

was a splendid record, showing, as it did, £3063 5s to the good, and this notwithstanding that the funeral expenses during the year amounted to £170. Several of the branches had not sent in their quarterly returns, and he would move that the Bangiora branch be fined £10 for neglecting to furnish their returns, and that the Greymouth, Waipawa, Hastings, Oamaru, and Masterton be fined £5 each for the same dereliction. These fines would be remitted providing that the branches complied with the laws of the Society. The funeral fund he regarded as most flourishing, the credit balance being £127 1s 9d, whilst the credit balance of the incidental fund was £47. The president at some length referred to the business which was on the order paper, and expressed the hope that the various resolutions to be proposed would receive their gravest consideration. He expressed the hope that ere long the scope of the Society would be altered with a view to allow persons who were not Roman Catholics to join in the benefits of the Society. (Vice-president—Never!) Well, he might be in the minority, but this he would say fearlessly, that it was their duty—their imperative duty—to look after their wives and children, and how could they do that, how could they provide for their families and also for their own burial expenses unless their funds were sufficient for those purposes? At present their roll of membership was only sufficient to carry on for 20 or 30 years to come, unless their basis was enlarged so as to include non-Catholics. The question was a serious one, but he did not think he would be doing right unless he put the matter fairly before them. Should the Conference decide to alter the constitution of the Society, the latter would not lose its individuality, as they would still be Hibernians, but their scope and their usefulness would be enlarged. The president went on to refer to the malingering on the part of some of the members of several of the branches, and expressed the hope that this cause of reproach would soon be removed. Before concluding his speech, the president again referred to his remarks relative to his proposition to alter the constitution of the Society so as to admit non-Catholic members, and instanced the success which had been achieved by the Royal Irish Foresters, established in Australia not

A telegram was received from the Rev Father Lynch, of Dunedin, thanking the Conference, on behalf of Bishop Moran, for their sympathy. The Bishop desired Father Lynch to inform the Conference that he was slightly better to-day, and prayed that their deliberations would be abundantly blessed.

The District Secretary, A.O.F., Wellington, wrote on behalf of the Foresters of the district, conveying fraternal greetings.

Mr P. J. Nerheny (D.V.P.), moved, "That this Board recommend the District Officers to use their best endeavours to have section 16 of the 'Friendly Societies' Act, 1882,' so amended that a branch may not dissolve without the consent of the District Executive Officers (if such exist) to which it belongs." The mover, in a vigorous speech, pointed out that the Hokitika Branch dissolved and diverted the funds, to the disadvantage of the Society.

Mr P. Henley (Leeston) seconded the motion, which was carried.

Mr P. Kearney, District Secretary, in the absence of the delegate from Oamaru, moved—(a) "That general law 72, clause 8, be amended so that a candidate who has been elected, and who cannot conveniently attend on a branch night, may be initiated by the president at any other time of place."


Mr Courtney (Christchurch and Nelson) seconded the motion, which was supported by Messrs Paterson (Auckland) and J. Doherty (New Headford). The latter, however, objected to too much latitude being allowed as to the place of initiation.

Mr Henley (Leeston) proposed as an amendment that General Law clause 72 be amended so that "a candidate who has been elected—other than for a town where a branch exists—may be duly installed by the president or the installing officer at such officer's residence, at the meeting-room of the branch, or at any other time or place determined by a previous meeting of the branch."

The motion was lost and the amendment carried.

On the motion of Mr P. J. Nerheny, D.V.P., the following new rule was carried:—"That the widow of a deceased brother may continue her connection with the district by paying to the secretary of the branch to which her deceased husband belonged, the sum of 3s within twenty-one (21) days from the date of his decease, and 3s

# CARTER'S GREAT SALE

 SPECIAL. — C. & CO. have just Purchased from the local Wholesale Houses over £3000 New Goods at one-half the usual price, for prompt cash.

## BARGAINS IN ALL DEPARTMENTS.

long ago. That Order was not purely a Catholic society, but was open to all Irishmen and their descendants.

The Very Rev Dr Watters, rector of St. Patrick's College, wrote on behalf of the Faculty and students of the College, inviting the delegates to visit the College on Thursday evening next—The invitation was cordially accepted.

A telegram was received from the Christchurch branch wishing success to the deliberations of the Conference.

The district officer's report was read and adopted after a short discussion. The salient points in the report were alluded to in the president's speech, and therefore it is unnecessary to enter upon the details.

It was resolved that a letter of condolence be sent to the rector of St. Patrick's College on the loss his staff has sustained by the death of the Rev Father Carolan.

The district treasurer moved—"That a centralised district sick fund be formed." After considerable discussion it was resolved—"That the members of the District Board, while approving of this scheme, believe it should be referred back to the branches before being finally adopted, and that it be brought up again at the next half-yearly meeting."

At the evening sitting the district treasurer moved—"That, as it has been demonstrated by competent authorities that the scale of charges at present in force is inadequate to meet the benefits promised, be it therefore resolved that one penny per week extra be paid to the sick fund by all benefit members, from 1st January, 1894, in order to meet accruing liabilities." Bro. Dennehy (Timaru) moved as an amendment—"That members who were 25 years of age and over at the time of entry, and who are at present paying one shilling per week, should be charged one penny per week extra to the sick fund." This was lost by 13 to 10, and the original motion was also lost by 19 to 4.

The Conference was resumed on Wednesday morning.

Fraternal greetings were received from the Conference of Friendly Societies at present being held at Auckland.

quarterly in advance, the amount, with the names of all such widows, to be returned to the district secretary with each quarterly return as in the case of members, and that on her decease, duly certified, if she remains his widow, her representative shall receive the sum of ten pounds (£10). Any widow neglecting her payments for a period of six (6) months shall forfeit all claim on the district or branch, and shall not be allowed to rejoin."

A further telegram was received from H. H. Garrett on behalf of the Friendly Societies' Conference at Auckland, conveying fraternal greetings.

Motions 10 and 11 were ruled out of order by the president as being *ultra vires*. The motions referred to were as follows:—"That in order to obtain more direct representation of the branches at the annual and half-yearly meetings of the District Board, that all the future meetings of the District Board be held in Wellington." "That in order to secure direct representation it is essential that movable meetings of the District be held in some central place at intervals of not less than two years." That it is desirable to have two District Boards established in New Zealand, one in the North Island, and one in the South Island."

Mr Courtney (Christchurch) moved the following resolution, which was seconded by Mr Nelson (Christchurch):—"That Law 84 be amended, the following to be inserted after clause 11:—"Any member suffering from certain diseases shall not be entitled to sick pay until such time as he proves to the satisfaction of the judicial committee that the disease was contracted other than by means of his own misconduct. On proof of his innocence he shall be paid his sick pay from the time he claimed, in accordance with the laws of the Society."

Mr James Flynn (District Treasurer) moved an amendment to the effect that no sick pay be granted to any brother contracting the diseases referred to in the motion, no matter how contracted.

Mr D. Flynn (Auckland) seconded the amendment.

After discussion, the amendment was accepted as an addition to the original motion, which was lost by 14 to 4.