

Bro. F. J. Doolan (District Deputy), North Canterbury, on behalf of the branches in that district.

Mr. Hazleton, in responding to the toast, said he was coming back again to New Zealand, and after the kindness, consideration, and hospitality they had received, he thought he could say that he would be coming amongst friends. When he did come it would be on a holiday, after an Irish Parliament met at College Green. He desired to thank all those who had so largely contributed towards the success of their mission, particularly Mr. Martin Kennedy, the reception committee, and the Hibernian Society, and the ladies, for whose presence in such large numbers at their various meetings the envoys were exceedingly grateful. He also wished to express his appreciation of the newspaper press of New Zealand, which had exhibited, with one or two exceptions, which did not count, a spirit of toleration and broadmindedness, and fair play and justice. In his opinion, not merely had the press supported them in the most outstanding and splendid manner, but they ought to be proud of the press of New Zealand. It was a credit to the country and to the people of New Zealand. The speaker also thanked the public men of New Zealand for the sympathy they had exhibited, and in this connection spoke feelingly of the loss New Zealand had sustained by the death of Mr. T. E. Taylor, who had boldly advocated the cause of Home Rule at the Christchurch meeting. We will carry back the message to our Irish people that New Zealand stands to-day where it always stood, behind John Redmond, the Irish Party, and the Irish people, in their struggle for self-government.

Mr. W. A. Redmond also responded to this toast, and in a vigorous speech thanked the people of New Zealand for the kindness extended to them. He said he could find no English word to describe the spontaneity and extraordinary enthusiasm, support, and allegiance that they had given to the Irish Party. He thanked the Hibernian Society for the magnificent reception given them that evening, and reminded them that his uncle, Mr. William Redmond, was a very prominent member of their sister organisation, the Ancient Order of Hibernians in Ireland. In concluding Mr. Redmond thanked Mr. Martin Kennedy for the great work he had done for the Irish Nationalist Party.

Mr. Martin Kennedy was cordially welcomed in rising to propose the toast 'The Hierarchy and Clergy of New Zealand.' In moving the toast he paid a high tribute to the clergy for the part they had played in securing the success of the mission of the envoys.

His Grace Archbishop Redwood, in replying, said there were no more ardent Home Rulers in the world than the clergy of New Zealand, which was not composed entirely of Irishmen, but contained representatives of other parts of the Empire, all imbued with the same opinion and with the same sympathy for the cause which the envoys represented.

Bro. W. J. Feeney proposed the toast of 'The Ladies,' which was responded to by Sister K. Robinson (past president of the ladies' branch).

Bro. E. J. Fitzgibbon, LL.B., proposed the toast of 'The Press,' which Mr. Reeves of the *Evening Post* responded to.

In conclusion Mr. Hazleton asked Bro. Callaghan to leave the chair and requested the Hon. Sir Arthur Guinness to fill the vacancy whilst he moved a very hearty vote of thanks to the chairman (Bro. J. W. Callaghan), the secretary to the reception committee (Bro. J. J. L. Burke), and the secretary of the banquet committee (Bro. P. D. Hoskins). The motion was seconded by Councillor Fletcher. On his rising to put the motion Sir Arthur was enthusiastically received, and he declared the motion carried by acclamation.

The proceedings then terminated with the singing of 'God Save Ireland' and the 'National Anthem.'

During the evening the proceedings, which were throughout of an enthusiastic description, were diversified by a pleasant concert programme, contributed to by Mr. J. F. Carr, Miss Rose Segrief, Mr. P. L. Minifie, Mr. D. J. Kenny, Sister Maureen Griffin, and Mr. R. Sievers.

MANAIA.

A feature of Monday's meeting was the brilliant speech of Father Bergin, the youthful pastor of Manaia. How proud his people are of him! During the progress of his fine speech the face of his predecessor in the Manaia parish was a study in wonder and delight.

The *Waimate Witness* gives a full and appreciative report of the meeting, publishing the speeches of Mr. A. H. Christie (chairman of the Town Board), who occupied the chair, Mr. D. M. Scott, Mr. John Hunt (ex-Mayor), Mr. Stevenson, and the Rev. Mr. Stent (Anglican).

Mr. Redmond (the *Witness* continued) could not say how much they valued the literary speech and the fine sentiments of Mr. Stent. He was the best type of an Englishman, and he was the kind of man who helped to keep the Empire going in the over-seas Dominion.

At the conclusion of the public meeting a banquet was held in the supper room of the Town Hall, at which about one hundred people attended. There was a very fine programme, and some excellent speeches were delivered; indeed, the delegates were generally considered to have been heard to better purpose in this kind of unrehearsed speaking than they were in the early part of the evening. Amongst the speeches at the supper that of Father Power was, as usual, transcendent and stood out above everything else. He was the poet-orator, and his name at once elicited most enthusiastic applause. He was touched beyond expression by the reception he had received from his old parishioners, and he made no secret of the fact that he was proud that their old mutual love, which nothing in the past was able to diminish, was unaffected by absence. The outburst of applause which had greeted him that night was hitherto unexampled in his life, and was, he said, a magnificent testimony of the sterling worth of the fine men of the plains, for whom he held such a warm corner in his heart. At the conclusion of a splendid oration, mingled with most amusing anecdotes, there were cries of 'Bravo, Dungarvan,' and Mr. Redmond said, in some after remarks that Waterford had in Father Power an orator who maintained the finest traditions of the city from which the greatest of all Irish orators had come, Thomas Francis Meagher.

Rev. Father Bergin delivered a fine oration; Mr. D. J. Hughes also delivered a racy and clever speech, and Messrs. Brown (Okaiawa), P. Hammonds, and A. Franklin also gave addresses, and Mr. Byrne, of the *Waimate Witness*, spoke learnedly and eloquently on 'Irish Patriots, Past and Present.'

Speeches were also delivered by Rev. Father Duffy and Rev. Father Eccleton (St. Patrick's College). The toast of the 'Press' was responded to by Mr. Byrne of the *Witness*, and Mr. Williams of the *Star*, this concluding a function which will be long remembered by the people of Manaia.

OBITUARY

MR. P. D. O'CONNOR, TE AWAMUTU.

The remains of the late Patrick Daniel O'Connor (writes our Auckland correspondent) were interred in the Waikaraka cemetery, Onehunga, Very Rev. Father Mahoney officiating. The four brothers of the deceased acted as pall-bearers. Many residents of Te Awamutu and surrounding districts, including Rev. Father Tormey, at one time in charge of this parish, were present to pay their last tribute to the memory of one whose death has caused a gap that will be hard to fill. The late Mr. O'Connor arrived in Dunedin from Ireland in 1868, leaving immediately for the West Coast goldfields, where he followed mining for two or three years, when he, with his brother John, left for Gulgong, N.S.W. The two brothers were inseparable right up to the time of John's death a few months ago. From Gulgong they went to the Palmer River rush in Queensland. There they took up big contracts on the Queensland Downs water-finding and dam-building. With the introduction of artesian boring, but probably more on account of failing health, the O'Connor brothers returned to New Zealand in 1892, and settled in Te Awamutu.—R.I.P.