

Irish News

ANTRIM.—A Wealthy Firm

Last year (says the 'Financial News') the capital of Harland and Wolff was approximately held as follows—Mr. Wolff, £38,000; the executors of the late Sir Edward Harland, £122,000; Lady Harland, £38,000; the Right Hon. W. J. Pirrie, £212,000; Mrs. Pirrie, £3000; and Mr. Walter H. Wilson (since deceased) £80,000.

Slackness of Trade

Over 1000 workers in Messrs. Harland and Wolff's shipbuilding yards in Belfast have been paid off. The reason is not officially stated. Hundreds of workmen have also been discharged from Messrs. Workman, Clark, and Co.'s concern.

CLARE.—A Promising Industry

During his recent visit to Ennis Mr. William Redmond, M.P., inspected the work being done at the Clare Knitting Company's factory, where a number of girls are employed turning out in good style all sorts of knitted woollen goods. The industry is but a new one, having come into existence only last year, but even now there are signs that it will succeed, and the greatest credit is due to the local gentlemen of Ennis, who have made this effort to give work to those who stand so sorely in need of it. Hosiery in every variety, gloves, ladies' underwear, jerseys, shawls, caps, and so forth are made by the Ennis girls under the supervision of competent teachers, and up-to-date machines are in use.

DONEGAL.—A Centenary

In Letterkenny Cathedral on September 23 the 12th centenary of St. Eunan, ninth Abbot of Iona and first Bishop of Raphoe, was celebrated. The Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell presided at the ceremonies. The panegyric of the saint was preached in Irish by Monsignor McGlynn, P.P., V.G.

DOWN.—Newry Cathedral

The congregation at St. Peter's Church, Warrenpoint, on a recent Sunday subscribed £125 in response to an appeal by the Bishop of Dromore for funds for the structural alterations and improvements in progress in the Cathedral, Newry.

Tenants Purchase their Holdings

The tenants on the Forde estate, which is situated near Ardglass, have agreed with the agent, Mr. J. Alev McConnell, Downpatrick, for the purchase of their holdings on the following terms:—A reduction of 4s. in the £ on all rents fixed since 1896; a reduction of 6s. in the £ on all rents fixed prior to 1896 and non-judicial rents. Interest at the rate of 3½ per cent. to be paid by the tenants on their respective purchase monies from 1st May, 1901, to date of vesting order, all sporting rights, mines, and minerals to be vested in the tenants.

A Factory Closed

The disappearance of a once flourishing industry is always a matter for regret, and therefore it is sad to announce (says the 'Freeman's Journal') that the last remnant of the famous Portlaoigh Cotton Spinning Mills is now offered for sale by private treaty. In the 18th century Mayfield was the property of Sir James May, hence the name, and in 1829 it was acquired by a worthy Quaker named Malcomson. In 1830 Mr. Malcomson started the 'Mayfield' factory at Portlaoigh, and in a few years, as Inglis, the tourist, describes, it employed 900 persons, at good wages, well housed and well fed. In 1811, being an insignificant hamlet, Portlaoigh had a population of 3700, and in 1816 there were 1500 hands employed, the population being then about 4000. At length, in 1876, the Malcomsons became bankrupt, and so, in 1891, the population dwindled down to 1397. Even after the crash the mills were kept on, but on a small scale, and 50 hands were employed till last April. The factory closed for ever in June, and now the entire plant is in the hands of a Belfast firm, who has advertised it for sale.

GALWAY.—Agricultural Training

There has just been established in Mountbellew, County Galway, by the Franciscan Brothers, with the approval of his Grace the Archbishop of Tuam, a college for the practical training in agriculture of youths from 15 years of age upwards, whose avowed object in life is to become farmers. The college has been equipped by the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction. The land belonging to the community will be given up to the purposes of practical agricultural instruction, and a large garden laid out for experiments in horticulture. All work done on both farm and garden will be under the direction of skilled teachers in the various branches.

Brother Daly, of the Mountbellew College, and Rev. Father Roynane, P.P., of Mountbellew, are at the head of the movement.

KERRY.—Golden Jubilee of a Religious

On September 15 the Golden Jubilee of the Rev. Mother Ignatius (O'Connell), Presentation Convent, Castlesland, was celebrated with every manifestation of rejoicing. Priests attended from various parts of the diocese, while the people of the parish flocked in hundreds to participate in the ceremonies, and tender their congratulations to one who holds a warm place in their affections. It is not necessary to refer here to the great work accomplished by the Presentation Convent of Nazareth, Castlesland, in the cause of religion and education, and it is no exaggeration to say that the greater part of that work was accomplished through the indefatigable zeal and enterprise of Mother Ignatius. Touching and graceful tributes were paid her in the eloquent panegyric preached by Very Rev. J. Murphy, former President of Blackrock College, now President of Bath College, and also in the beautiful address read to her on behalf of the parishioners.

The New Bishop

In Killarney's fine Cathedral on Sunday, September 18, in the presence of an unusually large gathering of priests and people, the Most Rev. Dr. Mangan was consecrated Bishop of Kerry, in succession to the late Dr. Coffey. The consecrating prelate was his Grace the Most Rev. Dr. Fennelly, Archbishop of Cashel, who was assisted by the Most Rev. Dr. O'Callaghan, Bishop of Cork, and the Most Rev. Dr. Browne, Bishop of Cloyne. The other prelates present were Dr. O'Dwyer, Bishop of Limerick; Dr. Sheehan, Bishop of Waterford; Dr. Fogarty, Bishop of Kildare; Dr. Lyster, Bishop of Achonry; Dr. Foley, Bishop of Kildare; Dr. Donnelly, Bishop of Canea, and Dr. Stanley, Bishop of Emmaus. The consecration sermon was preached by Very Rev. J. T. Murphy, President Prior Park College, Bath, and until recently President of Blackrock College, Dublin. In replying to the addresses the Bishop dealt with many subjects of great interest to the Irish people, such as the education question, the industrial movement, the Reform Association, and the Land Act. The latter notwithstanding its drawbacks, is in his opinion a measure calculated to do much good for the country. Replying to addresses from the County, Urban, and Rural Councils of Kerry, his Lordship said he took a keen and anxious interest in the manner in which the public bodies conducted their business. As they were all proud of the success which under great difficulties they had attained, so should they be pained and humiliated by any serious shortcomings on the part of their public bodies. Therefore he deemed it of the greatest importance that the elected representatives of the people should be men of irreproachable character. They should be actuated by honorable motives; they should keep before them lofty ideals of what the public good demands of them. In this way only could they confound their enemies and prove to the world that they were worthy of the trust imposed on them and equal to the more extended national responsibility which could not be long denied them. If he read the signs of the times correctly, all things were tending in that direction. One of the most hopeful was the recently started organisation known as the Reform Association. He welcomed it for this reason, among others—that it was a confession, if a belated one, on the part of those gentlemen that the Irish people were all the time walking on the right road. Having walked so far on it, let them not lose heart now. Let them press on resolutely and unitedly, remembering that the building up of a nation was not the work of a year, nor even of a generation.

LIMERICK.—Direct Labor

At the half-yearly meeting of the Limerick District Council Mr. John Horan, County Surveyor, submitted his estimate for the financial year to end of March, 1905. The estimate was £7000 odd, and in bringing it before the Council he stated that direct labor was working satisfactorily and economically, the amount required showing a decrease of £200 in expenditure, as compared with the standard year before the old Grand Jury went out.

Death of a Centenarian

News has been received of the death in Nazareth House, Cape Town, of Miss Shine, formerly of Ballysimon, County Limerick, at the remarkable age of 101 years. Miss Shine, who left Ireland twenty years ago, was closely related to Napper Tandy, who was one of the leaders of the United Irishmen in '08, and whose name has become famous in Irish history. She was possessed of an extremely good memory, her recollections going back to O'Connell's Repeal Campaign, and she used to entertain visitors with vivid descriptions of that stirring period, and used specially to dwell on his historic address on Tara Hill just previous to his arrest.

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