrangements for the reception and entertainment of the Irish delegates. Mr. W. Power was appointed chairman, Mr. P. Keogh secretary, and Mr. T. Lloyd treasurer.

Mr. Keogh stated that Mr. J. G. Swan, of Chavannes' Hotel, had offered to entertain the delegates as his guests during their stay in Wanganui.—The offer was accepted with thanks.

Father Moloney intimated that Friday, May 19, had been suggested as the probable date of the Wanganui meeting.—It was decided that the secretary be requested to ascertain definitely when the delegates would arrive here, and that another meeting be held.

Subscription lists in aid of the funds were opened in the room, and over £30 subscribed.

Christchurch

There was a good representative attendance at the Chamber of Commerce on last Thursday evening at a meeting convened by Mr. E. O'Connor to arrange for the reception of the Irish envoys in this city, and endeavor to make the object of their visit successful.

The chair was occupied by Mr. H. H. Loughnan, who said that the movement had been inaugurated by a Wellington committee, which had taken in hand the arranging of meetings. It was confidently anticipated that the fight for Home Rule was nearing a successful end, and that the visit of the delegates would be the last that would have to be made. A meeting would be held in the Theatre Royal on May 25.