

Mr. E. O'Connor was elected secretary, and, as the chairman pointed out, the raising of funds was necessary, his suggestion that Mr. O'Connor should be local treasurer was unanimously agreed to. In accepting the dual office Mr. O'Connor expressed his thanks for the position entrusted to him, and remarked that he had acted as secretary to the committee formed in connection with the first Irish delegates to visit New Zealand—Messrs. John and William Redmond in the early eighties—also in a like capacity in regard to all subsequent delegations, and now, too, in what was generally believed to be the last occasion on which their fellow-Irishmen would need to appeal on behalf of their long-drawn-out contest.

Mr. T. H. Davey, M.P., in a stirring speech moved that all present should pledge themselves to welcome and do everything in their power to aid the cause for which Messrs. Redmond, Donovan, and Hazleton were visiting New Zealand. He was strongly of opinion that the Irish people should be given a Parliament of their own, in the same way as New Zealand and all other portions of the Empire had theirs. What was good enough for us should be also conceded to the Irish nation, and anything he could do, in even remotely aiding towards that end, would give him the greatest pleasure. The motion was carried unanimously. The following general committee was elected, with power to add to its number:—Messrs. T. H. Davey, M.P., G. Laurensen, M.P., G. Whitty, M.P., J. A. Cassidy, Getson, E. L. McKeon, J. J. Wilson, W. Hoban, M. Nolan, J. B. Hayward, J. Power, F. Doolan, H. H. Loughnan, and T. Cahill, Dr. O'Brien, and the Very Rev. Father Price.

The Very Rev. Dean Ginaty, S.M., V.G., Very Rev. Father Price, Adm., and a number of the clergy were among those present. The committee remained after the general meeting, and arranged matters of detail, and then adjourned till the following Wednesday evening. Mr. E. O'Connor and Mr. T. H. Davey, M.P., subsequently waited upon the Mayor, Mr. T. E. Taylor, M.P., who readily consented to preside at the public meeting of the envoys in the Theatre Royal.

Messrs. G. Whitty, M.P., and G. Laurensen, M.P., wrote to the effect that being unavoidably absent from the meeting, they were in complete accord with its object, and in sympathy with the movement, and stating their intention of being present at the next meeting of the committee.

The Mayor (Mr. T. E. Taylor, M.P.) stated at the meeting of the Cambrian Society on last Friday night that he had been asked, and had consented to take the chair at the meeting to be held by the Irish envoys on the 25th inst. He added that he did not think that he would preside over many meetings that would give him greater pleasure than this meeting to be addressed by the Irish delegates. While some people might think the Mayor of a town should not identify himself with political parties who came to New Zealand in such circumstances as the Irish envoys came, but he had been a Home Ruler ever since he read the history of Ireland. In the circumstances he would have felt that he was untrue to his principles if he had refused to preside at the envoys' meeting.

Mr. Jones made an appeal to Welshmen to support the Irish envoys in their mission. He pointed out that every member in the British Parliament for Wales, with the exception of two, were Home Rulers.

Mr. O'Connor has written to Ross Hokitika, Greymouth, and Kumara, asking for local arrangements to be made and to notify him of the dates fixed. He suggests that to save expense, Mr. Hazleton should begin at Ashburton and work down through South Canterbury.

According to present arrangements all three of the Irish envoys will arrive in Christchurch on Thursday morning, May 25, and address the public meeting that evening. They will remain here until the following Monday evening, when they are to return by the ferry steamer to Wellington. Mr. Hazleton is delegated to the country towns of Canterbury, and returns here on June 16. Messrs. Redmond and Donovan are to work the Westland district. The local secretary, Mr. E. O'Connor, has communicated with all the centres of Canterbury, and received replies from Waimata, Albury, Temuka, and Timaru, asking for the envoy to visit those places.

Auckland

The following are the dates arranged for the meetings to be addressed by the Irish envoys:—Auckland city, June 9; Gisborne, May 20; Pukekohe, June 5; Whangarei, Thames, and Hamilton, all on June 8; Waikato, June 9; Te Awamutu, June 12; Te Kuiti, June 13; Dargaville will probably be fixed for June 6. This will be the first time an Irish delegate has addressed a meeting north of Auckland. Everywhere the greatest interest and enthusiasm are shown, and the issue promises to be most successful. Since the enthusiastic meeting in the city last Monday evening a sum of over £500 has been collected.

Kumara

At a large and representative meeting held here, Rev. Father Creed presiding, it was unanimously resolved to invite the Irish envoys to visit Kumara. A committee of twenty-five was appointed, and it was reported that Stafford, Goldsborough, and Otira had joined in with Kumara in extending an enthusiastic welcome to Messrs. Hazleton, Redmond, and Donovan.

Blenheim

A large and influential meeting of citizens met in the Council Chambers last week to arrange for the reception of the Home Rule delegates in Blenheim. His Worship the Mayor (Mr. E. H. Penny) presided. Much enthusiasm was evinced, and a strong committee was formed to make the necessary arrangements.

Temuka

A meeting convened by Messrs. John Fitzgerald and M. Crannitch was held in the Temuka Volunteer Hall on Thursday evening of last week to make arrangements for a visit of one of the Irish delegates to Temuka. The Mayor (Mr. T. Buxton) presided. On the motion of Rev. Father Fay, Mr. J. Tangney was appointed secretary, and Mr. Crannitch treasurer. The following were elected a committee, with power to add:—Messrs. E. Gillespie, A. Gibson, P. Mitten, D. Enright, John Gillespie, W. Hally, Jos. Simpson, T. Buxton, W. Tarrant, Wm. Kennedy, J. Barry, and J. J. Nolan (Clandeboyne), and Rev. Father Fay. The Rev. Father Fay read correspondence from Mr. E. O'Connor, secretary of the fund in Christchurch, in reference to holding a meeting in Temuka. Mr. O'Connor stated that any town guaranteeing £50 could have one of the delegates for a meeting. Mr. O'Connor said that if Temuka would give him an idea of a date in June when they wanted a delegate, he would try to meet them as far as possible. Father Fay said Timaru, Geraldine, and Pleasant Point were going to have meetings, and to save unpleasantness, which might be caused by collectors trespassing on another district, it would be well to define the boundaries of each district.

Messrs. Crannitch and Fitzgerald said they would guarantee the Temuka meeting, and others offered to do so if necessary. Mr. Fitzgerald said that twenty years ago when Sir Thomas Esmonde came here they raised £250 without trouble, and they were not as well off then as now. A subscription list was then handed round the room, over £45 being subscribed. Father Fay headed the list with £10.

Oamaru

May 6.

A meeting was held last evening in St. Patrick's school-room for the purpose of appointing a committee to receive the Home Rule delegates. Right Rev. Mgr. Mackay was appointed chairman, and Messrs. Veitch and Kelly secretary and treasurer respectively. All those present were appointed a committee.

Monsignor Mackay stated the purpose for which the meeting was called. It was to make all the necessary arrangements for the reception of the delegates. He favored a public meeting being called, as there were a number of people who had sympathy with the Home Rule movement who would like to give their assistance. That meeting would not be a parochial one, and it would give an opportunity to all interested in the movement to meet and arrange to give a hearty welcome to the delegates.

It was decided on the proposal of Mr. Duggan that a public meeting be called, and that the Mayor be asked to take the chair.

It was proposed to take up a subscription in the room, and one of those present offered £10 to head the subscription list.

NORTH ISLAND DATES

The following Press Association messages appeared in Wednesday's papers:—

Hastings, May 9.—The Irish delegates last evening addressed a meeting at which a resolution in favor of Home Rule was carried with acclamation. Messrs. Redmond and Donovan left for New Plymouth, where they speak to-night, and Mr. Hazleton for Palmerston.

Wellington, May 9.—Mr. Martin Kennedy is still receiving applications from different parts of the Dominion requesting that the Irish Home Rule delegates should pay visits. Altogether, Messrs. Hazleton, Redmond, and Donovan will address 50 meetings before leaving the Dominion. The corrected dates for visits of the envoys in this district are:—Mr. Hazleton: Palmerston North, 10th; Shannon, 13th; Taradale, 15th; Napier, 15th; Dannevirke, 18th; Gisborne, 20th; Taihape, 30th. Messrs. Redmond and Donovan: New Plymouth, 10th; Stratford, 11th; Patea, 13th; Hawera, 15th; Feilding, 18th; Wanganui, 19th; and Mania on 16th June on their return from Auckland.

Subscriptions Received.

We have received postal notes for 10s from 'Two Daughters of Erin,' Christchurch, for the Irish Parliamentary Fund.

A Press Association message from Wanganui states that his Grace Archbishop Redwood on Sunday afternoon laid the foundation stone of the convent of the Sisters of St. Joseph. This will be a magnificent building, costing about £20,000. It is situated on St. John's Hill, and commands a view of the whole of the town and out-districts.