

Mr S. Fairweather (Auckland) moved, and Mr Henley (Leeston) seconded—"That the following clause, to be named No 11, be added to General Law 94, viz: Any branch of one district issuing a clearance, and which has been accepted by a branch of another district shall forward to the branch accepting such clearance an amount equal to the entrance fee of a member of the same age as the member joining by clearance at the time of acceptance, or forward a surrender value of the claim he might have on the branch from which he draws his clearance." This was carried.

Mr Birch, district treasurer of the A.O.F., attended the Conference, and was warmly welcomed. Mr Birch said the officers of his Order in Wellington would have officially visited the Hibernian Conference had they received sufficient intimation of the fact that the Conference would be open to the members of Friendly Societies and to the public generally. Speaking as an individual member of his Order, he should like to see Foresters throw open their doors at district meetings. Mr Birch also remarked that he was in favour of the centralisation of the sick fund, and also of the resolutions passed by the Hibernian Conference at the present sitting relating to widows.

Mr. F. Denneby (Timaru) moved—"That all members and their wives who joined the Society prior to 1891 shall be entitled to funeral benefits, notwithstanding the absence of or irregularity in any of the necessary certificates."—The motion was agreed to unanimously.

The following amendments of laws by E.D. were agreed to:—  
1. "That General Law 7, Clause 1, be amended by striking out the words 'and from the Deputies thereto,' and insert the following words, 'by the Deputies and E.D. officers present and at such meeting.'" 2. That the qualifications of C.P. shall be, having served previous to election as D.C.P. or P.C.P., out of office twelve months C.S., or District P.P. 3. For D.C.P., C.T., and C.S. shall be, having served in some District Executive Office for a term of twelve months, 4. If any member be afflicted with insanity, permanent debility, infirmity, or loss of sight, so as to be disabled from following any occupation, and he be provided for in some place of refuge, no sick pay shall be allowed unless he has a wife, child, or other relative dependent on him for support, when the amount due shall be applied for their relief and maintenance, but in all such cases the member shall be kept good on the books from the Sick and Funeral Fund."

In accordance with the recommendation of the district officers, a deputation, consisting of the District Executive officers and Bro Henley (Leeston), was appointed to wait upon the Government relative to an increased rate of interest for the Society's deposits.

It was decided, on the casting vote of the President, that the next annual movable meeting of the Board should be held in Auckland.

On the motion of Mr Henley, seconded by Mr Nelson, it was resolved that one of the trustees and a district officer should visit Christchurch for the purpose of enquiring into the condition of the society's property in that city.

Accounts amounting to £25 11s were passed for payment.

The following gentlemen were elected office-bearers:—District president, Bro Nerheny; vice-district president, Bro W. Kane; district secretary, Bro Kearney (re-elected for the sixth time); district treasurer, Bro James Flynn (re-elected for the eighth time). The installing officer was Past District President Bro D. Flynn. The newly installed officers received the blessing of the chaplain, the Rev Father Goggan, and returned their thanks for the honour conferred upon them.

Mr W. Beehan moved that a suitable souvenir be presented to Bro D. Flynn, retiring past district president, for the admirable way in which he has filled various offices during the past three years. This was agreed to.

District Secretary Kearney (Auckland) moved, and Mr Henley (Leeston) seconded, the following resolution, which was carried after a discussion:—"That having heard the remarks made by the district president in his opening speech regarding the admission of non-Catholics into the Society, as the officers and delegates assembled, while we hold the greatest respect for our non-Catholic fellow-colonists and their several friendly society institutions, must keep within the constitution and laws of our society, and must repudiate any such intention as expressed by the district president."

A cordial vote of thanks to the Press representatives for attending the conference was carried.

The usual compliments to the chair, vice-chair, and retiring officers were agreed to, and the Rev Father Goggan (district chaplain) having pronounced the benediction, the conference closed at 10.30 p.m.

The district officers and delegates were entertained at a banquet at the Princess Theatre on Thursday evening. District President Bro. Nerheny presided, and he was supported by the Very Rev Dr Watters, Rev Father Goggan, Bro. Ryland (president of the Wellington branch), Past District President Beehan, Dr Cahill, Messrs J. J. Devine and Kennedy, and Father Lane. There was a large attendance of Hibernians and of representatives of the various friendly societies. Mr J. Kelly was the caterer, and provided an abundant and excellent repast. The toast of "Pope and Queen"

having been duly honoured, Bro. Bohan proposed the health of the District Officers and delegates, District President Ryland responding, and in doing so thanked the Wellington officers heartily for the efforts put forward to make their stay in Wellington pleasant, profitable, and bright. Their first movable meeting had proved most successful. District Secretary Denneby also responded, complimenting particularly the Auckland officers. The District Past President, Bro. Beehan, proposed the toast of "The Government of New Zealand," speaking highly of Mr Ballance, Mr Seddon, and Sir Patrick Buckley. His own opinion was that this was the best Government New Zealand had had. Bro. S. Watters, of the Manchester Unity, I.O.O.F., made a humorous response, in which he said that, on behalf of the Premier, he could assure them that this Government intended to bring in a Bill to give every friendly society 24s in the £1 on its funds, as in the case of charitable aid. Bro Henley proposed "Kindred Societies," and in doing so said there was much misapprehension as to the Hibernian Society. Many had an idea that it was a secret society, but as they had shown in the district meeting just closed they had no secrets. They courted publicity, and threw the meetings open to the Press and public, and so it was in every meeting. Bro S. Watters responded, counselling co-operation of all societies in a common bond of brotherhood. Bro Higginbottom, I.O.O.F., who also responded, strongly condemning the Railway Employee's Insurance Bill. Bro Wills, of the A.O.O.F., also condemned the Bill, unless friendly societies were to receive similar benefits in subsidies. Governments did not encourage friendly societies as they should, as if they did, people would help themselves more, instead of looking for charity. Bro J. Rash, representing the Rechabites expressed his pleasure at being present. Mr J. J. Devine proposed the toast of the "Chaplain and Clergy of the Diocese," speaking most highly of the Rev Father Goggan, who responded, and read a letter of apology from Archbishop Beowood and the Very Rev Father Devoy, V.G. Father Goggan made an eloquent speech. The Rev Father Lane also responded. The toast of "The Press" was proposed by Bros Grant Kearney, who spoke highly of the treatment of the district delegates by the Wellington Press; and "The Ladies" was dealt with by Bros Denneby and Flynn. Songs were given by various gentlemen. The committee which had the carrying out of the arrangements consisted of Bros Leasington (secretary), Robinson, Lindsay, Stratford, Bradley, and M'Lauchlan.

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A New York paper announces that Lord Wolseley will visit America in the autumn. This may be as true as the statement in the same journal that his lordship is "a tall man, with huge red whiskers and a very fierce expression of countenance!"

Spanish seems to be destined to be the most widely spoken language after English, Russian third, French fourth, and German fifth. If Brazil ever has a population commensurate with its area, Portuguese will be spoken by more people than German. War may change the destinies of the Russian and German languages to a large extent, and may change the destinies of French in a smaller degree, but it is difficult to see how it can change the destinies of English and Spanish. One will be the language of Britain, Australasia, the United States, and British dependencies; the other will be the language of Mexico and most of South America.

The business of manufacturing public opinion is becoming a fine art. One way is for a newspaper to employ on its staff a person who writes to three or four other papers; it matters not how obscure the other papers may be. He expresses the same opinion in all of them and then reprints the whole lot in his own paper and calls them "Press comments." Another way is to write several letters each with a different pen-name, but all expressing the same opinion. You can write the letters to different papers, to your own, if you have one. The only drawback to this kind of manufactured public opinion is that it has not the influence in the ballot-box that is generally supposed. The influence of the Press, even, or perhaps we ought to say especially, the metropolitan Press, consists largely in having the power to suppress adverse criticism and to manufacture support.—*Orange Leader.*