

of religion and politics was true, and he was glad to think that it applied not merely to this country of New Zealand, but also to Ireland as well, and not only to Ireland, but to the other parts of the United Kingdom, and he thought it was largely due to that change that had come about in public opinion that the Irish question occupied the proud position which it did at the present moment, of standing upon the verge of success. The claims of the Nationalist party in Ireland had in the past been largely misunderstood, and although they had held out for Home Rule, they did not ask in Ireland, and did not expect to be given anything like the same freedom as the people of New Zealand possessed. The Mayor had spoken of the protection of the industries with regard to which there was a considerable tariff against England and the United Kingdom, but the Irish party did not ask under a system of Home Rule to be given the power of putting on tariffs against Great Britain, because in the first place that power would not be given to them, and in the second place, they did not consider that it would be necessary or desirable, inasmuch as under a system of Home Rule such as they had been fighting for, Ireland would still continue not merely to be a self-governing portion of the Empire, at large, but would also still continue to be part and parcel of the United Kingdom. Apart altogether from the object of their mission to the Dominion, it was of particular interest to them, being engaged in political work in the Old Country, to come out to a new land such as this and to study and examine the way in which the people had tackled their social problems. In many respects, New Zealand had shown an example to those at Home who were attempting to follow in the footsteps of the people here in dealing with the same problems. Of course, the New Zealanders had many advantages which the Irish people did not possess. They were people of a new country, and they had not to pull down; they had not the old bad traditions behind them as the people had at home. The statesmen at Home were attempting to follow the example set by the statesmen here, and that example led to the many great and sweeping social reforms which, since the advent to power of the Liberal Government in England, had been carried into operation in that country. They believed it was by the uplifting of the democracy at Home that social progress could best be secured, and it was therefore a very useful thing for people like himself to come out from the Old Country to see the good work the people had been doing in this direction in New Zealand.

Mr. W. A. Redmond, M.P., said that not only was it a great material support for the delegates to have the leading representatives both in political and municipal affairs at their back, but it was also a great moral support in the Old Country to the delegation. The Mayor was inclined to over-state the case of the Home Rule party. They did not ask for what the people had got in New Zealand; all they asked for was for local and domestic self-government. No one suggested that Home Rule should give the Irish people the right to raise a barrier of any sort or kind against their sister country of Great Britain. He had been much struck with the equality that existed in New Zealand, not only of temperament, but of wealth, and the democracy that was in existence in New Zealand was a far more ideal state of affairs than the democracy in existence in America.

Mr. J. Donovan said that what the delegates appreciated very much was that the Mayor should have come out plainly in support of the Nationalist cause. It showed that the Mayor was a man of fine character, of principle, and courage, when he could give expression, as he had done, to his conviction that not merely would the settlement of the Irish problem conduce to the prosperity and happiness of the Irish people, but that it would tend to consolidate and strengthen the Empire itself. The delegates had come out to New Zealand bearing a message of goodwill and good cheer to the people who were living in this land. They were in the happy position of being able to tell the people here that at last they had touched the heart and conscience of the great British democracy, and that within the next couple of years the cause they represented would be successful. The Irish party and people would ever have reason to feel extremely grateful to the people of New Zealand for the magnificent way in which they had rallied to their practical and moral support.

After the civic reception the Envoys were the guests of his Lordship the Bishop and Very Rev. Father Price, Adm., at the episcopal residence, where they were entertained to dinner, and met a number of the clergy.

#### THE PUBLIC MEETING.

A large and enthusiastic meeting was held in the Theatre Royal on Thursday evening to listen to addresses by the delegates (says the *Lyttelton Times*). The Mayor, Mr. T. E. Taylor, M.P., presided, and there were also on the platform his Lordship Bishop Grimes, Very Rev. Dean Ginaty, V.G., Very Rev. Dean O'Donnell, Very Rev. Father Price, Adm., Hon. J. Barr, M.L.C., Messrs. T. H. Davey, M.P., G. Laurensen, M.P., H. H. Loughnan, D. G. Sullivan, J. M'Combs, T. Ganes, F. Burgeyne, H. Hunter, W. R. Smith, and A. D. Hart.

#### The Mayor's Address.

The Mayor said that he had much pleasure in presiding at that evening's gathering. He had often wished, and he supposed many people living far away from the Old Country had also wished the same, that he could have heard at first hand some of the great men who were forcible

enough to help to mould the affairs of the British nation. That privilege had been denied them, but by way of compensation they had enjoyed many things the people of the Old Country did not enjoy. They were that evening to hear something of a great movement from men who had been at its centre, and who could tell them what they believed the merits of the question of Home Rule were. He thought his hearers would agree with him that the envoys on behalf of the Irish party who were present that evening had the honor of representing one of the most unique parliamentary parties ever possessed by any Parliament. The whole Irish question bristled with controversies, and differences of opinion of a very fierce and determined character were involved when the question of Home Rule was mentioned. But they could all do honor to men of eminence and remarkable power, and he had always personally felt keen admiration for one of the most fearless parliamentary leaders Great Britain had ever produced. He referred to the late Mr. Parnell. It might not be quite true, but it was very nearly true, that there was not a man in the British House of Commons during the life of Parnell who could approach him in his wonderful power of holding a party together, with the exception of the late Mr. Gladstone. The two men were in their ways the very opposite of each other, but they were probably the two most remarkable men who ever sat in the House of Commons together. He did not believe that any man who happened temporarily to occupy the office of Mayor of this city or any other city would be doing his duty if he declined to extend a welcome to men who represented a large parliamentary group such as that represented by Messrs. Hazleton, Redmond, and Donovan. He would go further and say that some of the very people in this country who might protest against their extending the hand of fellowship and cordial friendship to the men who were to speak that evening, would scream with indignation if any man in New Zealand had refused to take the chair for Mr. Balfour and some of that gentleman's colleagues on the Conservative side of English politics. He was always willing to do what he considered to be his duty on any great public question without fear or favor of any man or group of men. He had for many years past, on this great question of Home Rule, refused to mix up with the matter of political rights the matter of religious faith. He held that they had no right to refuse to men political freedom because of their religious faith. He believed that the cause of Home Rule was nearing its triumph, and that when it succeeded it would convert the British House of Commons into an Imperial Parliament, rather than a mixture of Imperial Parliament and a large local Board of Works. It was a remarkable thing that Great Britain, with her genius for teaching other nations the art of self-government, as evidenced by her work in India, Egypt and South Africa, should withhold the right of self-government from Ireland, and he could not help but believe that England was on the verge now of giving the Irish people what would really make a united people and a nation of the peoples making up the British Empire. It would mean the union of the English-speaking race, outside the United States, and that union, too, they hoped might come before long. The Empire at least would be composed of units, all having the rights belonging to manhood and nationhood, in a bond of union that nothing would ever break.

#### Mr. Hazleton's Speech.

Mr. R. Hazleton, M.P., opened his address by thanking those who attended the meeting in such large numbers, and those who had given his colleagues and himself such a hearty welcome to the city. He rejoiced in the fact that there were present that evening not merely their friends, their kith and kin, from Ireland, but men of all shades of political opinion and of varying nationality, to testify their belief in the cause of Home Rule for Ireland. He was also glad to see so many ladies present. If he were addressing a political meeting at Home he would be seriously alarmed by their presence, because he would be sure they would tackle him about votes for women. But there was no danger of that in New Zealand, where the ladies had votes, and he felt sure, exercised them wisely and well. He had heard stories about Christchurch. He had heard there were people in Christchurch who looked upon the delegates with grave suspicion, and who were inclined to look upon them as representatives of a system of anarchy and revolution. They had only to look at Messrs. Redmond and Donovan, to say nothing of the speaker, and judge for themselves whether they were representatives of revolution. His colleagues and himself were also accused of being the representatives of a system of religious intolerance, but, in spite of this, Christchurch had shown that it had a hand and a heart for Ireland and the cause of freedom. The Mayor and the other representatives men on the platform that evening had not allowed themselves to be deterred or intimidated from coming there by anonymous critics or anonymous bigots. The day when that would have been possible was past and gone. Not merely the people of the United Kingdom, but the people from end to end of the Empire, were coming to view the Irish question in its true and proper light. It had too long been viewed through a storm of prejudice, hatred, misunderstanding and misrepresentation. The fight against that had lasted for thirty years, but it had at last been conquered and beaten down. It was no longer possible either in Great Britain or in New Zealand to gain