

Irish News

ANTRIM.—Death of a Centenarian.

On Sunday, October 16, an old man named Daniel Magee who, on May 1 last, had attained the remarkably advanced age of 104 years, died at the residence of his son-in-law at Lower Broughshane, about a couple of miles from Ballymena. For a good stretch of years the deceased followed the occupation of a farmer, his lands being situated near Crebilly, on what is known as the Woodside Road. Of late years he lived with his son-in-law and daughter, enjoying well-earned leisure. It is only but a comparatively short time since, he was a witness in a famous local right-of-way case, heard at the assizes at Belfast, and he gave his evidence so lucidly that he was complimented by the judge, who also congratulated him on his healthy-looking appearance for a man so far advanced in life as he was. It may be mentioned that some short time prior to that, 'Old Dan,' as he was familiarly known, travelled to Belfast and back to his home, a distance of about 60 miles, and the feat was acknowledged to be a marvellous one in the way of pedestrianism for a man of over a hundred years of age. Deceased retained his mental faculties to the last, when he passed peacefully and calmly away.

CAVAN.—A Partisan of the Landlords.

The 'Cavan Weekly News,' a Protestant journal, commenting on Bishop Elliott's recent tirade, says: 'The Bishop has made himself a strong partisan of the landlords. The Church of Ireland has, to a certain extent, failed in her mission by being so prominently identified with that class. The methods of the Land League and the institution of boycotting are a reproach, not only to England for her misrule, but more particularly to landlords for the extortion and oppression of their tenants, which frequently took place with the concurrence and approval of the clergy of the Church of Ireland. The Land Courts had to be established to prevent the landlords from cheating the tenants.'

CORK.—The President of the Queen's College.

Dr. Windle, of Birmingham, one of the best-known educationalists in the ranks of the British Catholics, has been appointed President of the Queen's College, Cork. The 'Freeman' attributes Dr. Windle's appointment to Chamberlain influence.

Proposed Memorial.

A movement has been inaugurated in Mitchelstown for the erection of a monument to the memory of John Mandeville. About £700 is in hand: an adequate sum for the erection of a suitable memorial. It is suggested that the monument should take the form of a statue of Mandeville in the Square at Mitchelstown.

DUBLIN.—An Enthusiastic Reception.

Mr. John E. Redmond, M.P., Captain Donelan, M.P., and Mr. P. O'Brien, M.P., the Irish envoys to America, arrived home on October 13 and were accorded an enthusiastic reception in Dublin.

Important Resolutions.

At a general meeting of the Archbishops and Bishops of Ireland, held in St. Patrick's College, Maynooth, under the presidency of his Eminence Cardinal Logue, on October 11, a resolution was unanimously adopted re-affirming the statement issued by their Lordships last June with reference to the educational grievances and general disabilities from which the Catholics of Ireland still suffer without redress. Among the resolutions adopted by their Lordships was one in which it is stated that the rents drawn by Trinity College out of lands in almost every part of Ireland which, as the outcome of confiscation, have been reserved during three hundred years as a prize for a State-favored minority, are of right the inheritance of the nation at large, and should be devoted, however late in the day, to provide in an effective manner, as far as they can go, for the wants of all the people of Ireland in the domain of higher education. Another resolution says that the practical exclusion of Catholics and others who are known to entertain popular sympathies, from public offices and employment in the gift of the Government, is a flagrant abuse of Governmental power, worthy of the worst days of ascendancy, and has its counterpart in the enormous and wasteful expenditure out of Irish taxation to multiply situations for a small section of the community and afford them good reason for calling themselves the loyal minority.

Catholic Truth Society.

The annual Conference of the Catholic Truth Society of Ireland was a splendid success from every point of view. The attendance was very large and the discussions which took place were of a high order of merit. By

common consent the paper read by the Most Rev. Dr. O'Dwyer was the ablest and most exhaustive essay on the present condition of University education in Ireland yet given to the public. Cardinal Logue, who presided, declared that although he had the pleasure of hearing many able addresses from the Bishop of Limerick, he had never heard from the lips of his Lordship so magnificent, strong, and vigorous a one as that which he delivered on that occasion. Dr. O'Dwyer, in his address, accused Mr. Balfour and Mr. Wyndham of deceit and duplicity in connection with the Irish University question. The Most Rev. Dr. Healy, in proposing a vote of thanks to the Bishop of Limerick, said he did not agree with his Lordship when he accused the two Ministers of duplicity in reference to this question. It was a statement he, Dr. Healy, could not endorse. He knew something of the inner working of the question, and he honestly believed that both Mr. Balfour and Mr. Wyndham were from the beginning animated by a sincere desire to settle it in a satisfactory way if they could. He accused the Ministers in question, not of deceit or duplicity, but of culpable weakness. They were in a shady condition after the reeling blow that had been dealt to the Government by the secession of Mr. Chamberlain and others, and as they were not in a position to deal with Londonderry as they should have done, they solved the question, and in his opinion dealt a mortal blow to the union. Increased activity and energy in the agitation for the settlement of this all-important question should follow the meeting of the Catholic Truth Society.

LIMERICK.—Over the Century.

There is at present living at Islandanny, a few miles from Abbeyteale, one of the most remarkable centenarians of the age, named Richard Collins. He is at present 103 years of age, hale and hearty, was never an hour unwell, and is still a vigorous smoker. He has a distinct recollection of the history of the early twenties of the last century, and often recounts interesting anecdotes of Captain Rock, and his experiences of the period succeeding '98. He still walks to Mass, six miles distant, every Sunday, being always an exemplary Catholic.

MAYO.—Visit of the Under-Secretary.

Sir Antony MacDonnell, the Under-Secretary, paid a visit to Castlebar to discuss the question of marine works in Mayo with the County Council. The Urban Council of Castlebar presented an address of welcome to his native county to Sir Antony, and in his reply he referred to the Land Bill and the work of the Congested Districts Board, saying he looked forward to more rapid progress in the work of the latter body.

MEATH.—Tobacco Culture.

The Dublin correspondent of the 'Manchester Guardian' says:—I had an opportunity of seeing Colonel Nugent Everard's tobacco crop and curing barn at Randalstown, County Meath. The produce of twenty acres, amounting to over 14,000 pounds weight of tobacco leaf, is undergoing a process of curing and drying, preparatory to being dispatched to manufacturers. This is the first time that the experiment of tobacco-growing in Ireland has been thoroughly made, as previously curing and drying had to be done away from the locality where the tobacco was grown, and many mistakes were made. In the present case the Department of Agriculture are defraying the cost (£1000) of the curing and drying shed, which is heated artificially, though Colonel Everard is otherwise carrying out the experiments at his own expense. Professor Harper, of the University of Kentucky, is at present superintending the operations, and he pronounces the leaf to be of excellent quality—quite equal to that of Virginia and Kentucky. Colonel Everard has figured out the cost of production and the prices which Dublin manufacturers have estimated it will fetch, and he is now convinced that, even paying the full duty, tobacco can be made a thoroughly paying crop. However, in order to get successfully over the experimental stage, he strongly feels that the present system of making a refund of one-third the duty to the grower should be continued after the five year period fixed by Parliament has terminated.

A Nation of Church Builders.

At Curraha, near Ashbourne, County Meath, the new Church of St. Andrew was dedicated to Divine worship on Sunday, October 16, by the Most Rev. Dr. Gaffney, Bishop of the diocese. The sacred edifice, which owes its erection to the untiring zeal and energy of Father Lynch, P.P., is a spacious building, admirably suited to the requirements of the district. All the interior decorations have been carried out by generous gifts from friends of the worthy pastor. At the conclusion of High Mass the Rev. M. J. O'Farrell, All Hallows' Foreign Missionary College, Drumcondra, preached the dedication sermon. Our forefathers, the preacher said, were a nation of church builders, but never, perhaps,