

votes or raise prejudice with a cry against Home Rule and against Ireland. The Mayor had already referred to Charles Stewart Parnell, the man who more than anyone else was instrumental in changing this position of affairs. The work which Parnell so well began had been carried on with unflinching success and undaunted courage by the man who sat in the chair of the Irish Party of to-day, Mr. John Redmond. The speaker went on to say that he was sorry to read in one of the local newspapers a sneer at the men who had, with many sacrifices, been carrying on the movement for Irish freedom for the past thirty years. He did not object to criticism, but he thought he was entitled to protest when a newspaper, speaking of Irish members, said, 'They will remain at Westminster if they are allowed to, drawing the £400 a year.' He would like to inform the writer of that that the Irish party only last session passed a resolution asking that Irish members should be exempt from this £400 a year. He could remind that newspaper that never in the history of the party had any member betrayed his trust or his pledge, or taken bribe or position from the English Government. A great English journalist, Mr. W. T. Stead, had said, 'Were it not for a self-denying ordinance which disables Irish members from taking office of profit or honor, or asking for any such offices for their friends—were he in English politics, an English Liberal instead of an Irish Nationalist, Mr. John Redmond and not Mr. Asquith would be Prime Minister of England to-day.' The Irish members had received no rewards save the confidence and esteem of the Irish people at Home and abroad, and that they would continue to receive until once more they opened the doors of the Irish Parliament.

The remainder of Mr. Hazleton's speech was similar to those delivered by him in other centres, and at its conclusion the Mayor said he felt impelled to say, though as chairman he should hardly do so, that he would have been very sorry indeed if any political bias of his had prevented his hearing one of the most lucid and logical speeches he had ever heard from any public man.

Bishop Grimes's Speech.

Bishop Grimes said that he thought the audience had heard one of the most eloquent and logical addresses ever heard in Christchurch, and he desired to congratulate Mr. Hazleton on the speech he had made. He had put the Home Rule question before them in a different light, and it would serve to correct many false impressions held by a few people in the Dominion. Every Britisher and Imperialist, in the true sense of the words, should be in favor of Home Rule for Ireland, if only on the score of equality and justice. Surely the men who had worked so well for Great Britain, who had given their services at the Bar, on the Bench, and the battlefield, could be trusted to direct the destinies of Ireland and the Irish people. After the services of the Irish soldiers, it was due to them that Home Rule should be given them as a reward. He was surprised that the Irish party was asking for so little. There was no suggestion of separation, but merely that justice should be done to Ireland. The wounds of Ireland's wrongs had been open for years, and he thought that all Britishers should glory in healing them. There was, as Mr. Hazleton had said, no danger of any religious difficulty, and no question of the Catholic majority persecuting the Protestant minority. The Irish had given many proofs of their loyalty and their tolerance. In the early part of Queen Victoria's reign Daniel O'Connell, when there had been a threat that the young Queen would be molested, had declared that he would rally 10,000 men ready to shed their last drop of blood to protect her, and that when Ireland was being cruelly oppressed.

Addresses were also delivered by Messrs. Redmond and Donovan, on the same lines as those given by them in other centres.

Votes of Thanks.

Mr. G. Laurenson, M.P., moved a hearty vote of thanks to the speakers, and remarked that it was the third occasion on which he had moved such a motion at a meeting addressed by Home Rule delegates in New Zealand. Speaking on the question of Home Rule, he said that it was bitter irony that though the Irish had fought bravely in South Africa, had given their life's blood for the British Empire, and had seen the people who had been the Empire's enemies in that war, granted self-government, they had been refused it by the British Parliament.

The motion was seconded by Mr. D. G. Sullivan, and was carried amid tumultuous applause.

Mr. Hazleton responded on behalf of the delegates, and then moved a vote of thanks to the chairman.

The motion was seconded by Mr. H. H. Loughnan, and carried amid cheers, led by Mr. Redmond.

Mr. Loughnan announced that up to that time £270 had been collected in Christchurch, and there were still many subscription lists to come in.

On Friday the Mayor, Mr. T. E. Taylor, M.P., who was particularly kind to them from first to last whilst they were here, took the delegates for motor drives in the suburbs, and otherwise extended hospitality and cordiality towards them in a generous degree.

LINCOLN.

(From our Christchurch correspondent.)

A large and enthusiastic meeting was held in the Druids' Hall, Lincoln, on Friday evening, to listen to

addresses by the Irish delegates. Mr. R. W. Lockhead presided, and with him on the platform were Messrs. M. F. Ryan, M. Ryan, E. O'Rourke, and G. Cuneen. The addresses were on the same lines as those delivered in Christchurch on the previous evening.

At the conclusion of the meeting a hearty vote of thanks was accorded the speakers on the motion of Mr. R. McCartney, seconded by Mr. J. Docherty. Mr. W. A. Redmond responded, thanking the audience for the attentive hearing accorded the speakers. A collection taken up between the addresses realised £70.

At Lincoln the delegates were entertained to dinner by the Irishmen of the district, and taken out there and brought back by motor cars by the committee. At their meeting there the vote of thanks accorded was moved by a North of Island Protestant, and seconded by a North of Ireland Catholic.

On Saturday they were the guests of the Metropolitan Trotting Club at their meeting on the Addington grounds, and right royally entertained by the stewards. In the evening they were entertained to dinner at their hotel by committee representatives and others. In moving a vote of thanks to the Mayor for presiding, Mr. H. H. Loughnan said the success of the envoys' mission to Christchurch was assured when Mr. Taylor so cordially consented to take the chair at their public meeting.

Later in the evening, many of the old friends of the cause, and new found ones through the envoys' visit, saw them off by the Maori at Lyttelton, when returning to Wellington. Over £300 will be the net result of the envoys' visit to Christchurch.

This notice would be incomplete were not an acknowledgment made of the sterling and indeed strenuous work performed on behalf of the envoys' mission to Canterbury by the local secretary, Mr. E. O'Connor. No such splendid meeting as that in the Theatre Royal on Thursday night has ever before been seen here. The enthusiasm from the very first was wonderful. A remarkable feature, too, was that there was not even a symptom of interruption.

Auckland

By telegraph from our own correspondent.)

May 29.

The Irish envoys are expected to reach here on Thursday afternoon, and the greatest interest is displayed in their mission in city and province. The completed itinerary for the Auckland district is as follows:—Auckland City, June 2; Dargaville and Waiuku, June 5; Pukekohe and Te Aroha, June 6; Ngauruawahia, June 7; Thames, Whangarei, and Hamilton, all on June 8; Waihi, June 9; Rotorua, June 12; Te Awamutu, June 12; and Te Kuiti, June 13. The meeting at Gisborne has been indefinitely postponed. The envoys will have two days' rest here—Saturday and Sunday. Mr. Hazleton goes north on Monday, and speaks at Dargaville and Whangarei, while Messrs Redmond and Donovan, assisted by Councillor J. C. Gleeson, will attend the meetings south of the city. The envoys will dine with his Lordship the Bishop next Sunday.

Feilding

(From an occasional correspondent.)

Two of the envoys of the Nationalist Party, Mr. W. A. Redmond, M.P., and Mr. J. Donovan, arrived by the New Plymouth express train from Hawera on Thursday, the 18th inst., and were met at the station on arrival by members of the reception committee. Among those present were the Rev. Father O'Dwyer (chairman of the committee), Rev. Father Kincaid, Messrs. Cobbe, McManaway, Herlihy, McCarthy, P. Kelly (secretary), E. Goodbehere (Mayor), and D. H. Guthrie, M.P. The delegates were driven to the Feilding Hotel, where they were the guests of Mr. McManaway during their stay in the town.

'Whatever our individual opinions may be on the important question of Home Rule for Ireland, we ought to be thankful for the opportunity of hearing the Irish side of the question from these delegates to-night.' With these words the Mayor introduced the Irish delegates, Messrs. Redmond and Donovan, at the Drill Hall last night, when there was a moderately filled hall to hear the Home Rule case. The meeting occasionally rose to enthusiasm, and the delegates received a most cordial and favorable reception.

At the conclusion of the delegates' speeches, Mr. Fred Pirani said it was no unpopular thing now to support Home Rule, because everyone who knew anything about it believed in Home Rule. He referred to the fact that thirty-five years ago the best Premier of New Zealand—John Ballance—was an ardent supporter of Home Rule. He proposed the motion as follows:—'That this meeting of residents of Feilding and district is of opinion that in the best interests of the good government of the Empire, Home Rule or the right of self-government should be accorded to the people of Ireland.' With the Mayor, he welcomed the delegates, not so much for their own personal worth, but because they represented a movement which had stood the toughest times that any movement had ever had to face in the history of the world.

Mr. D. McCarthy seconded the motion, which was carried with one dissentient voice.