

THE IRISH ENVOYS

SUCCESSFUL MEETINGS IN THE NORTH ARRANGEMENTS IN THE SOUTH ISLAND

Napier

Mr. Hazleton, M.P., the Irish Home Rule delegate, was accorded a citizen's reception in the Mayor's room at the Borough Council Chambers on May 17 (says the Napier Daily Telegraph).

His Worship the Mayor (Mr. J. Vigor Brown, M.P.) occupied the chair, and the room was crowded. Among those present were—Messrs. S. McGreevy (Waipawa), Sandeman (Wairoa), J. Higgins, B. J. Dolan, M. Murray, W. I. Limbrick, S. E. McCarthy, S.M., M. Treston, P. S. Foley, P. Barry, T. Parker, W. Simm, J. R. Ross, M. L. Gleeson, T. Halpin, and Hughes.

The Mayor, in welcoming Mr. Hazleton, said all sympathised with what those fighting for the cause wished to get. The Irish people had not been so well treated as the people of New Zealand in the matter of Government. But all things come to those who wait, and the Irish people had waited.

Mr. Hazleton thanked the Mayor for his friendly remarks. On all sides he had met with such welcomes as that extended to him to-day. It was gratifying to know that people so far away took such an interest in Ireland. There was a good deal of want of knowledge of the question, and the press cablegrams frequently misrepresented the movement. As a member of the British Parliament and, he hoped, very soon the Irish Parliament, he was pleased to see the manner in which the various social problems had been tackled here. This country had a free hand to build up, and was not like an old country which had to pull down before building. New Zealand was far away ahead of not only Ireland, but also the heart of England in the matter of dealing with social legislation. The struggle had not been between Irishmen and Englishmen, but between Democracy and Conservatism. He wished the town of Napier and its district every prosperity in the future.

After the civic reception the Mayor took Mr. Hazleton round the district in his motor car to places of interest. Mr. Hazleton and the reception committee were afterwards the guests of Mr. Brown at a luncheon at the Masonic Hotel, which was served in the best style of the proprietor (Mr. F. Moeller). In deference to the wishes of Mr. Hazleton, no speeches were made. During the afternoon Mr. Hazleton was received by Rev. Father O'Connor, in the unavoidable absence of the Rev. Father McDonnell, after which a visit was paid to St. Joseph's Convent (Sisters of the Mission). The gifted young delegate received a warm welcome from the Rev. Mother and Sisters, many of whom eagerly sought for news of the dear Old Land. The pupils of the school accorded a characteristic welcome to Mr. Hazleton, who addressed them briefly, expressing the pleasure he felt at coming amongst them. The Maori pupils welcomed the delegate in their native tongue and sang several songs in Maori in honor of their visitor, who was greatly interested. Mr. Hazleton asked for and obtained a half-holiday for the children.

Mr. Hazleton addressed a large gathering of sympathisers in the Theatre Royal on the evening of May 17. Notwithstanding the inclement weather there was a crowded audience, who gave the delegate an enthusiastic reception. The Mayor (Mr. J. Vigor Brown, M.P.) presided, and on the stage were Very Rev. Dean Smyth, Rev. Fathers Tymons and O'Connor, Rev. J. K. Archer, Dr. Leahy, Inspector Dwyer, Messrs. P. Hally, D. N. McMillan, S. E. McCarthy, S.M., M. Treston, M. Gleeson, W. J. McGrath, B. J. Dolan, J. Higgins, W. McCarthy, K. Tareha, S. McGreevy, T. Butler (Waipawa), and P. S. Foley (hon. sec.). An apology was received from Rev. Father McDonnell, who was detained in Wairoa.

The Mayor, in introducing Mr. Hazleton and the subject he was to address them on, mentioned that our Premier, the local S.M., and Inspector of Police were Irishmen, also that we had the privilege of governing ourselves, and should assist others in obtaining it for themselves.

Mr. Hazleton was met with prolonged applause on coming forward. He said he had to thank them very sincerely for the kindly and generous welcome given him in Napier, and gave as a reason for his large audience, comprising all creeds, that it was present to show its sympathy and support with the cause of Home Rule for Ireland. The condition in New Zealand had engendered in the hearts of men and women the love of freedom, and the desire that the blessings enjoyed by them should be enjoyed by people throughout the Empire. Also they recognised, as the people at Home were beginning to recognise, that the Irish question not merely concerned Ireland but was one of the greatest and most important of the Imperial questions of the day. At present Ireland was the one weak spot in the British Empire, the one blot, as it were, upon the record of England and the Empire. He did not deny or attempt to disguise the fact that Ireland was sullen and discontented, that she was poor and unprogressive,

whilst the rest of the Empire, including this Dominion, was progressing and advancing in prosperity and population. Ireland had gone back and decayed. In 1848 she had a population of nine millions; to-day she had less than four and a half millions of people. Her industries, far from advancing, had declined, her population had decreased, and her people, instead of advancing, had grown poorer. It was not through any inherent disadvantages of the soil and climate, for Ireland was famed in song and story as the Emerald Isle. Ireland could support a population five times as great.

Mr. Hazleton then proceeded to deal with the causes which prevented Ireland from progressing, his remarks being on the same lines as those made at other centres. Concluding he said the system of government prevailing in Ireland at the present day brought neither satisfaction nor contentment to the great mass of the people, who were as strongly opposed to it as they were forty years ago. There was but one remedy, and that was to trust the people. Ireland asked for what the self-governing dominions already possess, the right to make her own laws on her own soil, the right to work out her destinies in her own way. Ireland did not want separation from England or the Empire. What was wanted by Home Rule was a Parliament in Ireland with an executive responsible to it, a Parliament to have control over purely Irish affairs. Those who said Ireland was disloyal did not know what they were talking about, or were anxious to misrepresent the aims and aspirations of the Irish.

Referring to the expenses of the party, Mr. Hazleton said that when he first stood for a Parliament he had to pay £700 sheriff's expenses, and it also cost the party large sums to keep the electoral rolls up-to-date. He commended the New Zealand system, and in conclusion said the meeting would know that it had done its share by their subscriptions towards achieving the establishment of a National Irish Parliament.

Mr. Hazleton was given a splendid hearing, and on resuming his seat was accorded great applause.

The chairman here announced that Waipawa had sent down £21, with a promise of more, a pronouncement that was heartily applauded.

Mr. S. E. McCarthy, S.M., in proposing a hearty vote of thanks to Mr. Hazleton for his eloquent, instructive, and informing address on the question of Home Rule for Ireland, informed that gentleman that supporters in Irish would look forward to the establishment of the Irish Parliament.

Mr. B. J. Dolan seconded the motion in a happy speech, and asked Mr. Hazleton to convey to the leader of the Irish Party the following message from them:—"One in name and one in fame is the sea-divided Gael."

Mr. John Higgins also spoke to the motion, which was carried by acclamation.

The chairman expressed the hope that Mr. Hazleton would be member for Galway in 1914.

On Mr. Hazleton's motion the chairman was accorded a vote of thanks.

A collection made realised £35 11s 6d, which will be added to the sum already subscribed, some £150.

It is expected that at least £200 will be raised in Napier. During his stay here Mr. Hazleton was the guest of Mr. F. Moeller, of the Masonic Hotel.

Mr. Hazleton spoke at Taradale on Monday evening, and had a splendid reception. A sum of £70 will probably be the response to the appeal. During his visit he was the guest of Mr. G. P. Donnelly and Mr. T. H. Moynihan.

Waimate

Mr. A. Harris, secretary of the Waimate committee, informs us that the meeting there has been arranged for June 27, not June 23, as previously notified.

Wanganui

(From our own correspondent.)

Messrs. Redmond and Donovan addressed a very large meeting in the Opera House on Friday evening, May 19. His Worship the Mayor (Mr. C. E. Mackay) presided. Mr. Hogan, M.P., was also present on the stage, along with a considerable number of members of the local committee. The speakers were given a capital hearing.

His Worship the Mayor, in introducing the speakers, said that although at this distant part of the Empire it was impossible to understand all the details involved in the question of Home Rule for Ireland, there seemed, on the surface, no reason why Home Rule should not be granted. He also expressed appreciation of the persistent attitude of the Nationalist party.

MR. REDMOND'S SPEECH.

Mr. Redmond was received with applause. He said that one could not feel inspired when speaking before such an audience. Since the Envoys had set foot on Australasian soil the welcome had been almost amazing. It was some thirty years ago since the Irish Party had sent out the first delegation, consisting of his father and his uncle. He compared their reception with that of the present delegates. Times were changed, and it was almost fashionable now to side with the Irish cause. The delegates would