

Parliament he would have no fear for her triumph in the immediate future, and he was convinced that the present unnatural differences would be settled in the desire to further National interests. That cause, which had cost so much sacrifice, had at last seen the blessed day when the war was over, the battle ended, and Ireland free.

Sir Joseph Ward's Speech.

Sir Joseph Ward, proposing the toast of the chairman, said Mr. Redmond had earned a great reputation as a wise and courageous leader. His name would ever be honorably associated with the history of his country and its great struggle for freedom. With unflinching courage and loyalty to his race and country, he had brought Home Rule closer and closer to realisation than it had been since the movement started, a movement which assuredly would soon be converted into a win. He (Sir Joseph) had lived in British self-governing countries all his life, and the great majority of the public men had been sincere and earnest supporters of Home Rule for Ireland. It mattered not whether they were Englishmen, Scotsmen, or colonial born, or whatever their creed, with rare exceptions they were supporters of Home Rule. The Prime Ministers with whom he attended the last two Imperial Conferences were all, by honest conviction, supporters of, and believers in, Home Rule for Ireland. Nor could it be wondered at, for they lived in countries where Home Rule existed, and where, under the widest freedom, the feelings of loyalty to the Sovereign and the British Empire had not only never weakened, but had grown stronger and stronger as the years had rolled by. He had heard it said that Ireland's nearness to England put it in a different position to that of the free young rising nations across the sea. He was unable to subscribe to or admit the soundness of that doctrine. He wanted to see all parts of the British Empire working unitedly in the interests of the whole. There was no room for an ugly wound near to the very heart of the Empire to be kept open. The festering sore should be healed with as little delay as possible. Having referred to the beneficent effect the granting of Home Rule would have as between this country and America, Sir Joseph said when he was Prime Minister of New Zealand he stood on the platform by the side of the Irish delegates and supported their eloquent appeals on behalf of their fellow-countrymen. He was responsible for New Zealand giving a Dreadnought to the Imperial Navy. What of the attitude of the so-called enemies of England? Not an Irishman in New Zealand took the slightest exception to the presentation of that Dreadnought, but willingly bore his portion for supplying it. In Canada, Australia, South Africa, Newfoundland, and the Malay Straits the Irish race and their descendants were greater in numbers than they were in Ireland to-day, and they were willingly co-operating with their English and Scottish kinsmen in helping to build up and preserve this great and glorious Empire. He knew there was a strong feeling existing between the men of the North of Ireland and the Irish Nationalists upon the question of an Irish Parliament. It was a thousand pities it was so, and everything possible should be done to show there was no ground for the fears they entertained. If he thought an Irish Parliament meant any danger to the minority, or any interference with their religious convictions, he would be one of the strongest opponents of Home Rule. He did not believe it was possible for anything of the kind suggested to happen. As one who wanted to see conditions existing within the Empire which would make for unity and strength, he would do much to see Ireland satisfied. It was necessary in the interests of Ireland, of the overseas Dominions, and of the whole civilised world.

When Mr. Webster wrote of Woods

He said, with graphic ease:

That Woods were mostly timber,

And were all composed of trees.

But if Mr. Webster lived to-day

He'd find a meaning newer,

For 'Woods' to millions simply means

The Woods' Great Peppermint Cure.

BAZAAR AT METHVEN

(From an occasional correspondent.)

For the purpose of liquidating the debt in connection with the establishment of the new parish of Methven, and the building of a handsome convent in brick, opened last February, a bazaar was held in the Methven Town Hall from April 12 to 22 inclusive. This being the first bazaar of its kind ever held in Methven, it proved a great attraction to the general public, who attended in large numbers every night, and contributed most liberally.

The opening ceremony was performed on Saturday afternoon, April 12, by Mr. W. J. Dickie, M.P., who complimented the Catholics of Methven on what, he said, was the best and largest bazaar he had ever been called upon to open in the district. He concluded by wishing the bazaar every success.

From every point of view the bazaar proved to be an unqualified success, due principally to the untiring energy and zeal displayed by those connected with its organisation. The stallholders and assistants, though unaccustomed to work of this nature, proved themselves more than equal to the task. It may be mentioned here that they were only given two months' notice to prepare for the fair. Donations in the shape of works of art, which were much appreciated, were given by the Sisters of Mercy at Greymouth, Westport, Hokitika, Wellington, Christchurch, Lyttelton, Blenheim, and Akaroa; Sisters of the Missions (Ashburton), Sisters of the Sacred Heart (Timaru), the Sisters of St. Joseph (Temuka), the Sisters of the Good Shepherd (Mt. Magdala), and by several friends in different parts of the Dominion. Musical items were contributed each evening by the convent school children, specially trained for the occasion by the Sisters, on whom they reflected great credit, also by Mrs. Golding, Mrs. Ryan, Misses M. O'Connor, McKendry, O'Connell, Cullen; Messrs. Whitelock, Taylor, and Gillespie, and the Ashburton Temperance Band. During the progress of the festival several competitions were held, including a tug-of-war, which created great excitement and interest. The winning team was Eifleton (Ashburton). A comic singing competition was won by Mr. F. Whitelock.

The following is a list of stallholders and assistants:

Britannia.—Mesdames T. Nee, H. Kennedy, T. O'Rielly; assistants, Mrs. Morrison, Misses Nohelty, Kennedy (2), O'Connell, Tully, and Sloan.

Hibernian.—Mesdames D. McKendry, T. Twomey, J. Buckley, P. McNeill; assistants, Misses Twomey, McKendry (3), O'Connor (2), O'Brien.

Caledonia.—Mesdames H. Cullen, D. Golding, C. McIntosh, McAnulty, J. Ryan; assistants, Misses Cullen (2), Dowling, McCrenor (3), Middleton (4), Goodwin, Johnston (2), Poff, K. Ryan.

Zealandia.—Mesdames W. J. Nee, P. McGirr, sen., M. McKay; assistants, Mesdames Mannion, Eagan, Compton, Misses Lacey, Blackmore, O'Shea (2).

Jumble Sale and Sweet Stall.—Miss Conneys; assistants, Misses Cullen (2) and Mannion.

Mr. J. Laursen was hon. secretary, and Messrs. J. Buckley and McAnulty acted as doorkeepers.

On Wednesday evening, April 23, a very successful complimentary social was tendered to the stallholders, assistants, and others. Very Rev. Dean O'Donnell (Ashburton) was present.

Rev. Dr. Kennedy, in an appropriate speech, paid a grateful tribute to the stallholders and assistants for their untiring efforts in bringing to such a successful conclusion what was undoubtedly a record for bazaars in country centres. It gave him, and he was sure also every person in the community, very great pleasure to be in a position that night to say that the object for which the festival had been promoted had been more than fully realised, the gross receipts being £672. He was pleased to say that the new convent was free of debt. To one who had only worked in the new parish for the comparatively short period of eight months, it was indeed very gratifying to see that so much had been accomplished, and for this he had to thank everyone who had contributed directly and indirectly to the success of the bazaar.

W. Morrish & Co. THE LEADING HOUSE FOR FOOTWEAR, GREYMOUTH. One of the Most Miserable Feelings is that of uncomfortable feet. You cannot expect to have ease and comfort for your feet unless you wear properly-made Footwear, and there are no Boots or Shoes on sale to-day that excel in any one particular those stocked by us. Better than the best you cannot buy.