

Of Local Interest.

The Debating and Literary Society held its initial debate after the Christmas holidays on Jan. 27th. The subject was, "Resolved, that the English Government represents the wishes of the people more completely than the Government of the United States," the affirmative being upheld by Messrs. E. Byrnes and N. Bawlf, and the negative by Messrs. M. O'Gara and G. Castello. The discussion proved that these gentlemen had carefully studied their subject. The judges declared in favor the affirmative. On the following Sunday Messrs. A. Houle and F. Higgerty, contended that "Australia offers a better field to British Emigration than Canada," against Messrs. P. Lyons and V. Gorman. The debate was evenly contested throughout, but victory rested with the negative when the vote was taken.

On Sunday, Feb 17th, a "mock Parliament" in which a large number of the senior students took an active part. The most remarkable feature of the proceedings was the strictness with which the parliamentary routine was adhered to, and it was not uncommon to hear such phrases as "Honorable gentlemen of the Opposition." "The member from Cheboyagan," etc. After the "speech from the throne" had been read and replied to, the Speaker Mr. G. P. McHugh, declared the house open to the introduction of bills and their discussion. The Government under the leadership of Mr. R. McDougall, formed a line of policy, which, in their opinion would serve the best interests of the country. Against this Government, however, an Opposition, chieftained by Mr. E. Byrnes, introduced a "want of confidence motion" and supported it by vigorous and eloquent appeals. Mr. P. Gorman in the united capacity of clerk of the Commons and Sergeant-at-arms proved himself equal to the occasion, while the pages and whip(s) were entirely in their element. To criticize the speakers individually would be beyond our scope, suffice it to say that they all spoke well, under the circumstances and entered into the spirit of the debate with all possible vim. Particular mention, however, must be made of the splendid speeches of Messrs. McCarthy and Conaghan.