

and Bro. N. Smith appointed to fill the office for the ensuing term. Regret was expressed at the president (Bro. E. Carroll) not allowing himself to be nominated again for that office. Bro. F. J. Bunny declined nomination as president, but consented to continue holding the office of secretary. Several were nominated for each of the other offices. At a previous ordinary meeting Messrs. E. Carroll and J. Toal were elected auditors.

The first half-yearly meeting of the branch was held in St. Joseph's Schoolroom on Monday evening, December 15, 1873, at which the secretary read a letter from Bro. Edward Carroll, the retiring president, in which he expressed his regret at not being able to be present, and desired to thank the members for the respect which they had shown to him and to his ruling during his term of office, and expressed his satisfaction with the good-will that had hitherto existed amongst the members. The election of officers for the ensuing six months resulted as follows:—President, Bro. Robert Carroll, being the only candidate, was installed into his office, in the absence of the past-president, by the retiring warden, Bro. C. E. Bunny. For the offices of vice-president and secretary, Bros. C. E. Bunny and Fred J. Bunny respectively, being the only candidates, were declared duly elected. For the office of treasurer the only candidate, Bro. Nicholas Smith, announced that owing to business arrangements necessitating his departure from Dunedin, he could not accept office. Bro. Smith's decision was received with great regret. Bros. Joseph Meenan and James Toal were nominated to the vacant office. Bro. P. Bourke was elected warden, and Bro. J. Moloney, guardian. Bros. J. Meenan and Edward Downey were elected auditors. The president appointed Bro. J. J. Connor his right, and Bro. J. Donnelly his left-hand supporter.

The vice-president appointed Bro. J. Cantwell his right, and Bro. D. Tiernay his left-hand supporter.

On the motion of Bro. Cantwell a vote of thanks was passed to the retiring officers and a special vote of thanks to the past-president (Bro. E. Carroll), with an expression of regret at his illness.

Amongst other business was a lengthy discussion on a motion (which was defeated)—“That it is desirable that steps should be taken to obtain a room to meet in.”

The balance sheet showed a credit of £94 7s 11d, and the evening's receipts amounted to £8 15s.

The *Tablet* in publishing the report said: “We must congratulate St. Joseph's branch, No. 73, on the progress it has made.”

A record dated December 27, 1873, says:—

“Last Sunday morning the members of St. Joseph's branch attended first Mass at St. Joseph's Church, and received Holy Communion in a body; every member, with the exception of three or four who were unavoidably absent, was present. They met in the schoolroom at 7.45, and thence marched in order to the Church, the front rows of the middle seats having been kindly reserved for them by his Lordship the Bishop. The officers wore their regalia, and the members had a small green rosette pinned on their left breasts in lieu of sashes, which have not yet been received from Melbourne. It was gratifying and pleasing to see members approaching the altar in union, and offering up their Communion for the intentions of the society.”

THE BRANCH ENTERS ITS SECOND YEAR.

A summoned meeting of the branch was held on Monday evening, January 12, 1874, when, among other business, transacted “It was resolved that steps should be taken to obtain two flags for the branch before St. Patrick's Day, and a committee consisting of Bros. J. J. Connor, M. Dormer, and J. Moylan was appointed for the purpose of fixing upon the designs, etc.”

Bro. Fred J. Bunny gave notice that he move at the next meeting:—“That it is desirable to establish a ‘Juvenile Contingent’ in connection with the branch, as provided by a clause added to Rule LXXX., and passed at the annual moveable meeting of the society held at Sandhurst last February.” At another summoned meeting—summoned meetings appeared to be the common procedure in those days—held subsequently, the above resolution was seconded by Bro. J. J. Connor and carried unanimously.

Dr. Cole was elected medical attendant in place of

Dr. Bakewell. At each meeting a steady increase in membership by initiation and transfer was noted.

It was resolved at a summoned meeting held on February 23, 1874, to celebrate St. Patrick's Day with a dinner, the tickets for which were fixed at 10/6 each. Mr. John Carroll, of the Hibernian Hotel, was commissioned to supply the dinner in “his best style.” This function, apparently, ultimately partook of something on more popular lines. March 17, therefore, saw not only the due celebration of the feast of Ireland's patron saint, but also the first anniversary of the foundation of the society in Dunedin. “This,” said the report of the function published at the time, “took the shape of a supper, which was given with the two-fold object on the evening of the 17th. in the schoolroom attached to St. Joseph's Church. It is but twelve months since the Dunedin branch was instituted, and the number of members already on its roll is somewhat considerable; while, judging from the muster and interest displayed in its welfare by those attending its celebration, there is every prospect of its being largely increased. The president (Bro. Carroll) occupied the chair, on his right and left being the vice-president and secretary; while the vice-chair was filled by Mr. Perrin, of St. Joseph's School. The attendance was far more than was expected, between 150 and 200 persons being present.”

Then followed a detailed description of the elaborate decorations, the musical programme, and the speeches made during the honoring of the lengthy toast-list, the toasts proposed being on the lines so favored by old-timers.

At the quarterly meeting, held on June 1, 1874, Bro. J. J. Connor presented a requisition from 19 lads urging the branch to form a juvenile contingent. Bro. O'Connor then formally moved a resolution in this direction as follows:—“That immediate steps be taken to establish a juvenile contingent in connection with this branch, and that the basis of construction and the terms of membership be in accordance with resolutions passed at the A.M.M. held in Sandhurst in February, 1873.” The motion was seconded by Bro. Fred J. Bunny, and carried unanimously.

At the half-yearly meeting held on June 30, 1874, Bro. Fred J. Bunny was elected president; Bro. P. Bourke, vice-president; Bro. John Cantwell, secretary; Bro. Connellan, treasurer; Bro. Moroney, warden; and Bro. Gallagher, guardian. The new president said that “if hitherto, in consequence of the branch being so young, a little latitude had been permitted, members must not expect such a state of things to continue; discipline must now step in, and he wished them to clearly understand that for the future he was determined that the laws of the society should be most strictly adhered to. (Applause.)

A judicial committee of 15 financial members was appointed “For the purpose of hearing, investigating, and deciding upon any dispute, charge, or complaint by a member of the branch against another member, or by any member against his branch, or any member and the branch officers, or between any member or members or branch and the medical attendant, or chemist or *vice versa*.”

An advance step in the direction of forming a juvenile contingent in connection with the branch was taken on July 6, 1874, when, at a numerously attended meeting held at St. Joseph's Schoolroom, 41 candidates applied for admission. At a meeting held a fortnight afterwards, Bro. Bunny (president of the senior branch, presiding), 22 candidates were initiated as members of the juvenile contingent, and office-bearers elected.

At the following ordinary meeting of St. Joseph's branch an application was received from Invercargill for the establishment of a branch of the society in that town. In conformity with the rules the application, after being favorably received, was forwarded to the executive directory at Melbourne.

Among the business brought forward at the sixth quarterly meeting held on September 6, Bro. J. J. Connor moved—“That the secretary's salary be at the rate of £20 per annum.” An amendment was moved by Bro. Jas. Toal—“That the secretary's salary be at the rate of £15 per annum.” After some discussion the original motion was carried.

The judicial committee was called upon (for the first time recorded since its appointment) to investigate a charge made by a branch member against the medical attendant.

Mrs. J. Aramburu

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