

AUSTRALASIAN IRISH RACE CONVENTION

SOCIAL FUNCTIONS.

The first of the social functions in connection with the Convention took place in the Fitzroy Gardens, when fully 10,000 people attended the band recital given by the St. Augustine's Orphanage Band (Geelong) under the baton of the bandmaster, Mr. Percy Jones.

During the afternoon his Grace the Archbishop of Melbourne and several of the visiting prelates were present and received a hearty welcome from the largest gathering perhaps ever witnessed at such a function in Melbourne.

Conversazione at Melbourne Town Hall.

On Tuesday evening, November 4, the Melbourne Town Hall was the scene of one of the most brilliant functions ever held in Melbourne. The hall, with its festoons of colored electric lights and national flags, made a most effective background to a really artistic scheme produced by the blending of colors in the costumes worn on the occasion.

The musical programme, which was of the highest order, was as follows:—Organ recital, "Irish Airs," Miss G. S. Anderson; song, "Our Land," Mr. Ambrose McMahon; song, "Perle du Brazil," Miss Eileen Castles; songs (a) "Down Here" (b) "Bells or Shandon"; flute (a) "Dreamy" (b) "Polonaise," Mr. John Amadio; song, "Last Rose of Summer," Miss Eileen Castles; Ariosa Canio, "Pagliacci," Mr. Walter Kirby; this was prefaced by the bugle call, given by Mr. Percy Jones; songs, "O'Donnell Aboo" and "The West's Awake," Mr. Ambrose McMahon; fantasia, "De Concert," Mr. John Amadio. Miss Agnes O'Keefe was at the piano.

Refreshments were served during the evening, and dancing was enjoyed until midnight, Allietti's band supplying the music.

Visit to Newman College.

The final syllabus item of the Convention was a crowning success to the brilliant functions arranged for the entertainment of visitors. Leaving the Federation office a party of about 100 visited Newman College on Thursday afternoon, where they were received by the Very Rev. Father Rector, who, in a short address of welcome, said that the institution to which it was his unbounded pleasure to welcome them to was the college which stood as a monument of Catholicity and Catholic generosity. A sum approximating £90,000 had been subscribed by the Catholic people. The wisdom of establishing such a college could not be over-estimated, as its walls and atmosphere were a safeguard to Catholic young men and women during the very perilous period of university studentship. The architecture was unique, and the workmanship unequalled for modern convenience. About 60 students were at present being accommodated, that being the capacity of the college, and in the very near future it would be necessary to carry out extensive additions.

The party was then conducted through the college by Father Ryan. Every turn in long monastic corridors presented a new phase of the equipment, winning words of enthusiasm and praise. The temporary chapel, the refectory with its wonderful dome, the laboratories, lecture halls, and elaborate baths in turn won praise and admiration from the visitors.

Afternoon tea in the corridors was the occasion of an expression of thanks by Mr. Ryan, M.L.C. (Queensland) on behalf of the delegates to Very Rev. Father Rector for his kindness. Mr. Ryan expressed the hope that the college would be effective in stimulating enthusiasm into the Catholic professional life of Melbourne that would assure a continuance in the fine spirit of Catholicity evidenced in Victoria to-day. (Applause.)

On behalf of inter-State delegates Mr. Ryan said he wished to formally express his admiration and gratitude to Mr. Joseph Sheedy for the magnificent services he had rendered the Catholic Church, and also the cause of Ireland. (Loud applause.) After cheers were given for the Rector and Mr. Sheedy, Father Rector briefly thanked the visitors, and in reply to calls for a speech Mr. Sheedy tendered his thanks, adding that whatever worry or work he had in the preparation of the Convention he was more than repaid by the knowledge of its success and the thought that he had been able to do effectively something to help adjust the wrongs of Ireland. (Applause.)

Delegates Entertained to Dinner.

On Wednesday evening (5th) the Executive Council of the Australian Catholic Federation entertained a number of the visiting delegates to dinner at the Cafe Francais. The president (Mr. G. W. Vanheems) presided, and a short toast list was honored.

Though short speeches were the order of the evening, many interesting points dealing with the aims and objects of the Federation were touched upon by the various speakers, who one and all expressed a sincere hope that by the contemplated establishment of the organisation in Queensland and West Australia in the near future a chain of Federations from one end of Australasia to the other would be an accomplished fact. The inter-State delegates paid a special tribute to the Victorian general secretary (Mr. J. H. Kennedy) and his staff for the many acts of kindness extended to the visitors during their stay in Melbourne.

During the evening a number of vocal and elocutionary items were contributed by Messrs. Ambrose McMahon, Gerald Fitzmaurice, and the Rev. Father Tighe.

MARIST BROTHERS' SCHOOL, AUCKLAND.

A banquet was tendered to the A and B teams of the Vermont Street School and to the fifth grade M.B.O.B. last Saturday night week (writes a correspondent). There were over 60 boys and quite a representative gathering of friends and supporters, including representatives of the Auckland Rugby Union, the public school teachers, and Ponsonby, Bayfield, and Newton East Schools. Rev. Brother Calixtus, who presided, welcomed the visitors, and thanked all for the interest shown in the boys. He particularly thanked the Rugby Union and referees for the kindness, help, and courtesy shown to the Schools' Union during this year. Auckland had (he said) a Rugby Union of which it ought to be proud. Mr. Wetherill, president of the Referees' Association, congratulated the boys on their win. They were noted as boys who played the game for the game's sake, and their conduct was always above reproach. Mr. Webster (Rugby Union) advised the boys to stick to the amateur game, and to play for the Old Boys of their own school. Mr. Hayson, secretary of the Primary Schools' Rugby Union, complimented the team not only on its skill on the field, but also on its conduct. The Vermont Street boys amongst the representatives were always splendidly behaved. Mr. D. Flynn said he was naturally proud that his son was captain of such a team. He had seen the boys in two or three games, and was much struck by the business-like way they went at their work. Mr. Gourley (who had with Mr. O'Brien seen all the matches), Mr. O'Brien, Mr. Roylance, and Mr. Grevatt, sen., also spoke in complimentary terms of the season's play. Mr. M. O'Connor, on behalf of the M.B.O.B., urged the lads to play Rugby and not to divide forces. Brother Calixtus thanked the speakers for their kind words. The team had done well. Only one of last year's A team was playing in the team this year. They had played 12 matches and lost none, scoring 247 points to 21. This was the third successive year they had won the A grade. They played the pick of six schools in the North Auckland district, and won by 14 points to nil. The team also supplied the two five-eighths of this year's representative team, admittedly the best team that had ever represented Auckland schools. There was no seven-a-side this year, but Mr. Donald had very kindly donated 17 handsome medals to the team. The gold medal for the best player was awarded to W. Flynn, and another to L. Brown for his splendid all-round work. R. Borehan won the medal for the best forward. The school for the third year in succession are holders of the D.C.L. Cup, and are to get a set of caps from the Rugby Union. The B team did well, coming third in the C grade. The fifth grade, composed mainly of last year's champions, won the grade, and are to get caps from the Rugby Union. The function ended with cheers for the school, the Rugby Union, and all supporters, especially Messrs. D. Flynn and Gourley, who collected to send the boys for a trip, and Mr. Donald, who donated the medals, and the ladies who so kindly helped.

The annual road race of the Vermont Street boys was run last week. There was a record entry. The senior was won by A. McMahon from scratch. The junior was won by W. Moore. Peter McMahon fastest time in the junior.

Eternity is crying out to you louder and louder as you near its brink. Rise, be going. Count your resources; learn what you are not fit for, and give up wishing for it; learn what you can do, and do it with the energy of a man.

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