

land, he says, is sick almost unto death. Whereas the population of England and Wales increased during the past century from about nine millions to over thirty-two millions, Ireland's population fell from 5,395,456 to 4,458,775. Of the Irish emigrants 90 per cent. are usually in the prime of life. It is the helpless young and the old and feeble who are left behind. Mental diseases are increasing, and tuberculosis, partly due to overcrowding in certain districts, is carrying off an alarming number of victims. The wages of the agricultural laborers are much lower than in England, Scotland, or Wales, and poverty presses hard on the humbler classes. Yet Ireland is overtaxed yearly to the amount of £2,700,000, and confusion and extravagance prevail in some of the Government departments. For her judicial system Ireland pays some £200,000 more than is expended for the administration of justice in Scotland. She pays much more for her police and for her local government. Lord Dunraven contends that Irishmen could manage their own affairs with better results. They could scarcely manage them worse.

The Reform Association

In a letter to the 'Morning Leader' on the Irish Reform Association, Mr. T. W. Russell, M.P., says: Most people would imagine that there was room and to spare for such a party, but it is not a very hopeful enterprise. In Ulster the fanatical party see Home Rule in every question of appeasement or conciliation. In the rest of Ireland the Nationalists are not prepared for anything that will endanger the solidarity of their movement, and, worst of all, the Reform party has no press. Notwithstanding these drawbacks, the movement must make headway. The policy of extremes cannot for ever hold sway. Lord Dunraven is an ideal leader—a convinced and unswerving Unionist, a landlord, a Protestant, and, above all, a singularly clear-headed, able man. His propaganda is bound to tell for the welfare of Ireland.

Mr. Wyndham's Resignation

In the House of Commons on May 9, Mr. Wyndham made a statement as to the circumstances which led to his resignation of the Chief Secretaryship of Ireland. Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman moved his vote of censure on the treatment of Sir Antony MacDonnell, sharply criticising Mr. Balfour's line of conduct. Mr. William O'Brien, in a notable speech, expressed the desire to conciliate Liberals and Conservatives in the interests of Ireland, and said he was most anxious to end the conflict between the two countries. Later in the sitting the Prime Minister defended his policy. On a division the motion was rejected by a majority of sixty-three.

Primary Education

Owing to the determined opposition of both managers and teachers to the new rules promulgated by the Commissioners of National Education, the latter have unanimously agreed to modify them. What shape the modification is to take has not yet been announced, but as it was proposed by the Most Rev. Dr. Foley, Bishop of Kildare and Leighlin, one of the newly appointed Commissioners, it may safely be assumed that the concession is likely to satisfy all concerned. The result should prove a valuable lesson. Without agitation strong and persistent, the Irish people cannot obtain justice. Were it not for the attitude they assumed, the obnoxious rules would now be in full working order.

The General Election

Mr. John Redmond, in view of the General Election, has issued an appeal to the Irish in Great Britain to meet the coming crisis in a state of thorough preparedness.

National Heirlooms

The sale by auction the other day at Mountinstown, Navan, Ireland, the residence of the late Mr. J. N. Pollock, D.L., of a collection of articles of great historical value, including some dining tables which were formerly in the Irish House of Lords, will render it of interest to record the whereabouts of some other relics of that Chamber. The Library of the House of Lords was transferred to Dublin Castle, where many of the old volumes are lying on the dusty shelves of that very gloomy room. The mace of the House of Lords is now, as it is stated, the mace of the Royal Irish Academy. Some chairs of the House of Lords are preserved in St. Patrick's Lunatic Asylum; and a press which belonged to the House of Lords was purchased by Mr. Mitchell Henry in the seventies of the last century, was in use in the offices of the old Home Rule Association, and is now preserved in the Dublin Mansion House. Two magnificently carved chairs, believed to have formed portion of the furniture of the Irish House of Lords, are to be seen in Butler's Medical Hall, Lower O'Connell street, Dublin.

People We Hear About

Friday, June 2, was the 70th birthday of the Holy Father. August 4 will be the second anniversary of his Holiness' election, and August 9 of his coronation.

Archbishop Williams, the venerable Metropolitan of Boston, celebrated the sixtieth anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood on May 17.

A Hobart man's impression of the Pope:—I shall never forget that kind, grand face, so full of a sad sweetness—so free from self-consciousness—and yet so conscious of a deep and awful spiritual responsibility. None of the portraits I have seen do him justice. Every one speaks of him with love and respect—and having seen him I do not wonder that it is so.

The Rev. Dr. Francis Aidan Gasquet, O.S.B., is an Englishman, and one of the most learned Catholic theologians in the English-speaking world. He was educated at Downside, the Benedictine College near Bath, and is now Abbot of the Benedictine community at the same place. He is the author of many historical works on the Reformation period, including 'Henry VIII. and the Monasteries,' 'Edward VI. and the Book of Common Prayer,' the 'Eve of the Reformation,' 'The Last Abbot of Glastonbury,' and 'The Great Pestilence.'

It is unlikely that M. Paderewski will play again this season. He will spend the summer at his chalet on the Lake of Geneva. M. Paderewski is suffering from nervous prostration, rendering prolonged rest absolutely necessary. The direct cause of his illness was the shock he received on the night of April 19 in an accident on the New York Central Railroad. Ever since M. Paderewski has suffered intensely with pains running from the top of the head through his neck to the top of the spinal column.

The Protestant Alliance (says the 'Catholic Herald') had better be informed that the King has been keeping company with 'idolaters' abroad. One of the London evening papers, writing of his Majesty's recent visit to Paris, says—Mr. Henry Standish, who, together with his wife, nee Mlle. D'Ecars, had the honor of entertaining his Majesty the King at luncheon in Paris, is the head of one of the oldest Catholic families in England. He owns a considerable estate near Ascot, and a fine house, which he let for a term of years when he and Mrs. Standish decided to take up their abode in France, and to leave England altogether. They lived in London for the first fifteen years of their married life. Mrs. Standish was a great favorite in society, and a very close personal friend of our present Queen, whom she resembles to a surprising degree in face and figure.

An interesting paragraph in one of the daily newspapers regarding the oldest and strongest branch of the Bonaparte dynasty recalls a bit of history.—The American branch of the Bonapartes shows no signs of decay. They are descended from Jerome, King of Westphalia, Napoleon's youngest brother, and Elizabeth Patterson, the daughter of a Baltimore merchant, whom Jerome married when he was only nineteen, during a visit to Baltimore, while serving in the French navy. This marriage, through Napoleon's influence, was declared civilly void in France. The Emperor also tried to persuade Pope Pius VII to declare it invalid ecclesiastically, but without success. Jerome, ignoring completely his American wife and her son, who had been born at Camberwell in 1805, married, under Imperial pressure, the Princess Catherine of Wurtemberg, whose family were Protestant, and naturally indifferent to the Papal recognition of the former marriage. For this act of obedience to his brother he was rewarded with a royal crown.

The 'Westminster Gazette' writes:—Lord Young's retirement from the Court of Session in Edinburgh places Chief Baron Palles, of Dublin—literally 'the last of the Barons'—in the position of doyen of the Judiciary of the United Kingdom. In reality Lord Young, in respect to his appointment as a Scottish Judge, was Chief Baron Palles's senior on the Bench by no more than six days—in February, 1874. Chief Baron Palles is now the sole survivor on the Bench of the High Court Judges appointed in Mr. Gladstone's first Administration. Sir James Mathew, Irish and Catholic, like Chief Baron Palles, is the doyen of the English Bench. Commenting on the statement of the 'Westminster Gazette' the 'Catholic Herald' says it might be added that Chief Baron Palles (who ought to be Chief Justice Palles, if merit rather than jury-packing were the supreme qualifications for that office), is by long odds the ablest, as he is the most independent and dignified Judge on the Irish Bench. Palles is an old Jesuit boy, a Clongowman if we mistake not, as Meagher was, a man who, like The MacDermott and the late Lord Russell of Killowen, was a Liberal rather than a Nationalist.

BEATH & CO. DRAPERS, CHRISTCHURCH, respectfully request your support and kind recommendation.