

tendance. Councillor Gleeson presided. The lecturer divided his subject into two parts. In the first he dealt with Irishmen who distinguished themselves in Parliament, and as sculptors, painters, poets, and at the bar. In the second part the lecturer showed that Ireland enjoyed great prosperity under self-government, that national decay followed the destruction of the Irish Parliament, and answered several of the objections to Home Rule. Mr. Sullivan spoke without notes, and from beginning to end he held the close attention of his audience. He dealt with Ireland's past glories, her decadence and struggles to avert it, and finally her heroic efforts against tremendous odds to win back Home Rule. The lecture was a very able one, and was frequently applauded. Songs were sung during the evening by Mr. and Mrs. Bourke and Miss Lorrigan, Miss Nellie Ormond being accompanist. The proceeds are to aid the Irish Parliamentary fund.

THE IRISH ENVOYS

SUCCESSFUL MEETINGS IN THE NORTH

Te Aroha

(From our own correspondent.)

A meeting of sympathisers with the cause of Home Rule was held on Tuesday evening, May 23, for the purpose of taking steps to procure a visit from one or more of the Home Rule delegates now in the Dominion. There was a large and representative attendance (says the local *Mail*), and the chair was taken by the Mayor (Mr. R. L. Somers).

The chairman referred briefly to the improved prospects of Home Rule, and expressed a fervent hope that a visit by the delegates might be arranged.

On the motion of Mr. Gavin, Mr. Greville-Smith was asked to act as honorary secretary, and consented.

Mr. Gavin said he had much pleasure in moving that a letter be written to Mr. M. J. Sheahan, the secretary of the Auckland committee, asking him to use his best efforts to get one or more of the Home Rule delegates to visit and address an audience in Te Aroha.

The motion was seconded by Dr. Kenny, and supported very heartily by Mr. C. O'Driscoll.

Rev. Father McGuinness suggested that they might get a visit on the Saturday following the day fixed for the Waihi meeting. He pointed out, as was indeed evidenced by the composition of the gathering, that the cause of Home Rule was wholly unsectarian. Some of the best of Ireland's patriot sons had been Protestants. It was evident that the two races had come to know each other better and to trust one another. He referred to the remarks made by Mr. McNab, and reported in that morning's *Mail*, to show the justice of the cause of the people whose loyalty had been proved on many a hard-fought field.

The motion was then put and carried.

Mr. Gavin said if they proved to be not so fortunate as to obtain a visit from the delegates, there was still a way open for the expression of their sympathy, and no opportunity better than the present. He moved that the secretary open a subscription list forthwith.

Mr. Milliken, in seconding the motion, remarked that he came from the 'Black North,' where they were not supposed to believe in Home Rule; but like many Englishmen and others, he believed that Home Rule was the best thing for Ireland.

The motion was carried, and in a few minutes subscriptions amounting to nearly £50 were promised.

The following were appointed a committee to carry out the objects of the meeting:—Messrs. Somers, Milliken, O'Driscoll, Baine, Gavin, J. B. Johnson, McSweeney, Maurice Fitzgerald, Greville-Smith, Dr. Kenny, and the Rev. Father McGuinness.

Levin

(From an occasional correspondent.)

The visit of the Irish delegates to Levin on May 20, although not remarkable for its financial success, was noted for a few incidents which should be chronicled in your pages. The member for the district, Mr. W. H. Field, travelled about sixty miles from his home to take the chair, and his introductory speech was afterwards referred to by Mr. Redmond as a complete grasp of the Irish question. The Mayor (Mr. B. R. Gardener), who proposed the vote of thanks, was equally up in his subject and most sympathetic. Grehi Roera, a chief of the Ngatiraukawa, was also present and made a most forcible speech in the usual Maori figurative style. Why (said he) does not England grant Home Rule? Is it because she is afraid to lose her Irish warriors? If England is the mother of Ireland, why does she not give the baby the milk it has been crying for for over 100 years?

On the following morning the delegates attended Mass, where the respected parish priest, Father Cognet, heartily welcomed them to the district, and preached a most elo-

quent sermon on St. Patrick and Irish fidelity to the See of Rome. At the close of the Mass the Rev. Father gave them his blessing, and the organist, Mr. Kearsley, played the hymn, 'O Glorious St. Patrick.' During the rest of the day the delegates (with several friends) were entertained by Mr. and Mrs. Hurley at their residence, 'Avonmore,' where they could eat sloes and Irish 'strawberries' grown from Killarney blackthorn and Killarney arbutus. In the afternoon Mr. Kennedy's motor-car arrived from Wellington and took them off there.

Ashburton

(From our own correspondent.)

May 28.

A representative meeting of those interested in the visit of Mr. Hazleton (Irish delegate) was held in the Catholic boys' schoolroom on Saturday afternoon last. Very Rev. Dean O'Donnell presided, and very complete arrangements with reference to a suitable reception were made. The very respectable sum of about £90 was subscribed in the room for the Irish cause.

Christchurch

(From our own correspondent.)

The Irish envoys, Messrs. R. Hazleton, M.P., W. A. Redmond, M.P., and J. Donovan, arrived at Lyttelton on last Thursday morning by the Maori. They were met by representatives of the Christchurch committee, who accompanied them to the city. Carriages were in waiting at the Christchurch Station and the delegates were driven to the Clarendon Hotel.

THE CIVIC RECEPTION.

The delegates were received by the Mayor at the City Council Chamber at noon, and were accorded a civic welcome. There were present members of the Council, local members of Parliament, and a number of prominent citizens. The delegates were introduced by Mr. H. H. Loughnan.

The Mayor said he had much pleasure, on behalf of the citizens of Christchurch, in extending to the delegates a very hearty welcome (says the *Press*). The stay of the delegates was going to be very brief, but it was hoped that their recollection of Christchurch would be altogether pleasant. The delegates had already had an opportunity of seeing a good deal of the North Island, and they might perhaps understand why New Zealanders referred to their country very frequently as 'God's Own Country.' He thought that New Zealanders, perhaps better than the people of other countries, could understand the intense passion Irishmen had for their own country. The people in New Zealand were not conscious of any grievance against the Motherland, for she had granted absolute power of self-government, a power that was almost grotesque in its fullness. The freedom we had was so unique that under the protection of the British Navy we were able to develop our own affairs, make our own laws, and to do with our power some things which seemed to be in direct hostility to the interests of the Old Land. For instance, we used our power to develop our local industries under a system of protection that was entirely hostile to the development of the British industries, but we saw that if our people could be made prosperous and happy, that was the best guarantee for the promotion of affection and love towards the Old Country. That was a unique power, and he felt sure that a very large majority of the people of New Zealand looked forward to the day when the only local difficulty existing, so far as he could think of, in the whole Empire, would have passed away, and when absolute harmony would exist between all the peoples making up the British nation. Of course, one could expect to find differences of opinion in this country with regard to the visit of the delegates, but he felt he was right in saying there was very little of the old passion existing with regard to political and religious questions that unfortunately were a factor in past politics. He believed the old spirit of passion was dying, and people were beginning all over the world to know what freedom meant. He hoped that the ultimate purpose of the delegates' mission might be soon accomplished, and that the accomplishment of it would confer just as much honor upon the British Parliament as the granting of complete self-government to other countries had done. He referred particularly to Canada, Australia, New Zealand, and South Africa. In conclusion, the Mayor expressed the hope that the delegates would look back to their visit to Christchurch with feelings of intense satisfaction.

Mr. R. Hazleton, M.P., who was the first to reply, thanked the Mayor for the welcome words he had spoken, not merely with regard to the visit of the delegates to New Zealand, but with regard also to the great cause which they had the honor to represent in New Zealand at the present time. The welcome which they had received in Christchurch that day was only one more example of the kindnesses they had experienced on all sides, not merely from their own kith and kin in this country, but from people of a different race and different religion who had extended to them the hand of welcome, believing that the delegates came upon a great and noble work, in which, as lovers of liberty, they were free and ready and anxious to join with them. He was glad to think that what the Mayor had said with regard to the change in public opinion upon questions