

Teachers in Congress

In consequence of the very serious situation which has arisen owing to the promulgation by the Commissioners of a new rule which, if enforced, will certainly prove detrimental to the best interests of primary education, this year's congress of the Irish National Teachers' Organisation attracted a large share of public attention. The Town Hall of Sligo, in which the congress met, was filled with delegates, clergymen, and members of the Corporation. The Mayor of the city presided at the opening meeting, and delivered an able address, in the course of which he pointed out the evil results sure to follow the enforcement of Rule 127 (b) as it is officially called. Speeches were also delivered by Mr. McHugh, M.P., Mr. O'Dowd, M.P., Very Rev. Dr. Kilty, President of Summerhill College, Very Rev. Father Conington, P.P., Rev. Dr. Ardill, Protestant rector of Calvy, Rev. Dr. Coulter, Protestant rector of Dromahair, and others, each of whom condemned the innovation as being subversive of the rights of parents, teachers and managers, and ruinous to the cause of primary education in Ireland. Matters affecting the general interests of the teachers occupied the attention of the delegates at the other meetings of congress. Mr. J. J. Hazlett, M.A., was elected president of the organisation, and it was resolved to hold the next meeting in Waterford. A cable message received last week stated that a serious difficulty had arisen in the administration of primary education, as the hierarchy have strongly protested against the National Board's new rule rendering boys under eight ineligible for enrolment in a boys' school where no woman teacher is employed. Archbishop Logue advises determined opposition, even if the education of the country is brought to a deadlock.

Technical Expert

Dr. John Ryan, Principal of the Paddington Technical School, has been elected expert adviser to the Dublin Technical Schools Committee. Dr. Ryan received his early education from the Fathers of the Institute of Charity at the College of the Immaculate Conception, Ratcliffe, Leicestershire. Very shortly after leaving Ratcliffe, in a competition open to all mechanical students of Great Britain—the six Whitworth Scholarships of £100 a year, tenable for three years—he took third place. Later on he gained the Clothworkers' Exhibition at Cambridge, and the Vintners' Exhibition, and taking up his studies at King's College, Cambridge, took his degree of M.A. in 1885, and three years later the LL.M., being called to the English Bar in 1891. His Doctor of Science degree was gained in 1883 at the London University, the degree being taken in electricity and cognate subjects. Since then Dr. Ryan held the Professorship of Physics and Engineering in University College, Nottingham, and the same Professorship in University College, Bristol, was first President of the Bristol Association of Engineers, was Principal of the Woolwich Polytechnic School for four years to 1903, and has been since the Principal of the Paddington Technical Institute.

The Reform Association

It will be remembered that the Orange supporters of the Government forced Mr. Wyndham to resign the Under-Secretaryship of Ireland, owing to his supposed connection with Lord Dunraven's Devolution Scheme. The promoters of that Scheme were denounced by the Orange faction as disloyalists and Home Rulers in disguise. At a recent meeting these alleged disloyalists, who, by the way, are all Unionists, but do not come up to the standard of the Orange lodge, elected an executive committee composed of the following gentlemen: President, Lord Dunraven, K.P.; vice-presidents—Lord Rossmore, Sir Algernon Coote, Bart., H.M.L.; Sir Timothy O'Brien, Bart., T. Clarence E. Goff, D.L.; committee—Edward Archdale, D.L.; Arthur Collum, D.L.; J. O'Grady Delmege, D.L.; Lieut.-General W. G. Dunham Massy, C.B., D.L.; Col. N. T. Everard, D.L.; Moreton Frewen, J.P.; H. F. S. Goold-Verschoyle, J.P.; Major Robert William Goodwin Hillas, D.L.; Lord Louth, D.L.; A. T. Magan, J. Stewart Moore, D.L.; Wm. O'Reilly, D.L.; Capt. John Shawe-Taylor, J.P.; David Talbot-Crosbie, Lindsey Talbot-Crosbie, D.L.; Sir Anthony Weldon, Bart., D.L. It was decided that the defined objects of the association should be published. They are as follow:—(a) To encourage co-operation amongst all Irishmen, irrespective of creed or class, for the development of the country's resources, and for the promotion of the welfare of the people. (b) To secure for Ireland such effective control of purely Irish affairs as may be compatible with the maintenance of the legislative union between Great Britain and Ireland, and with the supremacy of the Imperial Parliament.

People We Hear About

The Hon. W. P. Reeves, Agent-General for New Zealand in London, has been appointed High Commissioner for the Colony.

The eldest sister of the late John Augustus O'Shea, Miss Elizabeth O'Shea, won distinction in the literary circles of London, and afterwards became the wife of Judge Dillon, of India. Miss Marion O'Shea, his second sister, married Robert Barnell Roosevelt, of New York, uncle of President Roosevelt.

General Collins, the stalwart Irish-American of Boston, who as Mayor welcomed Miss Maud MacCarthy to that city on her tour of America, has been a miner in the coalfields of Ohio, an upholsterer, a lawyer, a legislator, a politician active, prominent, and successful in local, State, and national campaigns, the president of the National Democratic Convention; four years a Consul-General in London, a second term in the Mayoralty of almost the oldest and certainly the proudest of American cities. He went to Boston a four-year-old boy, of humble life, in '48.

Miss Nancy Carnegie, niece of Mr. Andrew Carnegie, shocked the aristocratic susceptibilities of some of her relatives by marrying an expert riding master, a young Irish Catholic, named James Hever. The multi-millionaire and endower of libraries, when he heard of the marriage, remarked that, as Hever was a sober, moral young man, it was a better match for his niece than if she had married 'a worthless duke.' The parties were married in a Catholic church in New York, and Mr. Carnegie gave them £5000 for a start in life and to enable them to go to Europe on a wedding trip.

Mr. Haviland Burke, M.P., is one of the somewhat numerous section of the Irish Parliamentary Party which is uncompromisingly Irish in its politics and Protestant in its faith. Catholic interests find in him, as in Mr. Swift MacNeill, Capt. Donegan, and his other fellow-Protestants, a strenuous advocate, for Catholic interests in Ireland mean simply the interests of the majority of the people. As the descendant of the illustrious Edmund Burke, it is not surprising that Mr. Haviland Burke should take a liberal and magnanimous view of the claims of his Catholic fellow-countrymen. A man of Parnellite sympathies, he was one of the earliest supporters of the United Irish League when William O'Brien started it in Connaught, and he is declared by his friends to be a man of outstanding oratorical abilities.

America now has three famous Jesuit novelists. One of them lives in Chicago. Everybody knows Rev. F. J. Finn, and many know Rev. Henry S. Spalding, but Rev. J. E. Copus, S.J., is the coming great Catholic novelist of the country. No first book ever made such a hit as did his 'Harry Russell.' It was something new—full of incident, full of purpose, full of deft characterisation. The book came as a surprise, followed the next year by 'Saint Cuthbert's.' This, too, was judged phenomenally graphic. 'Shadows Lifted,' just published, is a distinct advance. Born and reared, at least in part, in England, Father Copus has been a journalist, an editor, a traveller, and is now a professor of English literature at St. Ignatius' College, Chicago.

Dr. William Barry, who has just completed a life of Renan for the series of 'Literary Lives' published by Messrs. Hodder and Stoughton, and who is recognised as one of the most brilliant writers in England to-day, is, though born in England, a Celt of the South-west of Ireland. He was educated at Oscott College in the days of the presidency of Dr. Spencer Northcote. Rome was the scene of his higher studies and ordination. On his return to England he occupied for a time the posts of Professor of Philosophy and Theology at Oscott College. He is the author of several novels, of which, perhaps, the best known is 'The New Antigone,' a romantic treatment of the problems of Anarchism and other anti-Christian systems. But it is, perhaps, his essays which have won for him his reputation as an able and cultured writer and a sound and penetrating critic. Nearly thirty years ago he began a series of brilliant contributions to the 'Quarterly' and 'Dublin' Reviews, which have attracted much attention. In a recent review of one of his works the 'Times' says: 'There are few priests in his communion who are Dr. Barry's peers in knowledge of Church history and philosophy, and none who can at all approach him in knowledge of our language, in wealth of diction, and in grace of style. His study on Newman now before us is worthy of Sainte-Beuve.'