

meeting was largely attended, and there were Masons present representing different lodges from Oamaru to Invercargill.

On motion, Bro. Sydney James, the senior Past Master, was called upon to preside. The chairman introduced the subject for discussion without giving an opinion on it, but citing Masonic authorities to show that there was no disloyalty to their Grand Lodges in the free discussion of this matter.

Bro. Dr. Fitchett moved—"That in the opinion of this meeting it is desirable that a Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of New Zealand be formed, and that immediate steps be taken to that end." He referred in justification of the motion to the success that had attended similar lodges in Victoria, South Australia, and New South Wales, and urged that upon financial grounds, and also as likely to foster the spirit of unity that should pervade Masonry, the step would be advisable here.

Bro. A. Burton supported the resolution in an eloquent and vigorous speech, in the course of which he maintained that great advantages would accrue from the adoption of the proposal now made.

Bro. Dr. Fitchett's motion was carried, only four hands being held up against it.

The following resolution was then adopted without dissent:—"That the brethren present now undertake to use their best efforts to carry out the first resolution, and hereby form themselves into a Masonic Union for that purpose, with power to add to their number."

There are now 150 lodges in New Zealand, of which 86 are under the E.C., 15 under the I.C., and 49 under the S.C.

A POPE EXPELLED.

The following which appeared in the *Voice of Masonry* some years ago, was kindly sent us by a brother for republication, for the benefit of those who

may never have heard of the occurrence or were not acquainted with the fact that Pope Pius IX. was, at one time a member of the craft:—

"At the semi-annual meeting of the Grand Lodge of Masons, Scottish Rite of the Orient of Palermo, Italy, on the 27th March last, Pope Pius IX. was expelled from the Order. The decree of expulsion was published in the official Masonic paper at Cologne, Germany, and as preceded by the minutes of the lodge in which he was initiated, and is as follows:—

"A man named Mastai Ferretti, who received the baptism of Freemasonry, and solemnly pledged his love and fellowship, and who afterwards was crowned Pope and King, under the title of Pio Nono, has now cursed his former brethren, and excommunicated all Members of the Order of Freemasons. Therefore, said Mastai Ferretti is herewith, by the decree of the Grand Lodge of the Orient, Palermo, expelled from the Order for perjury."

"The charges against him were first preferred in his lodge at Palermo, in 1865, and notification and copy thereof sent to him, with a request to attend the lodge for the purpose of answering the same. To this he made no reply, and, for divers reasons, the charges were not pressed until he urged the bishops of Brazil to act aggressively against the Freemasons. They then were pressed, and, after a regular trial, a decree of expulsion was entered and published, the same being signed by Victor Immanuel, King of Italy, and Grand Master of the Orient of Italy."

On May 8th a marble tablet, to the memory of Past Grand Master Seymour, was unveiled in the Masonic Hall, St. Catharines, in the presence of a large assemblage of the Craft.

W. Bro. A. J. Brewster, of New Hope Lodge, No. 279, Hespeler, was the recipient of a Past Master's jewel and address from his brethren the other evening on the occasion of removing to Glenmorris.