

H. A. C. B. S.

THE SIXTH ANNUAL MEETING

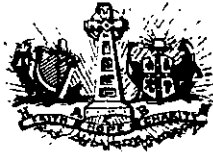
OF THE OFFICERS AND DELEGATES OF THE

OTAGO-CANTERBURY DISTRICT.

DUNEDIN

NASEBY

CHRISTCHURCH



INVERCARGILL

LAWRENCE

THE annual meeting of the District Board was held in St. Patrick's Hall, Christchurch, on January 19th, 1882. Present: The District Officers and Delegates from the Christchurch, Dunedin, and Lawrence Branches. Letters were read which explained the absence of the Naseby and Invercargill Branches. The usual fine was recorded against the Branches not represented.

The District President stated that, having received word from Bro. Taylor, who had gone for a short time to Australia, that he could not return in time for the meeting, the Board had therefore, for the time being, appointed Bro. D. O'Sullivan to fill the office of District Secretary.

Bro. D. O'Sullivan asked the indulgence of the meeting; having been only recently appointed, the time at his disposal had been too limited to allow of his furnishing the usual Report and Balance-sheet for the present meeting.

Bro. D. HOWARD, Delegate for Christchurch Branch, proposed, and Bro. P. MCSWIGGAN, Lawrence, seconded, "That we postpone the consideration of the Report and Balance-sheet, and proceed with the other business."—Carried.

A letter was read from the Registrar of Friendly Societies relative to the rules which had been forwarded to him by the late D.S. for his approval, in which it was stated that no opinion could be given until the rules were examined by the Revising Barrister, and this could be done only when they were sent up definitely for registration. The letter also contained a few practical suggestions respecting the registration of the Society.

Bro. D. HOWARD proposed, and Bro. P. MCSWIGGAN seconded, "That a committee consisting of Bros. C. Sexton, Christchurch Branch, D. O'Connell, Dunedin Branch, and the mover be appointed to carry out the suggestions contained in the Registrar's letter, and to consider other matters relative to the rules."—Carried.

The D.P. informed the meeting that the efforts of the officers to extend the Branches of the Society had not been so successful as they had wished. A draft letter was here read, from the late D.S. to his Lordship the Bishop of Wellington, concerning the extension of the Society to other towns in his Diocese. On the motion of Bro. D. HOWARD, seconded by Bro. G. O'CONNELL, it was decided that the letter be forwarded to his Lordship.

Correspondence was read from the Invercargill Branch requesting that the Delegates at the half-yearly and annual meetings be paid by the District Board instead of by individual Branches.

Bro. G. O'CONNELL said that that was also the wish of the Dunedin Branch, which he represented, as some of the smaller Branches could not easily bear the expense of Delegates, and consequently, were frequently unrepresented. He would therefore propose that the Delegates' fees at the annual and half-yearly meetings of the Executive Directory be paid out of the general fund. Seconded by Bro. D. HOWARD and carried.

Bro. G. O'CONNELL said that the Dunedin Branch was desirous that the revised rules should provide for a more equitable division of funds. Under the present arrangement the incidental fund was constantly becoming indebted to the Sick Fund. The matter was referred to the Rules Committee.

The Secretary read letters from the Napier, Charleston, Blenheim, and Nelson Branches, approving of an E.D. in New Zealand, and expressing a willingness to co-operate at an early date.

A discussion here took place as to the best method of investing the Society's funds. Finally Bro. D. HOWARD proposed, and Bro. G. O'CONNELL seconded, that the consideration of the matter be deferred till the next meeting.—Carried.

Bro. D. O'SULLIVAN suggested the advisability of establishing other Branches in Christchurch, Dunedin, and other centres, as a means of stimulating existing lodges, and of opening a wider field for intending members. After lengthy consideration the matter was held over for another meeting.

Bro. D. O'Sullivan having resigned as Auditor Bro. Sexton was appointed in his place. The meeting then adjourned for a fortnight.

ADJOURNED MEETING.

The adjourned meeting was held on the 2nd February; all the Officers and Delegates were present.

Bro. O'SULLIVAN explained that the report he was about to read had been prepared by Bro. Taylor before his departure, and prior to the receipt of the Registrar's letter.

The following report and balance-sheet were read and adopted: OTAGO-CANTERBURY DISTRICT H.A.C.B.S. REPORT OF THE OFFICERS OF THE ABOVE DISTRICT FOR HALF-YEAR ENDING.

Gentleman Brother Delegates,—

In presenting their report for the half year which has drawn to a close, your officers desire to express their regret that their efforts to extend the operations of the Society throughout the district, have not met with that success which, from the hopes held out to them by prominent Catholics in country districts and one or two of the parish priests, they might with reason have expected.

Concerning this matter correspondence is proposed with his Lordship the Bishop of Wellington, soliciting his countenance and aid, and praying for a standing authority to the priests of his Diocese for their encouragement of Branches in their parishes where parishioners are found to be willing to support them and the necessary qualifications exist. This correspondence will be submitted to you.

As shown by the report of an extraordinary meeting of Delegates, which has been circulated amongst the Branches, it was decided in September last to do away with the District Board, and establish in Christchurch an Executive Directory for New Zealand. Your Officers have, in accordance with resolutions passed at the meeting referred to, caused the rules as revised to be prepared for the inspection and approval of the Registrar General, and are ready for the printing and distribution to Branches as soon as the establishment of the Executive Directory shall have become an accomplished fact. They have been corrected to the letter as altered by the Delegates who met for the purpose, and were forwarded to the Registrar on the 5th of December.

Circular letters were also forwarded to all Branches of the H.A.C.B. Society throughout New Zealand (as previously reported) inviting them to unity with the E.D. to be established. Such replies as have been received will be submitted to you.

Owing to the deficiency in the Incidental District Fund, your Officers were reluctantly compelled to comply with the request embodied in a resolution which you will find in the report of the half-yearly meeting held in July, which desired that they should levy on the Branches for the meeting of any deficiency in that Fund, and in November last a levy of one shilling per member was made. This was necessary for the purpose of meeting the existing deficiency in the Fund, which in the face of the loss to the same of 2d. per member, could not otherwise be made good.

Your Officers also regret that the demands upon the Funeral Fund during the half year had been somewhat heavy, and they were compelled to apply to the Trustees for a transfer of £20 from the Reserve Fund to current account at the Band of New Zealand, Christchurch.

Your Officers have to report with deep regret that the ranks of the Society have been thinned by the death of Bro. Ford, of Invercargill, and Bro. Kearney, of Christchurch.

In conclusion we hope that in dealing with the business of the meeting which will be submitted to you, your deliberation will be marked by the same good feeling which has characterised the meeting of D.legates which have been held since we have had the honour of taking office.

J. JOYCE, District President.

F. MCSHERRY, District Vice-President.

D. O'CONNELL, District Treasurer.

E. J. MORTON TAYLOR, District Secretary.

Christchurch, January, 1882.