

the fact, that until the financial relations of the country with the United Kingdom are revised Irish economy merely saves the British Treasury's money. University education is another difficulty. It tested Mr. Balfour. It will put a strain upon any new machinery set up in Ireland even if, as by the appointment of the Royal Commission, the solution is in some measure provided for by the Imperial Parliament. There is a new spirit manifesting itself in Ireland which will not allow itself to be ignored, and which will not without grave loss to the future be silenced. But it is in the working out of just such complications as these that 'the best Irishmen' will find a patriotic occupation that they have hitherto been denied. Of course reform will be opposed, not indeed by Ulster, but by a handful of Ulster members and a group of English peers. That is no longer a peril. There is just one danger in the possibility of disagreement between the Nationalists and some Liberals, not on Irish, but on English affairs.

Insurance Company Wanted

At a recent meeting of the Board of Guardians of North Dublin Union, on the question of the renewal of the fire insurance on buildings amounting to £81,750, Mr. Crozier said he thought it a pity that there were no Irish companies to whom they could give these important assurances. Mr. Sherlock said that a company on similar lines to the Irish Church Property Insurance, founded by Mr. Sexton, ought to find support from the public Boards alone, and if the Irish Boards agreed they could have a first-rate Irish company at once. A suggestion was approved that Mr. Crozier should call some members of the Board to confer with Mr. Sexton and other men of standing outside with a view to the formation of an Irish Insurance Company.

The Boycotting of Catholics

We are glad to see (says the 'Catholic Times') that the practice of boycotting Catholics in business, which has largely prevailed where Protestants have power in Ireland, is gradually disappearing. Thanks to the recent attitude of the Irish National Party in Parliament, the directors of the Irish Great Northern Railway have now thrown open vacant clerkships to competition by examination. 'How exclusive has been the policy hitherto pursued may be inferred from the following figures given at the annual meeting which has just been held. In the head department there are one hundred and five Protestants and four Catholics, and the salaries of the Protestants amount to over ten thousand pounds, whilst the Catholics receive only two hundred and sixty pounds. 'Such a disparity would not have been justifiable even if the Catholics had been but a minority of the population served by the railway, but they are actually in a majority and the greater portion of the revenue of the railway comes from them. Though the company have now adopted the principle of competitive examination, they reserve the right of a further and subsequent judgment in fitness as to manners and character. They will not, it is to be hoped, allow the formation of this judgment to be influenced by sectarian bias. The Irish Catholic public will, we may assume, exercise some vigilance in the matter.

Punctual Payments

A report which the Irish Land Commissioners have just issued is at once a testimony to the rapid growth of a national peasant proprietary in Ireland, and the punctuality and readiness with which the new tenant purchasers are paying their purchase instalments to the Government. The suggestion that the purchasers under any of the Irish Land Acts were deliberately falling back in their payments is altogether baseless, as the Land Commissioners show. On November 1 last the total amount payable in respect of advances under the Purchase Act of 1885 for the half-year's instalments, which had then become due, was £184,690, payable by about 25,380 tenants. On July 1 last year all this had been paid, except a sum of £2,829, which was still outstanding from 313 purchasers. With regard to the payments of the instalments payable under the Purchase Act of 1891 the amount receivable on November 1 last from 46,654 payers was £355,181. Of this sum £352,970 had been paid on July 1, leaving the small balance of £2,211, due by 273 tenants. Coming to the Land Act of 1903, it appears that of the instalments payable under the Act, the amount falling due from 19,065 purchasers was £199,095. This amount had been paid in full on July 1, with the exception of an outstanding balance of £813, owing by seventy-four tenants. This means that of an aggregate sum of £738,966 owing by 91,099 new tenant proprietors, the small sum of £5,854 only was outstanding on July 1.

People We Hear About

'I know London from the charcoal seller of the East End to the man on the throne,' said Father Vaughan, as he chatted with a correspondent in the parish house. 'I worked considerably in the East End,' he continued, 'and the pious poor is God's aristocracy on earth.'

Desiring a suitable inscription for the house in which Ambrose O'Higgins was born, and which Chili has undertaken to preserve, the Chilean Government has asked the men of letters (and women) of that country to submit MSS. in a competition. The winner will be awarded compensation.

Madame de Navarro, better known to the world as Mary Anderson, lives a life of great retirement at Broadway in Worcestershire, but she is entirely happy in this self-elected obscurity, which she will never forsake again for the flash of the footlights, for hers was a real retirement, not one of those designed in order that a triumphant return to the stage should be made.

General Lord Ralph Kerr, who entered on his seventieth year on August 11, is a brother of the late Lord Lothian, and heir-presumptive to the present Marquis. Lord Ralph, who served in the Afghan war, and is now Colonel of his old regiment, the 10th Hussars, retired from the army some years ago, and lives at Woodburn, a pretty place overhanging the River Esk, close to Newbattle Abbey, the family seat in Midlothian. Lady Anne Kerr, whom Lord Ralph married in 1878, is the youngest sister of the Duke of Norfolk.

Mr. J. M'Cann, whose memory will live in Ireland as the author of 'O'Donnell Abu,' sleeps his last sleep in Leytonstone Catholic Cemetery in East London. No storied urn or animated bust is there to mark the spot or tell his life-tale, and the London branches of the United Irish League are taking steps to erect a memorial. Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell, Bishop of Raphoe, in sending a subscription towards the fund, writes:—'I gladly acknowledge the claim which the author of "O'Donnell Abu" has upon me. Who can count the men of our race whom that noble war-cry has roused to 'energy in the cause of Ireland?'

That the world does move (says a correspondent of the Boston 'Pilot') has received renewed confirmation by two occurrences in 'this Canada of ours' and in your own country. The son of the late Tireragh man, Mr. Nathaniel Clarke Wallace, in his life time Orange grand sovereign of British North America, has joined the Gaelic League 'of the city of (Orange) Toronto, recently founded as an outcome of the visit of Dr. Douglas Hyde. And now comes the announcement that among those who will deliver courses of lectures at the Catholic Summer School will be a son of the late William Johnston, of Ballykilbeg, also in his lifetime grand sovereign of the Orangemen of Great Britain and Ireland.

A particularly touching incident transpired in connection with the death of Mrs. Craigie. The famous authoress, who had been staying with her parents (Mr. and Mrs. Richards, Steephill Castle, Ventnor, Isle of Wight), travelled to London on Sunday evening, arriving at Lancaster-gate at nine o'clock. In accordance with her custom she desired to advise Mr. Richards of her safe arrival, and wrote the following telegram: 'Excellent journey. Crowded train. Arrived here by nine. Fondest love.—Pearl.' The local telegraph office being closed, Mrs. Craigie left the message with the servants to be despatched in the morning, with the result that it was received by Mr. Richards an hour or two after Mr. Craigie had actually passed away.

When the ex-Empress Eugenie visits Paris she almost invariably occupies a suite of rooms facing the Tuilleries Gardens. Much surprise has been expressed that she should take up her abode in such close proximity to the scene of her triumphs long ago (for, of course, the Palace of the Tuilleries was her home in the days when she ruled France through her husband), thereby invoking memories which could not be other than bitter. The subject was delicately broached in her presence recently, whereupon she said, 'It is perhaps the greatest happiness of my life to look upon the garden where my son played in his childhood—a sad pleasure if you will, but one I would not forego willingly.' The ex-Empress has just entered on her 81st year.