

Irish News

CORK—The Father Mathew Anniversary

The Cork Board of Guardians decided at a recent meeting to attend in a body at the demonstration to be held on the fiftieth anniversary of the death of Father Mathew.

A Grave Injustice

On Sunday, September 2, the formal opening of a new college erected by the Capuchin Fathers at Rochestown, County Cork, was performed by Very Rev. Father Paul, O.S.F.C., Provincial, in the presence of a large concourse of people who sympathised with the members of the community in the injustice inflicted upon them recently under the Penal Laws. Referring to the case, Father Paul explained how a Cork lady who was wont to worship in their church bequeathed £300 to the college for the education of a young man for the priesthood in their Order. After her death the will was contested on the sole principle that, being members of the Franciscan Order, they were in the eyes of the law debarred from all benefits which the laws of the country conferred upon the humblest members of society, and consequently that they were not entitled to receive the money. Judge Barton, before whom the case was tried, filled with indignation at the monstrous position in which his Court was placed by being called to put into force a law that had not been enforced in other courts for eighty-two years, declared that the will was valid—that, as the boy could be educated for the Home or Foreign Mission, the school was entitled to the money. An appeal was taken, and the case again tried before three judges who, with the same evidence before them, not only upset Judge Barton's decision—not only robbed the school of its £300—and deprived the boy of his education, but mulcted the Superior of the Community in all the costs of the appeal. It was a puzzle to him to realise why the Regular Orders of the Church were the only people outlawed in their own land, and he appealed to their members of Parliament to make the question a prominent plank in their programme.

Tillage and Winter Dairying

At a recent meeting of the County Cork Committee of Agriculture and Technical Instruction—the Most Rev. Dr. Kelly, Bishop of Ross, presiding—it was decided to include in the coming scheme of agricultural instruction for the county a number of prizes for the encouragement of tillage and winter dairying. This scheme is intended for the larger occupiers, and aims, as the Most Rev. Dr. Kelly put it, at making the farm self-supporting, that is, growing on the farm as much as possible of the food crop for family use and for the support of the live stock. Sir Horace Plunkett, vice-president of the Department, who attended, referred to the success of the itinerant system of instruction which had been heretofore carried out throughout the country, and said that work was but pioneer work for still greater efforts in the future.

DONEGAL—Mineral Resources

Amongst recent registrations at Somerset House is that of the Donegal Industrial Syndicate, Limited, which has been formed to acquire the benefit of an agreement for the purchase of the leasehold beds, deposits, and quarries of granite and other stone, kaolin, and clays, under certain land known as the Rosses, in the parish of Templecorone, Barony of Boyle, County Donegal, held on lease for sixty years from 1889, direct from the Right Hon. the Marquis of Conyngham. The signatories of the articles of association include the name of Mrs. Ernest Hart, whose work in connection with the cottage industries of Donegal is so well known throughout England and Ireland. Others associated with the enterprise are Mr. Edmund Downey, Mr. J. T. Segrue, and Mr. M. J. Regan, who, with others, were instrumental in providing the capital for reopening the Bonmahon Copper Mine at the end of last year. Donegal, it is stated, possesses some of the finest samples of red and grey granite in the world, and the placing of the industry on a sound commercial basis should prove a boon both to the district and to the country at large.

DUBLIN—A Centenarian

At the age of 107 years, and after comparatively little suffering, Patrick M'Manus passed away at his residence, Cornakelly, Arva, on September 1. He was one of the staunchest Nationalists of his day, and could relate many stirring incidents of the '48 and '67 movements. He went to America in 1830, and returned on the day that the first railway was opened in Ireland, and was present at the opening ceremony at Kingstown, of which he had a vivid recollection.

The Horse Show

From the official return of the attendance at the Horse Show, it appears that there was an increase of 6000 visitors over the number for last year.

Fighting Consumption

At a recent meeting of the Dublin Corporation it was resolved to establish a sanatorium on the Chalet system for the treatment of consumption and to levy a rate of one penny in the pound for the purpose.

Institute of Journalists

On Sunday, September 2, some one hundred and fifty members of the Institute of Journalists, the annual meeting of which took place in Dublin the previous week, attended High Mass in the Pro-Cathedral. The congregation, which was an unusually large one, included many leading citizens of the metropolis. After the first Gospel, a sermon characterised by eloquence and erudition was preached by Rev. P. A. Beecher, M.A., D.D., Maynooth College.

The Topic of the Day

In political circles the leading topic just now (writes a Dublin correspondent) is the controversy between Sir Antony MacDonnell, Under-Secretary, and Mr. Walter Long, M.P., ex-Chief Secretary for Ireland. At a meeting of the Unionist Alliance the latter made a speech in the course of which he asserted that he came to Ireland with full and absolute power to make any changes in the Irish Government he thought necessary. He retained Sir Antony in office because the latter consented to act, not as a colleague such as he had been to Mr. Wyndham, but as a subordinate to Mr. Long. The Under Secretary lost no time in replying to his former Chief. In a letter to the press he makes it clear that he consented to act only on condition that there would be no change in the policy which had been pursued under Mr. Wyndham. In the course of the controversy reference was made by Mr. Long to letters connected with the appointment of Sir Antony MacDonnell and a demand put forward for their publication. The Under Secretary declined to publish them, saying the time for their production had not yet arrived, if it ever would. Mr. Long's demand for the correspondence drew a letter from Mr. John Dillon, M.P., which certainly leaves the ex-Chief Secretary in a peculiar and an unenviable position. He points out that on the 9th of May, 1905, Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman moved the following resolution and that Mr. Long voted against it:—'That in view of recent events in Ireland, and the revelations which caused the resignation of the right honorable gentleman the member for Dover, it is in the highest degree desirable in the public interest that the correspondence and other information necessary to enable the House of Commons and the country to form a judgment on the policy and proceedings of the Irish Government connected with and subsequent to the appointment of Sir Antony MacDonnell be communicated to Parliament.' Mr. Dillon's comments on the action of Mr. Long in now calling for the publication of documents in question are, to say the least, forcible.

GALWAY—Tenants Purchase Their Farms

Nearly twelve months ago the tenants on the Castlefrench division of the Churcher Estate, situated near Ballinmore Bridge, County Galway, approached their landlord with a view to purchase. The landlords, through their agents, Messrs. Robinson, Sligo, declined to sell, but after some pressure agreed to do so at 20 years' purchase. With the assistance of Rev. Father Gearty, of Ballygar, a settlement satisfactory to all concerned has been arrived at on the following terms:—The tenants to purchase at 18½ years, which is equivalent to 8s reduction in the £ on first term rents, the owners agreeing to accept one year's rent in satisfaction of all arrears up till May 1, 1905, tenants to pay interest at the rate of 3½ per cent. on the purchase price till the completion of the vesting orders. The estate will be purchased by the Estates Commissioners, including over 600 acres of grass lands, which will be divided up amongst the tenants, most of whom hold small, congested bog holdings. All existing bogs are to be vested in the Board, the tenants to enjoy their usual rights to turbarry. Sporting rights on the estate are conceded to the tenants.

KILKENNY—Honored by the Pope

The Holy Father Pope Pius X., on the recommendation of Most Rev. Dr. Brownrigg, has appointed the Very Rev. Deam Howley, P.P., V.G., Callan, to the dignity of a Domestic Prelate of the Pontifical Household; and the Rev. William Carrigan, C.C., M.R.I.A., Durrow, author of "The History and Antiquities of the Diocese of Ossory," has received the distinction of Doctor of Divinity.

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